

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**June 4, 2021**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, June 4, 2021, Robert M. Smith Student Center Ballroom and via ZOOM conferencing. Chair Matt Lautman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present:

Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Dan Lavalley, Ms. Samantha Hawk

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

### **Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda**

Trustee McCarrier moved, Trustee Young second, approval to amend the meeting agenda with the addition of Item D. Meal Plan Contract. Motion carries.

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval to amend the meeting agenda with the addition of Item E. Resolution: Appointing Dr. Lia Paradis Faculty Liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees (FY 21-22). Motion carries.

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Young, motion to approve amended agenda in its entirety by ROLL CALL vote: 6 YES, 1 NO, 1 ABSTENTION. Motion carries. (Tab 6) (Appendix A)

Trustee Ionta	YES	Trustee Michaux	YES
Trustee Lautman	YES	Trustee Smith	YES
Trustee McCarrier	YES	Trustee Taylor	NO
Trustee Vessella	ABSTAIN	Trustee Young	YES

### **Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the March 25, 2021 quarterly business meeting minutes. Motion carries. (TAB 15) (Appendix B)

## Public Comments

**Patrick A. Burkhart, Ph.D., professor, Geography, Geology and the Environment, 325  
Advanced Technology and Science Hall, SRU**

Dear Trustees,

4 June 2021

The Boy Scouts of America initiated Project S.O.A.R. in 1971. About that time, as Patrol Leader of the Bearcats (B Patrol), I lead my team to first place at a Camporee, outscoring around 25 patrols from more than a handful of troops. I now recognize that that victory was my first achievement in outdoor leadership - my inaugural credential in environmental science. Still today, I firmly believe that we should Save Our American Resources. In fact, as a Father, I endorse the mandate ever more strongly. Such has been my mantra at SRU. My core value. Let's SOAR together.

Born upon the shore of Lake Erie, I remember when this shallowest Great Lake was pronounced dead. Trapesing across Cleveland to St Ignatius High School on the west side, I crossed the Cuyahoga River twice a day for many years. Each morning, my Dad's car fell in line between the truck loads of steaming slag being hauled from the steel mills in the Flats, often causing my tardy arrival. A decade earlier, that river had caught fire – not once, but many times. I ask my students to imagine the panicked 911 call: “Hello, yes, the river is on fire, please get over here quickly. Spray some water on it!” In the ensuing years, I learned of lamprey eels, zebra mussels, and round gobies, plus PCBs, dioxins, mercury, cadmium, and lead, carcinogens and mutagens, not to mention sanitary sewer overflows. In retrospect, it is not surprising that I became a Hydrogeologist, and more broadly a water scientist who teaches everyone who will listen that What We Do to the River, We Do to Ourselves!

When I arrived at SRU, nearly a quarter century ago, although a lowly Assistant Professor, I was already seasoned. At Case Western, I learned how to delineate a watershed. At Wright State, new courses were opening each term to examine contaminant hydro and aqueous geochem. At Lehigh, Geological Science had just morphed into Earth and Environmental Science and I loved its curriculum. Lafayette College paid me to teach my first Hydrogeology class. The College of William and Mary charged me with creating a new Environmental Geology Laboratory, so the students drilled and installed their own well field. At Heidelberg College, I arrived to energize their new Water Resources Program. Ohio State sent me into the Marion Correctional Facility to teach inmates Earth Science. I taught Geomorphology in the Rocky Mountains and had students gauge streamflow in Jackson Hole! Then, I was hired at SRU.

Way back when, as my doctoral days at Lehigh were pinching closed, I was short-listed in a search at Mansfield. Flying north, I recognized the Susquehanna River and asked an attendant to pose a question to the pilot. The turboprop veered slightly, then Three Mile Island came into view under the wing on my side of the plane! I still have slides of those cooling towers in the drink. PASSHE was now on my map.

A few years passed and I saw the job ad of my dreams. There was a geoscience program seeking expertise in water curricula. The location boasted an incised plateau, whose Allegheny geography was right between my family and my wife's. I studied the webpage. There were green curricula in multiple departments, plus an interdisciplinary Institute for the Environment. They wanted expertise with designing and implementing courses. They wanted Environmental Geology for the masses, and to do so, they needed a new Environmental Geology Lab. They wanted a Hydrogeologist. Faculty stated a need for more field trips. During my interview, I also noted an awesome Outdoor Adventures Program. There was a Ski and Snowboard Club. Bulletin boards held pictures of school kayaking, backpacking, and caving trips. The place even had a campground on

campus! So, I titled my presentation Water and Environmental Geosciences. The rest, as they say, is history. From my interview on Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, life became a whirlwind, packing to arrive in the thick of winter, third week of January 1998. I was the newest Professor at Slippery Rock University. How much fun is that?!

The Old Guard of professors hired in the post-Sputnik-panic were quickly retiring. I had a lock on the courses they wanted, so I could direct my energy beyond them. I was already practiced at academic advisement, but they also asked me to advise the student club! I was psyched. I became engaged. Within months, I started a tradition of taking their students (my students!) to a meeting of the Geological Society of America. Inspired by my membership in the Council of Undergraduate Research, I proposed and initiated the SRU Symposium for Student Research and Scholarship, and named its Journal of Scholarly Endeavor. When G. Warren and Bob Smith attended my evening colloquium, they saw me holding a banner with the profile of Old Main on it in front of a statue of Vikings at L'Anse aux Meadows, the UNESCO tribute to Eric the Red in Newfoundland, CA. G. Warren told me later that evening that he was going to order a case of SRU flags. That trip, inadvertently, had become the first SRU Flag Expedition.

Although I revel at inspiring students, and was already immersed into the pedagogy of First Year Studies, after a few years I was toasted on running the SRU Symposium. I feared that I would never find someone else with the interest and energy to run it. Then, I met Dr. Terry Wajda. She is an expert at Marketing. She wanted to take the reins and lead the initiative forward. Superb, I said, for I too am a huge fan of marketing. Here you go. Sell some scholarship! Recruit some Scholars!

My career here at SRU has been a dream come true. I have led over thirty substantial expeditions across the Americas and beyond, changing uncountable lives. My scholarship has made the cover of an international journal a couple of times. Through the dynamic duo of Environmental Geology, Lecture and Lab, over 12,000 of our alumni have a substantially enriched perspective on the challenge of sustaining healthy ecosystems under the duress of exponential human population growth. I suspect this enrollment record makes me one of the most profitable faculty in SRU history. It is clearly the case that kids from two to 92 all have interest in learning about their planet, particularly when the stories are keen and the photos strike awe. I have engendered a much broader reverence for Earth.

It has been said that the only thing constant is change. I arrived to help heal the scarring from joining Geology with Environmental Science. Just as that jolting union was relaxing, Environmental Geoscience was merged with Geography and Environmental Studies. Again, it took nurturing to cajole a sense of unity. Then, in an open space process that invited all stake-holders to the table, the new College of Health, Environment, and Science was formulated. I reveled in the sense of shared governance. My entire career can be characterized by the process of morphing science for greater appeal to the citizenry, by displaying the majesty of landscape, with its implicit tie to potable water, biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and humanity – by creating structure favorable to this learning, and by recruiting student interest.

One day this year, I arrived to hear that CHES had been changed. No discussion. No notice. No Environment. CHES is now the College of Health, Engineering, and Science. It feels at though Engineering has been placed at odds with the Environment. This move is also at odds with marketing to K-12 student engagement with the Environment. This move feels disrespectful to me. This omission is also at odds with faculty expertise. GGE is all about the Environment. The Environmental Science curriculum at SRU dates to about 1971, as well. Without human physiology, Biology can be characterized as Environmental Biology. Parks, Recreation, and Conservation (of Our American Resources?) is all about the Environment. There is a track in Environmental Chemistry. I also very much enjoy Environmental Math. STEM, without the Environment, is a hook without a worm. The Environment sells.

I thank President Behre and Provost Zink for listening to my concerns. I understand CHES is undergoing a self-study. I ask you, the Trustees, to interrogate the value of including Environment within our University's structure, as well as the potential harm from excluding it. Please interrogate this deletion. I trust that you, too, will see the value of the previously explicit structure. Please insist that Environment remain in the title of the College of Science. Our children are counting on us. Our students, too. There is no Planet B.

Thank you for your time.

### **Presentations**

**Trustee Smith introduced the following speakers:**

Ms. Alice Del Vecchio, institute director/chair, Dept. of Nonprofit Management, Empowerment and Diversity Studies, College of Liberal Arts, 200 Spotts World Culture Building, SRU

Mr. Jeffrey Rathlef, director, Service Learning and Community Service, Community Engaged Learning, 217 Bailey Library, SRU

Ms. Del Vecchio and Mr. Rathlef provided an update on SRU's community engagement efforts and a status report of Butler SUCCEED and the Center for Non-Profit Leadership. (Appendix L)

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**William J. Behre, Ph.D.**

Good morning:

Things on campus are beginning to return to normal. Our spring athletes competed. While some teams did quite well on the field, this year, victory was marked simply by competing this season. And, as you know, we held five in-person commencement ceremonies at the stadium to celebrate this year's graduates. In a typical year, these would have been seen as common, even mundane, occurrences on campus. This year, they marked a gradual, important resumption of normal activities. Students from the class of 2020 are being invited to take part in a special graduation ceremony at Homecoming. Those who cannot make this event are invited to take part in the December ceremony.

Preparation for the fall is in full swing. We have installed (or are in the process of installing) plexiglass barriers, air-purifying units, and improved technology in key locales around campus. Given the rapid upswing in vaccination rates across the Commonwealth, these mitigation efforts may be overkill. Still, a disruption to classes in the fall would be damaging to the University. So, heaven forbid, if there is some sort of vaccine resistant resurgence, we will be better prepared to maintain in-person classes. In short, we find ourselves preparing simultaneously for multiple scenarios.

On the non-COVID front, the University has begun its strategic planning process with an expected completion in the fall. We are also in the process of searching for a cabinet-level Chief Diversity Officer. I hope that this important role will be filled in the near future.

As we emerge from the urgency of the pandemic, I am grateful to our entire community, who stepped up in countless ways to sustain our University. I am also grateful that we have returned in earnest to

the important non-pandemic work of guiding SRU into the future. Given the state system context, these are tricky waters to navigate, but I am confident that SRU is well positioned to make it to smoother seas in the years to come.

As is customary, I'll leave you with several items of note from the spring semester by our students, faculty, and alumni as well as institutional recognition.

## STUDENTS

- **SRU Army ROTC competes with nation's top cadets at West Point**  
 Cadets from SRU's U.S. Army ROTC program were part of a Ranger Challenge team that, for the first time in program history, qualified for the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. SRU's battalion was one of only 16 ROTC programs in the country to compete in Sandhurst, April 16-17, joining 25 USMA teams and three U.S. service academies who took part in a rigorous 36-hour course "to test warrior spirit, team cohesion and dedication to mission accomplishment."
- **SRU students help Butler Township plan new sports complex**  
 Residents of a local community are having their recreational needs met because of the work of SRU students. Butler Township officials drew on the expertise of students in a Public Relations and Integrated Marketing Communication Capstone course this spring to help them analyze needs and develop plans for a sports complex that is being built in the Pullman Business Park in Butler.
- **SRU student provides rock solid resurgence of pet rock craze**  
 Johnny Phommachanh, an SRU senior management major from Shillington, started a pet rock collection by leaving googly-eyed rocks on campus. The random acts of art went viral thanks to social media and a segment on a national television show.
- **SRU safety management students conduct face mask tests**  
 A group of SRU safety management students tested the effectiveness of face masks used to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and presented their findings at the American Society of Safety Professionals Western Pennsylvania Chapter's Professional Development Conference which was attended virtually by safety industry professionals and college students from around the region.
- **The Rocket awarded first place for 'Newspaper Overall Excellence' by SCJ**  
 The Rocket, the independent, student-run newspaper at SRU, won several awards in the 2020-21 Society for Collegiate Journalists National Contest. For the first time in 10 years, The Rocket placed first for "Newspaper Overall Excellence."
- **SRU celebrates achievement, announces Ali-Zaidi Award finalist at annual awards ceremony**  
 SRU's finalist for the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence, which is given to a graduating senior in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education who exemplifies academic excellence and involvement is Morgan McIntyre, a senior petroleum and natural gas engineering major from Templeton. Among McIntyre's achievements, she established a student chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers at SRU and served as president and led

a group that organized the SPE's North America Student Symposium, an event attended by more than 200 students and for which she organized a panel of executives and professionals from several oil and gas companies.

- **SRU students gain valuable programming experience working with humanoid robot**  
SRU computing majors Christian Carr, Jeffrey McFarland and Wayne Bloom worked in SRU's Robotics/Artificial Intelligence Laboratory during the spring semester on Pepper, a new humanoid robot acquired by the Computer Science Department.
- **SRU student leads diaper drive for local pediatrics practice**  
Most government benefits and safety-net programs don't recognize diapers as a basic need, but an SRU student certainly did while working at a local pediatrics practice. She decided to do something about it. Haley Butrum, a graduate student in the physician assistant studies program from Ocean Pines, Maryland, organized a diaper drive that in just one week has gathered more than 70 boxes of diapers -- nearly 14,000 diapers -- thanks to public donations at drop-off locations and through financial contributions. The diapers were donated to families at Next Generation Pediatrics in Butler, where Butrum recently completed her clinical rotation.

## FACULTY

- **SRU English instructor wins award; will have novel published**  
After several years of working intermittently on her novel, Jessica Jopp, an SRU instructor of English, recently won the 2020 Quill Prose Award from Red Hen Press, which includes \$1,000 and the publication of her novel, "From the Longing Orchard," scheduled for release in spring 2023. Jopp also wrote a collection of poetry titled "The History of a Voice" that was published earlier this year.
- **Boron, Davis, Kleinhans published in chemistry journal**  
Thaddeus Boron, an SRU associate professor of chemistry, and Andrew Davis and Stephen Kleinhans, 2016 SRU graduates with degrees in chemistry, were among eight coauthors of a study titled "Identification of slow magnetic relaxation and magnetocoolant capabilities of heterobimetallic lanthanide-manganese metallocrown-like compounds." The study was published in *Polyhedron*, a journal that publishes original, fundamental, experimental and theoretical work in areas of inorganic chemistry.
- **Coly's article about Senegalese Islamic discourse published**  
Malick Coly, an SRU instructor of modern languages and cultures, wrote an article that was recently published in the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, which publishes research in English and French about Africa, including anthropology, political science, history, sociology, literature, geography and development.
- **Edwards' article published in The Qualitative Report**  
Kerry Edwards, an SRU assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, wrote an article that was published in the peer-reviewed journal *The Qualitative Report*. Edwards' article, titled "Prisoners' Perspectives on Limited Rehabilitative Program Opportunities," addressed prisoners' obstacles to receiving beneficial programming and how blocked access affected them.

- Spina's research published in journal article and textbook chapter**  
 Nicholas Spina, an SRU assistant professor of political science, wrote an article that was published in *The Social Science Journal*, the official journal of the Western Social Science Association
- Payne awarded Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship**  
 Ursula Payne, an SRU professor of dance, has received the Golden Anniversary Scholarship from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a professional honor society that promotes the growth of women educators and excellence in education. Spina's article, titled "Partisanship and generalized trust in response to the 2016 U.S. presidential election," explores the impact of electoral loss on how Americans view the trustworthiness of the general public.
- Alexander co-authors book about working with student teachers**  
 Monique Alexander, an SRU assistant professor of elementary education and early childhood, recently co-authored a book, titled "The Comprehensive Guide to Working With Student Teachers: Tools and Templates to Support Reflective Professional Growth." The book is a resource for clinical and field experience coordinators and all educators who find themselves in the position of guiding teacher candidates, providing a comprehensive toolkit for the complex work of field instruction.
- Danielson and DiMarco published in MLA collection**  
 Brian Danielson, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and Danette DiMarco, professor of English, wrote a chapter titled "Beyond the Suspensions of Online Learning and a Case for Return Design" that was published in the Modern Language Association edited collection "Teaching Literature Online." The collection is part of MLA's Approaches to Teaching series.

## ALUMNI

- SRU alumnus sees fortunes change as contestant on 'Wheel of Fortune'**  
 Ryan Muldowney, a 2005 SRU graduate with a degree in journalism, was a contestant on a recent airing of the popular television game show "Wheel of Fortune." Muldowney advances to the bonus round and had a chance to win \$1 million, but he instead settled for a \$7,100 trip to Costa Rica and total prize winnings of \$14,850.
- Hart elected trustee of August Wilson Center**  
 Rahmon Hart, a 1995 SRU graduate with a degree in physical education-kinesiology, was elected as a trustee of the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, a nonprofit cultural organization located in Pittsburgh's cultural district that generates artistic, educational and community initiatives.
- SRU alumnae, twin sisters celebrate their 100th birthdays**  
 The Doublemint Twins first appeared in chewing gum advertisements in 1939, the same year another set of twin sisters arrived as students at what is now SRU. Those two SRU alumnae are newly minted in a triple-figure age group, as twin sisters Olive Miller and Opal McCarl, from the SRU Class of 1943, celebrated their 100th birthday, April 21.

- **SRU alumna, professors' blood pressure study published**

Melanie Clark, a 2018 SRU graduate with a degree in exercise science, was the lead author of a research study about interarm difference in blood pressure that was published in the Journal of Hypertension. Michael Holmstrup and Brock Jensen, both associate professors of exercise and rehabilitative sciences, were among the co-authors. Clark, a doctoral candidate at Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia, first began studying interarm difference in blood pressure at SRU, which led to Clark being accepted into her doctoral program at MCRI. For the latest study, Clark and the co-investigators found that blood pressure measurements in children and adolescents should be taken from both arms because small differences between arms could lead to a wrong diagnosis. This was the first study worldwide to determine the size and frequency of interarm blood pressure differences in children and adolescents.

## INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

- **SRU ranked No. 1 online college in Pennsylvania by EDsmart**

SRU was ranked No. 1 on EDsmart's 2021 ranking of the Best Accredited Online Colleges in Pennsylvania. SRU scored a perfect 100 out of 100 on EDsmart's scale, which is based on data points in three categories: affordability (financial aid, net price), student satisfaction (retention rate) and student outcome (four-year graduation rate).

- **SRU's Master of Music Therapy program accredited by NASM**

The National Association of Schools of Music has officially accredited SRU's Master of Music Therapy program. After launching the program in the fall of 2016, SRU was recognized with a provisional status for the program by NASM before meeting the standards set forth by NASM for individual master's degree programs.

- **SRU's Giving Day raises more than \$320,000**

SRU's fifth annual Giving Day, March 26, raised more than \$320,000, exceeding organizers' goal of \$300,000, as a total of 1,340 donors contributed to this year's campaign.

- **SRU students selected for national polling event hosted by Stanford**

SRU was one of 37 colleges and universities in the U.S. to have students participate in "Shaping Our Future," a virtual deliberative polling event hosted by Stanford University, May 1-2.

- **SRU's special education degrees earn national ranking**

SRU's bachelor's degrees in special education were ranked as some of the nation's best by Study.com. SRU's three undergraduate programs, the special education/early childhood **education dual** certification, the special education/early childhood international education dual certification, and the transition specialist program, were recognized.

- **SRU's health information management program receives CAHIIM accreditation**

SRU's health information management master's degree program is now accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. The program, now in its third year, was awarded initial accreditation for seven years by CAHIIM, the national accrediting body that monitors academic programs in health information management and health informatics.



- **SRU nationally recognized as top university for adult degree-seekers**  
SRU has been ranked as one of the top universities in the nation for adult degree-seekers based on accessibility, affordability, time to completion, and advancement opportunities by Abound: Finish College.

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

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix C)**

Trustee Michaux shared the following Academic and Student Affairs Committee update on behalf of Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, chair of the committee.

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

Dr. John Bonaguro, interim founding dean of the proposed College of Health Professions, presented reasons why Slippery Rock University should move forward with creating the new college. The Council of Trustees will vote on the proposal to form a new College of Health Professions at a special meeting on July 9, 2021. Trustees were encouraged to contact Dr. Bonaguro, Provost Abbey Zink, or President William Behre with any questions or concerns.

Dr. Stephan Nix, our engineering consultant, shared his findings and recommendations after reviewing our School of Engineering and its programs. Dr. Nix is a retired engineering dean with more than 30 years of experience with an emphasis on building and rebuilding engineering programs at institutions of similar mission and size as SRU. Trustees were encouraged to contact Provost Zink with any questions or concerns.

Dr. Amanda Yale, Chief Enrollment Management Officer, provided a report on summer and fall enrollment as of May 28, 2021.

Summer 2021 headcount enrollment is currently up by 6.9% and credit hours generated are up by +13.6%. Summer increases are both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Undergraduate headcount is up by +3.5%, and graduate headcount is up by +13.3%. Undergraduate credit hours generated are up by +13.7%, and graduate credit hours are up by +13.6%. Most of these increases have occurred in the last few weeks.

Fall 2021 headcount enrollment is currently down -4.8%, and credit hours generated are down -5.9%. Many outreaches are under way with students who are not registered and with students who are registered for fewer credits in the spring than the fall term. Student withdrawals from the spring term are only slightly up.

New fall freshman deposits are down by -137 as compared to the same time last year. The quality is similar to the previous year. Declines in deposits are evidenced in both primary and secondary markets, as well as the international market. Freshman offers are still being made from new applications.

New transfer deposits are up by +6. The program in China provided the lift here with 33 new students enrolled at this time. Domestic transfer deposits are down about -27.

New graduate deposits for fall are up by +19.

The recruitment and registration processes are proving to be much later this year due to the COVID environment.

We are continuing to looking forward to a very active summer both for new student processing and continuous student registration.

Dr. David Wilmes, Chief Student Affairs Officer, presented the Division of Student Affairs' Fall 2021 programming plan, which will re-engage students in campus life, provide them with additional support in light of COVID, and assist students in building leadership competencies for success after graduation.

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

#### **Finance Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)**

Trustee McCarrier chairs the Finance committee and provided the following report.

The Finance Committee met with the Council of Trustees Friday morning and discussed several topics:

Rebecca D'Imperio of Sightlines provided a presentation of SRU's facilities benchmarking results from fiscal year 2020. The results are used to develop a key performance indicator that ranks all of the PASSHE schools. She noted that SRU maintained its third-place ranking from the previous year and continues to make solid investments into the campus facilities. She also pointed out that while the University has done an outstanding job with its one-time project investments, it should also focus on increasing its recurring investments into its facilities.

The committee received information on meal plans for the upcoming academic year. As a result of cost savings realized with the new Aramark food service contract, meal plans have been enhanced with additional flex funds, and no price increases were requested.

Additional reports were provided to the committee as informational items; including Facilities & Planning Project List, and the AGE Divisional Report

David M. Jacobson, from CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the Audit Plan. Highlights of the presentation included the COVID-19 impact on academic year 2020-21, the expectations for 2021-22 academic year, and future GASB statements for the council's awareness.

Ms. Birckbichler, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial and Budget Update for the third quarter of FY 2020/2021 and provided an overview on the projections for FY 2022/23. The projections highlighted an expected budget gap as a result of regular cost increases, no tuition increase, no increase in state appropriation, a continuing decline in undergraduate enrollment. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will be used to mitigate the shortfall. The University is projected to end the 2020-21 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 summary of HEERF funding was provided.

Information items regarding contracts, fixed assets, and service and supply purchase orders was shared with Council. There were no action items for Council.

Chairman Lautman this concludes my report.

#### **University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)**

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

Dennis Washington, vice president, University Advancement, provided a naming guidelines document for review/action by committee.

Mr. Washington introduced Mr. Harry Bertrand, chair, SRU Foundation, Inc. Mr. Bertrand provided SRU Foundation, Inc. policy and procedure updates along with financial highlights.

Mr. Washington provided a campaign update and introduced Ed Bucha to discuss the McCandless Estate gift.

Samantha Swift, executive director, University Development & Advancement Services, and Mr. Washington provided a summary of the 2020-21 third quarter fundraising activities and results.

Kelly Bailey reported on alumni engagement activities as of April 30, 2021, 252 Summa Cum Laude medallions were presented, board election results, membership box promotion results and provided an update about upcoming engagement opportunities and plans.

Mr. Washington provided financial reports on the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and the SRUF Student Housing LLC as of March 31, 2021.

- Total Net Assets & Liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$47,383,888.
- The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$41,241,900.
- The SRUF Student Housing LLC Net Assets & Liabilities totaled \$99,626,348.

Chairman Lautman, this concludes my report.

#### **Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)**

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.
- Discussed the Presidential evaluation process. Seeking committee volunteers to interview constituents.

- Bylaws Review: 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.
- The Governance Committee agreed to meet via ZOOM in late August.
- Approved a resolution appointing Dr. Lia Paradis as the faculty liaison to the Council of Trustees (21-22) to move forward for consideration/vote by the full board.
- Approved certifying resolution: order of succession to move forward for consideration/vote by the full board.
- Approved the slate of officers for 2021-2022 to move forward for consideration/vote by the full board.

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

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

### **Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix G)**

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

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### **Certifying Resolution: Order of Succession (TAB 7) (Appendix H)**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of Certifying Resolution: Order of Succession. Motion passes unanimously.

### **SRU Naming Guidelines/Procedures (TAB 8) (Appendix I)**

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the SRU Naming Guidelines/Procedures. Roll Call vote: 6 YES, 1 NO, 1 abstention, motion passes.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	Abstain
	William McCarrier	Yes	Joshua Young	No
	Elise Michaux	Yes		
	Jeffrey Smith	Yes		

### **SRU COT Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 (TAB 2)**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Taylor, approval of the Slate of Officers 2021-2022. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	Yes
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes

**Dining Services Meal Plan Pricing (FY22) (TAB 11, Appendix J)**

Trustee Young moved, Trustee McCarrier second, to approve the meal pricing plan for FY22  
Roll Call Vote: 7 YES, 0 NO, 1 Abstention. Motion passes.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes	Suzanne Vessella	Abstain
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes

**Resolution: Appointing Faculty Liaison to the Council of Trustees (21-22) (TAB 2) (Appendix K)**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Michaux to approve the resolution appointing Dr. Lia Paradis, professor, History Department and co-director, Stone House Center for Public Humanities, as the faculty liaison to the Council of Trustees (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Motion carries unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****SRU COT Meeting Dates: 2021/2022:**

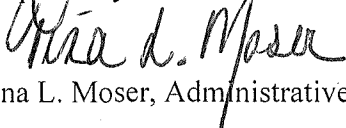
September 23-24, 2021  
December 9-10, 2021 (Commencement: December 11, 2021)  
March 24-25, 2022  
June 2-3, 2022

**Committee Presentations (Tab 9) (Appendix L)****Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 10) (Appendix M)****Financial Report (TAB 12) (Appendix N)****Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 13) (Appendix O)****HR Personnel Items (TAB 14) (Appendix P)****Divisional Reports (TAB 16)****Engineering Consultant Update (TAB 17) (Appendix Q)****FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Trustee Young commented how wonderful it is to be back on campus and have the opportunity to meet in person.

With no further business, Trustee Young motioned to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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