

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

March 25, 2021

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Thursday, March 25, 2021 via Zoom conferencing. Chair Matt Lautman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present:

Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Ms. Samantha Hawk, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Dan Lavalley, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Joshua Young

Dr. Lia Paradis, faculty liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees, was present for the meeting. Welcome Lia!

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee Taylor moved, Trustee Angelucci second, amending the meeting agenda with the removal of Naming Policy Guidelines, letter B, under action items. Motion carries.

Trustee McCarrier moved, Trustee Angelucci second, approving the amended meeting agenda, Motion carries. (TAB 6) (Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the December 10, 2020 quarterly business meeting minutes. Motion carries. (TAB 15) (Appendix B)

Public Comments

Joey Sciuto, President, Student Government Association

Good afternoon everyone. I am feeling rather sentimental as this is my last semester at SRU, and my last Council of Trustees meeting as SRSGA president. Therefore, I thought I would keep my report brief and go over some of the SRSGA accomplishments during the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Student and Academic Affairs committee really took strides in getting Bob's Cupboard food pantry functional and efficiently staffed. Through the collaboration of the Macoskey Center, Bonner Leader Program, the SRSGA and, the generous donations of our campus community, we were able to provide SRU students with a free food resource and help minimize food insecurity in our community. Additionally, the Student and Academic Affairs committee has worked to create

open lines of communication with the senators and deans of each respective college. Now student voices will be present in a variety of academic commissions and committees.

The Finance Committee has worked to simplify and revise our policies to ensure that accessing SRSGA funding is inclusive to all student organizations. Additionally, the Vice President of Finance, Nate Desing, did a stellar job empowering his committee to efficiently budget for the 2021-2022 academic school year, and we will be bringing the final amount to senate this upcoming formal meeting. As of today, we have received 157 budget requests, which is quite an accomplishment in the COVID era. The committee has also worked diligently to audit a variety of self-support budgets and create Self-Support Guidelines to ensure that the money student organizations earn is being used properly.

The Internal Affairs Committee did a successful job recruiting 39 senators making the total members of the SRSGA 46, which is the largest senate and closest we have ever been to a full senate during my tenure here at SRU. Additionally, they have been providing senators with bonding events such as trivia nights, bingo, and even virtual service opportunities. Vice President Mia Graziani has worked really hard to plan a virtual banquet where we can take a moment to celebrate all of our senator's accomplishments.

The Outreach Committee was able to adapt to the virtual environment and ensure that a variety of services like the Happy Bus and movie series were operational and efficient. Furthermore, they have continued to spotlight a variety of active clubs and organizations at each formal meeting. Many anecdotes were shared of the innovative ways that students fostered new relationships and promoted their clubs in this virtual environment. The committee also worked with the Office for Student Engagement and Leadership to launch an outdoor movie series, including movie nights on the Quad and Drive-In Movies with the University Program Board.

The Social Justice Committee has really stepped up to the plate this year, and we should all be particularly proud of Vice President Alexis Gish. With the help of her committee, she has been able to build upon how her predecessors defined the position, and has really given the committee a purpose. The committee created a social justice response plan that the SRSGA will use when acts of hate or bigotry occur on our campus. They have worked to provide our senate with two diversity trainings regarding micro aggressions and basic allyship training. Gish also served on the Campus Inclusion Response Team and provided senate with a space to reflect and process the events while simultaneously, reaching out and supporting those students who were directly impacted. Currently, the Outreach and Social Justice Committees are working to create a tab on our website that lists a variety of campus and community resources to underserved populations.

The Rules and Policies Committee has been busy helping to approve new clubs in addition to reshaping some of our bylaws to now include diversity related event attendance and mental health training. Parliamentarian Grant Warmbein has also worked hard to reword policies regarding senator and executive board academic requirements.

As we look forward to the next school year, I am excited to announce that we had 37 students submit petition packets for the 2021-2022 Senate and Executive Board elections. This is the largest group of candidates in recent history! We are certain that this is a result of the new structure, and people being excited to represent student groups which they feel an attachment.

Thank you all so much for your time, and have a wonderful summer.

Presentations

Dr. Terrence Mitchell, special assistant to the president, Diversity and Inclusion

Dr. Mitchell presented a status report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee as they continue the important work of developing a diversity strategic plan for Slippery Rock University. Terrence also provided highlights of the exceptional collaborative work of the campus community in these efforts.

Memorial Resolution of Service: Ms. Rita Abent (Appendix C)

Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees presented a memorial resolution honoring Ms. Rita Abent.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

William J. Behre, Ph.D

I want to begin my report by offering my thanks and gratitude to our exceptional faculty, students and staff. We have come together and worked thoughtfully, purposefully and collectively during this pandemic.

Because of these efforts, SRU is planning a return to relative normalcy in the fall. Plans are progressing well. SRU's infection rate remains at less than one half of one percent, even after the introduction of asymptomatic testing. Spring sports have resumed with a limited number of spectators. We are easing visitors to campus and by the summer plan to be at fuller capacity. Although we are not permitting overnight camps, we are planning to have day camps scheduled on campus this summer.

We are planning an in-person commencement for May. The class of 2020, who missed their commencement, will be invited to take part in a ceremony during homecoming weekend in mid-October.

While our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are progressing well, we know that there is still much work to be done. We must move forward in building a strong allyship program and be more intentional in responding to issues through timely messaging. Overall, we must have a deliberate and more broad-based communication plan. We will be moving forward with these efforts and will inform the campus community as plans unfold.

As is customary, I will leave you with several positive items of note for the spring semester. These are achievements by our students, faculty and alumni as well as institutional recognition.

STUDENTS

- SRU is piloting a program with PA Department of Aging to help socially isolated older adults: A new pilot program launched by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging in partnership with SRU is addressing social isolation of older adults in Butler and Mercer counties. During the 2020-21 academic year, more than 200 SRU students in recreational therapy and gerontology classes are completing service-learning projects that include virtual

interactions with older adults, either over the phone or virtually if the older adult had access to videoconferencing technology.

- SRU students recreate campus virtually in Minecraft: A group of SRU students are rebuilding the campus brick by brick. There is no mortar or physical construction involved, but rather pixels in the virtual world of Minecraft. The popular video game allows users to build elaborate virtual environments within the game and five students from the Esports Club at SRU chose to recreate the University's campus.
- SRU student writes about COVID-19 experience for Appalachia journal: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected people in different ways: feelings of grief, sickness, economic uncertainty, isolation and angst toward how other people are reacting to this global health crisis. Andrew Jones, an SRU senior English writing major from Grove City, has felt them all. He wrote an essay about his experiences last spring and submitted it to Appalachia, a mountaineering and conservation journal, which recently published his work.
- SRU students lead study of fossils within national park structures: A SRU research team involving two students, a professor and a paleontologist whose daughter is one of those said students explored the widespread occurrences of fossils and fossiliferous stone found within historic human-made structures. The study calls attention to unique insights into the human dimensions of paleontology, which is the study of fossils.
- SRU's Student Nonprofit Alliance supports women through Project Pink: SRU's Student Nonprofit Alliance hosted Project Pink to collect care package items for local women earlier this month. Care packages were distributed to local nonprofits including the YWCA of Butler and the Lighthouse Foundation, a Christian outreach organization. Project Pink was part of SNA's spring semester Volunteer Crawl, a 24-hour service day where participants travel across Butler County to participate in multiple service projects.

FACULTY

- SRU psychology professor co-authors book about a new treatment for anorexia: Anorexia nervosa is an eating disorder that is difficult to treat, and to remedy that, Jennifer Sanftner-McGraw, an SRU psychology professor has co-authored a book for clinicians to better address anorexia patients by involving patients' family members.
- SRU hosting PASSHE Women's Consortium Conference, March 26-27: SRU is hosting the 2021 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Women's Consortium Conference, March 26-27, via videoconference. The PASSHE Women's Consortium, established in 1980, is a professional network consisting of faculty, staff, students and administrators from the State System's 14 institutions. The consortium's goal is to address issues that affect women in higher education, local campuses and communities.
- SRU partners with preschool in India for virtual workshops and student teaching: SRU has partnered with the Kara4Kids, a system of preschools in India, to provide workshops led by SRU faculty for Kara4Kids teachers, staff and parents, while Kara4Kids is facilitating virtual student-teaching placements for SRU students. Sara Tours, associate professor of elementary education and early childhood, led the partnership.
- SRU shares student essays about Black history in new journal: Melissa Ford, assistant professor of history, edited a new journal consisting of 10 student essays related to Black history written during the 2019-20 academic year. In celebration of Black History Month in February, journal titled "Black History Matters," was produced by the SRU History Department.

- SRU history professor writes biography of famed Dodgers manager: Alan Levy's latest book, about Walter Alston, is the SRU history professor's 12th book, joining a bibliography that includes titles about American sports, music and politics. Levy's "Walter Alston: The Rise of a Manager from the Minors to the Baseball Hall of Fame" is the first biography written about the late Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers manager, just as Levy became the first biographer of another great manager with his 2005 profile of former New York Yankees skipper Joe McCarthy.
- SRU's C2AC presents seminar series with eight Department of Energy national laboratories: To help computational and data science students prepare to tackle the industry's toughest challenges, SRU's Center for Cybersecurity and Advanced Computing hosted a three-part Computing Research Leadership Council virtual seminar series this semester with renowned scientists for Department of Energy laboratories. Organized by Nitin Sukhija, associate professor of computer science and C2AC director, the series is co-sponsored by eight Department of Energy national laboratories and the Sustainable Horizons Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building sustainable and inclusive scientific communities.

ALUMNI

- SRU alumna serving vital role with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank: Maria Montaro, a 2015 SRU graduate with degrees in social work and philanthropy and nonprofit management, is the fundraising coordinator at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in Duquesne. She helps community groups and corporations from 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania engage with the food bank's mission to end hunger in the region.
- Blake hired as CIO of North American Dental Group: Shawn Blake, a 1986 SRU graduate with a degree in computer science, was recently named the chief information officer at North American Dental Group, a leading U.S. dental support organization based in Pittsburgh. In his role, Blake leads all information technology and information security efforts for the company and its more than 240 supported dental practices.
- Four SRU alumni work Super Bowl, including three Tampa Bay Buccaneers staffers: When the Tampa Bay Buccaneers became the first NFL team to win a Super Bowl in its home stadium, Feb. 7, there were SRU alumni working for the team and CBS Sports from different vantage points.
- SRU graduate helping at-risk youths take career steps: Doug Shirley, a 1995 SRU graduate with a master's degree in secondary guidance and counseling, led successful school-to-career programs in North Carolina before returning to his native western Pennsylvania where he is launching Career Walk, a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk high school students explore careers.
- Wagh named VP of cyber operations at Cornerstone Defense: Ganpat "Gunner" Wagh, a 1991 SRU graduate with a degree in music education, was recently hired as the vice president of cyber operations at Cornerstone Defense LLC. In his role, Wagh helps identify growth opportunities in the cyber and digital innovation markets for Cornerstone's existing and new customers.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

- SRU's School of Business accredited by AACSB International: SRU's School of Business has earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting students, educators and businesses worldwide.
- SRU's online bachelor's programs ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report: SRU's online bachelor's degree programs are among the best in the nation, according to the 2021 Best Online Bachelor's Programs rankings released by U.S. News & World Report. For the 2021 edition, U.S. News assessed and ranked more than 350 online degree programs across the country.
- SRU joins NADOHE to advance inclusion and diversity initiatives: SRU has joined the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education as an institutional member. The NADOHE, an organization with more than 1,100 members representing 750 colleges and universities, serves as the voice for chief diversity officers in higher education. NADOHE's mission is to lead higher education towards inclusive excellence through institutional transformation.
- SRU's online master's in history ranked among country's best: SRU's online master's degree in history has been ranked among the top 25 programs in the country by College Consensus.
- SRU's homeland security degree earns national ranking: SRU's bachelor's degree in homeland security has been ranked as one of the nation's best by Study.com.
- SRU awarded Gold status on list of 2021-22 Military Friendly Schools: SRU has retained its gold when it comes to being military friendly. SRU was named a 2021-22 Military Friendly School, a list that recognizes colleges and universities for serving their military and veteran students. This is the second straight year that SRU achieved Gold status, awarded to just 162 schools selected for their leading practices, outcomes and effective programs. SRU has been named a Military Friendly School every year since 2010.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

Chairman Lautman shared the following statement on behalf of Council:

Over the past several weeks, many have seen press releases, news articles and social media posts issued by the administration about the College of Health Professions. This Council of Trustees does want to make it clear that at this point in time, this is a proposed College of Health Professions. Our guiding statute, Act 50 of 2020 (HB 2171) legislation, charges the Council of Trustees with listening to such a proposal, evaluating such a proposal, and ultimately voting for or against such a proposal.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)

Trustees received several updates at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

Dr. David Wilmes, chief student affairs officer, provided an update on the recent Zoom-bombing incidents during Black History Month. Investigations into both events are taking place at the state

and federal levels. As a result of the incidents, IATS has provided guidance to students, faculty, and staff on making virtual events and meetings more secure and on limiting access to those who are members of the SRU community. The Campus Inclusion Response Team (CIRT) also is undergoing an after-action exercise to learn from the experience and improve campus response.

In addition, Dr. Wilmes gave an overview of the Mass Testing Center, including sharing a video of the testing center in action. Multiple vendors are being used to ensure redundancy in the system in case of closures or delays. To date, more than 4,000 tests have been administered with a positivity rate of less than 0.5%

Dr. Amanda Yale, chief enrollment management officer, shared information about new enrollment influencers during the pandemic:

- Until recently, recruitment has been primarily virtual including high school visits and virtual college fairs.
- Currently, we are recruiting in both the virtual and on-campus environments with an increased number of on-campus presentations and tour opportunities with smaller-sized programs.
- Admission funnel activity levels (applications, offers, and deposits) are happening much later in the process due to the level of schools pivoting and guidance counselors and community college counselors moving transcripts.
- Early Recruitment Observations (SRU, Mid-Atlantic, and Nationally)
 - o Students are wanting to stay closer to home. This change impacts out-of-state and Eastern PA secondary markets.
 - o Larger “name” recognition and selective private institutions are recruiting heavily in our primary region as they are taking losses in regions further away and out of state and internationally. Additionally, they are only using transcripts for admissions as institutions have paused the use of the SAT and ACT due to testing challenges during the pandemic.

As of Friday, March 19th, freshman deposits are currently running behind by about 200. The quality is about the same as last year. Decreases are evidenced in our primary market and our secondary and tertiary markets. Transfer deposits are currently running behind by more than 100. Graduate acknowledgements are down slightly for summer and up slightly for fall.

It is a very good sign that attendance and participation levels in both virtual and on-campus events have increased heavily in the past two weeks. Dr. Yale expects that this trend will continue through the spring and into the summer months as the opportunities for vaccine continue to improve.

Drs. Michael Zieg, interim dean, College of Health, Engineering, and Science (CHES), and John Bonaguro, interim founding dean of the proposed College of Health Professions, made a presentation about the proposed restructuring of CHES.

Dr. Dan Bauer, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Ms. Carrier Birckbichler, chief financial and data officer, presented a music program fee. The music program fee is intended to help offset the cost of offering an undergraduate degree in music.

Dr. Abbey Zink, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, provided a reminder of the upcoming Middle States reaffirmation visit on March 28-31, 2021.

Many thanks to our presenters for sharing these updates with us.

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

Finance Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

The Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee met with the Council of Trustees earlier today and discussed several topics:

Dr. Amir Mohammadi, senior vice president for Administration, Global Engagement and Economic Development provided an update on the following:

Food Service:

- Slippery Rock, Edinboro, Clarion, and Indiana completed a joint request for proposals, and the food service contract was awarded to Aramark based on technical and cost factors
- The term of the contract is 7 years with 3 optional renewal years beginning June 1, 2021
- The new contract has more simplified meal plans, which will be more attractive to students. Some meal plans, have no cost increase but there will be additional flex dollars added and other meal plans have a cost reduction of 9, 11 and 46%. Students are going to like the changes.

Auxiliary Budget:

- Auxiliary budgets in FY21 are projecting deficits due to the negative impact of the pandemic and the resulting reductions in student fee revenue.
- Auxiliary departments are relying on operating reserves to cover FY21 deficits.
- Returning to more normal operations in FY22 will stabilize the finances of the traditional auxiliaries.
- The good news is returning to normal will also help to begin replenishing our reserves with the exception of the Health Center that will continue to operate in the negative for FY 21 – 23.

Capital Budget FY 21/22: Each year, as required by PASSHE, the University submits capital project requests for Commonwealth funding. This year the following projects were submitted for consideration:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| • Morrow Field House Renovation | \$27.2 Million |
| • McKay Education Renovation | \$20.0 Million |
| • Eisenberg Building Renovation | \$18.4 Million |

The Facilities and Projects Report and divisional updates were provided in advance to trustees.

Ms. Carrie Birckbichler, chief financial officer, presented the Financial and Budget Update for the second quarter of FY 2020/2021 and an update on the projections for future years. The projections were reviewed and updated as part of the interim budget process.

The projections highlighted an expected budget gap as a result of regular cost increases, no or limited tuition increases, a decline in enrollment due to Covid-19 and increased waiver expenditures. The University is projected to end the 20-21 fiscal year in a positive position due to a combination of lower operating expenditure activity and receipt of federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HERF). A review of the CARES Act funding was also provided.

Chairman Lautman this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Bob Taylor, the committee chairperson, provided the following report.

Mr. Washington, Vice President for University Advancement, introduced Mr. Dennis Prescott, Senior Vice President of Executive Partners, Bentz Whaley Flessner, the University's campaign counsel. Mr. Prescott provided an overview of next steps in the campaign planning.

Ms. Swift, Executive Director of University Development & Advancement Services, provided a summary of the 2020-21 second quarter fundraising activities and results.

Ms. Kelly Bailey reported on Alumni Engagement as of December 31, 2020, and provided an update about Spring semester engagement opportunities and plans.

Mr. Washington provided financial reports on the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and the SRUF Campus Housing as of December 31, 2020.

- Total Net Assets & Liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$46,814,559
- The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$39,473,883
- The SRUF Campus Housing Inc. & subsidiary Net Assets & Liabilities totaled \$101,743,150

A reminder that **Annual Giving Day** is tomorrow, we've broken records in the past and we hope to do so again this year. The giving portal is open all day tomorrow. Thank you in advance for your participation and support of our students.

In closing, special thanks to the entire University Advancement operation for all of your hard work each day.

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

Trustee Joshua Young, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report.

The Governance Committee met earlier today. We addressed a number of action and information items.

- Trustee Jeff Smith shared a PACT update.
- We agreed that we would create a committee within the Governance Committee for the purpose of reviewing current bylaws and determining any necessary amendments in light of ACT 50 of 2020 legislation including the addition of the faculty liaison role and committee structure.
- Submitted the president's evaluation letter to the System and discussed the evaluation process for next year.
- We will schedule a time with PASSHE legal counsel to provide a review of the role of trustees in light of changes to ACT 50 of 2020 legislation.

- The slate of officers for 2021-2022 was presented in compliance with COT Bylaws. The official vote will take place at the June meeting.

Matt Lautman, chair
Elise Michaux, vice-chair
Samantha Hawk, secretary

We were pleased to approve the Memorial Resolution honoring the service of Ms. Rita Abent.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix H)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Behre. No report; closed session.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Music Fee Proposal (TAB 7) (Appendix I)

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the Music Fee Proposal, \$350 per semester fee. Roll Call vote: 8 yes, 3 no, motion passes.

Roll Call:	Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	William McCarrier	Yes
	Samantha Hawk	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeff Smith	No
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Bob Taylor	No
	Dan Lavallee	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	No
	Joshua Young	Yes		

Capital Budget Submission, FY 21-22 (TAB 9) (Appendix J)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Capital Budget Submission, FY 21-22. Roll Call vote: 9 yes, 2 no, motion passes.

Roll Call:	Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	William McCarrier	Yes
	Samantha Hawk	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeff Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Bob Taylor	No
	Dan Lavallee	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	No
	Joshua Young	Yes		

INFORMATION ITEMS

Next Meeting:

June 3 & 4, 2021

Committee Presentations (Tab 10) (Appendix K)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 11) (Appendix L)

Financial Report (TAB 12) (Appendix M)

Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 13) (Appendix N)

HR Personnel Items (TAB 14) (Appendix O)

Divisional Reports (TAB 16)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

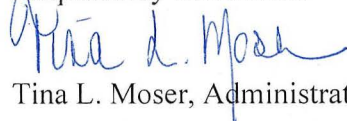
Trustee Lautman offered thanks to the presenters and the administration for all of the preparation for this meeting.

Trustee Angelucci offered congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Elise Grabner upon the occasion of her retirement.

A reminder to all that **SRU Giving Day** is tomorrow. Go to <https://givingday.sru.edu/>

With no further business, Trustee Hawk motioned to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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