

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**June 19, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in the Watson Family Conference Room of the Alumni House, Friday, June 19, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

### Recording of Attendance

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

Trustees absent: Mr. Richard Christofer

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the meeting agenda of June 19, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A)

### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. DeRosa that the meeting minutes of April 17, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

Mr. Taylor introduced our special guests, former Trustees of Slippery Rock University who joined us on campus to receive recognition as accolades as part of our "Trustees Appreciation Day. Those in attendance:

*Mr. Ken Blair (served two consecutive terms (12 years) July 1995- March 2007 – served as secretary 1997-1999, Vice-Chair 1999-2001, and Chair 2001-2004)*

*Mr. Donald Kelly (October 1991 – April 1997 (6 years); Professor Emeriti, history department SRU)*

*Mr. Eric Holmes (served as student trustee May 1992-June 1993); '93 alumnus, former president of SRU Alumni Association) Eric has been nominated for a current Trustee position and is awaiting confirmation from the Senate.*

*Ms. Angèle Stoebener (served as the student trustee June 2004 – June 2006) '06 alumna, active on many student leadership groups during undergraduate career at SRU)*

Chairman Taylor introduced Mr. Nick Barcio, president of the Student Government Association and his Cabinet: Sam Goodge, vice president for Student Affairs, Adam Hambrick, vice president for Financial Affairs, Ebony Jackson, vice president for Administrative Affairs, and Tyson Johnson, vice president for Public Relations. The SGA executive board was on campus for a planning session in preparation for the upcoming academic year. President Barcio acknowledged the work of the Trustees and President Smith and thanked them for their dedication to the students of Slippery Rock University.

### Presentations

#### **Certificate of Commendation – Ms. Rita Abent**

Ms. Rita Abent, executive director for Public Relations, was presented with a Certificate of Commendation from our Council of Trustees.

Chairman Taylor called upon President Smith to offer a description of the events that took place on campus at the end of the spring semester. We had a serious power failure on the last day of classes, which extended to the first day of finals – knocked out power to the lower end of campus including the residence halls for two days. Many dedicated people on campus scrambled to accommodate our students during this time. Once power was restored and we breathed a sigh of relief, our student teachers returned from Mexico and were greeted by media in the wake of the Swine Flu (H1N1) threat. Our decision was to conduct three Commencement exercises and braced ourselves for the reaction. The response was incredibly positive and both international and national media attention resulted.

The Office of Public Relations led by Rita Abent did an incredible job of coordinating activities and responding to media. Congratulations to the members of the Public Relations team and to our PR leader, Rita Abent, for her excellent leadership in responding to the needs of the campus during this incredibly hectic time.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

(Appendix B)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Young, chairman provided a report of the Finance and Audit Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee met yesterday at 3:40 p.m. in the Marcus Conference Room, 108 Old Main.

The following action items were recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, and Service and Supply Purchase Orders. The Quarterly Budget Report FY 2008-2009 was reviewed as was the Facilities and Planning Active Project List.

Dr. Curry introduced Rick Bair, Parente Randolph Accountants, who met with Council to review the Statement of Auditing Standards No. 114: *The Auditor's Communication with Those Charged with Governance*.

Dr. Curry introduced Mr. John Cowan, who presented the 2009-2010 Grounds Master Plan for Slippery Rock University. Dr. Curry presented PASSHE's Five-Year Budget Projections.

### University Advancement Committee

Dr. Marcus, chair of the University Advancement Committee, provided the following report of activities.

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, assets of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled over \$160 million, which include traditional assets of \$22.6 million and the Residential Suites assets of \$137.4 million. The Board's next quarterly meeting is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, gifts for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 totaled over \$1.3 million. The Campaign for Slippery Rock University's gifts and pledges totaled over \$31.2 million representing 94.66% of the \$33 million Campaign total.

The Advancement Services area continues working with Blackbaud Analytics in preparation for the conversion to Raiser's Edge Software, the most popular and most effective fundraising software. The first testing of existing data converted into the new software has been successfully completed. November 2009 is the target launch date.

Gifts and commitments totaling \$60,000 have been received for the Scholarship Challenge matching funds program. This program offers donors matching (challenge) funds for encouraging contributions to assist students with financial need – especially in these “challenging” economic times. Donor visits are ongoing.

This weekend is Golden Grad Weekend (June 19-20) and we expect seventy 1959 alums and guests back on campus. The weekend kick-off event is a reception at the President's House Friday evening. The reunion class fundraiser focus is Bailey Library for the purchase of new reference materials and student resources.

### Student Life Committee

Mr. John Thornburgh, chair of the Student Life Committee asked Vice President Foley to provide comments. Dr. Foley suggested that Ms. Jessica Cosme give the report of the changes to the SRU Code of Conduct.

Council discussed the changes to the Student Code of Conduct regarding the smoking policy on campus. A committee was formed on campus and the SRU Code of Conduct was provided to Trustees for approval. If approved, the following shall be placed into the Rights and Responsibilities section of the Code of Conduct. Section Title (G) Smoking on Campus: Smoking is prohibited inside campus buildings, university controlled vehicles, and in certain designated outdoor areas. Included in the designated areas are all sports or recreational facilities, and theater or performance areas.

Additionally, Student Life departments have been busy wrapping up 2008-2009 activities and preparing for 2009-2010.

The Union Task Force is meeting weekly during the summer months with the architects designing the new student union. The pre-design phase is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. As a result of a new university contract with PNC Bank, space in the University Union is being evaluated for the placement of a PNC electronic branch in or adjacent to the lobby. Based on student input, the brand concept selected for the food court is Quaker Steak & Lube. SRU will be the first college in the United States to have Quaker Steak on campus.

SRU Athletics had another very successful spring sports season and concludes the 2008-09 academic year finishing third in the PSAC Dixon Cup Standings. The women's outdoor track and field team won repeated as PSAC Champions with eight student-athletes qualifying to compete in the NCAA National Championships, the women's tennis team finished third in the PSAC and competed in the NCAA East Regional, and the softball team qualified for the PSAC Playoffs, first time in school history. Many SRU student-athletes won PSAC and NCAA post-season honors during the spring sports season.

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report based on information and materials presented at the committee meeting held at 2:30 p.m. yesterday in the Marcus Conference Room, 108 Old Main.

#### **Enrollment of new students**

Fall Deposits Compared to Same Time Last Year – June 16, 2009

Full-time Freshmen	1563	(2008)
	1577	(2009) = +14
Transfers	605	(2008)
	634	(2009) = +29
<b>Total</b>	2168	(2008)
	2211	(2009) = +43

#### **Returning students**

Currently we have our highest ever first to second year retention rate (81.5%).

We are on target to start fall 2009 with a 1.5% increase in enrollment over last year.

### **Dean of the College of Education Search**

The search committee has been formed with representation from APSCUF, SUA, AFSCME and Management. A draft of the position advertisement has been prepared and reviewed by administration. The ad will be reviewed and refined by the search committee in early fall to be placed in national and local publications.

In the interim, Dr. Kathleen Strickland has been appointed as interim dean of the College of Education for one year. Dr. Strickland, a full professor in the English department and previously a faculty member in Elementary Education and Early Childhood, looks forward to serving as interim dean beginning June 22.

### **Executive Onboarding**

In order to make new executives more productive, sooner, SRU is going to engage the Executive Onboarding process. Executive onboarding provides support for new executives as they adjust to their working environment. The executive onboarding process is a coaching approach where the newly hired executive meets with his/her supervisor regularly to ensure success and assimilation into the new position.

The process starts on Day 1 with getting the new executive to make connections with the right people and continues through three months creating a success oriented plan that aligns with the institutions vision and goals.

### **Middle States**

The Middle States Steering Committee has revised the draft of the Self-Study Design and Research Questions, in response to the suggestions that were made by Ms. Linda Suskie, Vice President for Middle States and SRU's liaison. A final document will be submitted to Ms. Suskie on June 30.

A working calendar has been prepared for the Steering Committee for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010, as the work begins on the self-study report. In addition, the co-chairs and the graduate assistant are currently working on collecting documents and data for the Self-Study "evidence room."

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

Dr. John Hicks did not provide a report, but reminded Trustees of the importance of attending PACT Conferences as excellent opportunities to network with fellow Trustees and also to hear from PASSHE officials about State System initiatives.

**SAVE THE DATE** -- The next PACT Conference will be held at Bloomsburg University October 14-16, 2009. Trustees will receive registration materials by mail from Linda Min, conferencing coordinator for PACT.

## ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

### Contracts (TAB 2)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

### Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

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

### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

### Student Code of Conduct (Revisions to Smoking Policy)(TAB 5)

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the Student Code of Conduct be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

### Election of Officers – 2009-2010 (TAB 6)

Ms. Suzanne Vessella, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers for 2009-2010. Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Mr. Young to approve the slate of officers. Nine approved, one opposed, motion passed.

The slate of officers elected to serve June 2009- June 2010:

Mr. Robert S. Taylor	Chair
Ms. Grace Hawkins	Vice-Chair
Mr. Josh Young	Secretary

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Next Meeting Date

The remaining meeting dates of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees for 2009 are: **Friday, October 2, 2009** and **Friday, December 4, 2009**.

### Instructional Appointments Effective the Summer 2009

### Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2009-2010

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointments

Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Professor Emeritus Status

Promotions Effective Fall Semester 2009-2010

Tenure Effective Fall Semester 2009-2010

Adjunct Faculty Appointments for 2009-2010

**Internal Audit Report (TAB #8)**

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB #9)**

**Quarterly Budget Report FY 2008-2009 (TAB #10)**

**Divisional Reports (TAB #11)**

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

Bob Marcus – It is always a pleasure to break bread with my fellow Trustees and with the good people on campus who work so hard to make SRU a great place. This meeting was very beneficial – always great to be on campus.

Josh Young – My fifth anniversary since graduating from SRU. The changes on campus are amazing. SRU looks better than ever and I'm always happy to be here.

Dennis Murray – My only comment would be my disappointment in APSCUF's position on the campus smoking issue. I think the evidence is clear that smoking is very detrimental to an individual's health and for an educational entity to take this position is very disappointing to me.

Jessica Cosme – Thank you to our former Trustees – it means a lot that you would take time to come back and visit with us today. This meeting marks my one year in this position, and I want to extend the deepest, most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone in this room. This is absolutely the best experience I've had at Slippery Rock University. Thank you!

John Hicks – I would like to report an outing of “Charlie’s Boy’s,” a group of former football players of which I am in that number, played for the Rock between 1959 and 1964. We gathered at the Embassy Suites in Pittsburgh, 50 strong, including our original coaches. It was a very nice outing.

Grace Hawkins – Thank you to the former Trustees for being with us today. Today was a wonderful experience, got to enjoy the sights of SRU. Great conversations!

John Thornburgh – I’d like to congratulate the officers on their re-election and I look forward to their leadership, but also encourage them to be focused on the agenda that we discussed in executive session today and with President Smith as well – I look forward to your leadership collectively.

Robert Taylor – Thank you to Nick and all of the members of Student Council and have a great year. To our colleagues – past, present and future – thanks for being here today.

Nick DeRosa – It was very nice to see some former colleagues here today. And thanks to my current colleagues for very good discussions in this morning’s meeting.

With no further business, the Friday, June 19, 2009 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Hawkins 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