

Spanier to deliver State of the University speech

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State Board of Trustees will discuss alcohol policy efforts and campus building changes among other agenda items at its meeting today — scheduled for 9 a.m. in the Nittany Lion Inn boardroom.



Spanier

Penn State President Graham Spanier's State of the University Address will be shown at the meeting in video format to the trustees.

The address is something

Spanier has been giving since his first year at Penn State in 1995, university spokeswoman Lisa Powers said.

"His [address] is meant to not only be a recap of the past achievements of our students, faculty and staff, but also a look at the potential we collectively have as a university," Powers said.

The address used to be held live in the Eisenhower Auditorium but was switched to a DVD format to make the address more accessible to the public, Power said.

Following Spanier's address will be an informational report on alcohol mitigation efforts delivered by Damon Sims, vice president for student affairs, according to the meeting's agenda.

University Park Undergraduate Association President Christian Ragland, who will attend the meeting, said he is looking forward to the report.

"Most of the trustees don't live around here, so we have to keep them in touch with every aspect on campus as possible," Ragland (senior-political science) said. "Alcohol is clearly an issue."

Committees on campus environment and education policy will deliver reports to the trustees, but the Committee on Finance and Physical Plant takes up the largest portion of the meeting's agenda.

Issues like fire alarm replacement, a new spectrometry lab at the Hosler Building, a proposed

If you go

What: Penn State Board of Trustees meeting

When: 9 a.m. today

Where: Nittany Lion Inn board room

Details: The board will discuss campus building changes, among other things.

land lease to Mount Nittany Medical Center and Beaver Stadium accessibility renovations will all be discussed, according to the meeting's agenda.

The Medical Center is requesting 1.8 acres of the land from the university to add more parking

spaces to its expanding cancer center, according to the meeting's agenda.

In return, the medical center must lease one acre of its land to the university for the construction of medical facilities at Penn State's medical campus.

Changes in the university's investment policies and endowment spending will also be discussed at the meeting, according to its agenda.

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For updates throughout the day on the Board of Trustees meeting: twitter.com/dailycollegian

File access in robbery case denied

The defense in the case had questioned the credibility of a Pennsylvania State Trooper.

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The defense in an armed robbery case was denied access to the personnel file of a Pennsylvania State Trooper after questioning the officer's credibility.

Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Leigh Barrows filed a criminal complaint against Dmitriy Litvinov of Boalsburg, Pa., on May 4.

The charges are in connection with an armed robbery on Feb. 22 at The Dollar General Store in Centre Hall, Pa.

Litvinov was charged with three counts of robbery, three counts of criminal conspiracy-robbery, one count of theft by unlawful taking, one count of criminal conspiracy-theft by unlawful taking, one count of criminal mischief and one count of criminal conspiracy-criminal mischief, according to court documents.

Karen Muir, Litvinov's attorney,



Collegian file photo

Dmitriy Litvinov, right, is arraigned in March 2010. Litvinov's lawyer was denied access to the involved officer's personnel file.

requested access to Barrows' personnel file on July 19 to potentially question the trooper's credibility in the case.

Muir said she received a letter from the Pennsylvania State Police stating that Barrows was disciplined in 1992 for making dishonest statements in an administrative interview, according to court documents.

Centre County Judge David E. Grine denied Muir's request Wednesday. He said the 1992 incident — which occurred when Barrows was a cadet — had no relation to the defense's case, according to court documents.

Grine said the defense is not entitled to inspection of investigatory files, which may contain

material irrelevant to the defendant's case, according to court documents.

Grine also said the defense has no right to review personnel materials in the hope of uncovering collateral information to challenge the credibility of a police officer, according to court documents.

The protection of the privacy and safety of Barrows outweighed the defense's request to access the trooper's personnel files, Grine said, because Barrows' personnel record has no relevance to the defense's case, according to court documents.

Muir could not be reached for comment by press time Thursday.

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Municipalities search for financial solutions

By Colleen Boyle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State municipalities burdened by financial challenges came together Thursday in an effort to solve those

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham and Altoona Vice-Mayor Bruce Kelley were part of the Core Communities in Crisis Task Force that met with members of the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) from across the commonwealth in the State College Municipal Building, 234 S. Allen St.

The PLCM is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that serves as an advocate for the needs of the state's third-class cities.

The meeting served as an extension of a gathering that recently took place in Pittsburgh. Those present broke off into groups to look for solutions to many of the problems facing municipalities that were raised at the previous session.

"In Pittsburgh we asked the questions," league president Clifford "Kip" Allen said. "Today we started to answer those concerns."

The four groups — intergov-

ernmental relationships, powers and limitations of government, financial implications and personnel management — spent time talking through problems during the afternoon. Later, all those present gathered again to share their ideas.

A recurring theme among the four groups was the need for communication and cooperation across municipalities. Members suggested putting together a list-serve to keep people informed as well as banding together when approaching the legislature in Harrisburg with concerns and ideas.

"Local governments in Pennsylvania have the same issues," Goreham said. "This was a great opportunity to talk."

Goreham said it is important to improve relationships between municipalities. In addition, she expressed concern with the state's 200-year-old tax structure — one she said needs to become more regional. Other issues that were raised included details of pension plans, incentives for regional cooperation and working toward shared services.

"We did our best, and we did come up with some concrete solutions," Kelly said.

Discussions will continue when the league reconvenes in Reading, Pa. in October.

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Career & Corporate Connections
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814-863-6161
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College of Communications
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Contact: Bob Martin (rpm163@psu.edu)

Engineering Career Resources
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5 Henderson Building
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Office of Career Solutions
104 IST Building
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Office of Undergraduate Studies
101 Sparks Building
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