

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

December 10, 2021

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, December 10, 2021, in the Robert M. Smith Student Center, Room 321, and via ZOOM conferencing. Chair Matt Lautman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The video recording of this meeting in its entirety can be found on the Council webpage. <https://www.sru.edu/about/administration/council-of-trustees>

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Ms. Samantha Hawk, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Dan Lavallee, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Joshua Young.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the December 10, 2021 meeting agenda. Motion carries. (Tab 6, Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee Lavallee, approval of the quarterly business meeting minutes, Friday, September 24, 2021. Motion carries. (TAB 18, Appendix B)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the workshop meeting minutes, Friday, November 12, 2021. Motion carries. (TAB 19, Appendix C)

Public Comments

None.

Presentation

Campus Spotlight: Care Coordination & Behavioral Intervention, presented by Ms. Karla Fonner, Dean of Students, Student Support (Appendix D)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT William J. Behre, Ph.D.

Good morning:

This has been an amazing semester in many aspects. One aspect in particular is an atmosphere of stress on our students, faculty, and staff as we continue mitigation efforts on campus due to the

ongoing pandemic. Thanks to our campus community coming together and many individuals taking on additional duties, we remain on campus and in person.

Over the course of the semester about four percent of our student population has tested positive for COVID-19. About two-thirds of these cases were symptomatic and were reported through our health center. The others were asymptomatic and detected through our testing of unvaccinated residential students and athletes. Our mitigation has been successful in keeping mass infection at bay and in maintaining our primarily face-to-face experience.

The University's COVID response team continues to meet regularly with our partners at the Allegheny Health Network in order to gain insight and advice about our ongoing virus mitigation efforts. We currently have an indoor mask mandate. We also have mandatory testing for asymptomatic unvaccinated residents and athletes. Others may come on a voluntary basis. We will be expanding required testing to other groups, such as unvaccinated dancers and actors in the coming weeks. In addition, we will soon be offering voluntary testing for employees.

We are working on the strategic planning process, and would be further along without the pandemic lingering. We ask for your indulgence and can expect that more information will be forthcoming in the spring semester.

We are first in the system and generally the first in the region to get our scholarship packages out to students. We applaud the work of Dr. Amanda Yale and her team as this is an important component in our recruitment process.

Jasmine Clark, a Slippery Rock University junior recreational therapy major, was named Big Sister of the Year by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina and Stark Counties. Jasmine returns to her hometown of Canton, OH, frequently to continue her volunteer service to her little sister, the organization and her community.

We are excited to share the very good news that Slippery Rock University was recently awarded a RACP grant in the amount of \$750,000. The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. The grant will be used to relocate campus police and begin work for a new facility for ROTC.

As is customary, I include in my report additional SRU accolades and recognitions this quarter.

Chair Lautman, this concludes my report.

FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH

- **SRU researchers receive NASA grant to build atomic force microscope**
Seven SRU students are worked this summer on a research project led by Sagar Bhandari, assistant professor of physics and engineering, that was funded by a \$25,000 grant from NASA through the Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium. The research team is working on a portable cryogenic atomic force microscope system that is intended to analyze particles on interplanetary surfaces.

- SRU chemistry researchers crossing the line into forensic analysis of ink**
 Andre Braz, an SRU assistant professor of chemistry, and his student, Heather Kane, a senior chemistry major, are completing faculty-student research of ink lines on paper that could improve forensic investigations for detecting forgery and the order of signatures on signed contracts. Using an automated Raman spectrometer at the University of Pittsburgh's Materials Characterization Lab, they analyzed the physicochemical interaction between two ink lines crossed on paper from a side angle. The research is funded by SRU's Summer Collaborative Research Experience grant program for \$4,000.
- SRU researchers using 'story cubes' to facilitate language learning**
 Laura Strong, a Slippery Rock University instructor of elementary education and early childhood, and SRU student Erik Amodei are working together on a faculty-student research project using a technique called "story cubes" that is being used to facilitate English language learning for elementary school students. The project is funded by SRU's Summer Collaborative Research Experience grant program for a mixed-methods research study to determine the best way to use story cubes.
- SRU researchers continue studying treatments of Alzheimer's disease**
 Kayle Marsh, a Slippery Rock University senior chemistry major, is working with Ashley Loe, assistant professor of chemistry, on an ongoing project that is supported by \$4,800 through SRU's Summer Collaborative Research Experience grant program. The faculty-student research team is studying ways different drugs affect cell proteins, which fold or misalign to form aggregates in the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients.

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

- White wins PA Outdoor Writers Association scholarship**
 Krista White, a Slippery Rock University graduate student majoring in park and resource management from Slippery Rock, was recognized at the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association annual conference as the inaugural recipient of the POWA Toyota Let's Go Places Scholarship. This new scholarship, sponsored by Toyota Motor North America, provides two Pennsylvania college students the opportunity to attend the POWA conference.
- SRU student 'digs' internship experience at Mammoth Site**
 Jenna Kriley, a Slippery Rock University junior biology major, worked as a research intern at the Mammoth Site in South Dakota, home of 1,200 Ice Age fossil bones, including the remains of six mammoths.
- Rees honored for music education achievement by NAfME**
 Matt Rees, a Slippery Rock University senior music education major, received the Collegiate Professional Achievement Award from the National Association for Music Education.
- Dunkelberger awarded Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship**
 Martha Dunkelberger, an SRU senior dual dance and health and physical education major from Spring Mills, was awarded the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship. A total of 62 fellows, who are active Phi Kappa Phi members entering their first year of graduate school, were selected from across the country to receive scholarships, and Dunkelberger was awarded \$8,500.

- **SRU receives ASSP Outstanding Student Section Award**
The American Society of Safety Professionals chapter at SRU won the 2020-21 ASSP Outstanding Student Section Award, honoring the section that made the most significant contributions toward advancing safety education and research. The ASSP at SRU received a \$5,000 stipend for its recognition that will be applied to the organization's budget for next year. There are more than 134 student members of the ASSP at SRU.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **SRU professor accepts fellowship at the Pentagon to inform climate change policy**
Julie Snow, a Slippery Rock University professor of geography, geology and the environment, was awarded a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which places scientists in federal government offices to advise policymakers. This year, there will be more than 120 AAAS fellows assigned to various branches of government, with Snow working in the Pentagon for 12 months to address issues related to climate change. She was placed in the executive branch of the Department of Defense, working in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy and Sustainability.
- **Hadley's music therapy book published**
Susan Hadley, a Slippery Rock University professor of music, recently edited a book titled "Sociocultural Identities in Music Therapy" published by Barcelona Publishers.
- **Jackson recognized for service by NCPEID**
Dallas Jackson, a Slippery Rock University associate professor of physical and health education, received the William A. Hillman Distinguished Service Award at the 2021 National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities. Jackson, who served as NCPEID president from 2018-20, received the award which recognizes individuals who have shown exemplary service and contribution to the field of adapted physical education or activity.
- **Micsky shares social work expertise in multiple platforms**
Tami Micsky, an SRU assistant professor of public health and social work, shared her expertise related to coping, self-care and social work education by conducting presentations and workshops, creating courses and authoring two journal articles: "Termination of the Social Work Process: Field Education and COVID-19," in the Journal of Social Work Education, and as co-author of "Practicing Self-Care: Integrating a Photovoice Self-Care Assignment into a Social Work Course," in the Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work.
- **SRU dance professor answers multiple calls to serve**
Ursula Payne, a Slippery Rock University professor of dance, worked in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, during her sabbatical, and now she's serving as the University's liaison to the State System for diversity, equity and inclusion.
- **SRU's Hasenpflug recognized for composing**
Andy Hasenpflug, a dance musician and instructor in the Slippery Rock University Dance Department, was recently recognized by the Art of Brooklyn Film Festival for "Dirt" as the winner of "Outstanding Musical Score" in the 2021 AoBFF awards.

ALUMNI

- **Five SRU alumni worked at the Tokyo Games as athletic trainers and physical therapists**

Five SRU alumni worked the Olympic and Paralympic games in Tokyo this summer: athletic trainers Brandi Long, Adam McDowell and Kevin Kotsko, as well as sports physical therapist Chris Lefever and Amber Donaldson, vice president of sports medicine for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Long and Lefever worked together in the USOPC's High Performance Center, providing medical care for a variety of athletes and support for team's medical staff during their stay in Japan. McDowell is the head athletic trainer for the U.S. Paralympic men's goalball team, while Kotsko is the head athletic trainer for the U.S. men's and women's boxing teams. Donaldson manages all of the USOPC sports medicine clinics, onsite at the Games and at year-round clinics across the country, including at the USOPC training center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

- **SRU alumnus to captained the U.S. men's national goalball team at Paralympics**

Calahan Young, a 2017 Slippery Rock University graduate, was the co-captain of the U.S. men's national goalball team that played in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo in August. Goalball is a sport played blindfolded that is designed for athletes with visual impairments. The U.S. men finished fourth.

- **Barbee appointed COO of eCaring**

Matthew Barbee, a 2007 Slippery Rock University graduate with a degree in health care management, was hired as chief operating officer of eCaring

- **Fuller authors book for teachers about cultural mismatch**

Abigail Fuller, a 2004 Slippery Rock University graduate with degrees in elementary education and dance, recently authored a book titled "Overcoming Cultural Mismatch: Reaching and Teaching Diverse Children" that was published by Rowman & Littlefield. The book is about cultural mismatch between students and teachers and how a teacher's own cultural lens informs their practice.

- **SRU alumnus' life-changing moment in college leads to career and life success**

Pancho Timmons, a 2000 SRU graduate with a degree in social work, is a social entrepreneur and business owner who has found success in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. He is the co-author of a new book, "Quick and Easy World Change," and he credits a change in his life after an SRU professor detected that he has dyslexia, saving him from becoming a college dropout.

- **SRU alumni kept soldiers healthy while deployed in Poland**

Capt. Shane Duda and Maj. Christopher Brown, both Slippery Rock University graduates, were deployed with the 108th Area Support Medical Company of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Powdiz, Poland. Brown is the first military physical therapist stationed at his base in Poland.

- **SRU receives record \$1.1 million estate gift from the late Joseph McCandless**

Joseph McCandless, who died Jan. 14, 2020, at the age of 98, left a gift of more than \$1.1 million to SRU, which is the largest gift by a private individual in the University's history.

The gift will be used to establish an endowed scholarship named in honor of McCandless' mother, Sylvia Cooper McCandless, Class of 1909, and sister, Sara Jane McCandless, '50, both of whom are SRU alumnae.

- **SRU alumna blazing path to become her city's first Black woman elected mayor**
Kenya Johns, a 2014 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a degree in psychology, will become the first Black woman elected mayor of her hometown of Beaver Falls in the city's 153-year history. Johns won the city's Democratic primary election last month and will run unopposed in the November general election.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITIONS

- **SRU makes five lists on U.S. News' 2022 Best Colleges rankings**
The U.S. News & World Report today released its 2022 Best Colleges rankings and Slippery Rock University appeared on five of the guide's lists. SRU ranked 78th on the "Best Regional Universities – North" list and 22nd on the list of "Top Public Schools – Regional Universities North." SRU also ranked among regional universities in the North for "Best Colleges for Veterans" (32nd), "Best Value Schools" (43rd) and as a top performer for "Social Mobility" (82nd).
- **SRU earns several BestValueSchools.org rankings, including No. 1 in the state**
Slippery Rock University was ranked in several categories by BestValueSchools.org, including No. 1 on the list of "The Best Colleges in Pennsylvania in 2021." All the rankings on BestValueSchools.org are based on the company's scoring system that accounts for values including the cost of attendance, faculty experience, student feedback, the number of online offerings, student resources, graduation rate, job placement and total enrollment.
- **SRU hosts ribbon cutting ceremony for Butler SUCCEED**
Slippery Rock University will officially opened its new community outreach office in Butler with a ribbon cutting ceremony, Sept. 10, at the SRU Center for Community Engagement, Empowerment and Development, known as Butler SUCCEED, located at 150 N. Main Street. SRU is leasing the space in the heart of Butler that will act as a hub between the University and the Butler city and county communities to form and continue mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance the quality of life in the region and advance learning, research and civic engagement.
- **SRU earns reaffirmation of accreditation from Middle States**
The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, a non-governmental membership association that accredits institutions of higher education, has officially reaffirmed Slippery Rock University's accreditation. The process was completed through a Statement of Accreditation Status after SRU completed its required self-study process and site visit by a team of higher education peers earlier this year.
- **SRU honored on the national, state and public Colleges of Distinction list**
SRU has been recognized as one of the 2021-22 Colleges of Distinction, a national list of colleges and universities recognized for their commitment to student success and satisfaction. Colleges of Distinction, which is an online guide for college-bound students, honored SRU

on its list for an eighth straight year. Additionally, SRU was cited as a Public College of Distinction and a Pennsylvania College of Distinction.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Trustee Elise Michaux chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and provided the following report:

Trustees received several updates at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting held earlier this morning.

Dr. Abbey Zink, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, praised faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts to assist students as they transitioned back to face-to-face learning in fall 2021. She also provided updates on the Counseling Center, the Institute for Nonprofit Leadership and Butler SUCCEED, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Honors College, the strategic planning process, and the progress in forming the colleges of Health Professions and Engineering and Sciences.

Notably, in alignment with national trends, the Counseling Center has experienced the highest usage in its history. In comparison to fall 2020, the number of appointments has more than doubled at 1,688 while the number of students seeking services at 458 has nearly doubled. The intensity and severity of student problems also has increased over previous years.

Dr. Amanda Yale, Chief Enrollment Management Officer, provided enrollment updates. The enrollment data provided to the committee compared Dec. 3 to the same time last year. However, it is important to note that the fall 2020 term ended before Thanksgiving last year.

Winter session

Winter session headcount enrollment is currently down by -11.6%, and credit hours generated are down by -15.1%. The declines are in both undergraduate and graduate enrollments. Most of the undergraduate declines are at the senior level. Positive enrollment gains are reported at the lower-division levels.

Spring 2022

Spring headcount enrollment is currently down -3.5% and credit hours generated are down -4.2%. Many outreaches are under way with students who are not registered and with students who are registered for fewer credits in the spring than the fall term. Spring term readmissions are up. Significantly, student persistence or retention is up for all three cohorts. Additionally, new student freshman and transfer student enrollment is up for spring, and many of these students are in the process of registering for classes.

Fall 2022

The top of the admissions funnel is looking strong for the fall 2022 term. New fall freshman applications, offers, and deposits are significantly up as compared to the last two years. The quality of the offers also is similar to the previous two years. Additionally, significant increases in applications, offers, and deposits are evidenced for fall 2022 in both primary and secondary markets, out-of-state, and for under-represented students. Year-to-date comparisons on FAFSA filers show

higher rates for fall 2022 over the last four years, which is another positive sign for the fall 2022 term. Participation in campus visits, open houses, and admissions programs is comparable to pre-COVID levels representing another positive sign for the fall term.

New transfer deposits applications, offers, and deposits are also up for fall 2022 as compared to the last two years. The program in China will also provide an enrollment lift of about 70 new students for Fall 2022.

Finally, new graduate applications, offers, and deposits for spring, summer, and fall 2022 are also reporting increases as compared to last year.

Dr. David Wilmes, Chief Student Affairs Officer provided a summary of the fall semester including athletic highlights, student engagement, and COVID response.

Many thanks to our presenters for sharing these updates with us. Chair Lautman, this concludes my report.

Chair Lautman, this concludes my report.

Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Trustee Dan Lavalley chairs the Finance committee and provided the following report.

The Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee met with the Council of Trustees Thursday afternoon and discussed several topics:

Administrative Affairs submitted three informational items for committee review:

1. The Annual Safety/Clery Report (ASR)
2. The Facilities and Planning Active Project List
3. The Divisional Narrative Report

Mr. David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the audit results for FY 21. Highlights of the presentation included an unmodified opinion on the audit with no material weaknesses and no corrected or uncorrected misstatements, financial statement highlights, and future GASB statements for the council's awareness.

Ms. Birckbichler, Chief Financial and Data Officer, presented the Financial and Budget Update for the first quarter of FY 2021-22. A proposal to increase tuition by two percent for FY 2022-23 was presented to Council. The student activity fee and academic enhancement fee will also increase by two percent. A two percent increase in tuition will generate approximately \$1.7 million in tuition and fees. Tuition has not increased for three years. A tentative two percent increase in tuition was also proposed for FY 2023-24.

The following action items were approved to move forward for action in today's public session include:

- Affiliated Entities: Certification of Compliance
- Proposed Tuition Increase

Information items included:

- Report of contracts issued from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021.
- Report of service and supply purchase orders issued from July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

Chairman Lautman this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

Trustee William McCarrier, committee chairperson, provided the following report.

The Advancement Committee of the Council of Trustees met yesterday afternoon. Vice President for University Advancement Dennis Washington provided an update on the advancement program and the comprehensive fundraising campaign. Gifts and commitments totaling \$13 million have been received thus far.

Dennis presented the resolution to name Classroom 207 in the Strain Safety Building the Rockford Systems Classroom. which was approved by the committee for Council Action.

Samantha Swift, Executive Director for Development, updated the committee on the first quarter of fiscal year 2022. Throughout the fall, the development staff met with 75 individuals, presented 58 proposals for support, resulting in 14 new or increased scholarships. Sunset Serenade, rasied more than \$118,000 for the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center. And the Celebration of Giving was held on December 4th to thank the University's most generous donors.

As of September 30th, \$817,828 was raised in private support, almost \$500,000 more than last year at the same time. This momentum has continued, with close to \$1.4 million raised as of December 1st.

Kelly Bailey, Director of Alumni Engagement, continued the update, sharing updates on fall alumni events, including Homecoming Weekend, the Alumni Speaker Series and Backpacks to Briefcases. The Alumni Association is currently accepting nominations to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors and in the process of reviewing the 183 applications for SRU Alumni Association scholarships for 2022-23.

Finally, Vice President Washington presented the Slippery Rock University Foundation quarterly report.

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix H)

Trustee Domenic Ionta, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report.

The Governance Committee met yesterday. There were three action items, information items were reviewed:

- Council facilitated the evaluation of President William J. Behre, Ph.D. (third-year). Chair Ionta thanked members for participating in the evaluation process.

- Council approved amended bylaws in accordance with changes to Act 50 of 2020. The bylaws can be viewed at this link. <https://www.sru.edu/about/administration/council-of-trustees>
- Trustee Jeff Smith shared the PACT Spring Annual Conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention March 24-25, 2022. Trustees are encouraged to attend the conference.
- Council approved changing the date of the March quarterly business meeting from March 24, 2022 to March 3, 2022
- Calendar mentions (Fall/Winter 2021 and Spring/Summer 2022) were provided as information in Council materials.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix I)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Behre. No report; closed session.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Resolution: Affiliated Entities: Certification of Compliance (TAB 7) (Appendix J)

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the Resolution: Certification of Compliance. Roll Call vote: 9 YES, 2 NO. Motion Carries.

ROLL CALL:	Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
	Samantha Hawk	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Robert Taylor	No
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	No
	Dan Lavalley	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes		

Naming Resolution: RockFord Systems (TAB 9) (Appendix K)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of Naming Resolution: RockFord Systems. A negative vote on this motion is recorded for Trustee Taylor. Motion carries unanimously.

SRU Council of Trustees (Amended Bylaws) (TAB 10) (Appendix L)

Trustee Ionta moved, second by Trustee Angelucci approval of SRU Council of Trustees Bylaws. Motion carries unanimously.

Evaluation: President William J. Behre, Ph.D. (third-year)

Trustee Lavalley moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of President William J. Behre, Ph.D., third-year evaluation. Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Tuition Increase, 2%, FY 2022/23 (TAB 9) (Appendix M)

Trustee Lavalley moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of Resolution: Tuition Increase, 2%, FY 2022-23. Motion: At its December 10, 2021 meeting, The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees acts upon the recommendation of the Slippery Rock University administration to increase tuition by two-percent for FY 2022-23 for Undergraduate, Graduate, In-State and Out-of-State

students, and forwards the recommendation to the Board of Governors for final approval of the University's tuition plan. Roll Call vote: 6 YES, 5 NO. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL:	Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
	Samantha Hawk	No	Jeffrey Smith	No
	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Robert Taylor	No
	Matt Lautman	No	Suzanne Vessella	No
	Dan Lavallee	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes		

INFORMATION ITEMS

SRU COT: Meeting Dates 2022:

March 3-4, 2022

June 2-3, 2022

Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 16) (Appendix N)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (Tab 13) (Appendix O)

HR Personnel Items (Tab 17) (Appendix P)

- Instructional Appointments: Academic Year 2021-2022
- Administrator Appointments
- Management Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations

Financial Report (TAB 15) (Appendix Q)

Committee Presentations (Tab 11) (Appendix R)


ASR/Clery Report (Tab 12) (Appendix S) <https://www.sru.edu/documents/life-at-sru/safety/police/CleryAppendixFinal%2010-09-2020.pdf?1644860062595>

Divisional Reports (Tab 20)

CLA Audit Results, 2021 (Tab 14, Appendix T)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business, Trustee Hawk motioned to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: 

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