

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**December 9, 2016**

The quarterly business meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, December 9, 2016, in room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Matt Lautman, chair.

### Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Mr. William McCarrier, Senator Mary Jo White, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Monica Traggiai, Mr. Richard Wukich.

Trustees absent: Mr. Matt Shaner

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee Vessella moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of the Friday, December 9, 2016 meeting agenda. Motion carries. Agenda approved. (TAB 14) (Appendix A)

### Approval of Minutes

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the September 23, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carries. Minutes approved. (TAB 15)

### Presentations

Dr. Jeremy Lynch, Associate Professor, Special Education and Madeline McCleary, SRU student, presented the Professor Protégé Program. Introduction was by Dr. Keith Dils, dean, College of Education.

### Public Comments

Chair Lautman welcomed public comments from the audience.

#### **Remarks from Logan Steigerwalt, SRUSGA President**

Good afternoon Council and thank you for allowing me to speak to you. It is hard to believe that this semester is already drawing to a close. Since your last meeting, SGA has accomplished many things and I will now take the time to share them with you.

In October, we held a state-wide conference for all of the PASSHE schools' SGA organizations. There were representatives from 11 institutions and around 70 participants total. Throughout the conference, there were multiple breakout sessions, round-table discussions, and great questions that were able to be shared by everyone. We were very proud to showcase our institution, the facilities, and the structure of our organization. Normally, when we go to events like this, the

buzz is always “what are they doing at Slippery Rock, or how is Slippery Rock’s SGA run?” So this was a perfect time to show everyone how we do things here.

During the SGA Elections last year, we prided ourselves on a few goals that we would like to achieve, and we have accomplished so much already just in one semester. One of those goals was to have a campus wide social cause. Upon coming back this year and speaking with the President, we agreed that a civility pledge would be a great course of action for us to participate in. Rachel Lawler, our Parliamentarian, has done an excellent job in steering the course for our civility pledge. It will kick off next semester.

Another goal was to have increased lines of communication with the administration and our executive board. We have now set up a link serve, monthly meetings, and a constant email chain. Also, reports are being shared back and forth about what is going on both sides. As you can see outside, it is currently snowing. One issue that we found prevalent last year was that there was no place that true commuter students could stay if the roads got really bad. We took the initiative to look into commuter safe houses, which would be a safe place for commuter students to stay overnight if they needed to. This is currently being worked on by our commuter senators. Another one of our goals which I touched on earlier was to host a leadership conference.

Something that we also wanted to do was to connect with our students more. So far this semester, we have supported the start of 17 clubs, and have allocated over \$41,000 in New Initiative requests so far. On social media, we have increased our Twitter following by 10%, surpassing our yearly goal already. We have started collaborating with other organizations such as ARHS and Psi Chi for our Fall Outreach event, a new club we started funding, SPARK for our project positivity week, UPB in the seasons of giving event, and the Presidential Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity to bring the DEAR WORLD event to Slippery Rock.

With my background in being a business major, I tend to correlate things with statistics so I will now share them with you. For our student life survey, which is a comprehensive set of questions that asks students about their experiences here, which is something that we rely heavily on in regards to feedback, we were able to increase participation from 343 students to 1354. This is an increase of 300% just in one year. SGA is in charge of the homecoming king and queen process. Last year there were 1774 votes, and this year there were 3,325, an increase of 80%. I attribute the success of these increases to better communication, awareness of our events, and diligence in building great events by our VP’s and senators.

Last month we hosted our second annual Thanksgiving dinner. At this event, we invite all organizations located in the Suite to come for a great meal and meaningful dialogue. Last year there were 100 attendees and we increased attendance this year to 120. The setting was a great place to share thoughts and ideas about possible future collaborations, and exactly what you and your club do. Looking around the room I was able to see very meaningful conversations and dialogue taking place, so I am looking forward to hearing about this event for years to come.

Serving in my second year as President of the SGA, I am very fortunate to be in this position, especially with a great group of Senators, Executive Board members, Advisors, and Administrative counter-parts. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the Spring semester, and then to the following SGA administration when my term is ultimately up.

Thank you for your time and I will now take any questions that you may have.

*Hearing no questions, Chair Lautman thanked Logan for updating Council on SGA activities.*

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Cheryl Norton provided the Report of the President (Appendix B)

Thank you, Chairman Lautman. Good afternoon everyone. Trustees, you have in front of you my report that I trust you will read at your leisure. June 2017 will mark five years that Henry and I have been privileged to be part of the Slippery Rock University community. During that time, we've had many opportunities for celebration and faced a number of challenges – the perfect financial storm, the flooding of the Smith Center, the separating of the wall at Spotts and, yes, the recent strike. But, despite these challenges, this institution has continued to move forward.

Despite the economic issues plaguing Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock University has thrived. We are financially stable.

Despite the decreasing number of high school graduates in Western Pennsylvania, our enrollment has reached an all-time high.

In response to the changing work force needs in our region, our institution has reinvented itself, growing our graduate programs to include a doctorate in special education, the physician assistant degree and a master in public health. We have also developed new and innovative undergraduate options such as homeland security, corporate security, the BFA in dance, and, of course, engineering.

We are indeed a public institution that exists for the good of the public. And the public is better because of Slippery Rock University.

More importantly, we have excelled as an academic institution, leading the way in Pennsylvania, the region and the nation.

Our students have attained record high levels of retention and graduation rates, our first Barry Goldwater Scholar was selected, in 2014 University Advancement cash donations set a record, last year our institution was awarded Green Ribbon status by the Department of Education – one of only 11 schools in the country to be so honored. And, four years ago, Slippery Rock University, for the first time in its history, had the highest ranking in the State System's Performance Indicators initiative. An achievement we've repeated two more times in the last three years, including this year.

Our degree programs are recognized nationally. We have been ranked in the top four publics in Pennsylvania and in the top 150 in the country. Yes, there is much to celebrate.

I said in June 2012 that Slippery Rock University is an institution rich in its history, strong in its roots and with unlimited potential for the future. Our history continues to be written, our roots are spread across the globe by everyone who has or is currently working and contributing to the institution and we are just scratching the surface of that unlimited potential.

Slippery Rock University has never been in a stronger position.

It is for all of these reasons, that my announcement today, is not made easily, but given after much thought and consideration.

Henry and I have decided that it is time for me to announce that I will be retiring as president of Slippery Rock University, June 30, 2017. We will be returning to our home in Denver to enjoy retirement with our family, being grandparents to our grandsons, perhaps competing in a few more triathlons, certainly spending more time dog training. And, on August 21st, in celebration of our 46th wedding anniversary, we'll be watching the solar eclipse from a mountaintop in Wyoming.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as your president. You have taught me much and I appreciate the lessons.

Trustees, thank you for your counsel.

Philip, Amir and Rita, thank you for your guidance and support, your energy and your vision.

Tina and Kelli, your friendship, patience, tears and laughter have been invaluable. Thank you.

And, of course, Henry, without your love and encouragement, I never would have taken this Presidential journey. Thank you.

To everyone at SRU, thank you for your genuine love for this institution, its students and belief in the value of education for we can only achieve what we believe.

May the sun always shine at Slippery Rock. Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

Cheryl Norton, president

#### **Response from SRU Council of Trustees: Chairman Matt Lautman**

Thank you, Dr. Norton. I certainly can appreciate and understand the surprise you are all feeling right now. Dr. Norton has been a dynamic, innovative, wonderful leader of Slippery Rock University and our collective community for almost five years.

Dr. Norton has led the SRU team and the SRU community to some remarkable results, remarkable honors and achievements. The decision to retire is that of Dr. Norton's and we congratulate her. We all long for that time, that day, when we can retire from our chosen professions on our own terms.

With this announcement, we will begin the process set forth by the Board of Governors and specifically BOG Policy 1983-13-A: Process for Recommending Presidential Appointment. (Appendix C) A Governance sub-committee (special meeting) of the Council of Trustees is scheduled on Thursday, December 22, 2016, 10 a.m., Room 320, Smith Student Center. At this time, trustees will identify three trustees to lead the presidential search process for Slippery Rock University. A public session will follow at 10:30 a.m. to vote on the three names brought forward for full consideration of the board. The public is welcome to attend this meeting. (COT Meeting Minutes, 12.22.16, Appendix D)

Once the trustees are chosen, the process will move forward to form the full presidential search committee. We understand the importance of this task, and we look forward to working with the SRU community throughout this process. We will conduct a complete and thorough search to ultimately identify the next leader of Slippery Rock University.

A presidential search webpage will be available on the front page of the SRU website to keep all constituents informed of the process. Once the trustees are named, the process will move forward with selecting the Presidential Search Committee in accordance with BOG Policy 1983-13-A.

I am confident we will have the opportunity to look back and celebrate with Cheryl and Henry and thank them for their commitment and accomplishments. In the meantime, we look forward to the remainder of this semester and continuing the good work of the institution with Cheryl Norton as our President through the spring semester.

Trustees, we applaud Cheryl and Henry for all they have given to this community.

Matt Lautman, chair  
Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Trustee William McCarrier provided the following comments on behalf of Trustee Jeff Smith, chair of the Governance Committee.

This morning we met in committee and the following items were addressed:

The Governance Committee met this morning at 10:30 a.m. and discussed a number of informational items and had one action item for Council consideration.

The Council of Trustees welcomed new trustees to the table. Dr. Alfonso "Butch" Angelucci, and Richard Wukich. Butch is the superintendent of the Slippery Rock Area School District. Richard is a retired art professor from Slippery Rock University. We are pleased to have Trustees Angelucci and Wukich with us and look forward to working with them.

The committee approved the PACT invoice covering dues for 16-17 in the amount of \$3,500. PACT is the Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees and holds two annual conferences in Harrisburg to inform trustees about issues in higher education.

Trustees discussed the Presidential Evaluation process and timeline for the evaluation period July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. A complete evaluation report will include the annual university performance results, the Chancellor's assessment of the President's performance, the Council of Trustees evaluation committee report of the President's performance, and the President's self-evaluation. The report is due to the Chancellor's office April 7.

In other business, trustees reviewed committee assignments, discussed the visit with Edinboro Trustees at SRU's Homecoming, Oct. 22, and discussed having trustee representation on the SGA Advisory Board. A resolution will be prepared naming a trustee to serve on the board.

Trustee McCarrier shared the calendar mentions for winter/spring 2017. As a reminder, Council meeting dates through June, 2017:

March 23 & 24, 2017

June 8 & 9, 2017

This concludes my report.

### Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Senator Mary Jo White chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee McCarrier provided the report of the ASA Committee on behalf of Senator White.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. yesterday. We listened to informative presentations and had one item brought forward for review and action by Council.

Dr. Philip Way, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, opened the meeting with an update on the status of 13 New Academic Programs approved between Spring 2014 and Fall 2016. Though many programs are in their infancy stage of implementation, we were pleased with the progress reported.

An overview of the Performance Indicators was also provided by Dr. Way. Each institution must commit to 10 performance indicators, which consists of 4 mandatory measures and 6 optional measures. We are pleased to report that Slippery Rock University tied for first place this year with Lock Haven. Over the past four years, SRU has consistently placed high in the rankings as a top performer of the System Institutions. First place in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 and second place in 2015-2016. Congratulations to the SRU family for working together and proving once again that SRU is an incredible, high-quality institution that focuses on educational excellence for students.

Dr. Way also shared the very good news that SRU completed the 2016 Middle States Periodic Review Report. This major mid-term accreditation requirement addresses an analyses of institutional challenges and opportunities, enrollment management, finances, assessment, budgeting and planning. SRU was reaffirmed **with commendation** for the quality of the report submitted for review.

- There was not correction action; and
- No recommendation for change

The next accreditation event is a self-study in 2020-21. Congratulations to the Middle States Committee and all members of the SRU community on this achievement.

In other business, the Student Code of Conduct was brought forward for Council review and approval. Dr. David Wilmes, Associate Provost for Student Success, provided an explanation of why the code was reviewed. The last time the Code was reviewed was in 2004, which meant there was outdated information such as titles, offices, and personnel. There have also been a number of legal updates and best practices to bring the Code into compliance. The Code was vetted through the appropriate channels on campus and reviewed by University legal counsel. The Code was approved by committee to forward to the full board for consideration.

Dr. Wilmes also shared with Council the Student Success Organizational Restructure and introduced Ms. Corinne Gibson, director of the newly established Office for Inclusive Excellence. The Office seeks to provide mentoring and coaching designed to offer academic and social support, build self-esteem and individual value, and connect students to the University community. We are committed to expand opportunities for all students to explore and celebrate cultures and identities in a safe and

supportive atmosphere. We look forward to hearing updates about this important campus initiative in the future.

Our final presentation was an in-depth review of the process of compliance with the CLERY Act presented by Chief Mike Simmons, University Police.

This concludes my report.

#### **Finance Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)**

Trustee Breth reported committee activities of the Finance Committee. The committee met yesterday at 1:30 p.m. to review a number of items for action and information.

David Jacobson, CliftonLarsonAllen, provided a presentation of the audited financial statements years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015 – no findings or control issues. Renaissance 3 Architects and Weslake Reed Lafosky provided an overview of the final design for the Performing Arts Center.

Molly Mercer, associate vice president for Finance, provided a budget presentation, which included the financial impact of CBA's. There is a three-year agreement in place, Molly shared the economics of the program and how it is going to fit into the University's budget. The finance team is to be commended for their work and their confidence in working through the financial picture for the University.

Items brought forward for action:

- Affiliated Entities Certification of Compliance (Tab 6, Appendix X)
- Contracts
- Fixed Assets
- Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Information items included the monthly financial report, the facilities and planning project list and personnel items.

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Breth, to move action items forward for consideration by the full board.

This concludes my report.

#### **University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix H)**

Trustee Taylor chairs the University Advancement Committee. The committee met at 3:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

Samantha Swift, director of development for the Slippery Rock University Foundation, provided an overview of University Advancement through the efforts of Advancement Services, Alumni Engagement & Special Events, and Development.

Advancement Services is responsible for maintaining the alumni database, containing close to 100,000 records. They are also responsible for recording and acknowledging all gifts to the University, approximately 15,000 annually.

Alumni Engagement, in collaboration with the Slippery Rock University Alumni Association, engages alumni and friends of SRU through memberships, events and recognition of alumni. Last year 3,000 alumni attended 52 events throughout the country and on campus, and 5,600 graduates were members of the Alumni Association.

The Development program, charged with generating private support to benefit Slippery Rock University, has seen a 27% increase in giving over the past five years. Last year 4,800 donors gave \$2.68 million to support SRU and its priorities.

Samantha then provided an update of fundraising activities for the current fiscal year.

- As of September 30th, \$392,584 has been raised.
- Gift officers have traveled to Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Virginia and throughout Pennsylvania to visit with 118 donors and prospects.
- 63 proposals have been presented resulting in several five-figure gifts.
- We currently have 137 Founders' Society members, those who have donated \$1,000 or more.
- Two new charitable gift annuities were established in the fall totaling \$45,000.
- \$100,000 was generated from the Sunset Serenade fundraising event benefitting Storm Harbor Equestrian Center.
- We have seen a 20% increase in crowdfunding through social media versus all of last year.
- This past weekend, 180 donors honored at Celebration of Giving.

This concludes my report.

#### **Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix I)**

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **Affiliated Entities – Certification of Compliance (TAB 6) Appendix J**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of the Affiliated Entities – Certification of Compliance.

Roll Call Vote: 8 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention. Motion carries.

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Abstention
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	No
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
Trustee Smith	Yes	Senator White	Yes



**Contracts (TAB 7) Appendix K**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Wukich, approval of the Contracts.

Roll Call Vote: 8 in favor; 2 opposed; Motion carries.

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	No
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	No
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
Trustee Smith	Yes	Senator White	Yes

**Fixed Assets (TAB 8) Appendix L**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of Fixed Assets. Motion carries unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; Motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
		Senator White	Yes

**Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 9) Appendix M**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carries unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; Motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
		Senator White	Yes

**Student Code of Conduct (TAB 10) Appendix N**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the 16/17 Proposed Budget.

Roll Call Vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
		Senator White	Yes

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Breth to amend the meeting agenda with the addition of item F., approval of 2016 -2017 PACT Dues in the amount of \$3,500.

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Vessella, approval of the 2016-2017 PACT Dues in the amount of \$3,500. Motion carries unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### SRU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates – 2017

March 23 & 24, 2017

June 8 & 9, 2017

### Financial Report (TAB 11) (Appendix O)

### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 12) (Appendix P)

### HR Personnel Items (TAB 13) (Appendix Q)

### Divisional Reports (TAB 16)

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee Tom Breth – I look forward to working with Dr. Norton for the next six months. It's been a pleasure working with you and witnessing the wonderful job you've done here and knowing the wonderful person you are. Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, however you celebrate; best holiday wishes to everyone.

Trustee Jeff Smith – I would like to thank Dr. Norton for all you did for me. You are Slippery Rock to me, and always will be. I've learned so much from you! You've been so gracious and you've taught me so much. I'm so glad for you and Henry. Best of luck! Thank you!

Trustee Bill McCarrier – This is a sad day for me, and for Slippery Rock. Cheryl and I have worked on many boards together. We've been very fortunate to enjoy 4 ½ years of accomplishments under Dr. Norton's leadership to watch the institution go to a new high. We are so proud of the University and it is because of you – you brought us to new levels. Butler County is going to miss you for the good that you have done for the Butler area. Thank you!

Trustee Matt Lautman – Personally, Cheryl, you have been so gracious to me and to my wife, Christy. We have enjoyed time spent with you & Henry and the many events and celebrations on campus. We always felt special to sit at the President's table. We look forward to more opportunities to spend time with you & Henry. We are going to miss you and your leadership. Thank you!

Senator Mary Jo White – I know that SRU is a better place with the Norton's having been here. While we are sad to see them go, we celebrate their many accomplishments and the advancements of our school. Thank you, Trustee McCarrier, for leading my committee since I could not be there in person. It is especially exciting to hear we are making progress on the Performing Arts Center, a Cheryl Norton achievement. We hope Cheryl and Henry will be back to join us for opening day.

Trustee Bob Taylor – I sat next to Cheryl Norton when she was being interviewed on campus five years ago. We had a conversation about running a University. One item that stood out during this conversation was the importance of communicating with everyone on campus. I think Cheryl has not only done an incredible job of communicating with all constituents, but she has promoted an atmosphere of honest discussions and transparency. It was real easy 10 or 15 years ago to build a building or stadium when there was more state funding and resources to do those things. Cheryl was introduced to a different set of instructions, she was handed budgetary challenges, do more with limited resources, less state funding and as trustees agreed, no increase in fees. She did this with grace and style, a style that reflects on SRU in a positive way. As a person who was always pushing the envelope, I'm really going to miss her. Thank you, Cheryl.

Trustee Monica Traggiai – Thank you, Dr. Lynch and Madeline, for presenting the Professor Protégé Program. Dr. Norton, it's been great to serve on a Council that has been able to work so closely with you. Dr. Norton and Henry, I wish you all the best in retirement.

Trustee Suzanne Vessella – Cheryl, it's been my honor to work with you. I wish you & Henry the best.

Trustee Richard Wukich – Thank you, Dr. Norton, and congratulations to the “first dude.” I like the way Dr. Norton treats people with fairness and transparency. The fact that she was able to accomplish the Performing Arts Center in this age of budget challenges is an absolute amazing accomplishment. We have turned out really great students and now they are going to have a wonderful facility – the progress is going to be fabulous. As I travel down '79, I see a sign that reads “STEM,” which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. I'd like to see the sign changed to “STEAM” – let's add Art.

Trustee Alfonso Angelucci – Thank you, Dr. Norton, for everything you have done for me. When I was hired into Slippery Rock School District, Cheryl was the first person in the community to reach out to me. Dr. Norton's leadership has impacted the entire community. Thank you for everything. I am proud to be here as an alum and honored to be here as a member of Council. Thank for welcoming me to the board. I look forward to serving with all of you. Jeremy and Madeline – awesome job! Thank you.

With no further business, the Friday, December 9, 2016, Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Breth, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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