

Information Workshop
Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees
Friday, July 9, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Robert M. Smith Student Center (Theatre)
With ZOOM Capabilities

The purpose of the workshop is to review a proposal to establish a new College of Health Professions at Slippery Rock University. Chair Lautman explained this an information session only, questions can be asked specific to the topic with no deliberation. This is not a formal business meeting and there are no action items.

Trustees in attendance: Alfonso Angelucci, Domenic Ionta, Matt Lautman, William McCarrier, Elise Michaux

Trustees in attendance via ZOOM: Samantha Hawk, Dan Lavalley, Jeffrey Smith, Joshua Young

Laura Neal, PASSHE university legal counsel, and Lia Paradi, faculty liaison to Council, were also in attendance.

Two audience members provided public comment in support of the proposal.

- 1) Dr. David Jordan, professor, Health Care Admin., Info Systems Chair, SRU
- 2) Mr. Ronald Anderson, 1970 alumnus of SRU State College

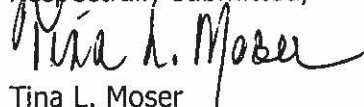
President Behre provided an overview of the progression of health sciences and health professions at Slippery Rock University. SRU was founded in 1889 as a normal school, and for the 20th century was the regional place to enroll in the physical education program. We had a natural progression from physical education to exercise science. Today, the Exercise Science program is second only to our Safety Management program in terms of enrollment.

We have now evolved to being regionally and nationally recognized with programs in Doctor of Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant and Doctor of Occupational Therapy. The RN-BSN nursing program is one of the earliest online nursing programs in a traditionally regionally accredited university.

We have much to be proud of and with the addition of a College of Health Professions, we will realize new opportunities as we bring prestige and recognition to the health sciences and health professions at Slippery Rock University.

Following questions from Council and a thorough review of the proposal, the workshop adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina L. Moser

Administrative Liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees

Dr. David Jordan, professor & chair, Department of Health Care Administration and Information Systems, Eisenberg Classroom Building, SRU

Good Morning. Thank you for holding this forum and for allowing me to share my thoughts regarding the proposed College of Health Professions.

I'm Dr. David Jordan. I spent more than 22 years in private industry serving roles in the healthcare marketplace prior to joining SRU in 2013 as a faculty member. My last position was as Regional Vice President for a national managed care organization. I am now a Professor of Healthcare Administration and serve as the Healthcare Administration and Information Systems department chairperson. I'd like to share perspectives gained from my career that has bridged both private industry and academia, but also from the relationships I have been privileged to develop with leaders in our regional, national, and even international healthcare communities.

Healthcare professionals comprise the largest employer base in our region, are part of the largest industry in our nation, they perennially struggle to staff vital roles, and they are burdened by more regulations than the nuclear power generation industry. The size and needs in this industry are why the health professions at SRU have been one of the key growth areas for enrollment. Anecdotally, since the time I joined SRU, the Health Care Administration and Management program enrollment has more than doubled. I believe that growth has been modest relative to what is possible if we develop a proper structure with dedicated leadership that maximizes one of SRU's great assets. We can grow existing programs in addition to developing new ones.

The proposed College of Health Professions is vital to serve the needs of our stakeholders. They include healthcare providers, the community, and those family and friends we hold so dear. Every one of us in this room will interface with the healthcare system at one point, a system that provides the most intimate physical and emotional service any of us will access in our lives. Many have done so already, some, I'm sure, more than they wish. We must serve as a leading institution in the future of this industry as it impacts us all intimately at one point or another.

Coming from the healthcare industry, I can honestly state that healthcare professionals struggle to contain costs, enhance quality, and as I mentioned (and deliberately do so a second time), they perennially struggle to staff vital positions. I can share with you that these difficulties are exacerbated by the need for better coordination among the many disciplines to provide safe and effective care of the highest quality, and developing tomorrow's health professionals; that's where we at SRU become rather important.

My career that has bridged industry and academia has galvanized my firm belief that collaborative and specialized organizational structures in both educational and industry are vital to develop healthcare professionals who can meet the aforementioned challenges. For SRU to properly prepare the next generation of health professions, we must:

1. Focus on and develop an organizational structure that supports the specialized nature of an exceptionally complex continuum of disciplines in healthcare. This requires specialized leadership at the college level with a keen understanding of the expertise necessary in various healthcare disciplines, collaborative interdependence, and related specialized accreditations – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.

2. Formally emphasize inter-professional education through practice and structure, just as industry emphasizes the use of interdisciplinary teams for medical care – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.
3. Recognize and foster relationships in the healthcare community to assure a) SRU students benefit from their collaboration with our students, faculty, and administration, b) that our alumni benefit from enhanced career pathways, and c) the communities we serve can benefit from highly qualified SRU educational health professionals – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.
4. Facilitate interdisciplinary healthcare employer recruitment events that would be incredibly attractive for the region's largest employers and an extraordinary opportunity for our students – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.
5. Broadcast the identity of a College of Health Professions to support formalized job shadow and mentorship networks – a one-stop shop for interdisciplinary healthcare employers and streamlined coordination – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.
6. Open new pathways to increase underrepresented minorities in the health professions through collaborative target programs – such as a college honors track, partnerships with alumni, and associations such as National Association of Health Services Executives – this is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.
7. Leverage that fact that we operate in an internationally renowned healthcare epicenter for innovation and quality by broadcasting to our stakeholders that we recognize the necessity for a College of Health Professions – once more, that is best accomplished by establishing a College of Health Professions.

We recently created a Board of Stakeholders for the Health Care Administration and Management program that includes CEOs, COOs, CAOs, CQOs, VPs and other leading experts from our region's largest healthcare organizations. I have a list for anyone interested. When we discussed the proposed college during our May meeting, the support was unequivocally positive. Their only inquiries regarding the proposed college were how they can support the efforts and why doesn't such a college already exist. These are the employers who are asking for more SRU alumni in the health professions – we must leverage that need!

When I came to SRU I was fascinated that we did not emphasize one of our strengths in the largest market for our students to seek well paid and rewarding careers that serve others. SRU has done admirably without a college structure, or identity, to grow our programs in the health professions. However, I confidently believe that we can greatly benefit from enhancing these strengths with a supportive administrative structure that promotes recognition and identity as the most affordable premier destination in our region. This will attract future generations of healthcare professionals and serve our many stakeholders. A college of Health Professions can lay the foundation for the next twenty plus years to grow with our stakeholders in support of, and with a passion for, serving others.

Thank you for listening.

Mr. Ronald Anderson, 1970 alumnus of Slippery Rock State College

My name is Ronald Anderson, I am a 1970 graduate of Slippery Rock College. I also hold an MBA from the University of Miami, Miami, FL. Part of my time in my career was as a national training manager for a medical company. I am currently involved in a start-up company for gene therapy in cardiac arrhythmias.

I cannot be any more supportive of this initiative while listening to the comments and think you all are really on top of this. A couple of things I think will be absolutely paramount to making this college successful is:

- 1) You are going to have to engage companies who really care about the need that SRU will be filling;
- 2) you will have to connect with company recruiters. I believe it's going to take you about four years to see a start of change in enrollments and successful recruitment of students, and
- 3) you will have to involve and engage executives and high-level professionals to find out what types of attributes they are seeking to prepare Slippery Rock University students for their careers in these specialized disciplines.

You are correct with starting salaries in the field. Medical device companies are paying their interns upwards of \$60,000 per year.

What you are doing to create this College of Health Professions is tremendous and I could not be more enthusiastic hearing about this and seeing it launch.

Thank you for your time.