

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**

**January 27, 2012**

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COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

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The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, January 27, 2012 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**

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Murray approval of the January 27, 2012 meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix A)**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks approval of the September 9, 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.

Next week we start the budgeting process for the clubs and organizations. We completed a comprehensive, detailed survey this past December with 825 students responding to open ended questions.

SGA is pursuing an outdoor multipurpose rink that will be used for possibly hockey, soccer, and other activities. We are holding a fundraiser selling t-shirts to raise money for the facility.

“To President Smith, it is incredibly difficult to stand here in a few minutes and tell you what you mean to the students of Slippery Rock University. I have so many stories to share, but I will share one in particular that will stay with me long after I leave here. You invited all of the SGA President’s that served during your tenure to your home one evening last semester. Every past president showed up, and not a single person wanted to leave at the end of the evening. Thank you for being our President. We will miss you.”

Dr. Jace Condrary, APSCUF President (SRU) provided comments to the group. Our faculty members are, of course, back at work doing what they love to do. I’ve heard many of my colleagues in

the last few days comment that they thought the break was too long; they missed their students and were anxious to get back in their classrooms. We are, however, distracted by the budget. We are concerned about reduced appropriations. APSCUF is in communication with the Chancellor's Office and the PASSHE Board of Governor's asking they politely decline the Governor's request for a 5% giveback. We must pass along the message how important it is to value higher education and the dream of our students to obtain a quality education.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, provided a report of divisional activities shared by Dr. William F. Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

- **VITA Program**  
The School of Business will open an office in downtown Slippery Rock for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers training through the IRS. The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$50,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. SRU students will be certified volunteers once they receive the training.
- **Performance Funding**  
Slippery Rock University ranked second (\$28,986.640) behind Bloomsburg University (\$29,651.011)
- **Academic Department Relocation**  
The Sport Management Department will be moved under the College of Business, Information and Social Sciences beginning Spring 2012. The department currently resides in the College of Education and has requested the move to better align itself with the School of Business.
- **Enrollment for Fall 2012**  
Freshman applications are at 5134, down from 5229 by 95. Nearly all of the decrease is due to fewer applications received from counties in Eastern Pennsylvania and International. Western PA counties and out-of-state applications are currently ahead of last year.

Freshman deposits are at 729 for fall 2012 as compared to 624 in 2011, representing an increase of 105 students.

#### Quality of Deposits:

- 17% of the students are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.
- 45% of the students are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class.
- 88% of the students are in the top 50% of their high school graduating class.

The average SAT for the fall entering class is currently at 1037 as compared to 1024 last year.

Transfer applications are at 396, up from 370 at the same time last year, representing an increase of 26. Transfer deposits are at 65, up from 38 last year, representing an increase of 27.

Graduate applications are at 433, up from 412 at the same time last year, representing an increase of 21.

## **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, and Naming of the Art Sculpture Building

### **Items for Council Information**

- Personnel Items, Monthly Budget Report, and the Facilities and Planning Active Project list.
- Council of Trustees met this morning with representatives from ParenteBeard and received a copy of the audited financial statements and supplementary information.

## **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.

Fall 2011 was a very active semester for student Life. Highlights of these activities include:

**Athletics:** The Athletic Department had a very successful sports season. Women's Soccer won in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of the NCAA Playoffs and advanced to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Championships. Women's Field Hockey qualified for the PSAC play-offs, and the Rock Football team advanced to the PSAC Championship game. Women's Volleyball qualified for the NCAA Atlantic Regional and SRU successfully hosted the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Cross Country Championships at Cooper's Lake.

**Conference Services:** The Office of Conference Services has secured a number of large conferences for the summer of 2013. The largest of which is North Country Trails that has several hundred people using SRU as the base for a week-long conference. Additionally, we are working with the Butler County Tourism Bureau to provide housing for an international pyrotechnical conference held in the area.

**Dining Services:** The Weisenfluh renovation was completed and celebrated with a grand opening on January 23, 2012. Faculty and staff were invited to a free lunch preview of the facility on January 19.

**University Union:** Construction on the new Student Center continues, although the construction schedule has been delayed by approximately one month. Final completion is currently anticipated in April 2012.

## **University Advancement Committee**

Mr. Robert Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee, shared an update of advancement activities based on a report provided by Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for University Advancement.

The Division has been very busy finalizing plans for tomorrow evening's President's Farewell Gala. Over 370 guests are expected to attend. Gifts and pledges to date have exceeded \$203,000.

Total Gift income as of December 31<sup>st</sup> was \$1,165,626.65 representing a 3.35% increase over last year same time period.

The SRU Foundation Board of Directors met on Thursday evening for their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. A framed resolution of appreciation was presented to President Smith.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet on Saturday afternoon. Discussions will include initial plans for the 2012 Homecoming and the Golden Grads Reunion, as well as the upcoming alumni awards programs, and scheduled alumni networking events.

The 2011 Campus Family Campaign concluded December 31<sup>st</sup> with ten units recognized for 100% participation; exceeding both the dollar goal and the participation percentage goal. The campaign had 55% faculty/staff participation, and \$154,183 in gifts and pledges.

The Alumni Engagement Office and the Development staff are scheduling spring alumni events in Pittsburgh, Hermitage, and in Florida.

### **Governance Committee**

Mr. Eric Holmes, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, provided an update of the search process to Council.

The Council of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee are excited to enter into this phase of the Presidential Search. The search committee completed a comprehensive two-day round of confidential interviews December 5 & 6 and identified a number of promising candidates to invite to campus beginning next week.

I want to publicly thank the Search Committee and Tina Moser, campus liaison and on-campus coordinator, for their work in preparing for the on-campus interviews. We encourage campus to be involved in the interview process.

Chairperson Young thanked Mr. Holmes, Ms. Vessella, and Dr. Hicks for their work on the committee.

### **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.

There has been no meeting of the executive council since our last meeting. The spring conference will be held at Dixon Center in Harrisburg. Room accommodations will be at the Hilton Hotel. Dates are March 20 & 21, 2012. There are number of national presenters on the agenda. This is a wonderful opportunity for Trustees and it is an important event to attend.

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**

**President Smith did not provide a written report, but offered comments:**

“Thank you to the Council of Trustees for your service and for the work that you do. You are committed to the University, you are passionate, you engage us, and you challenge us to make us stronger. I’ve developed such great friendships with all of you. Ramona and I are going to miss you. You are very special people and you have always provided incredible support and counsel throughout my tenure as President of this incredible institution. We are going to leave here with very warm feelings about you as Council members and as friends.

Thank you for your friendship.”

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### Contracts (TAB 2)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix B)**

### Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix C)**

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

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

### Naming of the Art Sculpture Building (TAB 5)

Dr. Hicks read the Resolution. Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the Art Sculpture Building be named the James C. Myford Art Sculpture Building. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix E)**

Resolution Honoring the Service of Mr. John Thornburgh (TAB 6)

Mr. Young read the Resolution. Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Dr. Murray. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

Resolution – Robert M. Smith Community Award (TAB 7)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

Motion of the Council of Trustees to present Dr. Robert M. Smith with the inaugural Robert M. Smith Community Award

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus. Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 8 – TAB #11)**Next Meeting Dates

**TBD**

Personnel Items (TAB 8)Monthly Budget Report FY 2010-2011 (TAB 9)Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 10)Divisional Reports (TAB 11)Letter to the Board of Governors – Appointment of an Interim President (Appendix H)**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Suzanne Vessella – There are obviously big shoes to fill. Thank you, Bob, for your service to this University and I wish the best to you and Ramona.

Bob Marcus – You have done great things here. I will be missing a good friend.

John Hicks – As long as we can find someone who sleeps four hours a night and works the rest of the time, we will be right back in the ball game. All the best to you and Ramona!

Dennis Murray – Bob, you are one of the great leaders I've worked with, you are a great humanitarian and a great educator, but most of all you are a great friend. I wish you God Speed – you've certainly earned the rest.

Bob Taylor - I thought I had ended my education when I left Slippery Rock, but you've taught me so much over the last twelve years. I had the privilege of working with you on many projects throughout your tenure as Provost and President. It was not always easy, but always very productive. The reputation that you and Ramona have brought to this institution is remarkable. This place is an entirely different

institution from what it was when you arrived, and you have our appreciation for that. I never hesitate to talk about SRU; we will never be able to thank you enough.

Grace Hawkins – I'm going to miss you, Bob. I've had a great working relationship with you both here and at BC3. You will be missed.

Brandon Maharaj – I remember sitting at Orientation wondering who that guy was with all that excitement and enthusiasm. Two years later I was standing beside you on stage at Orientation! It's been a pleasure getting to know you, and I've learned a lot. Thank you, President Smith!

Eric Holmes – It's been an honor to have served as the Alumni Association President and now as a Trustee during your tenure. What I will cherish most is our friendship. Thank you for your leadership.

Joshua Young – Thank you, President Smith, for all you have done. I think this award in your honor really has meaning because at Commencement you always say we do not prepare SRU students to be witnesses of history. Many of the people who come out of this University have done great things, and continue to give to their communities. Your leadership has provided direction to the administration, faculty, and staff to prepare our students for greatness.

President Smith – It is about the friendships, as I've said before. But this it isn't about me. It is about the amazing people in this room and out there on this campus who work every day to make this the incredible place that it is. The staff, faculty, and administration here are an incredible team. It has been a very special time for me here as well. Nothing could top this experience for me. You would not have known this, but there is a community leadership award in my honor in Tennessee, its there because of my commitment to community and economic development, so you really have touched my heart to accept this inaugural award. I so embrace the concept of this award and I am so grateful that you would continue to recognize people who help other people and build communities and make the quality of life for people so much better. That is very creative of you. Thank you! Please thank the people sitting in this room that I have had the privilege to call my colleagues and my friends.

Before adjournment, Chairman Joshua Young announced there will be a press release issued later this afternoon. After consultation with Guido Pichini, Chairman of the PASSHE Board of Governors, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees announced the departure of Robert M. Smith effective February 10, 2012. The University will activate its succession plan whereby Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs will serve as Acting President.

With no further business, the Friday, January 27, 2012 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:50 p.m. Dr. Murray moved; Dr. Marcus seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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