

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**September 14, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304 of Old Main on Friday, September 14, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Ms. Suzanne Vessella, chairperson.

Attendance

Trustees present: Ms. Grace Hawkins, Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Scott McCaskey, Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. Nick DeRosa, Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella.

Trustees absent: Mr. John Thornburgh and Mr. Richard Christofer

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the minutes of the June 15, 2007 meeting be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

December Meeting (NOTE CHANGE)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Murray to reschedule the December meeting of the Council from December 7 to December 14. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

(Appendix A)

President Smith distributed the Report of the President to the Council and provided comments.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## University Advancement Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor, Esq., committee chair for University Advancement, provided the following report to Council.

Mr. Taylor again welcomed Ms. Barbara Ender, Vice President for University Advancement, to her position and is delighted to work with her. Mr. Taylor noted that Ms. Ender brings a wealth of experience to the position and he looks forward to working with her on advancement initiatives.

The Division of University Advancement is pleased to report that gifts received since the last Council of Trustees meeting include the following:

- \$58,320 from the FISA Foundation for the Adapted Physical Activity Program
- \$51,083 grant payment from the Buhl Foundation for the RLA
- \$50,000 from Mrs. Ruth W. Roose for the Ruth and Tom Roose Scholarship
- \$50,000 from the First National Bank of PA for FNB Scholars Program
- \$24,052.50 from the Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania for the New Castle I CARE Project
- \$21,919 from Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Watson for a gift-in-kind donation to the Alumni House Fund
- \$10,000 from Special Olympics International for the Camp Shriver Program
- \$9,332.33 from Drs. G. Warren and Constance Smith for a gift-in-kind donation to Bailey Library
- \$5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. John K. Peterson, Jr. for the General Scholarship Fund
- \$5,000 from Mrs. Donna Couillard-Getreuer for the Donna Couillard Getreuer Scholarship
- \$5,000 from Mr. Regis I. Schiebel for the Regis I. Schiebel Annual Scholarship
- \$5,000 from Mr. Stephen Medwid for the Football Program
- \$5,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Scott Wise for the Alumni House Fund

As of June 30, 2007, The Campaign for Slippery Rock University gifts and pledges totaled \$28 million, representing 85% of the \$33 million Campaign goal. Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 as of June 30, 2007 totaled \$21 million. The System Accountability Performance indicators for University Advancement are total charitable giving less the top three gifts and the value of the endowment. As of June 30, 2007, the annual charitable giving total less the top three gifts was \$1.7 million; and the value of the endowment as of June 30, 2007 was \$21.2 million. The endowment represents the combined totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and Slippery Rock University Alumni Association endowments.

The 2007-2008 academic year will begin with all four buildings within Phase I of the Residential Suites Project available for students. Phase I is providing 2,190 on-campus beds. The Residential Suites Project has had a significant impact on attracting students to Slippery Rock University. Construction for Phase II (two buildings and 746 beds) began in April. The Phase II buildings will be ready for occupancy in August, 2008.

Marts and Lundy, a national consulting firm, is completing an internal review of the University Advancement Division and a feasibility study for the proposed new performing arts center. The results of the internal review will present recommendations to help position the University Advancement Division to greater effectiveness and efficiency. The results of the feasibility study will be used to prepare for the performing arts center campaign, which will target approximately \$12 million in private support for the construction of the new center.

The Sunset Serenade Celebration, a fundraising effort for the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center, will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Cocktails begin at 6:30, and a silent auction will commence at 7:30. The center offers equine assisted activities for individuals with disabilities. Tickets are \$60 per person, or \$500 for a table of ten.

### Student Life Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided the report of the Student Life committee in the absence of Mr. John Thornburgh, chair.

The Division of Student Life was actively involved in preparation for the academic year during the summer months. This included the hiring of new staff, both student and professional; the planning of programs and activities; conducting, training programs for staff; cleaning, renovating, repairing, and constructing facilities; and the operation of a summer camps/conference program. The highlights of these activities include:

- Brad Kovaleski was hired as the new director for the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership. Eric Holmes was hired as the interim Director of Campus Safety and Security. Kevin Currie was hired as the interim Director of Residence Life.
- A retreat for directors of student life was held in July at the Clarion River Lodge. The purpose of the retreat was to continue the implementation of a student learning outcomes programmatic focus and its impact on assessment.
- Intensive student staff training occurred for graduate assistants, desk attendants, and community assistants in Residence Life and Jump Start mentors from the Office of Intercultural Programs.
- The residence halls received a thorough cleaning and general repair in preparation for new students. Upgrades were completed in the Gail Rose Lodge and the construction of the Women's Lacrosse/Field Hockey locker room progressed.
- Over 5,270 children and adults participated in over 60 camps and conferences.

The beginning of the fall semester brought excitement and an array of activities and programs planned to engage Slippery Rock University students in building leadership skills:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Jump Start Transition Program was held August 21-24. A total of 75 students are enrolled in the program. This includes students of color and Board of Governor recipients.
- The residence halls had a total of 2,767 students check in during the first week, which represents an occupancy of 100%.
- WOW weekend activities began with a kickoff of our new student leadership program, “Compass – Charting your way to Student Success.” A co-curricular transcript will be developed for each SRU student that displays all of their leadership activities, clubs and organization participation, and volunteer service.
- Over 300 faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members volunteered to assist freshmen moving in the residence halls on August 23 and 24, helping to make their initial transition easy and enjoyable.

Campus Safety and Security continues to be an issue in wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy. The e2campus emergency text alert program is implemented and registration of students, parents, staff and faculty is continuing. Emergency Operations plans are being reviewed to ensure compliance with PASSHE recommendations. Campus administrators have been reviewing a number of reports that have been released with recommendations for increased safety and security programs. A group of SRU administrators will be attending a security summit in Harrisburg in October.

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs, provided the following report to the Council.

Items reviewed for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, Budget Request '07-'08, Resolution – Sale of Property on 212 East Cooper Street (*the facility is no longer needed following the relocation of the Center for Economic Development to an academic building*), and Resolution – Renovation of Patterson Hall (*Council previously approved the reuse of Patterson Hall as a permanent academic facility and to temporarily accommodate the occupants of the Vincent Science Building leading to a savings of approximately 10 months and \$500,000 in construction time and costs by relocating the occupants of Vincent Science Building during the renovation process; the university is willing to bond the estimated \$2,160,000 necessary to fund the project*).

Facilities projects include: N. Kerr Thompson Stadium Women’s Locker Facility is under construction and slated for completion in October. The Alumni House is under construction and slated for completion in November. Gail Rose Lodge was renovated this summer.

### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Robert Marcus, Chairperson for the Academic Affairs Committee, provided the following overview from the report provided by Dr. William F. Williams, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

During the last three months, Slippery Rock University had two programmatic actions:

- The Spanish department has added a certification program in Latin American Studies and
- The newly formed Department of Professional Studies moved to new offices.

Summer School enrollments increased for 2007 by 13% over 2006 with an increase of 11% in undergraduate credit hours and a 30% increase in graduate credit hours.

Enrollments for fall 2007 are strong.

- Currently, 8,354 students are enrolled at SRU for fall 2007 compared to 8,234 last year.
- Currently, we are 1.0% ahead of last year in credit hours generated.
- The percentage of new students in the top 25% of their graduating high school is at 34% compared to 32% last year.
- Registered out-of-state students are currently at 189 compared to 198 last year.
- Registered transfer students from Pennsylvania Community Colleges are at 13% compared to 12.45% last year.

For fall semester, 19 new tenure track faculty members were hired – 11 are female, 5 are minority, 16 hold terminal degrees. The three faculty members without terminal degrees are near completion of their degrees.

Fall semester at the Rock opened with a strong enrollment of students and an excellent group of faculty members.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### Budget Request FY 2007/08 (TAB 2)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. McCaskey that Budget Request 2007/08 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

#### Contracts (TAB 3)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

Mr. DeRosa moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

#### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 5)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

#### Resolution – Sale of Property on 212 East Cooper Street (TAB 6)

Mr. McCaskey moved, seconded by Mr. Young that Resolution – Sale of Property on 212 East Cooper Street be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

#### Resolution – Renovation of Patterson Hall (TAB 7)

Mr. McCaskey moved, seconded by Mr. DeRosa that Resolution – Renovation of Patterson Hall be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 2007.

#### Instructional Appointments Summer 2007

#### Visiting International Exchange Faculty Appointments

#### Instructional Appointments Effective the First and Second Semester, 2007-2008

#### Operational Leadership/Professional Appointments

#### Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointments

#### State University Administrator Appointments

#### Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointment

#### Support Staff Appointments

Retirement of Faculty

Retirement of Support Staff

Resignation of Faculty

Resignation of Operational Leadership/Professionals

Resignation of State University Administrators

Resignation of Support Staff

Sabbatical Leave Approvals 2008-2009

Professors Emeriti

Tuition Waiver for New International Students - 0907

Latin American Certificate

Quarterly Internal Audit Report

Facilities and Planning Active Project List

Quarterly Division Reports

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Scott McCaskey – Welcome back, everyone.

Dennis Murray – Welcome Barbara Ender, and congratulations to Dr. Curry on the budget. Thank you to Dr. Smith and his team, things are going great here and I'm proud to be an alumnus. A special thanks to Dr. Smith for his leadership.

John Hicks – Happy to be here. It's great to be back as a Trustee after spending much of my adult life on this campus as an educator. Coming out of the morning meeting, I feel very good about the way things are going and look forward to helping the university move forward into the future.

Josh Young – Thank you, Barbara, for lunch the other day. Thank you, President Smith for your leadership. We should all rest easy that things are moving along very well here.

Grace Hawkins – I'd also like to have lunch with Barbara Ender. I am very happy to be here today. I really enjoyed looking through the marketing materials and looking at all of the impressive ads – this is an awesome reference piece to show how much Slippery

Rock's name is out there. It's great to hear that enrollment is up and things are going so well.

Robert Taylor – Welcome Barbara – thanks for lunch! I'd also like to welcome Scott Albert to his new position in Facilities. A week ago the Council held a conference call at which time we fulfilled our annual obligation to submit an evaluation (informal this year) of President Smith to Chancellor Hample. I hope that the letter appropriately reflected the confidence that this Council has in our President and the appreciation for the type of work that he is doing. It was a very easy thing to do, and it was a very, very positive and strong letter. President Smith does a first-rate job and we do appreciate all of his hard work and infinite dedication to Slippery Rock University.

Robert Marcus – It's a great day, and it's always great to be back at Slippery Rock University. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Ender for inviting me to dinner – enjoyed the conversation.

Nick DeRosa – I'm glad to be here. It's always nice to start out the year with quality enrollment and our new enrollment increased again. It's a good testament to how well we are doing here. I hope that Barbara invites me to lunch sometime soon.

President Smith – I'd like to piggy back on Bob Taylor's comments. I've written a letter to each of the Council members expressing my gratitude for their evaluation of my performance this past year, and I especially appreciate the thoroughness of the document. With the leadership changing soon in Harrisburg, it's good to have a document that reflects the viewpoint of the Council. I'm excited to be here with this group of people and others that are not here that make Slippery Rock University such an incredible place to be. It's really a team effort and is in fact a whole culture change and you are a part of it. Thank you, Council.

I'd also like to make one last statement. The PACT meeting is coming up at California University of PA on Oct. 18 & 19. California has promised to put on a pretty good show, and I encourage you to attend, if you can. What has happened at California is nothing short of amazing. They were the first with their housing project, and they've done some impressive things on their campus that is well worth seeing. I believe that if you can make it, you will find it very interesting. .

With no further business, the Friday, September 14, 2007 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:15 p.m. Dr. Murray moved; Dr. Marcus seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.