

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**September 15, 2023, 10:15 a.m.
Morris University Center, Room 215**

Agenda

1.0 Action Items

**1.1 Resolution ASA08-23
Authorizing the Continuation of Transcript Withholding Except Where
Prohibited by Law**

Mr. Michael McPhillips, General Counsel, will present Resolution ASA08-23, Authorizing the Continuation of Transcript Withholding Except Where Prohibited by Law.

2.0 Information Items

2.1 Academic and Student Affairs Executive Report

Dr. Sunil Ahuja, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, will report on recent activities in Academic and Student Affairs.

2.2 Weekend of Welcome (WoW)

Ms. Marlita Cadogan, Interim Director of Student Life, will report on Weekend of Welcome.

2.3 Fall Enrollment Report

Mr. Jim Farmer, Chief Enrollment Officer, will report on fall enrollment.

2.4 Center for Lifelong Learning Report

Dr. Amanda Hedrick, Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, will present an FY23 summary and an FY24 plan for the Center for Lifelong Learning.

2.5 Student Government Association

Mr. Brandon Reed, Student Government President, will report on all Student Government Association (SGA) events.

3.0 Education Items

3.1 Provost's Taskforce on Retention and Completion

Dr. Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost, will present an update on the Provost's Taskforce on Retention and Completion.

3.2 Athletics Update

Mr. Gerald Cadogan, Athletic Director, will present an Athletics update.

RESOLUTION ASA08-23

AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF TRANSCRIPT WITHHOLDING WITH EXCEPTIONS

WHEREAS, consistent with Ohio law, when a student who owes money to Shawnee State University authorizes the University to send their transcript to a prospective employer, and that employer verifies the transcript is a prerequisite to employment, the University complies with the student's request, irrespective of whether the University has a pending hold on the transcript; and

WHEREAS, the University believes the practice described above promotes the state's workforce goals, as well as the University's goal of promoting gainful employment for its students and former students; and

WHEREAS, in circumstances other than those described above, the University currently places holds on transcripts for students and former students who have unpaid balances with the Bursar's office; unpaid fines with the Department of Public Safety; overdue library books; or unreturned Athletics Department equipment; or who failed to fulfill their obligations to attend exit counseling at the Financial Aid office regarding their student loans; and

WHEREAS, officials in the Bursar's office, Public Safety Department, Athletics Department, and Financial Aid office have limited specific evidence on the rate of collection or compliance to fulfill other obligations, but maintain that transcript withholding has provided the University with leverage in convincing students to satisfy the financial or other obligations to the University that gave rise to the transcript holds; and

WHEREAS, officials in the Bursar's office, Public Safety Department, Athletics Department, and Financial Aid office do not believe that releasing a transcript for a student who has not met their financial or other obligations at Shawnee State to another prospective college or university for potential transfer promotes the objective of instilling financial responsibility in students; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned offices that are authorized to put holds on transcripts have made exceptions, and have expressed a willingness to continue to make exceptions to transcript withholding in special circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the University has no evidence to support or refute the premise that ending the practice of withholding transcripts of former students will help those students complete their education elsewhere, and submits that absent special circumstances, when a student has failed or refused to meet their financial or other obligations to Shawnee State, releasing their transcripts to another college or university would not likely serve the interests of either institution; and

WHEREAS, the University has considered whether to end the practice of transcript withholding, applying the factors set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(2)(a) through (c), as stated above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Shawnee State University will continue the practice of transcript withholding except in those situations in which state law prohibits transcript withholding and when the official who authorized the hold finds special circumstances warrant releasing the hold; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.027(C)(1), a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

(September 15, 2023)

**Academic and Student Affairs Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 15, 2023**

I am pleased to present the following Academic and Student Affairs Report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the Board.

Resolution

- There is one resolution as Action Item: Resolution ASA08-23, Authorizing the Continuation of Transcript Withholding Except Where Prohibited by Law.

Provost Report

- We are providing renewed focus, with expansion possibilities, to health care-related programs at the university, as discussed at the last Board meeting and at the Retreat. In line with that, we will be conducting a search for a new Director of the School of Nursing.
- We are re-envisioning the division of Student Affairs at the university, with a focus on student engagement and belonging, student life, residence life, and student conduct. In line with that, we will soon be launching a search for a permanent Dean of Students.
- The Provost's Task Force on Retention and Completion has achieved great success in the first year. Associate Provost Jennifer Pauley, who leads the task force, will report on the success and the task force's work.
- The site visit by a team from the International Accreditation Council for Business Education for initial accreditation of business programs in the C.H. Lute School of Business, scheduled for September 11-12, 2023.
- The Faculty Professional Day was held on August 25, 2023, with a discussion revolving broadly around the Higher Learning Commission's mid-cycle report and items related to resources, campus communications, workload, morale, and burnout.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs