

PASCU
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FROM: Angelo Armenti, Jr.

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RE: Follow Up to PASCU's First Annual Meeting

I am writing to thank you for your participation in yesterday's meeting in Harrisburg. The three hours we spent together was an inspirational experience for me. I was very moved by the genuine caring for the future of public higher education in Pennsylvania that I witnessed in your comments, your friendship and, most of all, in your very presence that required significant personal sacrifice from each of you.

It is my hope and belief that, among the hundreds of thousands of PASSHE students, parents, alumni and donors in the world today, we will be able to find enough with a strong affinity for one or more of the 14 universities, to help PASCU achieve its mission of preserving the statutory purpose of public higher education in Pennsylvania: High quality education at the lowest possible cost to the students.

Very soon I will produce a set of Draft Minutes that I will send to each of you for your review.

Among the many unresolved issues that we discussed yesterday, there is one on which I would like to provide you a brief update—namely the issue of the proper non-profit status to support PASCU's mission and goals. Based on comments from the meeting, I looked up the IRS Code for 'non-profit' organizations and concluded that the proper category for PASCU is not 501(c)(3), but 501(c)(4).

Here are two IRS links that I think will convince you that my conclusion is correct:

1. [http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Other-Non-Profits/Types-of-Organizations-Exempt-under-Section-501\(c\)\(4\)](http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Other-Non-Profits/Types-of-Organizations-Exempt-under-Section-501(c)(4)). This link provides a general description of 501(c)(4) organizations that promote 'social welfare' and, from my reading, PASCU definitely seems to fit that category perfectly.
2. <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopicl03.pdf>. This link talks specifically about political and campaign lobbying as being permissible for 501(c)(4)'s, provided only that lobbying is not the exempt organization's primary activity. Since PASCU's primary activity will have to be a focus on its enormous education challenge, I think PASCU fits this requirement perfectly also.

As was suggested, PASCU as a 501(c)(4) may receive donations, but those donations would not be tax-deductible to the donors. However, in exchange for losing that small benefit, we gain the enormous benefit of being able to: a) lobby for legislation, and b) support specific candidates for political office!

The greatest unresolved issue that came up at our meeting was the question of how to structure PASCU to enable both *education* and *advocacy*. Apparently, 501(c)(4) non-profit status provides that answer.

Tomorrow I will initiate the process of converting PASCU's current 501(c)(3) status to 501(c)(4) status.

I will keep you informed of developments.

In the meantime, if you have not already done so, please email me your preferred Name, Mailing address, and email address. I would like to send you a formal thank you by old-fashioned mail.

Please don't hesitate to send me your thoughts, suggestions and ideas on how to move the PASCU organization forward.

In the near future, I will attempt to set up a meeting of all of us that won't require anyone to leave the comfort of his or her home or office. As it happens, I have had experience with another well-known social media technology called "Go to Meeting," in which the participants communicate simultaneously by telephone (for audio) and computer (over the internet) for visuals. When done properly, we can all see each other, hear each other, and share documents on our computer screens. It is amazing.

By the way, here is a memento of our wonderful day at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel on March 16, 2013!



Finally, please think of friends, relatives and colleagues who may be interested in learning more about PASCU. I am referring to people who may care about one or more of the PASSHE Universities, and most especially, people who are either PASSHE students, parents, alumni or donors. All you need to do is send me a name and email address and I will get them on the PASCU mailing list once you recommend them. I will also copy you to let you know that it has been done.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks and best wishes.

Angelo

Angelo Armenti, Jr.