



Uma Moriarity
Smeal & Schreyer '14
Penn State Forward Candidate

Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire

1. Engagement: Describe your connection to Penn State and why it has prepared you to guide the University's strategic future.

I created positive, lasting impact at Penn State, have remained connected since graduating, and am eager to give back to our University community as a Board member.

During my time at Penn State, I served in leadership roles in several organizations. I founded Schreyer Honors College THON, served as the Chair for four years, led the fundraising of over \$40,000, and paired the organization with two amazing Four Diamonds Families. I had the honor of representing the organization as a dancer for THON in 2013. I'm proud that this organization continues to thrive, more than a decade after I've graduated. I also saw Penn State's power for positive change across Pennsylvania. As a Finance Captain for THON 2014, I served as the liaison with all Commonwealth Campuses, connecting our efforts to fundraise for a world without childhood cancer across the Commonwealth. And I built Penn State spirit as the Merchandise Director for Penn State Homecoming. Penn State not only gave me a world-class education but also instilled in me the importance of being a changemaker.

My Penn State experience has allowed me to thrive professionally in a competitive field, and I have been excited to give back since graduating. I'm an active alumna; I connect with prospective students as a Schreyer admissions interviewer, share professional advice with students as an event panelist and as class guest lecturer, and leverage my connections to help current students secure their dream jobs. I serve on the Smeal Sustainability Advisory Board and will participate in the strategic planning for Smeal currently underway. I love Penn State and I am eager to contribute my energy and perspective toward Penn State's strategic future.

2. Experience with governance/board service: What experience do you have participating in a collaborative fiduciary decision-making body?

I serve on several fiduciary decision-making bodies. I work to find solutions that combine the different opinions and perspectives of all group members to best serve our stakeholders.

For over three years, I have served on the Board of Directors of Green Building United and was just re-elected for a second three-year term. Green Building United (founded in 2001, as Delaware Valley Green Building Council) is a member-driven, mission-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The organization is a chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council that serves the greater Philadelphia area, Lehigh Valley, and the State of Delaware. GBU convenes building industry and sustainability professionals with an interest in, or a commitment to, improving the built environment for the benefit of the entire region. Our work impacts more than 1.5 million Philadelphia residents and 4.5 million in our region. In addition to serving on the Board, I serve on the Finance and Development committees for the organization.

I also serve as a fiduciary as an investment management professional. I sit on the Investment Committee for CenterSquare Investment Management's Private Real Estate Debt platform, where I am the youngest of one of six investment leaders in the firm required to approve all investments made on behalf of our debt funds, making decisions that are in the best interest of our clients. As an investment committee, we may have differing opinions, but also share the same commitment to creating the best outcome for our clients. I bring my own skillset and perspective to assess each investment opportunity and also listen to every other investment committee member and collaboratively work together to make unified decisions so we can provide the best risk-adjusted return for our clients.

3. Relevant skill set: What of the skills reflected in the Board Skillset Inventory would you bring to your service as a Penn State trustee and how did you develop this skill/these skills?

I have several skills reflected in the Board Skillset Inventory, including at least two the Board self-reports a deficit in: Sustainability & Environment and Real Estate & Construction.

Sustainability & Environment

I built the CenterSquare Sustainability/ESG practice from the ground up starting in 2017, demonstrating the business case for sustainability, which has grown to be \$2b of assets under management for the firm. I have also launched a global listed equity strategy that invests in companies that are generating positive impact in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As the portfolio manager for this strategy, I have generated strong returns versus the benchmark, once again proving that investing to generate positive impact doesn't have to come at the expense of also generating strong investment performance. My skill set in blending the business case for sustainability with generating strong investment returns will be invaluable for the Board as Penn State strives to build a sustainable and a stable financial future.

Real Estate & Construction and Finance & Investment

As the Senior Investment Strategist for a real estate investment management firm, I underwrite and assess the viability of real estate projects, including investments in everything from ground-up construction projects to stabilized assets. As an investment committee member for the firm, I have to regularly assess investments in real estate to justify allocating our capital to various real estate projects. Further, I run the firm's thought leadership, publishing regular research, and appearing as a real estate investment expert on global media outlets like CNBC, Bloomberg, and BBC. Last year, I was recognized by GlobeSt. as a woman of influence in the "Investment Professional/Owner" category. Prior to CenterSquare, I worked for ExxonMobil Information Technology, where I was responsible for stewarding the global budget for the organization, totaling over \$2 billion.

4. Unique perspective: What about your life experience and unique background makes your voice important to be heard at the Board of Trustees?

My personal and professional background will positively impact the Board's work, especially given our community's need to balance our budget with an eye toward our University's mission to research, serve, and teach for the Commonwealth and beyond.

I've spent my career building the business case for sustainable capital allocation, generating strong investment returns while investing for positive environmental and social impact. I have done this professionally on behalf of institutional investors around the world. I will bring my skills and expertise to the Board to solve the fiscal crisis facing the University, while also providing the perspective on how to transform budgetary practices to attract prospective students and young donors who see the value in leveraging institutional power to forge innovation for a better future.

My own expertise has catapulted my career to make me the youngest partner at my firm and the only woman investment professional on my firm's investment committees. I know firsthand that governance boards often fail to capitalize on the valuable perspectives that women and young professionals can provide, in turn losing opportunities to bridge gaps with key constituencies. For example, in 2020, women controlled approximately a third of all U.S. financial assets totaling over \$10 trillion and by 2030, that number is expected to grow to \$30 trillion. Industries such as wealth management, real estate, and others are already realizing the massive wealth shift happening and working to adjust their product offerings and strategies to more appropriately align with the unique preferences of women. Women, for example, have lower risk tolerances toward their investments and prefer to invest in alignment with their values. A UBS investor survey showed that more women (71%) take into account sustainable considerations when investing compared to their male counterparts.

I do not want Penn State to be left behind by failing to attract women to invest their wealth with the University through endowments and other gifts, including by failing to confront systemic gender disparities in operations. My own work, including as a Circle Leader with Invest for Better (501(c)(3) nonprofit that gives women the confidence, skills, and encouragement they need to take control of their assets and use them to influence things they care about) has empowered me to both tackle gender-based disparities and develop the skills to approach this cohort. I'm eager to bring this perspective to the Board.

Candidate Biography

Uma Moriarity is an investment strategist, sustainability advocate, and Penn State Forward candidate. She generates strong investment returns while investing for positive impact.

Moriarity graduated with honors and high distinction in 2014, with bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Finance and a master's in Accounting. Penn State inspired her commitment to philanthropy and service. She served as the Merchandise Director on the Homecoming Executive Committee and as the Commonwealth Campus liaison THON captain on the Finance Committee. She also founded Schreyer Honors College benefiting THON, oversaw the organization's THON fundraising efforts exceeding \$40,000, and represented the organization as a dancer.

Today she is a Senior Investment Strategist and the Global Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Lead for CenterSquare Investment Management, a firm with \$15b assets under management. As the youngest partner and only female investment professional on the firm's investment committees, she navigates complex financial problems and develops strategies to maximize risk-adjusted investment returns. Beyond her firm, Moriarity advances sustainability on Green Building United's Board of Directors. She frequently appears on outlets like CNBC, Bloomberg, and BBC. GlobeSt. recently named her a 2024 Woman of Influence.

Moriarity supports Penn State as a Smeal Sustainability Advisory Board member, mentors students, and regularly speaks at Smeal and Schreyer events. She also continues to support THON. In 2023, Schreyer recognized her professional achievements and leadership with the Scholar Alumni Society's Outstanding GOLD Scholar Alumni Award.

Moriarity is originally from Mechanicsburg, and lives in the Philadelphia area. She's an Alumni Association lifetime member.

Position Statement

Uma Moriarity is running with **Katherine Wheatle** and **Daniel Zahn** to move **Penn State Forward**. They will advance academic and institutional excellence with four policy focus areas.

Climate action. Moriarity has spent her career building the business case for sustainable capital allocation. She built her firm's ESG practice, which has grown into \$2b in assets under management. She is ready to fix Penn State's budget deficit while securing institutional resilience with responsible investment policies and capital allocation practices. And through her Penn State service, she supports the faculty and students who make Penn State a climate leader—work she's excited to continue as a Trustee.

Educational equity. With her professional success, Moriarity lifts as she climbs, bridging gaps with underrepresented constituencies. She will promote equal opportunity as Trustee, for instance, championing policies that promote better affordability for off-campus housing to ensure a Penn State education is affordable for all.

Governance reform. Moriarity believes collaborative decision-making ensures the University's direction aligns with our mission and values. And she is committed to ensuring all voices are heard. She will work for transparent and democratic governance, implementing community vetting for administrative official hires, an open data policy for community surveys, and truly participatory town halls.

Workers' rights. Moriarity will advocate for the workers who make Penn State's operations possible by fighting for equitable and transparent hiring practices, standards for equal and fair wages, and protections for unionizing workers.

Learn more about **Uma**, **Katherine**, and **Daniel** and their plans at [PSUForward.org/vision](https://psuforward.org/vision).