

## **SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**December 9, 2022**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, December 9, 2022, in the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center and via ZOOM conferencing. Chair Domenic Ionta called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The video recording of this meeting in its entirety can be found on the Council webpage, <https://www.sru.edu/about/administration/council-of-trustees>

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Ms. Brooklyn Graham, 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: Mr. Dan Lavalley

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the December 9, 2022 meeting agenda. Motion carries. (Tab 6, Appendix A)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of the quarterly business meeting minutes, Friday, September 23, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 20, Appendix B)

### **Public Comments**

**Hannah Degidio, Vice President of Campus Outreach, Slippery Rock Student Government Association (SRSGA)**

Thank you and good afternoon. My name is Hanna Degidio and I am the SRSGA President for this academic year. I wanted to update the trustees about some projects that we have accomplished this year, along with future projects we are looking forward to [planning] for next semester.

We recently changed our bus tracking application to Busware as we had numerous student complaints that the tracking app we were using was not accurate. Following a lot of research, we are confident this is the best choice for us. Since its inception, we have seen a markedly improved success in tracking and holding our buses responsible and accountable to ensure students get where they need to be.

We conducted two pop-up talks, one which was done in the association with apps to provide feedback to them, as well as us, and how to better share information and communicate with students.

We have filled about 80 of our senate seats. We are working to feel vacancies. We've shared that historically these are the most seats as an association we have ever filled.

We recently conducted an annual safety check that been rebranded to focus our attention more on accessibility and safety. We have found several initiatives that we plan to begin working on in the spring semester. In addition, we worked with Chief Sharkey and the parking team to change the Physical Therapy parking lot to a one-way traffic pattern. This will help both our pedestrians and drivers moving about in that lot.

We established a newsletter that goes out from the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership. This is an additional communication that keeps the students and the campus community informed of what we are doing.

Our annual student life survey will be out in the spring to garner student feedback. Six students from SGA will travel to a national conference to share and learn from others and bring back ideas to our organization.

We will continue to work on projects to improve the University as a whole.

SGA elections will be held in the second half of the spring semester for fall 2023. We are still in search of a faculty advisor for our organization.

This concludes my report. Thank you for your time.

### **Presentations**

#### **Commendation: Sgt. David Duffey**

SRU Council of Trustees recognized Sgt. Duffey with a commendation for his act of bravery on October 16, 2022. Sgt. Duffey responded to a vehicle accident along the Pennsylvania Turnpike and his heroic actions saved a person's life. (TAB 11) (Appendix C)  
To read related article: <https://www.sru.edu/news/102122a>

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** **William J. Behre, Ph.D.**

Good morning, Chair Ionta and trustees:

As the semester winds down, I am happy to report that our campus has remained vibrant throughout the semester. The energy that I mentioned at our last meeting has sustained itself.

It's finals week. And, by and large, it has been a very good semester. Our students continue to excel. Employers have fully returned to on-campus recruitment. And, open houses for prospective students have been vibrant. As you heard from Amanda Yale, applications are up. Now we must continue to do the important work of converting those applications to deposits.

Our athletics teams had a great run. Football made it two games into the post season and Women's soccer battled in the PSAC West championship game. Our field hockey team continues to be one of the top academic performing squads in all of Division II. Both men's and women's basketball are off to strong starts. And, distance runner Marriane Abdulah closed out her cross country career with yet another trip to the National Championships.

In the arts, we hosted actor Roger Guenveur Smith who provided us with a thought-provoking performance based on the life of Frederick Douglass. Our music faculty and students engaged our community with more than two dozen performances. Dance hosted three performances. Our theater faculty and students produced *Pride and Prejudice* and *Head Over Heels*. This week, the art gallery is hosting senior exhibitions. If you have a moment when you are on campus, please drop by Maltby and see their work. Our Jazz Ensemble and Choirs will be performing throughout Europe this summer, including singing a mass at Vatican City. In 2024, our marching band is scheduled to perform in London in their New Year's parade.

Unfortunately, our excellent semester was marked by tragedy as our campus mourned the loss of National Guard Specialist Mackenzie Shay who was killed in a military exercise. Tragedies like this are unfathomable and our deepest sympathies go out to her loved ones.

Finally, I'd like to address a rumor about our gender studies program. Many people in our community have been led to believe that the university has refused to fund a full-time tenure line faculty member to lead gender studies should the current director retire. This rumor is false.

Some people would like to see an external hire. The administration intends to hire a full-time, tenure line director internally. A move like this has substantial precedent at SRU including in the gender studies program. The current director was hired in the English department and subsequently moved to gender studies. We intend to employ a similar model if the current director chooses to retire. In short, we will not be reducing any of the resources dedicated to gender studies.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Elise Michaux chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and provided the following report.

Michael Zieg, Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on Fall classes, programmatic accreditations, and the status of the search for the Dean of the College of Engineering and Science. He thanked the faculty and staff for making this semester a success.

Christine Karshin, Dean of the College of Health Professions, provided an update on community engagement and collaborations with area healthcare providers. These collaborations and community engagement activities have been facilitated and enhanced by the new college structure.

Anthony Jones, Chief Diversity Officer, presented a follow-up on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Strategic Plan. He then reviewed themes from the 2019 EAB, 2021 PCRED, and the system-wide PASSHE survey, followed by action steps moving forward.

Amanda Yale, Chief Enrollment Management Officer, provided a summary of our new student enrollment for spring, 2023 and fall, 2023. Highlights include:

- Significant increase in applications and offers for Fall 23
- Slight increase in applications and offers for Spring 23
- Decrease in domestic transfer applications and offers, consistent with community college declines in the last two years
- Retention rates for spring 2023 are up for all cohorts

Dave Wilmes, Chief Student Affairs Officer, presented successes and challenges in Student Affairs this semester and thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

### **Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)**

Trustee Dan Lavalley chairs the Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee. In Trustee Lavalley's absence, Trustee McCarrier provided the following report on his behalf.

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

Mr. David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the audit results for FY 2021-2022. Highlights of the presentation included an unmodified opinion on the audit with no material weaknesses and no corrected or uncorrected misstatements, financial statement highlights, and GASB statement implementations for the council's awareness.

Dr. Natalie Burick presented a proposal to implement a \$3,850 per semester Rock Life program fee. The Slippery Rock University Rock Life program is a specialized program designed for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want to pursue an inclusive college experience. The Rock Life program requires individualized support from trained professionals and student staff, as well as specialized programming and services. Students enrolled in the program prior to December 9, 2022 will be charged a program fee of \$3,000 per semester until they complete the program.

Chief Kevin Sharkey presented the Annual Safety and Security Report to the council.

Ms. Carrie Birckbichler, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented the Financial and Budget Update for the first quarter of FY 2022-23. The receipt and possible uses of \$12.4 million in one-time Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) was reviewed with council. Funds must be obligated by December 2024 and expended by December 2026.

PASSHE Financial Sustainability and Metrics for FY 2021-22 were presented. Metrics included enrollment, operating margin, operating reserve and days of cash on hand. Slippery Rock University received the highest rating in all metrics, excluding enrollment which has declined by 7.2% over the past two years.

The following action items were approved to move forward for action in today's public session:

- Affiliated Entities: Certification of Compliance
- Naming Resolution: Campus Success Center
- Fees: Rock Life

Information Items Included:

- Report of contracts and purchases issued from July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022
- Facilities and Planning Project Lists
- September 2022 Financial Report
- Human Resources Personnel Items
- Divisional Report

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

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

Trustee Joshua Young, committee chairperson, provided the following report.

The University Advancement Committee met this morning.

Samantha Swift, Interim Vice President for University Advancement, provided a summary of the 2022-23 first quarter fundraising activities and discussed upcoming fundraising events.

The Development staff had 56 meetings, 34 proposals, resulting in 11 new or increased scholarships. The SRU Alumni and Friends and the basketball golf outings generated approximately \$20,000 each for student scholarships.

More than \$46,000 has been raised to endow the Coach John Papa Track and Field, and Cross Country Scholarship in honor of his retirement.

In October, a crowdfunding campaign, "Rally for Rocky," was introduced in conjunction with Homecoming 2022. The campaign raised \$22,000 by October 5. The plan was to release the original Rocky mascot when the goal was reached. The goal was exceeded and raised \$22,666 to fund incoming freshmen scholarships. "And, I will say I was on the fence about coming to Homecoming, until I found out I could get a picture with the original Rocky."

On October 21, the 16th annual Sunset Serenade to benefit the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center was attended by more than 525 people and generated \$165,000.

The September 30 income report stated that \$410,000 was raised in private support. This is down from \$817,000 from the previous fiscal year, mostly due to the timing of payments for pledges.

There was one action item on the docket. The naming of the Recreational Lab Therapy Lab, in honor of Professor Emerita, Dr. Deborah Hutchins, which was approved to move to the full Council for consideration.

Kelly Bailey, Director of Alumni Engagement, provided the SRU Alumni Association update and shared an overview of events held during Homecoming. In addition, Kelly offered programming updates including the Alumni Speaker Series, Backpacks to Briefcases, and the Veterans Day breakfast and ceremony. Kelly also announced a call for nominations for Call for SRUAA Scholarships, Rock Solid 10 Under 10, and the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The SRU Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Engagement celebrated Homecoming 2022 on October 14th and 15th. The weekend kicked-off with an annual employee breakfast. The SRU Communication and Media Hall of Fame induction ceremony was hosted in the afternoon and recognized the achievements of alumni and current undergraduates. Friday's events concluded with the annual Distinguished Alumni dinner. Saturday's festivities included the annual Homecoming Parade and Alumni Tailgate event.

October and November welcomed back alumni to present as special guests of the Alumni Speaker Series, co-hosted with the Green and White Society, as well as the annual Backpacks to Briefcases networking night.

The Alumni Association recently concluded the application process for the alumni scholarships with 288 applicants for 55 awards. The Scholarship Committee will begin reviewing applicant materials next week with a final decision made in January. They are also currently accepting nominations for positions on the Alumni Board.

Plans are currently underway for the spring semester, and include Florida alumni events, Alumni Speaker Series, Alumni Weekend, and additional regional events.

Dave Hollenbaugh, Executive Director of SRU Foundation, Inc., provided financial reports on the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and the SRUF Student Housing LLC as of September 30, 2022. Dave also provided information related to the development of the Technology Park and proposals for two new projects, as well as progress on the Police/ROTC development.

- Total Net Assets & Liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$43,895,295
- The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$38,272,023
- The SRUF Student Housing LLC Net Assets & Liabilities totaled \$97,469,816

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

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

Trustee Alfonso Angelucci, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report. Items addressed for action, discussion, and information were:

- Trustee Jeffrey Smith shared a brief PACT Update.
- President's Evaluation Process (4<sup>th</sup> year, informal): the evaluation process was completed and a letter sent by Council to the Chancellor.
- Approved the Resolution appointing Dr. Danette DiMarco, professor and department chair, Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Writing as the Slippery Rock University representative to the System Faculty Council, to participate in non-executive session meetings as a non-



voting liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees for the academic year 2022/2023, effective immediately.

- Presented a Commendation of Service to Sgt. David Duffey, in recognition for his heroic efforts on October 16, 2022.
- Calendar mentions (fall/winter 2022, spring/summer 2023) were provided as information in Council materials.
- SRU Council bylaws were included in the materials as information.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

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

Council met this morning in executive session with President Behre and University Legal Counsel. No report; closed session.

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### **Resolution: Affiliated Entities: Certification of Compliance (TAB 7) (Appendix I)**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Resolution: Affiliated Entities: Certification of Compliance. Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 1 No; 1 Abstention. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL: Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes
William McCarrier	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
Jeffrey Smith	Yes	Robert Taylor	No
Suzanne Vessella	Abstention	Joshua Young	Yes

### **Resolution: Rock Life Fee (TAB 8) (Appendix J)**

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Lautman, approval of a Rock Life fee for program participants. Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes; 2 No. Motion carries.

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

### **Naming Resolution: Campus Success Center (TAB 9) (Appendix K)**

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of the Naming Resolution: Campus Success Center. Motion Carries unanimously.

### **SRU Faculty Liaison to SRU Council of Trustees (TAB 10) (Appendix L)**

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of Dr. Danette DiMarco as the faculty liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees (AY 2022/2023). Motion carries unanimously.

**Naming Resolution: Dr. Deborah Hutchins Recreational Therapy Lab (TAB 5) (Appendix M)**

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval to name the Recreational Therapy Lab, Room 342, Patterson Hall, the Dr. Deborah Hutchins Recreational Therapy Lab. Motion carries unanimously.

**Presidential Search: Continuing Candidates (Appendix N)**

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval to move forward the following two names as continuing candidates for consideration as President of Slippery Rock University.

Dr. Chance Glenn

Dr. Karen Riley

Roll Call Vote: 8 yes; 1 no; 1 abstention. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL: Alfonso Angelucci	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes
William McCarrier	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
Jeffrey Smith	Yes	Robert Taylor	No
Suzanne Vessella	Abstention	Joshua Young	Yes

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Meeting Dates:**

March 23-24, 2023

June 8-9, 2023

**HR Personnel Items (Tab 19) (Appendix O)**

- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2022-2023
- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2023-2024
- Administrator Appointments
- Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments
- Management Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations
- Emeritus Status

**Budget/Financial Update (TAB 13) (Appendix P)**

**Annual Safety/Clergy Report (TAB 14)**

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is updated annually and provides security information in all aspects of the university campus and community.

<https://www.sru.edu/life-at-sru/safety/university-police/annual-security-report>



**CliftonLarsonAllen Audit Results FY '22 (TAB 15) (Appendix Q)**

**Financial Sustainability 2022 Multi-Year View (TAB 16) (Appendix R)**

**Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 17) (Appendix S)**

**Facilities & Planning Active Project List (TAB 18) (Appendix T)**

**Committee Presentations (TAB 12)**

**Divisional Reports (TAB 21)**

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Trustee Lautman offered many thanks and gratitude to Dr. Lia Paradis for her service as liaison to the Council of Trustees. He welcomed Dr. DiMarco to the liaison role.


Trustee Smith and Trustee Lautman offered many thanks and appreciation to the community members who served on the Presidential Search Committee. This was an impressive, diverse group of individuals who worked many, many hours collaboratively to bring forward quality candidates for consideration as the next president of Slippery Rock University.

Trustee Smith offered thanks and gratitude to Trustee Lautman and Trustee Michaux for co-leading the good work of the Presidential Search Committee.

Trustee Smith offered special thanks to the entire SRU family for their thoughtful engagement and active participation in the presidential search process.

Trustee Ionta offered thanks to Trustee Smith for leading the Presidential Search Committee and to Trustees Lautman and Michaux for their efforts representing the Council on this important campus initiative.

With no further business, Trustee Michaux moved, Trustee Young second, to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: 

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