

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**  
**September 9, 2011**

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

September 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, September 9, 2011 in the Alumni House and Conference Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson.

### Recording of Attendance

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

Trustees absent: Mr. John Thornburgh

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins approval of the September 9, 2011 meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously. (**Appendix A**)

### Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj approval of the June 10, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

Mr. Jordan Bailley, president of Slippery Rock Student Government Association, Inc., provided brief comments to the group.

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. We have a truly special student body and I’ve had the privilege of observing that since I arrived on campus. We have two major goals looking toward the future: 1) is to have a vision for our student body, and 2) to have an engaged student body. What we mean by this is to create ways for our students to be more involved in the political process, to be more engaged in the classroom, to engage in open dialog with faculty, and to be active participants in the plethora of organizations and activities on campus.”

Student Government Association is committed to engaging our students on campus. We are here for the student body, and we will continue to promote the caring campus that we are all proud of.

Dr. Jace Condravy, APSCUF President (SRU) provided comments to the group. Dr. Condravy began her remarks by welcoming students back to campus. “It’s always good to be back in the classroom engaging our students in the learning process.”

APSCUF sponsored a lemonade/tea stand as part of welcome activities for new students and parents experiencing move-in activities for the first time.

APSCUF will also host a welcome to new faculty next week as an opportunity to acclimate our new faculty to campus. “We have a special culture here on campus and we like to have our new faculty witness our commitment as a caring group of individuals as quickly as possible.”

We were all grateful this summer our University did not take the hit financially that we were anticipating. Unfortunately, while we regret, we understand the need for a tuition increase. We believe most faculty are happy to be at Slippery Rock University where we are so far remaining financially stable, are engaged in shared governance, and maintain a mutual respect with administration.

We remain committed to ensuring that our students receive a high quality education, and in these times when higher education is receiving negative rhetoric, we appreciate the support of our Trustees and those who have a voice in support of us. “It is nice to see you here today, and we look forward to a great semester at Slippery Rock University.”

### **Presentations**

Dr. Carol Holland, Associate Professor, SRU Student Counseling Center, presented “Technology and College Mental Health: To identify, Assess and Intervene”

Dr. Jack Livingston, Associate Professor, Geography, Geology, and the Environment, presented “New Directions in Participatory Mapping”

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

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

#### **Accreditations received during 2011:**

The Department of Computer Science received accreditation from Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for their information technology program. Therefore, all three programs in the department (computer science, information technology and information systems) are accredited by ABET.

Athletic Training has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) until the 2020-21 academic year.

#### **Enrollments for fall 2011:**

Day 6, 2011 – headcount 8797, FTE 8326, Credit Hours 123,311  
Day 6, 2010 – headcount 8879, FTE 8405, Credit Hours 124,325

#### **Enrollment is down in Post Baccalaureate and Graduate Students.**

<b>Quality FT/FY Students</b>	<b>Fall 2011</b>	<b>Fall 2010</b>
SAT Average	1014.9	1018.4
High School GPA	3.41	3.39

**Retention:**

<b>Fall 2011</b>	81.62%
<b>Fall 2010</b>	81.21%

**New appointments to Academic Affairs:**

Dr. Kurt Schimmel, Dean of the College of Business, Information and Social Sciences, started his tenure at SRU on July 1, 2011. Dr. Schimmel formerly served as associate dean of the School of Business at Robert Morris University.

Dr. Kathleen Strickland, Dean of the College of Education was appointed to her position on July 1, 2011. Dr. Strickland was interim dean for the College for 1 ½ years and a professor in the departments of English and Elementary Education for 21 years.

Mr. John Rindy, Director of Career Services came to Slippery Rock during Spring of 2011. He had formerly served as Director of Educational Outreach at Thiel College.

**Finance and Audit Committee**

Dr. Dennis Murray, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, shared an update to Council based on a report provided by Dr. Charles Curry, vice president for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

**Items for Council Action**

- Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, Naming of Student Center, and approval of the FY 2011-2012 Budget.

**Items for Council Information**

- Monthly Budget Report and the Facilities and Planning Active Project list.

**Construction and Design**

- New Student Center is under construction. Project ahead of the February 25 contract completion date
- Weisenfluh Renovation is under construction, it is scheduled to be finished in December 2011.
- New Performing Arts Center design professionals have completed project scope and estimate. Project review scheduled for August 25, 2011 in Harrisburg.
- Patterson Code Compliance renovations are complete.
- Patterson addition out to bid. Completion scheduled for August 2012.

**Finance**

- The external auditors, Parente-Beard, started their annual audit work for the University financial statements on August 22, 2011 for the June 30, 2011 fiscal year-end.

## **Student Life Committee**

Mr. Brandon Maharaj, chair of the Student Life Committee, shared an update of student life activities based on a report provided by Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life.

The Division of Student Life was actively involved in preparation for the 2011-2012 academic year during the summer months. This included the hiring of new staff, both student and professional; the planning of programs and activities; conducting training programs for staff; cleaning, renovating, repairing, and constructing facilities; and the operation of a summer campus/conference program. The highlights of these activities include:

### **Athletics:**

- Hosted the Slippery Rock Sliders Collegiate Wood Bat team at Critchfield Park for a 27 home game schedule in addition to hosting thousands of campers and visitors to our Athletic Facilities
- 70 SRU sophomore – senior student-athletes were honored by the Division II Athletic Directors Association for having a 3.5 or above cumulative QPA. 172 SRU student-athletes were named PSAC Scholar-athletes with a 3.25 or above cumulative QPA.

### **Center for Student Involvement and Leadership**

- Selected by the White House for our President's Interfaith Challenge proposal, an initiative inviting institutions of higher education to commit to a year of interfaith and community service programming on campus
- Completed the PASSHE Five-Year Review. A positive review and recommendations. "The staff of CSIL is viewed positively by students and colleagues within the university community and they should be proud of their accomplishments."
- Implemented the Co-Curricular Experience Program with incoming freshmen.

### **Multicultural Development:**

- Completed the PASSHE Five-Year Review
- Developed and implemented the Jump Start Orientation Program which has 73 first-year students from various ethnic backgrounds participating this year. There are 40 academic peer mentors that will be assisting the students with academic and social support.

### **Residence Life:**

- Occupancy at the beginning of the fall semester is at 100%, with 800 (28%) of these students participating in Living/Learning communities.
- Completed the PASSHE Five-Year Review. Recommendations from that review are being incorporated into the department's planning and operations.

### **Student Health Services:**

- 55,583 total contacts for clinical and non-clinical services occurred during the 2010-2011 school year. These contacts included clinical visits, inpatient care stays, health education outreach contacts and phone consultations.
- 18,121 students received health care through the SHS, totaling 6,631 hours in direct care. These numbers document that the average visit length has increased by almost thirteen minutes as compared to the prior two years.
- 17,542 encounters occurred through the Office of Health Promotion and nursing/clerical staff outreach (an increase of 1986 encounters).
- 10,175 health promotion encounters occurred.

**University Union:**

- Construction of the new Student Center continues on schedule with the installation of exterior glass, interior drywall, and site retaining walls currently in progress.
- Completed the PASSHE Five-year review process with a positive evaluation of the program. Action plans arising from the review include additional diversity programming, enhanced student training for employees, additional policy development, and rental fee updates for the new Student Center.

**Women's & LGBTQ Resource Center:**

- Continued monitoring of compliance with Pennsylvania College and University Sexual Violence Education Act.
  1. Sent letter to all incoming students, including transfer students, announcing the upcoming on-line educational module.
  2. Developed and installed Sexual Violence education module on Desire to Learn (D2L) on-line platform.

**University Advancement Committee**

Mr. Robert Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee deferred to Dr. Edward Bucha in the absence of Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for University Advancement.

The Mihalik-Thompson Stadium Dedication weekend events begin tonight at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception and dinner at 7 p.m., followed by a private reception hosted by Coach Mihalik. Festivities continue tomorrow and include a golf outing, pre-game tailgate starting at 3 p.m. , and a post-game tailgate with SRU coaching staff. There are 165 registered for the banquet. Dedication ceremony at halftime of Saturday's game vs. Cheney (6 p.m. start).

Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 as of June 30, 2011 totaled \$2,041,450. The value of the endowment is \$17,702,691; which represents the combined totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and Slippery Rock University Alumni Association endowments.

Assets of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. (including traditional operations and the Residence Suites) totaled \$154,185,617 as of June 30, 2011. Assets for traditional operations totaled \$21,639,903.

The Director of Alumni Relations is the only position search within the Advancement Division that remains active. The Search Committee is currently reviewing applications. The two new Foundation employees recently welcomed to the SRU family are Samantha Swift, Director of Development, and Erin Bryer as a gifts officer.

The Campus Family Campaign will kick off with an ice cream social on Tuesday, September 13. In addition to solicitation of current SRU employees, this year's Campaign will also include retired faculty and staff.

**Upcoming fall events include:**

- Performing Arts Series performances by The Flying Karamazov Brothers on Friday, September 9; Peter Yarrow in Concert on Friday, October 28; and Neil Berg's Broadway Holiday on Friday, December 2
- Mihalik-Thompson Stadium Dedication events on September 9 and 10

- SRU Night at PNC Park for the Pirates vs. St. Louis Cardinals game and reception on September 13
- NKT Fall Golf Classic on September 23
- Sunset Serenade "Triple Crown" event on October 8
- Trip to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra PNC Pops performance of "Ballroom with a Twist" on October 13
- Homecoming Weekend on October 14 and 15 including the Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet on October 15
- Celebration of Giving on December 3

In addition, the President's Farewell Gala will be held on January 28, 2012. The Planning Committee with campus-wide representation has launched plans for the event honoring President Smith and Ramona.

### **Governance Committee**

Chairman Eric Holmes brought forward for action the recommended approval of the revised Council of Trustees By-Laws. Council approved the revisions.

The Presidential Search Committee met September 8 and Chairman Eric Holmes reports that we are at a positive and encouraging point in the process.

The advertisement for the next president of Slippery Rock University was placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education and we have already received several applications and very positive feedback regarding the University.

We are in the active recruiting stage of the search and through our consultant will be contacting senior level master's institutions and presidents at both public and private universities to identify and encourage highly qualified candidates to apply.

Our plan moving forward is to begin reviewing applications by late-September / early October with the goal of narrowing down the pool by mid-November. If all goes as planned, we expect to conduct confidential off-campus interviews with the semi-finalists in early December and then bring 3-5 finalists to campus in early February for public interviews.

We will continue to update campus as we reach key points in the search process via email and on the Presidential Search Web site at [www.sru.edu/president/Pages/PresidentialSearch.aspx](http://www.sru.edu/president/Pages/PresidentialSearch.aspx)

The committee thanks the University community for continued interest and support as we search for the 16th president of Slippery Rock University.

*Mr. Taylor commented that since we are an institution in transition there should be a meeting in December for Council to remain informed of University activities and strategies.*

### **Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)**

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

During the past two meetings of the Executive Committee, discussions have centered around issues involving PASSHE advocacy and how information and positions held by individual member trustees should be presented to appropriate government agencies and officials. The Executive Committee is the official governance group in PACT and is the favored conduit for issues that can be melded as official positions. The Executive Committee would then determine appropriate presentations.

Chancellor Cavanaugh has encouraged Executive Committee members to work with COT Chairs to create an advocacy committee. More specifically, COT Chairs are urged to have council members connect with individual officials and to identify possible avenues of access to deliver our message through local legislative gatherings, such as breakfast or luncheon meetings.

At PACT Conferences you can:

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

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Appendix B)**

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### Contracts (TAB 2)

Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix C)**

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix D)**

#### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

#### Approval of the FY 2011-2012 Budget (TAB 4A)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the FY 2011-2012 Budget be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix F)**

#### Approval of Council of Trustees ByLaws (TAB 5)



Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj to approve the Council of Trustees ByLaws. Mr. Taylor abstained from voting because he was not present for the morning discussion. All others present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried. (Appendix G)

### Naming of Student Center (TAB 5A)

Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus to approve naming the new student center, the **Robert M. Smith Student Center**. (Appendix H)

*Brandon Maharaj read the Resolution, which noted that during his tenure as president, Dr. Smith has provided the vision and leadership to position the University as the premiere, public undergraduate residential university in the region, and that in appreciation for his dedication to the University and most importantly to our students, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees agrees "it's a great time" to honor Dr. Smith by naming the new student facility the Robert M. Smith Student Center.*

## INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 6 – TAB #9)

### Next Meeting Dates

**December 16, 2011** (committee meetings/information workshop only)

**January 26-27, 2012** (regular session only)

### Personnel Items (TAB 6)

### Monthly Budget Report FY 2010-2011 (TAB 7)

### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 8)

### Divisional Reports (TAB 9)

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Marcus – Great day to be at Slippery Rock! Congratulations, Bob, for your outstanding leadership. It's always been a great University, but you have heightened our greatness – thank you!

John Hicks – It's a pleasure to serve in the role of Trustee. Thank you, Bob, for your leadership. This honor of naming the student center for you is very deserving for the many accomplishments you have led during your time at Slippery Rock University.

Dennis Murray – Bob, it's been an honor and a privilege serving as a Trustee during Dr. Smith's tenure. We will miss him.

Bob Taylor - Since Dr. Smith's tenure we've built a technology and science building, we've renovated Vincent Science Hall, we've built an incredible student housing facility, tore down a bunch of old, dilapidated buildings; he's achieved much during his tenure with regards to facilities projects. Bob's done a great job, we were lucky to have him with us. Thanks, Bob, for everything.

Grace Hawkins - I would like to extend my gratitude to have served as a Trustee during Dr. Smith's tenure. It's been a pleasure to have witnessed all the great things that have been accomplished in the years that he has led the University. This is a tough time for education, but at Slippery Rock, challenges are met with collaboration and sound decision making to turn those challenges into accomplishments. It truly is a great time to be at Slippery Rock University.

Brandon Maharaj – It's always nice to have the Trustees come together on campus. Thank you, Dr. Smith, for all of the great things you've done for students as our President. I wish you were staying one more semester to shake my hand at Commencement, but I'm sure many students feel that way. If you stayed for us each semester, you would be here forever. I think you've made a great impact here and we will greatly miss you.

Eric Holmes – It's been a pleasure to have served as the Alumni Association President and now as a Trustee during your tenure. You've been a great leader here and we've made tremendous strides with you guiding us and showing us the way. Thank you and Congratulations!

Joshua Young – President Smith selected me as the student trustee during his time as Interim President. It is amazing now years later when he is about to leave, that I would be serving as Chair of the Council. We will take good care of this place, we promise. Thank you, President Smith, for your leadership.

President Smith – Well, I'm not gone yet. Your comments are very much appreciated; your support has always been very much appreciated. I've said many times, leading this University has been the highlight of my career. Thank you!

With no further business, the Friday, September 9, 2011 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Dr. Murray moved; Dr. Hicks seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:



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