

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**  
**March 8, 2013**

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**March 8, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, March 8, 2013 in the Alumni House and Conference Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. John Hicks, chairperson.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Ms. Grace Hawkins, Ms. Courtney Baker-Schroat, Dr. Robert Marcus,  
Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. Dennis Murray

*(Ms. Suzanne Vessella and Dr. Dennis Murray participated by telephone)*

Trustees absent: Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Thomas Breth, Mr. Eric Holmes

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins, approval of the March 8, 2013 meeting agenda.  
(Appendix A)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, approval of the December 7, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 1)

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Patrick Burkhart, president of SRU APSCUF, provided comments.

Mr. David Wolfe, president of the Student Government Association, provided comments.

## PRESENTATIONS

### **“Run, Duck, Hide: The Drones are Here”**

Dr. Sam R. Thangiah, Professor, Computer Science and students Daniel Arnett, Shane Chesnutt, James Mullen and Shawn Forsythe

*This presentation explained how Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are being used as an academic and research tool in the computer science department at SRU.*

### **SRU Marketing Promotions**

Ms. Rita Abent, Executive Director, Public Relations

Ms. Abent provided a visual display of the award-winning design pieces created by staff members, Aaron Moore and Sandy Busch.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, shared a report provided by Dr. Philip Way, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

#### **New Provost:**

Dr. Philip Way joined the Academic Affairs division on February 4 as the new provost.

#### **Health, Environment, and Science:**

The College of Health, Environment, and Science is proud to announce that the Therapeutic Recreation program received initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and it is one of the first four programs in the nation to receive this accreditation.

#### **Information and Administrative Technology Services:**

Dr. Norton and Provost Way have accepted the resignation of Mr. Simeon Ananou, Associate Provost, Information and Administrative Technology Services. Mr. Ananou is planning to leave in June to become Chief Information Officer at Salisbury University in Maryland. He has made many enhancements to Slippery Rock, particularly in the areas of classroom technologies, customer service and in leading the implementation of the Banner Student Information System.

#### **Grants and Sponsored Research:**

Award notices were received for 16 external grant proposals totaling \$612,390 for the time period July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

#### **Graduation Rates:**

Slippery Rock University's four-year graduation rate increased by nearly ten percent to 48.6 percent for first-time, full-time students that entered in Fall 2008. Much of the marked increase in the most recent four-year graduation rate can be attributed to accelerated completion rates of education majors in order to comply with program graduation requirements that no longer exists after August 2013.

Six-year graduation rates increased from 59.2 percent last year to 61.9 percent in 2012-13. As a point of comparison, The National Center for Education Statistics reports the six-year graduation rate at public institutions for students entering Fall 2004 is 56 percent.

### **Spring Enrollment:**

Spring 2013 fifteenth day census data indicates registered student headcounts decreased by 129 or 1.6 percent from Spring 2012. At the same time, credit hour production decreased by 1,987 from last spring.

### **New Graduate Admissions Director:**

Ms. Brandi Weber-Mortimer, an SRU alumna, is SRU's new Director of Graduate Admissions.

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

Dr. Dennis Murray, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, shared a report provided by Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

The new Performing Arts Center design is completed. The design was submitted to L&I for code review. DGS will request release of funds from Budget Office upon L&I approval. Earliest construction start will be July 2013.

The Finance area is coordinating several bids for several summer construction projects including Steam Line Replacement, Roof Replacement, and Eisenberg Renovations.

The Finance area is conducting a self-assessment of internal controls within key accounting processes and updating key process documentation in preparation for new external auditors CliftonLarsonAllen, PASSHE's first new internal auditors in ten years.

Emergency Management: Five emergency planning meetings for the campus were held during the time period of February 4-25, 2013. A special session was presented to our faculty. Tabletop training exercise was presented to campus administrators using the Advanced Disaster Management System at Butler County Community College held February 15, 2013. Additional exercises are being planned for the campus.

#### **Action Items**

- Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders
- Capital Budget Authorization Request 2013-2014

#### **Information Items**

- Monthly Budget Report
- Facilities and Planning Active Project List

### **Student Life Committee**

Dr. Robert Marcus, chair of the Student Life Committee, deferred to Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, who provided the divisional report.

**Athletics:** Rock student athletes continue to succeed in the classroom with 178 attaining Director of Athletics Honor Roll status with a 3.5 GPA or above in the fall 2012 semester. Fifty-six student athletes had a 4.0 GPA, and 348 students had a 3.0 GPA or above in the fall semester.

**Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL):** The CSIL's leadership initiatives are still going strong with almost 150 first year students participating in the First Year Leader Scholar Program (FLSP), and over 2,800 participants in the program.

The CSIL ended the Fall Semester with a record breaking total of over 2,700 volunteers. Included in those numbers were the campus-wide Christmas Elf Project and Season of Giving. These two projects alone reached over 350 community members including over 225 children. In addition, 40 SRU students participated in the first International CARE Break by venturing to Jamaica to serve over 500 citizens with tutoring and park cleanup efforts.

#### **Women's Center:**

- Celebrated the Women's Center's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – open house/reception
- Developed a student volunteer group, approximately 20 students, who will assist with various aspects of programming
- Presented "Start Smart" salary negotiation workshop for 25 students in collaboration with Career Education and Development

#### **University Advancement Committee**

Ms. Barbara Ender, Vice President for University Advancement shared a report of activities in the absence of Mr. Robert Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee.

Gift Income as of January 31st is \$1,496,196, up 17% over the same period last year.

The 2012 Campus Family Campaign wrapped up on December 31, 2012. Nine units reached 100% participation and overall participation increased 4% over last year. Contributions and pledges totaled \$158,171; an increase of 3% over the 2011 Campaign.

Other fundraising initiatives targeted at specific segmentations include the Title IX appeal, which has reached nearly \$150,000 in commitments to date, with several proposals pending, and the National Championship Challenge for football, which has garnered \$147,000 in gifts and pledges (toward a \$300,000 goal). We are also promoting scholarship gifts in recognition of the University's 125th Anniversary (2014), with a goal of attaining 125 new scholarships.

Mr. Robert Stevens, a 1976 Slippery Rock graduate and Executive Chairman of the Board of Lockheed Martin, visited campus, for the first time since he graduated, on February 6. While on campus, Mr. Stevens had the opportunity to visit the new Exercise Science facility in Patterson Hall, the Planetarium in Vincent Science Center, and view a demonstration of student built drones and robotics in the Advanced Technology and Science Hall. Mr. Stevens wrapped up his tour of campus with a presentation to more than 300 students at the RMS Student Center. Currently, Vice President Ender is working with Exercise Science faculty to develop a concept paper for review by Lockheed Martin's Contribution Committee.

The SRU Alumni Engagement Office coordinated four Florida alumni receptions in February with 150 alumni and guests attending the events in Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers and Ft. Lauderdale. President Norton and her husband Henry were special guests at three of the receptions.

Recognizing the important role technology plays in our ability to keep alumni engaged and alumni data current, the Alumni Engagement Office has just this week launched a comprehensive online alumni directory providing an easy way for alumni to stay connected with SRU and with former classmates. Alumni *NetCommunity* is a searchable directory containing profiles and contact information for our 58,000 alumni, and to date has had an enthusiastic response with 250 alumni already registered with updated contact information.

The Division is coordinating a number of events and activities throughout the spring term, including:

- 2013 Scholarship Luncheon (April 6)
- Harrisburg Alumni Reception (April 11)
- SRU Alumni Association Awards Dinner (April 20)
- Boston Alumni Event (May 8)
- Washington DC Alumni Event (May 9)

### **Governance Committee**

Mr. Young reported that correspondence highlighting President Norton's leadership highlights since arriving June 4, 2012 was prepared and submitted for action.

### **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.

Please note the upcoming PACT Conferences:

2013 Spring PACT Conference (Harrisburg): April 16-17  
 2013 Fall PACT Conference (Clarion): October 9-10

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 Cheryl J. Norton provided the President's Report. (Appendix B)

## ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

### Contracts (TAB 2)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus the approval of Contracts as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix C)

### Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Ms. Baker-Schroat the approval of Fixed Assets as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix D)

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

Ms. Baker-Schroat moved, seconded by Mr. Young the approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix E)

### Recreation Services Fee (TAB 5)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins the approval of the Recreation Services Fee. Motion carried by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, no; Murray, yes (Appendix F)

### Changes to Use of Student Life Enhancement Fee (TAB 6)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Baker-Schroat approval of Changes to Use of the Student Life Enhancement Fee as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix G)

### Residence Hall Fees (TAB 7)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Murray, the approval of Residence Hall Fees as submitted. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix H)

### Meal Plan Fees (TAB 8)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. Young, the approval of the Meal Plan Fees. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix I)

### Capital Budget Authorization Request 2013-2014 (TAB 9)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Baker-Schroat, approval of the Capital Budget Authorization Request 2013-2014. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes; Marcus, yes; Hicks, yes; Young, yes; Vessella, yes; Murray, yes (Appendix J)

Correspondence to Board of Governors RE: President Norton's Leadership Highlights since arriving June 4, 2012 (TAB 10A)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, approval of the document. Motion carried by roll call vote. Hawkins, yes; Baker-Schroat, yes, Marcus, yes, Hicks, yes, Young, yes; Vessella, no; Murray, yes (**Appendix K**)

**INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 10 – TAB # 13)**

Next Meeting Dates

**TBD**

Personnel Items (TAB 10) (Appendix L)

Monthly Financial Report (TAB 11) (Appendix M)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 12) (Appendix N)

Divisional Reports (TAB 13)

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Grace Hawkins – Thank you, Dr. Norton, for your leadership. Dr. Way, welcome. Today was filled with great information and we appreciate the excellent work of everyone at Slippery Rock University.

Bob Marcus – Dr. Norton, we appreciate you and thank you for the great things ahead under your leadership. GO Rock!


Courtney Baker-Schroat – I am happy to be here and be a member of this board. It is a privilege to serve SRU. I appreciate the opportunity and appreciate my role as a student trustee. Thank you, Dr. Norton, for leading Slippery Rock University.

John Hicks – Welcome Dr. Way and thank you, Dr. Norton, for your leadership. I would like to again mention the importance of our PACT meetings and hope that we will see you all in Harrisburg.

Joshua Young – Dr. Norton, we appreciate your leadership as President of Slippery Rock University. Dr. Way, welcome to SRU.

With no further business, the Friday, March 8, 2013 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Mr. Young moved; Ms. Hawkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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