

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**September 12, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in the Watson Family Conference Room of the Alumni House on Friday, September 12, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella., Mr. John Thornburgh, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Ms. Jessica Cosme, Mr. Nick DeRosa and Dr. Robert Marcus

Trustees absent: Dr. Dennis Murray and Mr. Richard Christofer

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. DeRosa that the meeting minutes of June 6, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

We had the pleasure of hearing from students Nicole Yale, Brittany Harry, and Megan Brundage, who provided comments on their experiences as members of the WOW team. WOW stands for "Week of Welcome" and shows our campus pride as volunteers (students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members) assist new students moving into campus housing and answer questions as students become acclimated to campus. The students agreed that they enjoyed being part of this important campus initiative and were quick to help out as an opportunity to give back since their own experiences were so positive when they were new freshmen.

Prior to the public meeting today, Council dined with the Executive Board of Republic and Democratic student groups in the Jeanne Furrie Reception Room of the Alumni House. An enjoyable time was had by all.

**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

Dr. Robert Marcus, committee chair for University Advancement, provided the following report to Council from information provided by Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for University Advancement.

The Campus Family Campaign kick-off was held on September 9<sup>th</sup> following the Faculty Assembly. The Campaign will continue through December.

Upcoming Advancement Division's events include:

- September 12 – Performing Arts Series performance of Capitol Steps.
- September 13 – Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center Re-dedication
- September 26 – Fall Golf Classic
- October 4 – Sunset Serenade to benefit the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center
- October 18 – Homecoming events (President's parade viewing tent, several alumni reunions, and the alumni hospitality tent near the football stadium)]
- November 8 – Celebration of Giving
- December 6 – Performing Arts Series performance of the Four Freshmen

As of July 31, 2008, The Campaign for Slippery Rock University gifts and pledges totaled \$30 million representing 91% of the \$33 million Campaign goal. Gifts received as of July 31, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 totaled \$134,490.

Assets of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. as of July 31, 2008 totaled \$169.8M, which include traditional assets of \$26.5M and the Residential Suites assets of \$143.4M.

### Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson for the Finance and Audit Committee shared the following report based on information obtained from the meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee yesterday.

Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs, presented a thorough analysis of the budget and brought forth the request for the Trustees to approve the total budget of \$142.5. The Finance and Audit Committee recommended approval of the budget to Council.

Other Items reviewed and recommended for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, and Service and Supply Purchase Orders. In addition, Chairman Taylor proposed to the Finance and Audit Committee the establishment of a Facilities Committee. The purpose of the Facilities Committee is to inform Council of university facilities, grounds, and equipment needs and plans; facility policies; the Facilities Master Plan; the management plan; maintenance

renovations; and capital needs. Dr. Marcus considered the proposal and indicated that he was concerned this would prompt additional work for the administration and also that this committee is not necessary in addition to the established Finance and Audit Committee. After discussion, Mr. Taylor tabled the item and proposed that Trustees continue discussion before bringing the item back for consideration at the December meeting.

Items provided to Council for information included: The Quarterly Internal Audit Report and the Facilities and Planning Active Project List. In addition, Dr. Curry provided a status of the ESCO project.

### Student Life Committee

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

The Division of Student Life was actively involved in preparation for the 2008-2009 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 included:

- Robert Downey, Jr. was hired for the Chief of Police position. He began working Aug 18.
- Amy Badorf was hired for the Assistant to the Director position in Athletics for compliance.
- Due to the extended absence of DaNine Fleming, Director of the Office of Intercultural Programs, Jessamine Montero was hired as the acting director. Kateeka Harris will be the acting assistant director.
- Phase II of the housing replacement project concluded in August with the opening of Buildings E & F.
- Renovations of Rhoads Hall will begin in the fall to add air conditioning, elevator, new roof and curtain wall. The Counseling Center has successfully moved to its one year temporary location at 113 Cooper Street while renovations are completed at Rhoads Hall.
- Construction of the Boozel renovations began on May 12, 2008. The project is on schedule for completion by December 8, 2008. The facility will re-open in January 2009 with the start of the spring semester.
- Design and financial planning meetings have been held throughout the summer to refine the program for the Student Union Project. This included a review of space allocations and an update of the financial plan.
- During Community Assistant training in August a new programming model was introduced focusing on global citizenship, personal development and lifelong learning. These three learning outcomes will serve as the focus of the department for the future.
- A retreat for the Director level staff was held in May focusing on Multicultural Competency in support of one of the major goals in our strategic plan.

## Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chairperson for the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report to Council based on information obtained from the Academic Affairs Committee meeting held yesterday.

Dr. Hicks presented a Resolution for approval in response to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's requirement of new certification programs for teacher education by January 31, 2013. Dr. Williams reported to Trustees that during the last three months, Slippery Rock University has made significant progress in creating new programs to meet the requirements of PDE's Chapter 49 legislation:

- Added Special Education and English Language Learner courses to all existing certifications,
- Created Early Childhood Education (birth through grade 4),
- Created Upper Elementary/Early Childhood (grade 4 through grade 8), and
- Created Special Education to a dual certification course with two different levels
  - PK through grade 8, and
  - Grade 7 through age 21.

Students admitted to Slippery Rock University for teacher preparations for January 1, 2009, will need to enroll in the new programs for certification. Following discussion on the issue, Dr. Hicks recommended that this Resolution move forward for Council approval due to the fact that this is a timely issue and based on the rationale that these changes must be completed and are required for certification. Dr. Hicks requested that Dr. Williams provide an update on the issue at the December Council meeting.

Dr. Williams also provided a multi-year comparative data presentation on enrollment and institutional performance measures.

Summer school enrollments increased for 2008. Undergraduate student credit hour generation increased by 2.1% from 2007. Graduate student credit hour generation increased 6.6% from 2007. Total credit hour generation increased by 3.1% over 2007. Enrollments for fall 2008 are strong. Currently 8,492 students are enrolled at SRU for fall 2008 compared to 8,354 last year. Currently we are 2.0% ahead of last year in credit hours generated. The percentage of new students in the top 25% of their graduating high school is at 40% compared to 35% last year.

Patterson Hall has been converted from a traditional dorm to an academic building permanently housing the Department of Exercise and Rehabilitative Sciences and temporarily housing the programs displaced during the renovation of Vincent Science Hall.

We have hired 18 new tenure-tracked faculty for Fall 2008:

- 9 Females
- 9 Males
- 4 Minorities

- 15 hold terminal degrees

The three faculty members without terminal degrees have committed to completing the degrees by December 2008. Fall semester at the Rock opened with a strong enrollment of students, an excellent group of faculty members, and a repurposed academic building.

### Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks, PACT representative for SRU Council provided a PACT Executive Committee brief:

Dr. John C. Cavanaugh, Chancellor, attended the meeting along with Vice-Chancellor, Peter Garland. The Chancellor was in a "listening mode," but responded briefly to selected items.

- I. The slate of candidates for PACT offices for 2008-2009 passed unanimously, with Guido Pichini (Kutztown, Pres.), Leo Krantz (California, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.), Chris Dywer (Lock Haven, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.), William McIlwaine (Millersville, Treas.) and Suzanne Burns (Clarion, Sec.). It is interesting to note that Mr. Pichini is also a member of the Board of Governors and subsequently provides and delivers information in both directions. His remarks included a reminder that that Executive Committee was a support group for the system and should work to increase open communication with the Board of Governors and the System Staff.
- II. The treasurer's report was accepted and it was noted that dues from the 14 universities are now due.
- III. On the matter of a scholarship being funded and offered by the Exec. Co., the president has concluded that there is insufficient interest in the project. Members tend to be more concerned with supporting scholarship opportunities at their home campuses.
- IV. A report was given regarding the progress of the Fall Conference at Shippensburg's planning committee. I was to have served on this committee but withdrew for personal reasons; I am now assigned to the planning committee for the Spring 2008 Conference at Bloomsburg.
- V. An advocacy committee has been proposed to the Board of Governor's that would focus on PASSHE issues, not only a budget time but throughout the year. Activities would include spreading the word of system's unique programs, showing gratitude to legislators when regarding about that which universities have done for legislators, such as honorary degrees, etc. Local legislators will be invited to future PACT conferences. Board of Governors members will also be invited to future conferences.
- VI. The direction and purpose of PACT as a forum for councils was proposed addressing areas such as interactions with their president, trustee appointments and reappointments, creating agendas, etc. Mr. Meyer was appointed to chair a Council Roundtable to develop a format by which each host council would make such a presentation at each conference.
- VII. The student trustee from West Chester Univ. has sent a request that separate seminars and separate board of student trustees be formed as educational opportunities. Based on my limited experience, I noted that our student trustees seemed very well prepared and had good attendance records. It was then suggested that they communicate electronically and more of an effort be made to encourage their attendance at conferences. Obvious obstacles to student trustee attendance was reviewed.
- VIII. PACT Website Presentation. Ms. Frealing- Shultz and Ms. Diane Haas introduced the newly developed PACT intranet site, <http://www.passhe.edu/PACT>. It is designed to allow PACT members to communicate more easily. Calendars, directories, and photo

library features are included. The website will be demonstrated again at the fall conference.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### FY 2008-2009 Budget Request (TAB 2)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus to approve FY 2008-2009 Budget Request. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

#### Contracts (TAB 3)

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

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

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

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

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

#### Proposed Meeting Dates for 2009 (TAB 6)

Mr. DeRosa moved, seconded by Ms. Cosme the approval of the meeting dates through June 2009: (Appendix F)

February 26 & 27, 2009  
April 30 & May 1, 2009  
June 18 & June 19, 2009

#### Resolution – Creation of Facilities Committee

The item is tabled for further discussion among Council members.

#### Resolution – Creation of Chapter 49

As recommended by the Academic Affairs Committee, Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the Resolution – Creation of Chapter 49, requiring new certification programs for teacher education by January 1, 2013, is 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 12, 2008.**

### Instructional Appointments Summer 2008

### Visiting International Exchange Faculty Appointments

### Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2008-2009

### Operational Leadership/Professional Appointments

### Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointment

### State University Administrator Appointments

### Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments

### Support Staff Appointments

### Retirements

### Resignations

### Adjunct Faculty

### Sabbatical Leave Approvals

### Tuition Waiver for New International Students - 0908

### **Facilities and Planning Active Project List**

### **Quarterly Internal Audit Report**

### **Quarterly Division Reports**

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

John Thornburgh - Thanks to everyone who provided the resources to make this alumni expansion a reality – it is a beautiful facility.

John Hicks – Congratulations to the grounds keepers to get this place in shape for the Chancellor’s visit – nice job! I also wanted to express how impressed I was with the care and sympathy shown from the campus community on the passing of Dr. David Dixon, a wonderful

professor. This is a big loss to the University. Dixon was a graduate of the College of Education as was his mentor, Dr. Donald Kelly. Also keep a lookout for the *Good News* stories, many of which showcase our alumni - I hope everyone is reading them when they come through on your email.

Jessica Cosme – Thank you, Council, for the warm welcome; I look forward to working with all of you.

Josh Young – Welcome Jessica. I also wanted to note that Jessica recently returned from the Democratic National Convention in Denver. As you of you are well aware, yesterday was September 11 and I would like to just take a moment and reflect on the day that remains quite vivid in my mind: I was a first semester sophomore here at SRU and I remember the day was beautiful and I had class at 8 a.m. that morning and I never made it to class because I couldn't move myself from the TV. There was a somber mood for about a week, but there was also a change on this campus – people began to show their concern for others a bit more and I believe that event changed all of us in some way.

Robert Marcus – I am proud to be a member of the Council of Trustees, and it's always a pleasure to be here on campus and have an opportunity to see live and in person the great things that are happening here.

Robert Taylor – Thank you, Lynne (Motyl) and the folks who presented with you this morning to inform us about the new employee wellness program. Thanks to everyone on this Council for becoming so engaged in our activities and thank you for your support – we are moving forward as a Council and that is very exciting as we work together to support this great university. And, thank you, to Tina Moser, for your work with the Council.

Suzanne Vessella - Welcome to Jessica!

Grace Hawkins – This morning the word NEW came to my mind....welcome to our new Trustee, Jessica; we are in this beautiful, new addition to the Alumni House; Bob Taylor is our new chair; and we have new things happening on the board; new freshmen are on campus and they are getting involved in many activities, including athletics; and we heard about the new wellness program; and the WOW group made new impressions on our freshmen. What an exciting new semester at SRU!

With no further business, the Friday, September 12, 2008 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Cosme moved; Ms. Vessella seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tina L. Moser

Administrative Liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees