



JES JAMES SELLERS '74, '76g

Biographical Sketch

Jes James Sellers PhD is a licensed psychologist, Director of the University Counseling Service and clinical faculty member at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He was born and reared in State College and graduated from State High in 1970. A graduate of Penn State (B.S. and M.Ed. in Education), Jes also holds a PhD from the University of Florida with clinical training from the University of Iowa. He has gained scholarly attention for promoting ethics in healthcare and for inspiring individuals to find resilience in the aftermath of life's difficulties. He has been recognized for his work with Case's Recovery House, a model program assisting students in recovery from substance abuse. He is the recipient of the 2000 University President's Award at Case and a 2010 City of Cleveland/PFLAG Volunteer Award. Dr. Sellers has presented papers at numerous professional meetings and currently serves on the board of the Association of Recovery Schools.

While at Penn State, Jes was a student leader serving as president of the PSU Choirs and a student assistant at the Artist Series. It is from these early experiences that he has become an advocate for the arts and education at Penn State. He was a resident assistant in West Halls and a member of Phi Mu Alpha Symphonia Fraternity. He is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, contributor to music scholarships and a frequent visitor to State College where many family and friends reside. He and his family reside in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Position Statement

Penn State is experiencing a profound legal and moral crisis that has impugned the reputation of our great Alma Mater. It is time for change. I am not an incumbent, a CEO or wealth fund manager. I am a psychologist who believes in a representative board that embraces not just fiscal stewardship but also diverse opinions. Clearly we do not need another board rendition of The Apprentice, with serial firings of valued faculty and staff without due process. I believe that great universities are different from corporations. Universities need to represent the many ... not just the few. Each of us must speak up in the face of the powerful when a cause is just. Even now, as Pennsylvania's elected officials fail to support our educational institutions and the families that rely on them, we need to demonstrate the courage of our convictions.

If elected, I will voice my good conscience over silent conformity and I will advocate for:

- 1) Revision of trustee bylaws to require transparency and engagement with faculty, staff, students, alumni and community;
- 2) Restructuring trustee committees for greater oversight of compliance activities, including the hotline for confidential reporting of illegal or unethical activities;
- 3) Appointment of a non-voting, 'ethicist-consultant' to help the Board consider not just what is legal, but what is ethically the 'right thing to do';
- 4) Rebuilding campus and community collaborations to restore our pride and to create a new Penn State built around, tradition, virtue and ethical leadership.