Committee on Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life (AARSL)

2022-2023 Plan

2022-2023 Committee Priorities:

1. Student Success: Strategies for Increasing Graduation Rates Among Underrepresented Students at Penn State.
2. The Future of the Higher Education Workforce: Trends and Potential Strategies in the Faculty Labor Market for Penn State
3. Commonwealth Campus Enrollment & Marketing Strategies for Improvement: A Strategy to Address the Affordability Issue for Students
4. Strategies for Strengthening and Expanding the Research Enterprise at Penn State, with a Focus on the College of Medicine, including NCI Designation.
5. Academic Rankings: Strategies for Future Ranking Improvement at Penn State.

Risk Oversight Responsibilities for AARSL:

- Sexual Harassment/Misconduct/Title IX/VAWA/Discrimination
- University affiliation with fraternities and sororities (aka: Greek Life)
- Enrollment Management – issues, tuition, costs/revenues, student debt, completion rates, land grant mission

2022-2023 AARSL Agendas/Topics

- July 21, 2022 Meeting (York Campus)
  o An update on the York Campus by Chancellor David Christiansen; successes and challenges for the campus and its students/faculty, with an emphasis on hearing from students and faculty members directly.
- August 18-19, 2022 Board Retreat
  o Finalize priorities and agenda for the school year following discussions between Dr. Bendapudi and the BOT.
- October 20, 2022, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Off-Cycle (Virtual))
  o The Future of the Higher Education Workforce: Trends and Potential Strategies in the Faculty Labor Market for Penn State, what is inhibiting sustained progress on faculty diversity initiatives (e.g., retention).
- December 15, 2022, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Off-Cycle (Virtual)
  o Student Success: Strategies for Increasing Graduation Rates Among Underrepresented Students at Penn State. Review status of learning outcomes and student success assessment measurement system (OPAIR).
- March 16, 2023** Off-Cycle (Virtual)
  o Commonwealth Campus Enrollment & Marketing Strategies for Improvement; A Strategy to Address the Affordability Issue for Students. A plan to fill the seats at Commonwealth campuses.
- June 15, 2023** Off-Cycle (Virtual)
  o Strategies for Strengthening and Expanding the Research Enterprise at Penn State, with a focus on the College of Medicine, including progress and plans to achieve NCI Designation.

**Note: The meeting time on the off-cycle dates will be determined by the BOT Office.
Possible Conference Session Topics (dates & prioritization TBD)

• Greek Life at Penn State – Obtain an update from Student Affairs on the progress made on Greek Life and hear from the Lions Fraternity Alumni Association (LFAA), Panhellenic leadership and other constituents on their current experience and recommendations for improvements that help ensure best practices (recruitment, housing contracts, etc.), student safety, and engagement in this extracurricular option.

• Schedule off-cycle informal meetings/conversations via Zoom or in-person with students, student groups and faculty to provide an opportunity for student and faculty constituencies to highlight and discuss success issues that are important to them. This would include a meeting with Student Government leaders in the Spring to hear their priorities and obtain a status on achievements/failures against those priorities.

• Schedule off-cycle conversations via Zoom with students and faculty from Commonwealth Campuses to hear directly on topics that are important to them. These sessions would be held with three Commonwealth Campuses for each call. As an off-cycle call, it is understood that not all Committee members will be able to attend each session.

• Academic Rankings Update – Informational update of the current ranking organizations, changes (if any) to the ranking approach, and how Penn State may fare in those rankings based on decisions undertaken by University Leadership.