

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
OF SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**

**March 11, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304 of Old Main on Friday, March 11, 2005. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. Robert Marcus, Chairperson.

Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. Robert Marcus, Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. Ken Blair, Dr. Orvan Peterson, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Ms. Angele Waugaman, Ms. Marci King, Mr. John Thornburgh and Mr. Robert Taylor.

Trustees absent: Dr. Arlene Quinlan and Mr. Richard Christofer.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Dennis Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh that the minutes of the December 17, 2004 meeting be approved and submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Chairperson Marcus gave the audience an opportunity to address the Council at this time. There were no public comments.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

(Appendix A)

President Smith distributed the Report of the President to the Council. Chairperson Marcus thanked President Smith for an excellent report and continued outstanding leadership as President of Slippery Rock University.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### University Advancement Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor, Esq., Chairperson for the University Advancement Committee provided the following report to the Council.

The Advancement Committee met yesterday and determined to engage actively and with full participation in a plan to assist the University Advancement office with the University's financial and fundraising goals. Mr. Taylor reported that Trustee participation is well on its way to meeting the 100% participation goal. The committee discussed a number of initiatives including the Rock Society, which has been a successful program for fundraising in our university's arsenal. The committee has requested the University Advancement office develop some possible alternative mechanisms and work with President Smith to develop new strategies for Rock Society initiatives.

In addition, the Advancement committee is committed to enhancing the development of strategic partnerships to further enhance the goals of the University. Trustees dined with Foundation Board members at the President's house last evening, and looks forward to meeting with the RLA board in June.

An alumni/donor event is scheduled for April 14 in Philadelphia, and we look forward to a strong turnout for this event.

The Campaign for Slippery Rock University, a ten-year, \$33 million effort, reached \$18.2 million – 55% of the goal.

The Advancement Division reports, as of January 31, a total of 69 proposals submitted for the current fiscal year and 61 submitted proposals carried over from last fiscal year. The proposals total \$6 million in requests.

The value of the endowment, a combination of endowment totals of the Alumni Association and the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc., was \$16.1 million as of January 31, 2005.

### Student Life Committee

Mr. John Thornburgh, Chairperson for the Student Life Committee, provided the report of the Student Life Committee.

Council was informed of the continued plans of the Student Housing Project. This exciting project will attract a new wave of students to Slippery Rock University. All SRU divisions are working together toward the construction phase of the project.

Several task forces have been formed to study the possibility of constructing a multi-use University Union/Dining Services/Performing Arts facility. The task force

members are traveling to college campuses to review distinguishing features of unions, exemplary dining facilities and performing arts venues. This information will be used to move forward with a feasibility study upon the selection of an architect.

Council was informed that the current outdoor intramural competitions are taking place on a mowed agricultural field. Students and professional staff are exploring the renovation of the fields to add to both safety and student convenience. A conceptual rendering was distributed for council review.

Ms. Angele Waugaman in partnership with Dr. Robert Watson has formed a task force to study the Chemical Health Program. The program provides for counseling and educational services to students who have violated the SRU drug and alcohol policy. Task force recommendations are scheduled to be completed by the end of spring 2005 semester.

Two items were presented for council action 1) In Dr. Robert's absence, Ms. Deb Pincek, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life, proposed a residence hall fee increase of 5% in order to maintain the quality of the residence hall environment we offer our students. 2) In accordance with the dining services contract, Ms. Deb Pincek requested a dining services fee increase of 3.03%, which is based upon the current consumer price index.

In conclusion, Mr. Thornburgh reported that the quarterly judicial affairs report was distributed to Council identifying violations of the code of conduct within the University-owned residence halls, as well as outside the residence halls.

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Dr. Orvan Peterson, Chairperson for the Finance and Audit Committee provided the following information to Council from a report given by Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

Items reviewed for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Two resolutions were presented to Council for approval: 1) approval of BOG Policy 1985-04-A, University External Financial Support, certifying the following organizations make a financial contribution to the university, The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. has provided \$4 million to university efforts, and The Slippery Rock University Alumni Association has provided \$300,000. 2) Resolution to approve Slippery Rock University's undertaking a System-financed capital project for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system in the McKeever Environmental Learning Center's new housing complex.

Council was presented for approval the 2005-2006 Capital Budget Project. The capital budget process requires Trustee approval of this request prior to its submission to the Board of Governors for inclusion in the State System for Higher Education's Capital Budget Request. There are three recommended projects being submitted as part of the

five-year plan: Central Boiler Plant Phase III for \$2.9 million (priority #1), a new Performing Arts Center for \$25.9 million (Priority #2), and the Morrow Field House Renovation for \$13.8 million (Priority #3).

The Facilities construction project list was distributed to Council for review with Dr. Peterson noting the continued progress of the construction of the new Science and Technology Building.

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Dennis Murray, Chairperson for the Academic Affairs Committee, provided the following overview from the report provided to him by Dr. William F. Williams, Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The headcount enrollment for spring 2005 increased by 3.4% with an increase in credit hours generated 4.5%, undergraduate credit hours generated increased 4.9%. The quality and selectivity of students continues to rise. For fall 2005, out of state undergraduates increased by 16.7%, reflects new nonresident tuition policy is making a difference. International students decreased by 13.0%, African American students increased by 12.6%, and Hispanic students increased by 18.5%. Undergraduate deposits are down by 144, reflecting our attempt to increase the quality of the incoming first year cohort. However, the mean SAT score is up 30 points (1025). Mean grade point average is up to 3.34 (3.31 last year). Application to offer is 73% (75% last year).

A change is being made in the Liberal Studies Program. The total number of hours in the program is being reduced from 52 (128 degree program) to 48 (120 hour degree program). Consequently, the Liberal Studies Program still meets the Board of Governors Policy requiring 40% of a program to be general education, and the Liberal Studies Program better meets the needs of the students by making it easier for them to add a minor and still complete an undergraduate degree in four years.

Accreditation – Department of Nursing, National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) – Reaccredited for eight years. Art Department – National Association for Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) – accrediting team will visit fall '05. Theatre Department – National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) – Accrediting team will visit October 12-14, 2005.

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Ken Blair, chairperson of the ad hoc nominating committee met with committee members John Thornburgh and Robert Taylor prior to lunch today and will present the following slate of officers for 2005-2006 at the June annual meeting:

Dr. Dennis Murray, Chairperson  
 Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Vice-Chair  
 Ms. Angele Waugaman, Secretary

## ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

### Resolution – Compliance with Board of Governor’s Policy 1985-04-A (TAB 2)

Dr. Peterson moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the Resolution – Compliance with Board of Governor’s Policy 1985-04-A be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix B)

### Annual Inspection of Facilities Report (**Information Only**) (TAB 3)

(Appendix C)

### Contracts (TAB 4)

Dr. Peterson moved, seconded by Ms. Waugaman, that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

### Fixed Assets (TAB 5)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Blair that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 6)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

### Resolution – McKeever Sprinkler System Bond Financing (TAB 7)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Ms. King that the Resolution – McKeever Sprinkler System Bond Financing be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

*(Comment: Dr. Peterson commented that the Council has full faith and confidence in the Administration regarding this item, and trust that they will take good care of the monies in their charge. President Smith informed Council that a report will be provided to them at the June meeting as to what we can negotiate and resolve on this issue.)*

### Residence Hall Fees (TAB 8)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the Residence Hall Fees be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix H)

Dining Hall Services Fee Structure (TAB 9)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh that the Dining Hall Services Fee Structure be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I)

2005 – 2006 Capital Budget Request (TAB 10)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the 2005 – 2006 Capital Budget Request be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix J)

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2005.

Substitute Instructional Appointments

Instructional Appointments Effective the Second Semester, 2004-2005

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester, 2005-2006

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointment

State University Administrator Appointments

Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments

Support Staff Appointments

Resignations

Retirements

Non-Renewal of Faculty Members

Tenure Effective Spring Semester 2004 – 2005

Professional Emeritus Status

Moratorium

*Bachelor of Science in School Health Education*

*Master of Science in Exercise and Wellness Promotion*

Tuition Waiver for New International Students – 0105

Facilities and Planning – Construction Projects (March, 2005)

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dr. Murray commented that we are moving in the right direction. Slippery Rock University is continuing to see an increase in enrollment, and our enrollment management efforts have been recognized nationally. The staff and administration are to be commended for their efforts.

Ms. King agreed with Dr. Murray's acknowledgements and stated, "my sentiments exactly."

Mr. Blair offered congratulations to the nominees and thanked them for graciously accepting the nominations, which is another example of this group's willingness to take on additional responsibilities. Mr. Blair also thanked Bob Taylor for his efforts with the Advancement Office and with President Smith to develop new strategies for working with contributors and alumni of Slippery Rock University.

Ms. Vessella also complimented Bob Taylor for the refinements happening in Advancement – "this will lead to a long term benefit to the University."

Dr. Peterson complimented his fellow trustees on their honest, open and very frank discussions. "We give our opinions without fearing animosity."

Mr. Thornburgh commented that his term as a Board of Governor member for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education has expired after eight years of service. He noted that he hoped he contributed on some small part to the cause of public higher education. He looks forward to his continued service to Slippery Rock University. Mr. Thornburgh also commented that higher education in Pennsylvania is facing difficult times ahead, as this is an extraordinarily difficult budget year, and although he is not leaving the Board of Governor's on a very positive note, the experience was very positive.

President Smith offered that he was struck many times this morning during the work sessions by the spirited discussion that confirmed to him that this is a Council that serves him very well through counsel and advice, by engaging in debate, and by not being afraid to ask tough questions – all of which makes this university a better place. President Smith also thanked John Thornburgh for his service to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education as a Board of Governor member, and noted that he had the opportunity in his two years of attending BOG meetings to witness Mr. Thornburgh's work as a tenacious advocate for the system, a strong and sympathetic supporter of students on the board, and also noted that his counsel to him personally was most appreciated. He also

commented that Mr. Thornburgh is going to be very missed and his contributions to higher education is a legacy that many wish to aspire to. "Thank you, John, for your service."

President Smith also welcomed back Ms. Marci King, who has not been able to attend these meetings due to conflicts, but has always been in contact and communication with the President. "It's very nice to see her formally at the table." He also noted that her voice has always been a part of service to the University.

Dr. Marcus suggested the group take a mental snapshot of the people who are doing good things and contributing to the welfare of Slippery Rock University. Dr. Marcus noted that it is always good to come together. "Today has been both enjoyable and productive."

With no further business, the Friday, March 11, 2005 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Mr. Blair moved, Ms. Vessella seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.