

**Special Meeting
of the
Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees
Friday, August 13, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Robert M. Smith Student Center, Room 321
Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held a special meeting to vote on the proposed College of Health Professions. This was the only item on the agenda for Council action.

Trustee present either in-person or via ZOOM: Alfonso Angelucci, Samantha Hawk, Domenic Ionta, Matt Lautman, Dan Lavalley, William McCarrier, Elise Michaux, Robert Taylor, Joshua Young

Lia Paradis, faculty liaison to the Council of Trustees was present at the meeting.

Trustees absent: Jeffrey Smith, Suzanne Vessella

Prior to the special meeting, the topic was addressed at the March 25 Academic and Student Affairs committee, with the formal proposal presented at the June 3 Academic and Student Affairs committee. An information workshop was held July 9, which permitted the community to offer public comment.

President Behre opened the meeting with the following comments:

Thank you for taking the time to be here today. I am excited about the prospect of a new College of Health Professions.

You have all been to workshops and presentations about the benefits of establishing a College of Health professions, so I will not rehash those details here except to say that this move will help to position the University to take the most advantage of its growing programs in health professions as well as other STEM areas.

Today, I am formally requesting that trustees endorse the creation of the new College of Health Professions as it has been laid out in your workshop materials.

Public Comment:

David Jordan, Ph.D., professor, Health Care Administration/Information Systems Chair,
School of Business, 110A Eisenberg Classroom Building,
david.jordan@srp.edu

Thank you for having this forum and allowing me to speak on this important issue.

All in this room and beyond agree we are here for our students, alumni, and future students.

Who are our students?

Our current HP students include approximately 19-20% of SRU enrollment. It's no surprise they represent this much of our student body – indeed the HP's have contributed to the growth of SRU in

many areas including my own – without these students our enrollment would be significantly lower - we would be in a worse place presently.

We must embrace and champion inter-professional education in HC which, as I mentioned previously, desperately needs the supportive structure and commitment to its importance that only the proposed College of Health Professions can provide. This means a better education for our students. Also, not a minor point, students will dramatically benefit from the ability to more clearly identify the disciplines within their interest areas of the health professions – it is one of our charges to help them discover a path in this journey.

Who are our alumni?

They are the healthcare professionals who were recognized as heroes during or current troubling times.

They are the healthcare professionals that comprise the largest industry in our region (and nationally) who continue to sound the alarm of a desperate need for more qualified healthcare professionals in our region.

I've personally witnessed their passion to pay it forward to our students. I've stated routinely, they [our alumni] are the real marketers of the SRU brand.

Equally important, who are our future students?

Demographics of graduating HS seniors are not favorable for several years, which means it is imperative for SRU to be a recognized value proposition for our largest job markets.

From June, 2020 through May, 2021, there were over 440,000 jobs posted seeking entry-level experience and a bachelor's degree or higher within the U.S. healthcare industry. This does not include a huge number of jobs peripheral to the industry.

Butler Health Systems, UPMC, Grove City Medical Center, Allegheny Health Network Foundation, Familylinks, Quality Life Services, Guardian Healthcare, Cleveland Clinic, Sloan Kettering, Geisinger, and Meadville Medical Center to name a few, and there are so many more than can be listed here.

Prospective students will so much more easily identify SRU as a low-cost, high-quality value destination for pursuing a career in the health professions. It is marketing gold in a system that has a rather modest marketing budget.

Thank you for your time.

President Behre added a comment, of the top ten employers of our SRU graduates, Allegheny Health Network, UPMC, and Highmark Health all fit into this category. This underscores what Dr. Jordan mentioned about our alumni.

Chair Lautman asked trustees to entertain a motion to approve the creation of the new College of Health Professions at Slippery Rock University as set forth in the materials provided to trustees June 3. Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee Angelucci.

Chair Lautman called for discussion on the item. Trustee Taylor asked the following questions to President Behre:

1. How much is this going to cost us in the next three years to run this new college?
 - The overall cost is simply the cost of creating the office structure (Dean's Office), which is \$500,000 or so, an estimate at this point. Half of that is money we are already spending and allocating toward the office structure.
2. Are you able to as President assure us that the creation of this expanded program is not going to either create new student fees, similar to a music fee, over the next three years or we will see an ask for any increases in tuition related to this college?
 - President Behre offered that he had to respectfully modify the question a bit. If we have fees coming out of this college, it is not going to be the result of creating a college, but rather it is going to be directly linked to pedagogy that would be existing within the college structure. The music fee was not driven by the administrative structure, it was created by the direct cost of instruction. Making the shift will not be a major driver or costs to students.
 - The primary driver of our costs is contracts. We remain the second lowest priced school in PASSHE, we will continue to have a price advantage for a good, long time. We have one of the more generous discount rates in the System. Our reason for asking for a fee increase, such as the ask for a music fee increase, is due to the increased costs of instruction.
3. Will there be any surcharges in tuition for these programs?
 - Again, I'll go to my earlier statement, if we ask you for a surcharge, it will never be because we created a Dean's Office. These programs already exist, the reason for a surcharge, will be because the cost of delivering the program is such that we think we need one to continue to provide quality instruction to our students.
 - As we foreshadow our budget needs, we will be asking for a tuition increase because the faculty contract is going up 4 - 4.5% and we cannot afford to pay these expenses without any additional income.

With no more discussion and a motion on the table, roll call vote was recorded:

Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Samantha Hawk	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes
Matt Lautman	Yes	Dan Lavallee	Yes
William McCarrier	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
Jeffrey Smith	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
Joshua Young	Yes		

The motion to approve the creation of the new College of Health Professions at Slippery Rock University as set forth in the materials provided to trustees June 3 passes unanimously.

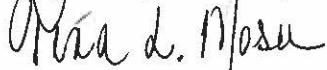
Chair Lautman commented and offered thanks and appreciation to President Behre, his administration and community as there were a lot of complexities with this proposal. The process we put in place to meet in committee in March, again in committee in June, and then conduct a workshop in July, gave Council ample opportunity to ask questions, push, challenge, and then move forward with a solid understanding of the proposal before voting on the item. The process worked well.

Next Meeting Date: The next quarterly business meeting of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled September 23-24, 2021.

With no further business, Chair Lautman called for adjournment. Trustee Taylor made the motion for adjournment, Trustee Ionta second. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tina L. Moser".

Tina L. Moser, administrative liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees