

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

September 23, 2022

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, September 23, 2022, in the Robert M. Smith Student Center, Room 321, and via ZOOM conferencing. Chair Domenic Ionta 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. Brooklyn Graham, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Dan Lavalley, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young.

Trustees absent: Ms. Suzanne Vessella

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Lavalley, approval of the September 23, 2022 meeting agenda. Motion carries. (Tab 6, Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the quarterly business meeting minutes, Friday, June 3, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 16, Appendix B)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the special meeting minutes, July 18, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 17, Appendix C)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the information workshop minutes, September 14, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 18, Appendix D)

Public Comments

Samantha Shaffer, Vice President of Campus Outreach, Slippery Rock Student Government Association (SRSGA)

Hello,

My name is Samantha Shaffer, and I currently serve as the Vice President of Campus Outreach for the SRSGA. Unfortunately, President D'Egidio is at her teaching field placement this morning, so I will be speaking on her behalf.

Currently, we have 8 executive board members, 30 senate members, and 2 advisors. We have 14 senator vacancies and one faculty advisor vacancy.

Current initiatives being worked on in various committees include:

- Pop-Up Talks, an initiative to make SGA more visible and accessible throughout various spaces on-campus
- Fall Crawl, a revamped take on the Campus Crawl that has happened in previous years that focuses on student safety and accessibility
- Thorough reviews of our finance policy and constitution for inclusive and accurate language
- Active recruitment and retention initiatives and
- Filling all open senator positions on Presidential Commissions

We are also working on several larger projects focusing on mental health and food services.

Further information can be found on our website at <https://www.srsga.org/>

We meet every Monday at 5 p.m. in the Smith Student Center, and our next formal business meeting is this upcoming Monday, September 26th.

Thank you.

Presentations

SRU's Tutorial Center & Writing Center: Advanced Learning Assistance for Students

- Amber Hamilton, director, Tutorial Center
Instructor, Exploratory Studies and Academic Programs
- Elizabeth Geib Chavin, Ph.D., director, Writing Center
Assistant Professor, Language, Literature, Culture and Writing

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

William J. Behre, Ph.D.

Good morning, Chair Ionta and Council:

I would like to begin my report by thanking the campus community for all the work we've done to recruit and retain students.

SRU is showing signs of rebounding from the pandemic, in terms of enrollment, but we are not there yet. Moreover, we continue to achieve solid graduation and retention rates.

- Our four-year graduation rate of 53% is first in the State System.
- Our six-year graduation rate of 68.4% is second in the State System.
- Our first-to-second year retention rate is 82.3 percent, highlighted by a 3.2% increase (to 73.9%) in the retention of students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

On Oct. 3, The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will join Slippery Rock University and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to promote the PA FAFSA Go! initiative and remind students to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the coming year. SRU's Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, led by Alyssa Dobson, director, has made great strides to encourage students to complete their financial aid forms on time. In order to build this program, the Commonwealth has teamed up with SRU and is using our program as a model for the Commonwealth. Congratulations to everyone involved in this effort and thank you for your good work in bringing this recognition to our campus.

In other good news, while it is very early in the 2023-24 recruitment process, applications are up by 350 as compared to this time last year. One of the primary reasons why we remain attractive to students is the high quality of our offerings. This quality continues to be recognized by our peers. Over the past year, SRU completed 10 successful accreditation visits, including our first-ever police accreditation. My thanks go out to all involved in these successes.

We are pleased to announce that we recently earned PA Hunger-Free Campus+ designation, in recognition of our leadership in the area of college student food security.

We have just launched a webpage for students who come to us through the foster care system. A student approached me seeking to better understand resources available to her, and with her guidance, we are building the webpage and making the process of understanding and searching for resources more visible and accessible for our students.

We have also made considerable inroads in getting the SRU name out there in the media. John Rindy, David Wilmes, Michael May, Alyssa Dobson, Amanda Yale, Keith Dils, Brian Crow, Butler SUCCEED, and the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center have all represented the University well on recent radio, TV and print features in the local and regional markets. Steven Wei received the 2021 Professor of the Year Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Pittsburgh Section. And, Bret Rogowitz was selected as the U.S. Army Cadet Command Recruiting Operations Officer of the year. Congratulations to all. These are just a few of the extraordinary people on campus who work tirelessly to tell our story and to deliver our curriculum in order to recruit and retain students. I am grateful to everyone who continues to make this important work their daily priority.

At SRU, we benefit from our strong regional reputation. And, most importantly, we have an unparalleled faculty and staff to see us through whatever challenges may come.

As always, Go Rock!

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Trustee Elise Michaux chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and shared the following report.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met yesterday afternoon. Dr. Michael Zieg, interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared the following updates:

- Provided timeline for College of Engineering and Science Dean search
- Updated Council on the accreditation activity over the past year
- Discussed the principles and criteria to be used in reviewing program sustainability

Dr. Anthony Jones, chief diversity officer, reviewed progress and priorities for three goals from the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Strategic Plan

- Improve structural alignment and institutional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Improve access and success for historically excluded groups
- Build a foundation to become a safe and equitable institution that promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

Dr. Amanda Yale, chief enrollment officer, provided a census day enrollment report for fall 2022. Preliminary fall 2023 enrollment data is showing that our applications are up by 350.

Dr. David Wilmes, chief student affairs officer, shared current engagement and student involvement initiatives.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Trustee Dan Lavalley chairs the Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee.

Trustee Jeffrey Smith motioned, second by Trustee Robert Taylor, to add “Public Comment” to the agenda. Motion passes. There were no public comments from the audience.

Ms. Carrie Birckbichler, vice president for Finance and Administration, presented the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget proposal for Council action.

The following action items were approved to move forward for the full Council’s consideration:

- Fiscal Year 22-23 Proposed Budget
- Green Fund Resolution

The following information items were provided to Council for its review:

- Contracts
- Financial Report
- Facilities and Planning Projects List
- CPP Narrative and BOG Summary
- Divisional Report
- HR Personnel Items

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

Trustee Joshua Young, committee chairperson, provided the following report.

The University Advancement Committee met this morning. Samantha Swift, interim vice president, University Advancement, updated the committee on the final results of fiscal year 2022. The final tally of donor support to the institution totals \$3,850,252 raised, an increase of more than \$326,000 over last year and 118% of the \$3.25 million goal. This is the most raised in the history of the institution. Development efforts also increased membership in the Founders' Society, donors who give \$1,000 and above, from 464 to 550, also a new record. Samantha reminded us that Sunset Serenade, the fundraising event to benefit Storm Harbor Equestrian Center, is being held on October 21st. Samantha concluded by summarizing the "Rally for Rocky the Rock" crowdfunding campaign.

Kelly Bailey, director, Alumni Engagement, summarized the efforts to engage alumni. Over the summer, a successful Alumni Weekend was held in June, which welcomed back 250 alumni. Planning is beginning for next year's event, June 23-25, 2023. The Alumni Association also hosted a successful golf event, raising \$20,000 for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. As students returned for the academic year, the Alumni Office greeted Legacy students with welcome signs and an ice cream social. Plans are currently underway for Homecoming 2022, which will feature the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and tailgating festivities before the game. Alumni are also encouraged to attend the Alumni Speaker Series and Backpacks to Briefcases event later this semester.

David Hollenbaugh, new executive director of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, presented the Slippery Rock University Foundation quarterly report. The Foundation completed an assessment resulting in the selection of new institutional investment managers. The Foundation is pursuing opportunities to continue to develop Technology Park and an application for a second round of RACP funding has been submitted.

As of fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, SRU Foundation net assets and liabilities are \$46.5 million – a year over year decrease of \$3.48 million. Fair market value of the investment portfolio is \$40.78 million – a \$2.19 million decrease. Both of these measures are predominantly affected by market conditions and performance.

The net assets and liabilities of SRUF Housing, LLC in the same period are \$98.6 million, an increase of almost \$2 million from the year prior. Total revenues were significantly higher at \$13 million compared to \$4.4 million the year before. This increase is largely due to students again being housed on campus in Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix H)

Trustee Alfonso Angelucci, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report.

Items addressed for action, discussion, and information were:

- Trustee Jeffrey Smith shared a PACT Update. There is a lot of conversation surrounding trustee representation at institutions following the integrations. As a Council, Trustee Smith’s recommendation is to hold off on any action until we have a clearer understanding of the direction of PACT.
- Trustee Jeffrey Smith shared a status update of the work of the Presidential Search Committee. The process is moving forward with great progress made thus far. As reported out at the last Governance committee meeting, RPA, Inc. was selected by Council as the search consultant. We have an impressive pool of applicants. Next Thursday, the committee meets with the search firm to discuss the top candidates and will narrow the search to 8-10 applicants moving forward to the airport interview phase.
- Following off-campus interviews, the search committee will invite four candidates to campus to engage in on-campus interviews. The interviews are scheduled Nov. 28 – Dec. 2. A complete schedule will be provided to the campus community in advance of the interviews with ample opportunities for campus community members to participate in the process. The Presidential Search link: <https://www.sru.edu/news/presidential-search>
- President’s Evaluation Process: Governance Chair Angelucci. The process is moving forward according to our timeline. Chair Angelucci will meet with various campus constituencies Wednesday, Oct. 5, representing student leaders, alumni, and faculty/staff union representatives.
- University Strategic Planning process: Council Chair Ionta deferred to President Behre. The strategic planning co-chairs met with Cabinet several weeks ago and asked for feedback following review of the committee’s work, primarily regarding draft mission/vision statements. Cabinet provided feedback and invited the co-chairs back for more discussion at this week’s Cabinet meeting. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee has a retreat scheduled Oct. 3.
- Calendar mentions (fall/winter 2022, spring/summer 2023) were provided as information in Council materials.
- SRU Council bylaws were included in the materials as information.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix I)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Behre and University Legal Counsel. No report; closed session.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Resolution: Fiscal Year 22-23 Proposed Budget (TAB 7) (Appendix J)

Trustee Lavalley moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the FY 22-23 Proposed Budget. Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes; 3 No. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL: Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes

Dan Lavalley	Yes	William McCarrier	Yes
Elise Michaux	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	No
Robert Taylor	No	Joshua Young	No

Resolution: Green Fund (TAB 8) (Appendix K)

Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee Young, to table the vote on the Resolution provided in Council meeting materials. Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes; 1 No. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL: Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes
Dan Lavalley	Yes	William McCarrier	No
Elise Michaux	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
Robert Taylor	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes

INFORMATION ITEMS

Meeting Dates:

December 8-9, 2022

March 23-24, 2023

June 8-9, 2023

Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 11) (Appendix L)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Tab 13) (Appendix M)

HR Personnel Items (Tab 15) (Appendix N)

- Instructional Appointments: Effective Summer 2022
- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2022-2023
- Administrator Appointments
- Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments
- Management Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations
- Emeritus Status

Budget/Financial Update (TAB 12) (Appendix O)

CPP Assumptions Narrative (TAB 14) (Appendix P)

Committee Presentations (TAB Q)

Divisional Reports (Tab 19)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee Robert Taylor: Trustee Taylor offered congratulations to John Press, compliance officer, Information and Administrative Technology Services, who is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service to SRU. "We are going to miss you and we appreciate all of the work you have done here."

Trustee Michaux: Trustee Michaux offered that she leaves these meetings "ensured that we are in capable hands and that you all are doing the best work possible." "Thank you for the time and effort and the seen and unseen things that go into preparing for these meetings and for what you are doing for our students." "The satisfaction things that we are all working for to ensure that we are meeting everybody's needs -THAT is going above and beyond." "I got into the profession of education because there are many things you can't put into a paycheck, and it is evident that you all have that same mind set." "So, thank you. SRU is a rock solid education because of your work. As a two-time alum, I am very proud when I leave these meetings. Thank you to the administration and a very dedicated staff and faculty."

With no further business, Trustee Young moved, Trustee Graham second, to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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