

SRU Presidential Search Committee culls candidates to nine

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. – After weeks of reviewing applications for the presidency at Slippery Rock University, the Search Committee has culled the list from 75 candidates to nine, according to Jeff Smith, SRU trustee and chair of the Search Committee.

"The pool of candidates was extremely impressive both in terms of their credentials as well as their diversity. I was surprised at how quickly the search committee coalesced around the final group of candidates. I am really excited about the next phase of the search where we have a chance to meet the candidates in person and learn more about them," Smith said.

The vacancy at SRU, a result of the retirement in July of former President Cheryl Norton, drew 75 applicants; 76 percent of whom were male and 32 percent of whom were underrepresented minorities, Smith said. "We received applications from deans, provosts and sitting presidents, as well as association and foundation leaders."

Smith said the Search Committee would be interviewing the nine candidates in person and off-site within the next few weeks in order to identify the final group of four to five candidates to invite to campus to be interviewed by the University's various constituencies, i.e., students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, etc. Those interviews are expected to occur the week of Sept. 25.

"Once those interviews are complete and the Search Committee has received feedback from the various groups, it will recommend two candidates to the SRU council of trustees for their approval at their Oct. 5-6 meeting," Smith said.

The COT in turn submits the recommended candidates to Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education's board of governors. The BOG will interview the recommended candidates and select the University president.

"I'm excited the search process continues to be focused and on-schedule. Our goal, as it has been from the start, is to have a new president in place by January 2018, and we are doing everything we can to make that happen," Smith said.