

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

October 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in The Watson Family Conference Room of the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center on Friday, October 1, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. John Hicks, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Brandon Maharaj, Mr. Eric Holmes, Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: Mr. John Thornburgh, Mr. Nick DeRosa

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. Young approval of the October 1, 2010 meeting agenda as submitted with two additional categories. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A) *Mr. Taylor included two additional categories to the agenda, old business and new business, to provide opportunity for additional discussion at the conclusion of the meeting.*

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes that the meeting minutes of April 16, 2010 be approved as submitted. Mr. Young abstained. Motion carried. **(TAB 1)**

Public Comments

Mr. Jeremiah Rosser, president of Slippery Rock Student Government Association, Inc. provided an update of SRSGA activities to Council since the beginning of the semester.

SGA Shuttle Update: The 2010/2011 school year has started with record numbers of riders on the SGA shuttle. In the first week total ridership increased over 40% from the same time period last year. The on-campus loop has seen the largest increase and continues to be consistent through the second week of class. The addition of the GPS tracking system beginning last year has contributed to greater arrival accuracy for students. The large off-campus housing complexes continue to contribute financially and for the first time are actively marketing the shuttle service to students.

Presentations

Ms. Rita Abent, Executive Director, University Public Relations

Ms. Abent presented marketing strategies for Slippery Rock University. Rita discussed the importance of reputation management and how we build on our accomplishments and successes. Rita

explained the importance of telling our story, “Our goal is to advance and communicate the values that define who we are as an institution.”

Dr. Alan Levy, Professor of History

Dr. Levy, author of “Floyd Patterson: A Boxer and a Gentleman,” discussed his work with Trustees. The comprehensive biography of the former heavyweight boxing champion and sports figure of the 1960’s was undertaken when Dr. Levy realized “it had never been done before.” Dr. Levy presented a slide show tracing highlights of Patterson’s life.

Resolution of Service – Honoring the Service of Bruce W. Russell (Appendix B)

Dr. Russell served as a valuable member of Slippery Rock University for 37 years and held many roles on campus. He was an AFSCME staff member, faculty member, assistant chairperson, department chairperson, and Dean of the College of the Business, Information and Social Sciences. A dedicated and loyal employee with exemplary service, Dr. Russell provided exceptional guidance, mentorship and leadership to the Regional Learning Alliance. He was instrumental in the development of many new degree programs and the creation of the professional studies department.

Dr. Russell and his wife Sue live in the Slippery Rock community. Congratulations Bruce and thank you for your service to Slippery Rock University. We will see you on the golf course!

Welcome Brandon Maharaj

Chairman Taylor introduced Mr. Brandon Maharaj, an SRU exercise science major from Indiana, PA, who was confirmed by Senate in June to join Council as Slippery Rock University’s student trustee. Welcome Brandon!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, shared the following information based on a report provided to him by Dr. William F. Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs:

Summer school enrollments:

Undergraduate student credit hour generation decreased by 216 credit hours (-1.4%) compared to 2009. Graduate student credit hour generation increased by 917 credit hours (+21.2%) compared to 2009. Total headcount increased by 167 students, and total credit hour generation increased by 3.5%. This was the largest credit hour total (20643) on record.

This summer’s enrollment increase was due in large part to the increased number of courses being offered via the web.

Middle States update:

During the Spring and Summer of 2010, the Self-Study Steering Committee co-chairs met with the steering committee to discuss group report submissions and to draft the self-study report. A draft of the report will be available to the campus community on October 12. Dr. John Ettl, SRU’s chair for the Middle States Self-Study Evaluation team will be on campus October 17-19 as a part of the next step in the MSCHE reaccreditation process. The purpose of this three-day visit is to acquaint Dr. Ettl with our campus environment and to offer the opportunity to engage in discussion with all members of the campus community.

Program changes:

During the summer, Academic Affairs reorganized some Colleges to better align similar programs.

- Political Science was moved from the College of Business Information and Social Sciences to the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts;
- Health and Safety was divided into two departments: Public Health and Safety Management;
- Safety Management moved from the College of Health, Environment and Science;
- The Social Work program moved from Criminology/Criminal Justice to the new department of Public Health in the College of Health Environment and Science

Enrollments for fall 2010 are strong:

- There are 8,852 students enrolled at SRU for fall 2009 compared to 8,458 last year, an increase of 2.36%.
- Our retention of first year to second year students is over 81.21%, the highest in recent history.
- The quality of our new class of students is strong. The percentage of new students in the top half of their graduating class in high school is 82.3%.

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

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee, chaired by Joshua Young, met Thursday, September 30, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Marcus Conference Room to discuss items for Council Action.

The following action items were recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, Resolutions – Naming of Art Sculpture Building, Naming of Leadership Development Center and Naming of Recreation Sports Complex in Honor of Dr. James McFarland.

Items reviewed as information included personnel items, Facilities and Planning Active Project List, and the monthly budget report. It was also noted in the meeting that ParenteBeard External Auditors will provide a consultation (in person) with Trustees on Friday, October 1, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in the Alumni House.

University Advancement Committee

Mr. Eric Holmes shared the activities of the University Advancement Division based on a report provided to him by Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for Advancement.

Plans are in place for tomorrow evening's Sunset Serenade at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Over 200 guests are attending this annual fundraiser for the Equestrian Center, which will include live bluegrass music, a feast of culinary stations, cocktails, and an array of silent auction items.

The Slippery Rock University Foundation is currently in the process of reorganization as it moves to independent status to be in compliance with the Adverse Interest Act. Effective today, seven SRU advancement positions have been eliminated and they are now employees of the Foundation.

The annual Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet will be held on Friday, October 22 in the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center. The following alumni will be honored: Patrick Cappatt, Class of 1973; Richard Hudson, Class of 1968; Robert Murray, Class of 1971; F. Dennis Riegelneegg, Class of 1972; Anne Wuenschel, Class of 1976; and Tine Hansen-Turton, Class of 1992. If you haven't yet received your invitation to the banquet, it should be arriving in your mail.

The Campus Family Campaign is underway with gifts totaling \$106,766, at a 41% participation rate. The Campaign will continue until the end of the semester.

Construction continues at the former Vincent property, now known as Slippery Rock Technology Park, on the infrastructure and the Butler Health System facility. Also, road construction is underway at the intersection of routes 108 and 173 to ease the related traffic congestion.

Student Life Committee

In the absence of Mr. John Thornburgh, Eric Holmes provided the following report based on information from Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life.

WOW Week: The traditional campus wide Week of Welcome welcomed the new first year and transfer students with a variety of programs including move-in, a casino night, a bonfire sponsored by SGA, the President's lecture on the summer reading book, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and workshops focusing on sexual assault awareness, alcohol, nutrition, public safety, and diversity.

Athletics: Seventy-five SRU sophomore – senior student athletes were honored by the Division II Athletic Directors Association for having a 3.5 or above cumulative QPA. One hundred seventy-nine, 44%, SRU student-athletes were named PSAC Scholar-athletes with a 3.25 or above cumulative QPA.

Dining Services: We are in the pre-final stage of the design for the Wesenfluh renovation. The project is on schedule to be bid in January 2011; with construction to begin in May 2011. The "Restaurants at Weisenfluh" will open in January 2012.

University Union: Construction of the new student union began in July 2010 with an anticipated end date of February 2012. A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for later today at 2:30 p.m. at the construction site with a reception following in the University Union lobby.

Residence Life: The Office of Residence Life welcomed 2,835 new and returning students to on-campus housing this fall. Over 600 staff, faculty, students, and student groups volunteered for WOW to greet, unload and assist all new and transfer students to residence halls.

Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks serves as the Slippery Rock University trustee representative and serves on the executive board of PACT.

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania will host the next PACT Conference scheduled for October 13-14, 2010. Trustees would have received registration materials by mail from Linda Min, conferencing coordinator for PACT. If you have questions, call or email Tina Moser for assistance.

SAVE THE DATE – Edinboro University of Pennsylvania will host PACT April 27-28, 2011.

At PACT Conferences you can:

- Experience the unique nature of another PASSHE university;
- Interact with talented student leaders;
- Benefit from other PASSHE university best practices and challenges;
- Learn more about innovative programs offered at other PASSHE universities;
- Receive updated information on PASSHE policies, programs, and legal issues that impact the work of trustees, and
- Relax and mingle with other trustees, students, presidents, faculty and PASSHE staff.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

(Appendix C)

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Contracts (TAB 2)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

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

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

Resolution – Naming of Art Sculpture Building (TAB 5)

Resolution – Naming of Leadership Development Center (TAB 5)

Resolution – Naming of Recreation Sports Complex in Honor of Dr. James McFarland (TAB 5)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj to approve the Resolutions naming the Art Sculpture Building, the Leadership Development Center, and the Recreation Sports Complex in Honor of Dr. James McFarland. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G & H)

Resolution – Summary Citations for Traffic Violations (TAB 6)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins the approval of the Resolution – Summary Citations for Traffic Violations. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I)

FY 2010-2011 Budget Report (TAB 7)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Murray the approval of the FY 2010-2011 Budget. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix J)

Report of the Nominating Committee (TAB 8)

Ms. Vessella, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented to Council the slate of officers for 2010-2011.

Mr. Joshua Young, chair
Mr. Eric Holmes, vice-chair
Mr. John Thornburgh, secretary

Young nomination – Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella. Motion approved
Holmes nomination – Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins. Motion approved
Thornburgh nomination – Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj. Motion approved

Point of Order: Dr. Murray: “What differentiates high performing boards from others is teamwork. Why teaming is so important is because it is so rare. In the spirit of collaboration, I will go along and support the nominations, but in the future we should all be privy to this information prior to the public announcement of the slate of officers.”

INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB #9 – TAB #12)

Next Meeting Date

December 2 & 3, 2010

March 17 & 18, 2011

Personnel Items

Facilities and Planning Active Project List

Monthly Budget Report

Divisional Reports

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dennis Murray – Congratulations Brandon – Welcome. Congratulations to Josh, Eric and John – we look forward to your leadership. We are going to have to work together to address and solve tough issues in the coming months and years as these are tough times for higher education in Pennsylvania. Thank you, Bob Taylor, for your leadership over the last few years – “good job, Bob.”

Brandon Maharaj – Thank you for the warm welcome. I was a bit nervous for my first official meeting, but I am excited to be here and serve the students of Slippery Rock University.”

Eric Holmes – It is great to be here.

Bob Marcus – It is a great day to be at SRU.

Grace Hawkins – I always enjoy my time on campus – thank you all for a wonderful day with very good discussions. Welcome Brandon – we are happy that you have joined us.

John Hicks - Welcome to Brandon.

Bob Taylor – Welcome to Kelli Rensel, the newest member of the President’s office. And welcome Brandon to your first official meeting – it is great to have you with us. I want to extend very special thanks to Grace Hawkins, for serving as vice-chair, and to Josh Young, for serving as secretary these past two years. These two are gracious people and they have worked very hard behind the scenes – without their help, support, and guidance we would not have been able to accomplish what we have as a University. Thank you, Grace and Josh.

Josh Young – Welcome Brandon, we look forward to working with you. Thank you to Eric and John for your willingness to serve as officers for the board. I will be calling on all of you because there is incredible experience in this room. I will be seeking your counsel over the next several months as we move forward together. Thank you President Smith and your staff for all of the hard work you do. Dr. Curry is one of the most amazing financial minds around. There has been tension in the past on where the board is going. We want everyone included and I will do my best to ensure that we are all on the same page. We will move forward together as a team. I am the first in the millennial generation to serve on this board. This is an exciting time and we will all work together for the good of this University.

With no further business, the Friday, October 1, 2010 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Dr. Murray moved; Mr. Holmes seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tina L. Moser, Administrative Liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees