

MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

June 7, 2013

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

June 7, 2013

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, June 7, 2013 in the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center. The meeting was called to order at 12 p.m. by Dr. John Hicks, vice-chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Thomas Breth, Mr. Joshua Young, Dr. Robert Marcus,
Dr. Dennis Murray, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Robert Taylor

Trustees absent: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. Eric Holmes

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, approval of the June 7, 2013 meeting agenda.
(Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, approval of the March 8, 2013 meeting minutes.
Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 1)

Public Comments

APSCUF President (SRU)

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

“We have so much to celebrate here at SRU – labor accord, or nearly so, a campus that shines brightly, innovative programs, dedicated faculty, staff and administrators. But most importantly, students who tally impressive records of achievement while with us, and even more so, after they join our August alumni.

Despite these accolades, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is starving public education. They regulate our tuition and legislate our appropriations, while simultaneously coercing us to expend our reserves, constraining our investment income. They have us in a vice and could well squeeze the life out of us, all in discord with their mandate to support PASSHE through Act 188 of 1982. The leadership of the Commonwealth – the Governor and the Legislators – displays various levels of commitment to public education, some very dubious, or with outright hostility. Allegiance to our finding is not fully defined along party lines, for many Republicans are staunch supporters of PASSHE, while some Democrats have a lackluster record in this regard. To them, I criticize the notion of level funding at antiquated amounts, while the budget grows for other endeavors. Revenue remains an issue, as the flawed energy policies of our state tax natural gas production are at a fraction of the rates of other states, while simultaneously telling our children that funds are insufficient to better their education.

I request that the Trustees sagely use your influence with the Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and our elected officials, encouraging them to choose to deepen their commitment to SRU and to PASSHE, to bolster the financial commitment of the Commonwealth.

We share a community of learners possessing profound quality. We offer an outstanding educational experience with savagely competitive value. We engender tolerance, respect and love. One only needs to witness the admiration for our fallen colleague, Professor Glen Brunken, to recognize the value of supporting our endeavors and fundamentally, enrich lives. May we all find peace and enjoy prosperity. Have a fun summer”!

Student Government Association President

Mr. Roger (Buddy) Clements is the newly elected President of our Student Government Association. Buddy provided comments:

“I am honored to serve as the President of the Student Government Association at Slippery Rock University. The past few weeks have been a flurry of activity as I become acclimated to this important leadership position serving the student body. I would like to thank David Wolfe for taking his time to bring me up to speed on many items in process. Also, my appreciation is extended to Dr. Watson for his insights and mentoring of me as I assume this leadership role on campus.

Celebrating Slippery Rock University's 125th Birthday! (January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014)

Ms. Judy Silva, Assistant Professor, Bailey Library
Ms. Laurel Dagnon, Director of Programming, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
Dr. George Mihalik, Professor, Safety Management

Building on the theme introduced at President Norton's Inauguration, “Celebrating our Honored Traditions. Embracing our Unlimited Potential,” the campus community is gearing up to celebrate the 125th birthday of Slippery Rock University, beginning with a campus kick-off in January.

Judy, George and Laurel have graciously stepped up to serve as co-chairs of our steering committee. Dr. Robert Watson, Administrator Emeritus and Ms. Wilma Cavill, Assistant Professor, Safety Management, are honorary co-chairs for the celebration. As the saying goes, it will “take a village” to create, implement and promote an entire year of recognitions, activities and celebratory opportunities to engage our campus.

Dr. Mihalik, co-chair, urged Council to join the SRU campus and SR community in the celebration. “We have our steering committee established, engagement committees formed and the entire team is excited to bring their ideas, energy, and talents together to make this a remarkable and memorable year. Please join us!

PRESENTATIONS

Integrating SRU's Digital and Print Marketing and Recruitment Initiative

Dr. Amanda Yale, Associate Provost for Enrollment Services
Ms. Kayla Hersperger, Online Design and Communications Specialist

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 Freshman Students:

The goal for fall 2013 is 1450 students. Currently, deposits are at 1439.

New freshman applications are down by 550 as compared to the same time last year. Deposits are down by 105 compared to the same time last year. While applications from students of color are down, deposits are about the same as last year.

The quality of freshman offers is slightly down or the same as last year. The SAT of offered Freshmen for 2013 is 1019 as compared to 1020 for 2012. Students in the top 10% represented 13.9% of offers as compared to 14.7% last year. Students in the top 25% of their class represented 40.7% of offers as compared to 42.1% in 2012. Students in the top 50% of their class represented 80.9% as compared to 82.9% in 2012. The high school grade point average of the offers for 2013 is 3.41 as compared to 3.40 in 2012. Students with a high school grade point average of 3.0 and higher represented 81.9% of offered students as compared to 82.1% in 2012.

While decreases in freshman applications have occurred across all four colleges, the most significant decreases are in the College of Education.

New Transfer Students:

The goal for fall 2013 is 600 new transfer students. Currently, deposits are over 500.

New transfer applications are about the same as last year (2012-1102 and 2011-1101). Deposits are down by 49. As transcripts come in, additional offers to transfer students are immediately made. It is anticipated that the goal of 600 full time and part time transfer students will be met.

New Graduate Students:

New graduate student applications are slightly up as compared to the same time last year (2012-830 and 2011-818). Graduate student enrollment for fall 2013 is expected to be up as compared to last fall. Currently, 531 students are registered for fall 2013 as compared to 496 last fall. Increases are currently evidenced in programs in Counseling and Development, Parks and Recreation, Adapted Physical Activity, Secondary Education, and Special Education.

Retention for the first to second year is reported at 83.6% as compared to 81.2% last year.

Overall, SRU FTE data for fall 2013 are reported at 3% down. Last fall, PASSHE fall 2012 FTE was down by 2.7% and PASSHE is anticipating that the decline will increase this year.

Undergraduate and graduate graduation numbers will be up by 100 for May as compared to last year once all graduation applications are processed. You may recall that May 2012 graduation numbers were up last year by over 120 students over May 2011.

Finance and Audit Committee

Dr. Dennis Murray, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, deferred to Ms. Molly Mercer, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

The Finance and Audit Committee met this morning to review a number of items:

- Coordinating 13/14 detailed budget preparation and review by departmental/division budget holders.
- Met and began working with new external audit firm CliftonLarsenAllen for fiscal 12/13 annual financial audit, including planning fieldwork and discussing audit approach.
- Reviewing PASSHE final draft policy on Relationships with Affiliates and developing action steps. The procedure encompasses the following areas:
 - Defining an Affiliated Entity
 - Expanding on Fundraising parameters, including joint fundraising procedures
 - Describing proper delineation between university and affiliates' roles, responsibilities, funds, personnel, services
 - Explaining required documentation, authorizations, and reporting requirements.

Action Items

- Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders

Information Items

- Personnel Items
- DRAFT PASSHE Affiliation Agreement
- Monthly Budget Report
- Facilities and Planning Active Project List

Student Life Committee

Dr. Robert Marcus, chair of the Student Life Committee, deferred to Dr. Robert Watson, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dr. Watson shared with Trustee and the audience how special it is to return to SRU in this temporary appointment. Dr. Watson congratulated the members of the Student Affairs division for their hard work and dedication in moving the division forward. "There are important and amazingly great things happening in our division. I appreciate the warm reception and look forward to working with President Norton and her team."

University Advancement Committee

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

The Advancement Committee met yesterday afternoon to review progress year-to-date, and to discuss the development/fundraising plan for 2013-2014. Barbara and Samantha Swift, Director of Development, provided updates for the committee.

Gift income as of May 31st totaled \$2,109,569, reflecting a 24% increase over the previous year on the same date.

The \$2.2 million gift income goal for the year should be met and exceeded, taking into account expected pledge fulfillment and other gifts anticipated prior to June 30. A goal of \$2.5 million has been set for the 2013-2014 program year.

All actions related to donor cultivation, stewardship and solicitation have increased during the past year, resulting in an increased number of gifts and pledges, and positive momentum going forward.

During the past year the University Advancement staff has coordinated 36 receptions and special events to introduce President Norton to alumni and friends of the University – in addition to more than 100 individual or small group meetings.

Many special initiatives will be emphasized during the coming year. Several of them focus on the University's 125th Anniversary, including:

- The 125th Anniversary Challenge – an effort to secure \$1.25 million in endowed and annual scholarships
- The Drive for 125 – this will serve as the theme for the annual fund campaign to raise \$250,000 in each of the next two years
- “1,2, Give me 5” – an initiative to involve students in philanthropy in honor of the 125th Anniversary
- And... the Presidents Gala which will be held in the Smith Student Center May 31, 2014

Of course, on-going fundraising initiatives (Campus Family Campaign, the Title IX Initiative, etc.) will continue to be pursued, as will other department-based initiatives.

The many special events and meetings coordinated between the Alumni Engagement Office and the Development/Foundation Office have extended the reach of the University this past year, and the value of those efforts are reflected in greater participation numbers and increased alumni/donor support.

Governance Committee

Mr. Young reported the committee was presented with an overview of the PASSHE affiliated agreement with more information to follow at the September meeting. The COT Bylaws were reviewed.

The slate of officers were presented for nomination following discussion among the members of the Governance Committee:

Dr. John Hicks	Chairperson
Mr. Robert Taylor	Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Robert Marcus	Secretary

*Mr. Taylor and Dr. Hicks did not participate in the nomination process.

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.

The fall PACT Conference will be hosted by Clarion, October 9-10, 2013

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)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, the approval of Contracts as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Young, the approval of Fixed Assets as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, the approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

Master of Nursing Degree Approval (TAB 5)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, that the Council of Trustees at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approves the Master of Science in Nursing to move forward to the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education for final approval. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

Master of Business Administration (TAB 6)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, that the Council of Trustees at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approves the Master of Business Administration to move forward to the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education for final approval. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

SRU Council of Trustees – Election of Officers (TAB 6A) (Appendix H)

Mr. Joshua Young, chair of the Governance Committee, introduced the slate of officers and called for a motion to approve. Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, approval of the slate of officers. Motion carried unanimously. The slate of officers presented for 2013 – 2014:

Dr. John Hicks	Chairperson
Mr. Robert Taylor	Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Robert Marcus	Secretary

*Mr. Taylor and Dr. Hicks did not participate in the nomination process.

INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 7 – TAB # 11)

Next Meeting Dates

September 26 & 27, 2013

Personnel Items (TAB 7) (Appendix I)

DRAFT PASSHE Procedure “Relationships with Affiliated Entities” (TAB 8) (Appendix J)

Monthly Financial Report (TAB 9) (Appendix K)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 10) (Appendix L)

Divisional Reports (TAB 11) (Provided in materials binder)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dennis Murray – It’s always great to be on campus. Dr. Norton, congratulations on your first year anniversary leading SRU. We look forward to your continued leadership. Congratulations to our newly elected officers. Dr. Watson – I am thrilled that you are back on campus.

Bob Marcus – It’s great to be back on campus. Thanks to our presenters today and to President Norton’s team who put time and effort into making our meetings informative. Go Rock!

Josh Young – I will echo Dr. Murray’s and Dr. Marcus’s comments, it is always great to be on campus. I would like to publicly acknowledge 2005 alum, Ron Bietler, who won the May primary for the Lower Macungie Township Commissioner’s seat. Ron joins many SRU alums pursuing their political aspirations and making a difference in their communities. As I walk around campus, I am constantly reminded of what a friendly community we have here. People are kind, they open doors, they smile, and they stop to say hello. It is not like this everywhere, so let’s continue to smile, say hello, and be kind to one another.


Bob Taylor – Welcome aboard (and back), Bob! There is someone missing today whom we would be remiss if we did not recognize. I would like to extend recognition to Eric Holmes for his leadership as Chair of the Council for this past year and for his leadership in many other aspects of the campus, particularly serving his alma mater as an active alumnus. Also, recognition to Scott, Herb, Dallas, and the facilities and grounds folks – the campus looks beautiful! The cosmetic upgrades to make the campus more appealing are important and make a lasting impression.

John Hicks – It is with sadness that I extend sympathies to the family and friends of Glen Brunken, a gentle and kind friend, colleague, and accomplished artist. Glen had mobility challenges, but his passion for life and outgoing personality was an inspiration to me and to many who had the privilege of knowing him. RIP dear friend. On a lighter note, I was pleased to see Dr. Keith Dils on TV the other day promoting the SRU College of Education. Well done.

Cheryl Norton – I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trustees here today for their service and commitment who may not be continuing in their roles, as we know there are new governor appointments taking place. I would like to thank each of you personally for not only being instrumental in bringing me to this institution, but for the opportunity to learn all about Slippery Rock University through your eyes. We appreciate your leadership and good work and will appreciate having you active with the campus even though you will not be continuing in the role of Trustee. And to Trustees continuing, we look forward to your active participation in our 125th anniversary celebration in 2014 and for your leadership and guidance for many years to come.

With no further business, the Friday, June 7, 2013 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 1:15 p.m. Dr. Hicks adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:


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