

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**June 9, 2017**

The quarterly business meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, June 9, 2017, in room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 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, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Monica Traggiai, Mr. Richard Wukich.

Trustees absent: Senator Mary Jo White, Mr. Matt Shaner

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Friday, June 9, 2017 meeting agenda. Motion carries. Agenda approved. (TAB 16) (Appendix A)

### Approval of Minutes

Trustee Traggiai moved, second by Trustee Vessella, approval of the March 9, 2017 special meeting minutes. Motion carries. Minutes approved. (TAB 17) (Appendix B)

Trustee Vessella moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the March 24, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carries. Minutes approved. (TAB 18) (Appendix C)

### Presentations

There were no presentations scheduled.

### Public Comments

#### **Resolution of Service**

On behalf of the Slippery Rock University Foundation Inc. Board of Directors, Dr. Edward Bucha, executive director, SRU Foundation, Inc. presented a Resolution of Service honoring Cheryl J. Norton, president.

#### **Rachel Lawler, Student Government Association President**

Hello and good afternoon Council. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Rachel Lawler and I am the newly elected President of the Slippery Rock Student Government Association for the 2017-2018 academic year. I am a Senior Exercise Science major with a minor in Leadership. I plan to graduate with a Bachelor's of Science degree, May, 2018 and hope to further

my education with a Master's degree in Athletic Training. Thank you for allowing me to present an update to you on what the SRSGA has in store for this coming year.

A few days after this past spring semester, the new SGA Executive Board traveled down south to sunny Daytona, Florida for a leadership retreat. During the week we met with student leaders at the University of Central Florida and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, as well as SRU alumni who live in the central Florida area. We also participated in leadership sessions led by Lauren Moran, Director of Student Leadership & Involvement and Keisha Booker, Assistant Director in the Office for Inclusive Excellence. The main goal of the retreat was to get a head start on planning and working together as a cohesive unit for the upcoming year. One of our platforms that we ran on during the spring elections, was inclusion and ensuring that all students at SRU feel comfortable sharing their voice with full support from SGA, whether they follow under the majority, minority or underrepresented groups on campus. Moving forward with this mindset, student leaders from the Black Action Society, Rock OUT, Students Union for Multicultural Affairs, and the Social Justice Committee were invited to attend the spring retreat with the rest of the SGA Executive Board. Throughout the retreat we focused on building relationships within our organizations, breaking down individual barriers as well as discussing the positive and negative perceptions that others may think about in regards to our organizations. As a result, we brainstormed ways our organizations can work together, because as student leaders of our university it is our responsibility to support and represent our constituents. We will do that most effectively when we work as one.

For the past year, the Social Justice Committee has been recognized as an ad hoc committee of SGA. To further our efforts. SGA and the chairs of the Social Justice Committee have begun discussion of recognizing the committee as a permanent standing committee. This will enable us to further build membership in the committee and increase our advocacy efforts in the areas of diversity and inclusion. One of the committee's major projects will be the launch of the 'Pledge of Inclusivity', which was approved at the last formal senate meeting in May. We expect this pledge will allow students to take action and value the responsibilities that they hold as individuals, bringing the Slippery Rock University community closer in the process.

Lastly, I wanted to inform you all on some exciting news regarding our club sports. The Slippery Rock University Club Baseball team traveled to Pittsburg, Kansas a few weeks ago for the National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) World Series. At the end of a long week, SRU won in the Championship game and claimed the 2017 NCBA Division II National Champions. They are #1 out of 168 teams. Also, last semester, SGA approved to help fund the restoration of Wally Rose field. Restoring this field will allow club baseball and other club sports to have a "home field" and grow their programs with continued success, as well as provide students additional recreational space.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak on behalf of the SRSGA and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Have a great weekend!

*Hearing no questions, Chair Lautman thanked Rachel for updating Council on SGA activities. On behalf of Council, congratulations and best wishes as you begin your tenure as the new SGA President. We look forward to working with you.*

**Ms. Samantha Swift**  
**Director of Development, SRU Foundation, Inc.**

Samantha shared the very good news yesterday in the University Advancement Committee that the Foundation was just \$10,000 away from reaching the \$2.5M goal for the year. Samantha jokingly called out Trustee Richard Wukich in that meeting with a plea to make it happen. Well, we are very pleased to share with all of you today that we have reached our \$2.5M goal and we have Trustee Wukich to thank for that!

### **Resolution of Service**

On behalf of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees, Chairman Matt Lautman presented a Resolution of Service honoring Cheryl J. Norton, president (**Appendix C1**)

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Cheryl Norton provided the Report of the President

ACTION PLAN NARRATIVE: June 9, 2017  
 SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

A record number of students choose to “Experience the Difference” at Slippery Rock University this academic year – a bench mark that was the result of three successive years of increasing enrollment. Undoubtedly, the development of new undergraduate degrees, the addition of professional master’s degrees and creation of 3+2, 3+3 and 4+1 sequences along with expanding winter and summer online offerings has positively impacted our enrollment growth. These changes have also shortened the time to graduation so that 50 percent of our students receive their degree in four years or less.

New programs, however, in the absence of quality will not support institutional growth. Whether using System performance indicator measures, the strength of our financial risk assessment or our Middle States mid-term accreditation review which included NO recommendations for improvement, Slippery Rock University has been recognized as an academically strong and a fiscally sound institution. This evaluation is re-emphasized by the inclusion of SRU on a variety of “best of” lists, some of which are included on this slide.

Success, however, does not mean we can sit back and rest on our history, because the future is only a day away. The three goals I will present to you today are complementary to our mission and reflective of our strategic plan. They are informed by the System’s workforce development report, State System’s persistence/graduation dashboard, SRU’s performance indicator measures, the System’s financial risk assessment and Sightlines facilities review of SRU.

Each goal offers opportunities and challenges, but is central to the delivery of our core mission as a public institution that exists for the good of the public.

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Goal 1: Offering a flexible, agile and integrated curriculum and co-curriculum has been an on-going focus since I began my administration. However, the challenge now is to continue to mature our areas of study to ensure that current and future students are exposed to a curriculum that is relevant to the 21st century, responsive to the needs of employers, has a strong liberal arts foundation, prepares our students to compete in a global marketplace and is integrated into the world outside the classroom. This development

requires specialized facilities, on-line modalities, evolving STEM-H areas of study, international experiences and high-impact practices embedded in the curriculum – all initiatives that require new funding sources.

We have already invested resources to add two positions. One to expand service learning and leadership opportunities in and outside the curriculum and one in our Office of Inclusive Excellence. This was a key first step. Next is to revise our general education program so that it complements these activities and serves as an essential cornerstone to an integrated curriculum/co-curriculum model.

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The major risk involved with this goal is accurately targeting appropriate growth markets and ensuring that our programs are accessible and affordable. Our involvement with the Workforce Development Committee of the Allegheny Conference in Pittsburgh, along with discipline specific advisory boards, has helped to inform our curriculum development. This is critical because any new degree offering will always require additional funding. But if the market demand is present, we know they will draw students. Case in point, we have added 15 new degree programs in the last 3 and one-half years. Of these, 12 have been available to students for more than one year. Each of these programs is now demonstrating a positive cash flow for the University. As a result, SRU does not have any “red lights” on its risk profile in these areas. Our intent is to continue to mature our curriculum using the analytical strengths of the institution and the System’s and region’s workforce development profiles.

Goal 2: focuses not simply on student success, but more importantly, “...success for all students...” For the past three years, Slippery Rock University has either led the System in four and six-year graduation rates or been a close second. The success of our matriculated students begins with a high persistence rate typically topping 82 to 83 percent and finishes with a walk across the stage at commencement. However, this percentage is an AVERAGE success rate that is not equally shared by all students. In particular, there are achievement gaps between the sub-populations identified as Pell eligible or under-represented minorities and the white majority students.

Our goal is to strategically focus efforts on those students who are most at risk of dropping out and being left behind. The most recent class of Pell recipients as well as Black and Non-Hispanic and Hispanic/Latino students matriculating in fall 2015 had a retention rate 8-10 percent below our Asian and Caucasian students.

Although each student chooses to leave the institution for different reasons, preliminary collected data indicates that financial pressures, personal problems and difficulty connecting with the campus community are among the most commonly cited reasons.

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To address these issues, we have committed additional institutional resources to increase financial aid, add success coaches and to revitalize our former University Union into a Student Services and Success Center where a network of support staff will provide “one-stop” assistance. Data have shown the more opportunities provided to students to connect with their peers, faculty and staff, especially during their transition to college, the more positive college experience they enjoy. To lead this effort a new position, an Associate Provost for Student Success, was added to our professional staff.

The University also increased the amount of financial aid offered to students by \$1.5 million. The major challenge to closing this achievement gap is our ability to recruit a college ready, diverse student body into a predominately white region.

Butler County has a 4 percent minority population. In the Slippery Rock Borough or Township, the only minorities are our SRU students, faculty and staff. Since 6,000 of our students live off campus, this

community literally changes complexion every school year when more than 1,000 people of color move back into the area. It is not always easy to provide an environment of support for our students off campus. We are beginning to work with the churches in the community to explore ways of extending a caring community to all members.

Despite these facts, more than 10 percent of our students are classified as under-represented minorities. In 2015, SRU was identified as one of the top schools in the country for reducing the achievement gap. Consequently, while SRU does not have any red lights on its risk profile in this area, we can and must do more.

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Goal 3: simultaneously focuses on balancing the need and opportunities to enhance our campus resources while maintaining sustainable practices.

In 2013, I signed SRU’s President’s Climate Action Plan that offers the ambitious goal of becoming a carbon neutral campus by 2037. Our theme is “small steps, big changes...” Our hearts and planning are in the right place. However, in reality we have academic buildings with an average age of 45.4 years and a deferred maintenance estimate of more than \$130 million and growing. Consequently, many facilities are neither energy efficient nor, in their present shape, sustainable.

Fortunately, this year SRU adopted a plan to address both of these needs. This plan would not have been possible if you had not passed our ESCO Bond request. Thank you! This 20-year bond, which coincides with our 2037 objective, is projected to save the institution \$20 million in maintenance and energy costs, while at the same time reducing our carbon footprint.

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Whether it is new windows, additional insulation, LED lights or energy monitoring systems, our goal is to facilitate efficient energy usage on campus and reduce energy consumption. And while the focus of this goal is primarily on buildings, goal three cannot be accomplished without educating our community to encourage lifestyle changes.

The development of a sustainable, energy efficient campus is a never-ending process. However, in just two years, from FY 2014 to FY 2016, SRU’s energy usage has been reduced by 11 percent with a 41 percent reduction in coal usage.

The pursuit of this goal complements nicely the creation of our new campus master plan. The intent of this plan is to design an energy efficient and sustainable campus for the 21st century by remodeling current facilities for new discipline-specific teaching areas.

Failure to address our aging infrastructure in a timely manner, creates not only energy inefficiency, but also excessive cost for repair when failure occurs. The speed at which we can achieve this goal, is to a great degree challenged by working with the Department of Governmental Services whose work timeline is often unpredictable and causes delays.

When we are able to supervise our own projects, timelines have been met. As a result, through good management of resources and anticipating future needs, SRU does not have any red lights on its risk profile in these areas.

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In the next 12 months, SRU will continue to work to provide high quality education at the lowest possible cost, offer new academic programs, support all students’ success to the same degree regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, or socio-economic status on a 21<sup>st</sup> century campus that continues to improve in energy efficiency and sustainability.

Indeed, Slippery Rock University is a public institution that exists for the good of the public and, fortunately, for energy use, where the sun always shines! THANK YOU!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)

Trustee Smith, chair of the Governance Committee, reported the activities of the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee met this morning at 10:00 a.m. and discussed a number of informational items and had two action items for Council consideration and approval.

The first item was approval of the Order of Succession, Board of Governor's Policy 1983-14-A, Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers. The Order of Succession was approved to move forward for consideration by the full board.

The second action item was the election of officers for 2017-2018:

Mr. William McCarrier, chair  
Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, vice-chair  
Mr. Richard Wukich, secretary

#### **Meeting Date Change Notification**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Suzanne Vessella, to reschedule the September 28 & 29 COT quarterly business meeting to **October 5 & 6, 2017**. Motion carried unanimously. Please note this change in your calendars.

Trustee Smith shared a presidential search process update. The official advertising campaign to solicit candidates will begin June 15. As is customary, the campaign will utilize online postings on the major media sites in higher education. The campaign will run from June 15 to August 15.

A presidential prospectus was developed to complement the ad that provides data and an overview of University offerings.

The full presidential prospectus as well as updates to the presidential search process is available on the SRU website, [www.sru.edu](http://www.sru.edu)

The calendar mentions document informing Council of campus events for Spring/Summer 2017 and Fall/Winter 2017 was also reviewed.

This concludes my report.

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

Trustee McCarrier provided the Academic and Student Affairs Committee report on behalf of Senator White, chair of the committee.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. yesterday. Two items were brought forward for Council review and action.

The first item was the Master of Science in Health Information Management program proposal presented by Dr. Kurt Schimmel and Dr. David Valentine, Professors, School of Business. This program

will complement the two existing graduate programs offered at SRU in Data Analytics and Health Informatics.

The MS in Health Information Management prepares professionals to assume management positions and direct the development of new information systems as well as oversee the legal, ethical, and administrative requirements of health care data. This is the only program of its kind in the System and will be a competitive program in the region market addressing the needs of Western PA and the Commonwealth. Trustees approved the program to move forward for full consideration by the board.

The second item was a Resolution to re-name the Strain Behavioral Science Building, The Strain Safety Building. The proposal was presented by Dr. Joe Cali, Professor, Safety Management. This re-naming accurately reflects the re-purposing of the building and gives prestige to the nationally recognized safety management program. The Safety Management program is the second highest enrolled program at SRU. The fall 2016 enrollment was 522 and the projected enrollment for fall 2017 is upwards of 560. New graduates leave the institution with jobs that pay \$60,000 - \$75,000 per year. Trustees approved moving this Resolution out of committee for consideration by the full board.

The final presentation was an enrollment update by Dr. Amanda Yale, Associate Provost for Enrollment Services. Amanda shared the very good news that applications and deposits are up! We can attribute this positive report to the incredible work of Amanda and her enrollment management team, the new graduate programs, and the collective recruiting efforts of the campus community. Congratulations to TEAM SRU once again for leading the System in enrollment efforts and having good news to share. As Amanda stated, "more good news is on the horizon."

This concludes my report.

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

Trustee Breth reported committee activities of the Finance Committee. The committee met yesterday at 2:00 p.m. to review a number of items for action and information.

A number of presentations were presented to Council:

David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented the audit plan. Dan Starr, Account Manager of Sightlines, provided a program overview. Dr. Amir Mohammadi and Ms. Molly Mercer provided a budget presentation, and Mr. Scott Albert and Dr. Mohammadi presented a Master Plan update.

Following presentations and discussion, all action items were moved forward for consideration by the full board.

Items brought forward for action:

- Resolution – McKeever Environmental Learning Center
- Contracts
- Fixed Assets
- Service & Supply Purchase Orders

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

Annual Inspection of Facilities - A shuttle was available for trustees to tour facilities of interest following the University Advancement Committee.

This concludes my report.

### University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

Trustee Bob Taylor chairs the University Advancement Committee.

The University Advancement Committee met at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, 2017. Dr. Ed Bucha, executive director and Samantha Swift, director of development for the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc., provided updates.

On behalf of the committee, Trustee Wukich commented that the Foundation is working on many exciting and productive projects.

As of March 31st, \$1,913,755 has been raised, and as of yesterday's meeting, the Foundation is less than \$10,000 away from meeting the 2016-17 Gift Income Goal of \$2.5 million.

Gift officers have met with more than 300 donors and prospects.

- 175 proposals have been presented resulting in five new endowed scholarships and eighteen new or increased annual scholarships have been funded.
- The Founders' Society (honoring constituents who have donated \$1,000 or more this fiscal year) currently has 410 members which is 96% of the 426-member goal.
- Five new charitable gift annuities were established this fiscal year totaling \$135,000 – representing the most annuities ever established in a fiscal year.

The 8,881 Campaign, a 24-hour crowdfunding project with the goal of raising at least \$8,881 in honor of Slippery Rock's record-breaking enrollment, exceeded all expectations. It generated \$23,517 – 264% of our original goal – with 134 donors.

The 5th Annual Rock Football Golf Outing generated more than \$75,000 – the most successful golf outing to date.

The Farewell to President Norton campaign will kick off on June 16th and will run until the end of the fiscal year. The goal is to raise \$10,453, which corresponds to the number of SRU graduates in President Norton's tenure. COT members will be contacted prior to the launch of the campaign to make a gift and compose a farewell message which will be featured on the crowdfunding page.

Two new staff members begin working with the Foundation on Monday, June 12th. Stefen Boehringer, assistant director of development, comes to us from the American Heart Association and has experience in planned giving and major gifts. Katie Saluga, a 2014 SRU grad, joins the staff as a development officer focusing on discovery and qualification visits.

Ms. Swift reviewed with the committee the 2016-17 Development Plan. It is anticipated the gift income goal of \$2.5 million will be exceeded.

Progress was made in specific areas of focus, including:

- Increasing scholarship aid
- Expanding the crowdfunding program
- Securing additional planned gifts



Dr. Bucha reviewed:

- Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. net assets and liabilities, total revenues and expenses, and investment portfolio activity as of December 31, 2016.
- He reported total net assets of \$33.7 million is the largest in the history of the Foundation, and the \$27.7 million investment portfolio market value also is the largest in the Foundation's history.

The Safety Building Fundraising Planning includes development opportunities related to cash gifts, in-kind gifts, and naming gifts, the identification of prospects, including internship partners, safety management alumni, and advisory board members.

This concludes my report.

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

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### **Re-naming of Strain Behavioral Science Building (TAB 6) Appendix I**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Re-naming of Strain Behavioral Science Building to **The Strain Safety Building**.

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

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

### **Master of Science in Health Information Management (TAB 7) Appendix J**

MOTION: The Council of Trustees at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approve the Master of Science in Health Information Management to move forward to the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education for final approval. Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci,

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
Trustee Smith	Yes		

**Resolution – McKeever Environmental Learning Center (TAB 8) Appendix K**

Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the Resolution – McKeever Environmental Learning Center.

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
Trustee Smith	Yes		

**Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 9, 10, 11) Appendix L**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders.

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
Trustee Smith	Yes		

**Certifying Resolution – Order of Succession, BOG Policy 1983-14-A, Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers (TAB 12) Appendix M**

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of Certifying Resolution – Order of Succession, BOG Policy 1983-14-A, Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers.

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
Trustee Smith	Yes		

**SRU Council of Trustees – Election of Officers**

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Vessella, approval of the SRU Council of Trustees – Election of Officers, 2017 – 2018:

Mr. William McCarrier, chair  
 Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, vice-chair  
 Mr. Richard Wukich, secretary

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

Trustee Angelucci	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Wukich	Yes
Trustee Smith	Yes		

\*Please note in the Governance Committee Meeting, the September 28-29, 2017 meeting date is rescheduled to October 5-6, 2017.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### SRU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates – 2017/2018

October 5-6, 2017  
 December 7-8, 2017  
 March 22-23, 2018  
 June 7-8, 2018

### Financial Report (TAB 14) (Appendix N)

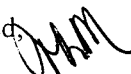
### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 15) (Appendix O)

### HR Personnel Items (TAB 16) (Appendix P)

### Divisional Reports (TAB 20)

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business, the Friday, June 9, 2017, Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 

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