

MEETING MINUTES
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

September 19, 2025

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, December 19, 2025, in the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center and via Zoom conferencing. Chair Angèle Stoebener called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Meeting materials for this meeting can be found on the SRU Council webpage: [SRU COT LIVEBINDER Agenda 9.19.25](#)

RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Dr. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Ms. Angèle Stoebener, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: Mr. Dan Lavalley, Ms. Charli Severo, Mr. Robert Taylor

Dr. Danette DiMarco, faculty liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees, was present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of the September 19, 2025, meeting agenda. Motion carries. **(TAB 6, Appendix A)**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Friday, June 13, 2025, quarterly business meeting minutes. Motion carries. **(TAB 7, Appendix B)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connor Pavlicko, SRSGA President, provided public comments.

Hi Everyone,

My name is Connor Pavlicko for those of you who may not have met me before. I am excited to share a few quick updates about SRSGA.

Monday, September 29th, is the SRSGA Campus Safety Crawl, with members of the community in attendance. We will walk routes all throughout campus and will review/submit data from the experience.

[SRSGA Unveils new turf at Campus Recreation Facilities](#) (By Chloe Kemp , October 2, 2025, Article)

Tuesday, September 30th is the SRSGA field dedication. Teams will attend and take professional pictures and see the opportunity to see the field if they have not already.

SRSGA has started to plan an advocacy day trip to Harrisburg, to talk to legislators about SRSGA and SRU, and we are very excited to work with President Riley and the university in these endeavors.

Additionally, our Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs along with the Vice President, our Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, our Student Life Survey Chair, and I have started to draft a smaller, more focused based survey that will come out this fall. We will be talking about dining, parking, and diversity matters on this survey, of which I will be able to share at your next meeting.

Speaking of meetings, SRSQA's next formal meeting is October 13th, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Smith Student Center Theatre, so please feel free to join us.

COMMENDATIONS

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Back Video: As is customary we shared a couple of videos with the campus. We are excited to share two videos that were shared this year.

Enrollment: Enrollment has increased 2.6% compared to last year. There were 8646 students enrolled as of September 5th, which is 221 more students compared to the same day last year. This is the largest year over year gain since 2016, which was a very different environment in higher education. These numbers are subject to change as Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education will verify and report enrollments by Oct. 4. Census data for each school is taken on the 15th day of the semester for national and state reporting purposes. There was notably an increase in transfer students which is reflective of some significant changes made by Enrollment Management. We had an increase in newly enrolled graduate students but a decline overall. Although not all of the data is in, the decrease appears to be within the College of Health Professions and in the MBA program. Both deans have been alerted to the issue, and we will be working to turn the trend around. The overall increases in UG retention have exceeded the five-year targets within the SRU Strategic Plan, and as such we are continuing to strive for incremental increases.

HEADCOUNT	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	+/-	%
Undergraduate	6,877	7,103	+226	+3.3%
Graduate	1,548	1,543	-5	-0.3%
Total	8,425	8,646	+221	+2.6%

Financial Picture/Budget Scenarios: The unaudited bottom line for E&G for FY 2024-25 is \$1.6M. At the end of the fiscal year, there were positive balances of \$136K in self-support funds and \$435K in Other Fee Fund categories that retain their balances. These funds include (STEM-H fees, Music Fees, PA and OT fees, Engineering Program Fees). We ended with a positive \$493K in Health Services which was used to help offset its negative \$1M fund balance. (Please see structured for success for additional information on Health Services.) SRU was able to make significant transfers to reserves for long-term projects, including the proposed academic masterplan implementation, lifecycle plant reserves, network technology upgrades, and the police station

renovation. These were the result of spring tuition exceeding the budget and the continuation of higher interest rates. SRU also received \$915K to cover the healthcare overage from the previous fiscal year. It is important to note that SRU currently uses one-time revenue for one-time expenses and is not using these funds to cover recurring expenses. The CPP was submitted to PASSHE on May 21, 2025, and will be resubmitted on September 29, 2025, with updated data. We do not have a finalized budget as we do not have any information on the amount of the state appropriation.

The PASSHE system has created a four-factor system for assessing financial sustainability. The graphic below illustrates the financial sustainability and health of the university and provides the information for the other PASSHE schools. SRU meets or exceeds all of the metrics resulting in an “all green” rating. Although the financial situation of the University remains positive, we continue to move forward with an eye towards the future and an invest vs spend approach.

Financial Sustainability Metrics September, 2025															
	Annualized FTE Enrollment				Adjusted Annual Operating Margin				Adjusted Primary Reserve Ratio				Minimum Reserves		
	Two Year Change	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	3 Year Moving Average	2023-2025 Average	2022-2024 Average	2021-2023 Average	3 Year Moving Average	2023-2025 Average	2022-2024 Average	2021-2023 Average	As of June 30, 2025	As of June 30, 2024	As of June 30, 2023
Slippery Rock	2.7%	8,575	8,466	8,350	2.7%	3.4%	2.2%	2.6%	58.5%	60.6%	57.7%	57.0%	298	293	298
Cheyney	-13.2%	587	696	676	-13.2%	-17.1%	-15.9%	-6.2%	-16.2%	-24.7%	-18.6%	-3.3%	-29	29	22
Commonwealth	-3.5%	10,403	10,380	10,779	-7.3%	-10.0%	-7.6%	-4.4%	28.1%	23.4%	28.6%	32.3%	72	108	166
East Stroudsburg	12.9%	5,336	5,069	4,724	3.3%	0.9%	4.5%	4.6%	70.0%	68.2%	71.2%	70.8%	241	295	350
Indiana	2.0%	7,881	8,067	7,730	-6.9%	-9.8%	-5.9%	-5.2%	28.0%	22.7%	28.0%	33.1%	95	79	147
Kutztown	-0.8%	6,592	6,813	6,648	-0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	-0.5%	38.3%	39.2%	38.1%	37.6%	181	200	229
Millersville	6.5%	6,154	5,967	5,777	-2.1%	-1.5%	-1.8%	-3.1%	35.5%	32.8%	35.1%	38.7%	106	115	140
PennWest	-15.2%	9,625	9,941	11,345	-4.9%	-7.0%	-5.0%	-2.9%	19.7%	22.8%	18.9%	17.5%	99	101	101
Shippensburg	-0.6%	4,565	4,590	4,594	-4.7%	-3.9%	-4.3%	-5.9%	20.1%	18.4%	20.2%	21.8%	109	119	134
West Chester	2.7%	16,096	15,785	15,670	1.7%	2.3%	1.7%	1.0%	42.5%	42.0%	42.9%	42.5%	185	193	207

Construction and Technology Projects: The summary of construction projects reflects activities within Pillar #2, addressing initiatives designed to enhance the quality, functionality, and aesthetic appeal of campus environment, and to provide state of the art facilities and technology. Extensive information was provided during the June 2025 meeting and as such completed projects are being provided in a list format.

- MacFarland Recreation Sports Complex: The turf project for the intramural fields at the MacFarland Recreation Sports Complex began in May 2025 and will be completed on September 2nd.
- The East West Pond: The pond was dredged.
- Residential Suites: Heat pumps were replaced in buildings A and D, with additional replacements in building F.
- Rhodes conversion back to residential rooms was completed.
- North Hall masonry and façade restoration was completed.
- RM Smith Student Center: The refresh of the Starbucks in the Smith Student Center was completed this summer.
- Mihalik-Thompson Stadium Complex: The new sound system for the Mihalik-Thompson Stadium Complex was completed.
- Boozel Dining hall condensate line was replaced.
- Weisenfluh received an HVAC upgrade.

- ATS Building: Phase two for the DI water upgrade was completed.
- Projects in the Art 1 Building include an ADA entry renovation were started in late August and will be completed in October as well as some scheduled roof repair during a similar time frame.
- Bailey Library began roof repairs in August, and the Math Lab renovation was completed in August.
- McKay and Swope ventilation systems replaced.
- Vincent Science Hall: completed Phase 2 of the Growth Chambers Lab.
- North Road between the stadium and the residential suites was repaved.
- Sidewalks: Based on our ADA audit, approximately \$750k worth of sidewalk projects were completed. We still have several areas of concern. We have submitted a \$1.6M joint grant with the Slippery Rock Borough to PennDOT for additional sidewalk repairs.
- Conversion from Banner to OneSIS 98% complete
- Technology Support Service relocated to Bailey Library
- Windows 11 migration is 90% complete
- Replaced 330 computers in classrooms and academic labs
- Classroom AV technology upgrades in 12 Spotts classrooms
- Replaced 120 faculty and staff computers
- New firewall deployment over Fall break
- Smith Center, Boozel and Weisenfluh have had 76 new wireless Access Points deployed; 257 more to be deployed across campus

Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan is in its implementation phase. There was good progress during the summer, primarily in Pillar #2 with the construction and upgrade initiatives. The Pillar Co-Chairs will be meeting with Cabinet in the next couple of weeks to propose their goals and activities for the 25-26AY. Many of the activities, outcomes and documents of evidence were shared with the COT by cabinet members.

Pillar #1 Commitment to a Robust, Supportive, and Inclusive Culture

The structure of the Climate and Culture Office is taking shape and should be finalized this semester. A small work group has been formed and will respond to several options for the location and the structure of the office. The You Rock program has assumed a digital format for increased usage.

Pillar #2 Commitment to Academic Discovery and Human Growth

The provost provided the COT with an overview of a draft of the Academic Master Plan during a workshop. This plan is currently being shared broadly across the campus. Feedback is being solicited, and the final plan will be advanced. The third arm of the academic enterprise is making progress on corporate partnerships and certificate programs.

Providing faculty with the appropriate resources to advance their scholarship and creative works is crucial to the success of the university. With those additional resources and support it is important to set high expectations and to institute accountability across all ranks. Individual faculty productivity is very important to the health of the collective faculty, the health of the university, and by extension the student experience. We had a strong year but there were declines in some key areas. We will continue to work with the faculty to ensure that they have the resources and support to advance their scholarship and creative works. We added a key area for SRU within scholarship and that is Faculty Sponsored Student Research Presentations. As a school that is dedicated to student growth, this is an important activity to measure and to promote.

Category	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Books	6	7	1
Edited Books	2	2	1
Book Chapters	30	22	13
Journal Articles	40	63	47
Book Reviews	3	3	0
Published Conference Proceedings	15	7	2
Artistic Commissions and Performances	20	13	18
Conference Presentations	60	49	3
Faculty Sponsored Student Research Presentations	55	NA	NA
Total	231	169	85

Premier Student experience

Provide state-of-the-art facilities and technology.

Please see **Construction and Technology Projects**.

Improve retention and graduation rates.

The stated goal for retention within the Strategic Plan was an increase of .5% year over year for the next five years. This year's performance illustrates a **2.2%** gain in one year. This is extraordinary and a result of a multipronged approach to increased retention. It is important to note that this is on top of record setting retention numbers achieved last year. **An 86.4% retention rate is a record for SRU as is the persistence rate for Sophomore's to Juniors at 78.0%.** The current levels of persistence across cohorts have outpaced the targeted annual improvement of .5% and as such we continue to strive for continued improvement. Please see the enrollment section for the table with additional data.

Cohorts	Total Cohort	++/-/
2024 FR	86.4%*	+2.2%
2023	84.2%	
2023 SO	78.0%*	+2.2%
2022	75.8%	
2022 JR	69.8%*	+2.5%
2021	67.3%	

Pillar #3 Commitment to Community Impact and Collaboration

Expand educational learning and growth opportunities that add value to external constituencies.

The community engagement teams designed a community engagement plan which has been submitted to Carnegie. This classification project will provide a roadmap for future engagement within the community. With the new staff in University Advancement – Alumni Relations we have created a long-term alumni engagement plan. This too will serve as a road map for future engagement, which is a very high priority for the campus and the success of the Comprehensive Campaign.

Pillar #4 Commitment to Financial Sustainability and Resource Stewardship

The pond project, although partially completed for aesthetic and safety reasons, was also a sustainability project. One of our faculty will be completing a short technical report on the environmental impact of the project, which will be shared with the COT upon completion.

Ensure alignment and efficiency between and within the affiliated entities.

The group is working to explore how each entity will support the comprehensive campaign and is turning its attention to action versus sharing of information. The group has also been working with Ken Bach to determine how we can elevate the reputation of the university through social and earned media. The cadence of the meetings will move to quarterly in order to be respectful of the time commitments of those on multiple committees.

Diversify revenue streams.

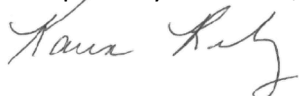
In FY25, SRU faculty and staff submitted 43 grant proposals. Out of the 43 proposals submitted, 23 were funded, 11 were not funded, and 9 are still pending funding. Four grant proposals submitted in FY24 were also funded in FY25 for a total of 27 proposals funded. Out of the 27 proposals funded, 7 were Federal (\$243,255); 4 were state (\$1,031,881); 7 were private/other (\$106,629); and 9 were PASSHE Flow Through (\$82,324). Total amount funded in FY25 was \$1,464,089, which is a 6% increase from FY24's total of \$1,373,600.

We have engaged the support of Faith Collins and Jennifer Lasser from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, to provide technical assistance for state and federal grant programs. They have also helped us to identify possible funding sources for all aspects of the university.

Presidential Activities

During the past several months I have continued to serve in my role as a member of both the Rural Revitalization Commission as well as the Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission. I will be representing the Commission in Ireland in a few months. We have two students and a faculty advisor who will also be members of this travel delegation. I have been an invited speaker at the Butler County Chamber of Commerce Women's Alliance Meeting. I have also agreed to serve as a Presidential mentor to a new president who was a part of the AGB Leadership Institute and to an emerging Athletic Director through the NCAA.

As is customary, I'll leave you with a sampling of news about our university, students, faculty, staff and alumni:
Respectfully submitted,



Karen S. Riley, Ph.D.
President

UNIVERSITY NEWS

[Niche names SRU a 2026 Top Public University in PA](#)

SRU is ranked second in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and sixth among public schools in Pennsylvania, according to the 2026 rankings on Niche, a research company that produces an annual ranking of colleges and universities.

[Apprenticeship program at SRU providing solution for teacher shortage](#)

As leader in teacher preparation in Pennsylvania, SRU is launching a first-of-its-kind teacher apprenticeship program to address the state's critical teacher shortage. Funded by a transformative \$600,000 state grant, SRU's new two-year apprenticeship program will pave the way for professionals working at five local school districts with personal support and \$15,000 in tuition to help them earn full teacher certification and a master's degree.

[SRU adds new 1+2+1 nursing pathway to help address RN shortage](#)

Pennsylvania is facing a critical shortage of nurses, with recent reported vacancy rates of 30% for registered nurses who provide direct care and an anticipated shortfall of more than 20,000 RNs in the state by 2026 is among the highest in the nation. SRU is helping provide an immediate solution at the lowest possible cost to future nurses by introducing a new nursing degree pathway.

[SRU earns NCAE-Cyber Defense designation](#)

As an institution at the forefront of preparing professionals to enter the highly skilled cybersecurity workforce, SRU has been recognized as a leader and higher education contributor for cyber defense by a government agency.

[SRU starting 3+2 Master of Public Health pathway](#)

SRU is fast-tracking careers in public health to meet the pace and demand for health care jobs in the region. In response to the 10% growth expected between 2020-30 in public health-related occupations within 150 miles of campus and overall increase in demand for public health professionals, SRU is launching a new accelerated degree pathway. Starting in Fall 2026, students at SRU can earn their Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Public Health in one of two concentrations in just five years with a 3+2 pathway.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

[Biology major researching how microbes can lead to cleaner water](#)

Carmen Hay is conducting hands-on research at SRU to help purify water using innovative techniques. Hay, a senior biology major from Connellsville (Connellsville HS), is taking samples from Wolf Creek near Slippery Rock to investigate the use of microbes while addressing water pollution.

[Music education major creates low-cost teaching tools through summer project](#)

Nate Presutti is helping meet a need for music educators in the community by creating choir lessons at a low cost for use by high school music teachers. Presutti, a SRU senior music education major from Clinton (West Allegheny HS), is recording six public domain choral pieces with local musicians and pairing the pieces with lesson plans as part of a summer research project.

INTERNSHIPS

- Management major forges connections through BNY internship
- Chemistry major secures laboratory dream job after internship

- Brianna Forrest gets insight into nuclear security at Westinghouse
- Computing major gets real-world experience in Pine Instruments internship
- First-hand experience at U.S. Open grants sport management major new pathways
- Biology major helps children experience conservation and art
- Civil engineering major broadens horizons through PennDOT internship
- Computing major gets real-world experience in Pine Instruments internship
- Audrey Jordan finds career inspiration through Valley View internship

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 12 safety management majors claim ASSP Foundation scholarships
- Sport management majors earn all three SMA Foundation scholarships
- 18 Rock Life students awarded DREAM Scholarships
- Panhellenic Council earns national award
- Five community college transfers get full ride to attend SRU

FACULTY RESEARCH, CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AND ADVOCACY

[Nicole Hahna is a leading advocate for music therapy licensure](#)

Newly proposed legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly would provide a major boost for the more than 600 music therapists practicing in the state, something that Nicole Hahna, a SRU associate professor of music, has been advocating for in recent years.

[Duo from SRU develop innovative training for pickleball players](#)

Michael Holmstrup, a SRU professor of exercise science, is a pioneer in training regimens in one of America's fastest growing sports: pickleball. Holmstrup, in partnership with retired employee and pickleball pro, Gino Cicconi, created an exercise science-backed fitness program, published in a book titled FITTER Pickleball, that is designed to improve player performance, and most importantly, keep players safe from injury.

[Piechowski's research examines health impact of vaping](#)

A SRU professor is at the forefront of research into the cardiovascular effects of electronic cigarette use. Jennifer Piechowski, an SRU assistant professor of biology, first decided to study e-cigarette usage after a conversation with a family member.

[Limon's research published in Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering](#)

Limon's research published in Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering

Showcasing his research about bioprinting, Shah Limon, a SRU associate professor of engineering, recently had two articles published in the Journal of Manufacturing Science and Engineering.

[Hertel guides student team to create sail cloth art exhibition in Erie](#)

Hertel guides student team to create sail cloth art exhibition in Erie

An innovative floating art exhibition set sail thanks to a SRU professor and her students. SRU artists displayed their work at the Erie Yacht Club, Aug. 14, for an exhibit that wasn't confined to frames or boxed off behind velvet ropes. Instead, these artworks were painted directly onto sail cloths, attached to working yachts, and sailed out on Presque Isle Bay in Erie as a floating art exhibit.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

[Long named national Academic All-American of the Year](#)

SRU graduate and former quarterback Brayden Long was named to the highest academic honor in the nation Wednesday when he was announced as the 2024-25 NCAA Division II Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Communicators.

[Rock lands 288 on D2ADA Academic Achievement Awards list](#)

SRU had 288 student-athletes named as 2024-25 Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2ADA) Academic Achievement Award honorees, the organization recently announced. Student-athletes must have completed at least four semesters of academic work and own a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above to be named as a D2ADA Academic Achievement Award winner. Slippery Rock ranked second in the nation in total award recipients and was one of just 13 schools with at least 200 honorees overall.

[Rock earns AVCA Team Academic Award](#)

For the ninth time in the last 10 seasons, the SRU women's volleyball team was selected as a recipient of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award based on the squad's outstanding cumulative GPA during the 2024-25 academic year.

[Igrims, Long named PSAC Scholar Athletes of the Year](#)

SRU swept the 2024-25 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Pete Nevins Scholar Athlete of the Year awards with graduates Anna Igrims and Brayden Long earning the conference's top student-athlete honors

[Revesz named field hockey head coach](#)

Missy Revesz has been named the head coach of the SRU field hockey program. An assistant at The Rock for the last seven years, and interim head coach since May, Revesz was chosen to lead the program going forward following a national search.

[SRU Athletic Communication picks up 28 national awards](#)

The SRU Athletic Communication Office was recognized with 28 national awards, including multiple "Best in Division II" distinctions, when the College Sports Communicators announced the organization's Creative and Digital Design Contest

ALUMNI NEWS

[Alumna and doctoral student named 2026 Teacher of the Year award finalist](#)

Alumna and doctoral student named 2026 Teacher of the Year award finalist
Recognizing her outstanding contributions and impact on children's lives, Elizabeth Troxell, '09, was named a finalist for the Pennsylvania Department of Education's 2016 Teacher of the Year award. The award recognizes excellence by PreK-12 teachers in public education across the state.

[Lorraine Shaffer, '95, empowers local children through STEAM education](#)

Lorraine Shaffer, '95, empowers local children through STEAM education
After spending more than three decades educating children, SRU alumna Lorraine Shaffer, '95, retired from teaching at the age of 55. Except, she never really left the classroom.

[Thomas Thompson, '19, is helping shape the future of education with AI](#)

Since its inception, artificial intelligence has raised many questions in education. Among them is understanding its role in the classroom, where it has been seen as both a tool and potential issue for learning. But the question of whether AI will be used by teachers may no longer be up for debate. A SRU alumnus is providing solutions. Thomas Thompson, '19, is pioneering the use of AI for educators through his co-founding of Eduaide.Ai.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Session (TAB 1 Appendix C)

No Report – Closed Session

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (TAB 2 Appendix D)

Dr. Alfonso (Butch) Angelucci chairs the Academic Affairs Committee. The committee met at 2:15 p.m. on September 18, 2025. Trustee Angelucci shared the following report.

Dr. Zieg recapped the Academic Master Plan considerations and needs from last month's workshop. Dr. Tim Slekar, SRU's new Associate Provost for Academic Innovation, discussed an innovative partnership with the Eastern Atlantic States Carpenters and the Master Builders' Association, highlighting the creation of stackable, credit-bearing credentials that lead to a bachelor's degree and are responsive to regional workforce needs. He also provided updates on SRU's concurrent aviation partnership with CCBC, the upcoming Coaching and Refereeing Certificate program, and an emerging AI workforce collaboration with BC3.

Mike May provided updated Fall 2025 enrollment and retention numbers. All three new student populations increased for Fall 2025 and the overall headcount at SRU represents the largest one-year increase since 2016. Retention figures set school records for the second consecutive year.

Ken Bach updated the council on the successful conclusion of the brand research, noting that the brand strategy was presented to the Administrative Council and will soon be shared with faculty, staff, SGA, and COT. Summer success metrics included a large and small screen broadcast campaign targeting confirmed and prospective student households, a 300% year-over-year increase in reach on Instagram, and 2,085 "conversions" of web browsers on a new homepage Open House promotion. A revised program finder that leans into the stories of students, faculty, and alumni will launch in September along with a new navigational architecture to surface important information with minimal clicks.

Dr. David Wilmes provided an update on the start of the semester regarding housing occupancy and student involvement. He also shared new Student Affairs initiatives for the year including: a partnership between Rock Pantry and the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, the launch of the Strategic Internationalization committee, and renovations to the MacFarland Recreation Complex and Rhoads Hall.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (TAB 3 Appendix E)

Mr. Jeffrey Smith chairs the Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee. The committee met at 3:30 p.m. on

September 18, 2025, with Domenic Ionta and Jeffrey Smith in attendance. Smith announced that it would be his last meeting as chair of the committee and that Dan Lavalley would be the chair for the remainder of the academic year.

Carrie Birckbichler, VP of Finance and Administration, provided a financial update for 2025. For academic year 2025, the University's general fund revenues exceeded expenditures by nearly \$1.6 million dollars. However, the Auxiliary budget showed that expenses exceeded revenues by slightly more than \$500,000. Because the Commonwealth has not approved its 2025/2026 budget, the COT was unable to approve a budget for the University. Carrie did provide a draft budget that the COT will vote on once the Commonwealth completes its budget and the University's funding is finalized.

Carrie also shared the PASSHE Financial Sustainability Metrics and Assessment scores for Slippery Rock University. Slippery Rock was one of only two universities that was green, the best rating, in all categories. Looking back over the past five years, no other university in the PASSHE system has performed as well as Slippery Rock University in these metrics.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Governance Committee (TAB 4 Appendix F)

Dr. Elise Michaux chairs the Governance committee. The Governance Committee met September 18, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. There was one discussion item and one action item. An additional discussion item was added per Trustee Jeff Smith's request.

There was a request to include Trustees in the University's Emeriti designation policy. Committee members heard from President Riley who shared that University Cabinet approved including Trustees for Emeriti designation. Dr. Riley added that we are finalizing the policy and, in particular, the retention of SRU email addresses for emeriti designation in accordance with IT protocols.

The policy will move forward for Governance Committee consideration at the December quarterly business meeting.

Trustee Smith shared his concerns about the PACT organization, its structure, the handling of membership dues, and the lack of professional development/training provided to trustees. Following discussion, it was decided that Trustee Smith will draft two letters: one letter addressed to the PACT President and a second letter addressed to the PASSHE Chancellor. The full Council will review the letters and determine how best to proceed.

There was one action item for Governance Committee review: Certifying Resolution: Order of Succession in accordance with PASSHE (BOG Policy 1983-14-A). The Resolution appoints a succession of SRU executive leaders to serve as Presidential designee on an interim or acting basis, should the need arise. The item was approved to move forward for full Council consideration and action at the business meeting.

With no further business, the committee meeting adjourned. Madam Chair this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (TAB 5 Appendix G)

Joshua Young chairs the University Advancement Committee. The Committee met this morning at 9:45 a.m.

Comprehensive Campaign Co-Chairs, Tony and Regina Robinson provided the trustees with an update on the activity of the Cabinet. They described how they recruited the cabinet and explained how they still plan on recruiting at least three additional members. In addition, they discussed how pleased they are with the diversity of the cabinet including members for the University affiliate groups, faculty and staff, alumni, and a student.

The Robinson's updated Council on the monthly meetings and talked about how the Cabinet worked on getting to know one another before concentrating on finalizing both the duration of the campaign and the campaign goal, updating the case for support, reviewing the campaign budget, and investigating the gift table. They spoke about men's wrestling and women's wrestling being included in the case for support, and about other items being removed.

Tony and Regina then updated the Council on the progress of the campaign. As of the end of August, with 31% of the campaign complete, 58% of the total goal has been raised. Prior to the campaign, the University was raising between \$2-\$3 million annually, and in the first two years of the campaign, over \$17 million has been raised. Case statement goals were revealed, and the scholarship goal has already been met. Finally, 33% of the campaign total currently comes from estate gifts. As there are immediate advancement needs, it is important to keep this percentage under 40 percent. This threshold has been met thus far.

Finally, the co-chairs explained the next steps for the campaign cabinet. They will approve a campaign budget when the Commonwealth budget is finalized; will begin creating and implementing a marketing plan prior to the public launch scheduled for 2028; will continue to work on the gift table; and will continue to review the campaign case for support. In addition, Tony and Regina announced the 25-26 Advancement goals: 1. Raise \$5 million in the fiscal year, 2. Reach 70% of the total campaign goal in the fiscal year; and 3. Finalize the advancement and university event process.

Troy Miller then updated the Council on naming resolution for Messer Park at Critchfield Park.

Tim Richart, Senior Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement, provided an update on the 5-Year Alumni Engagement Plan. He discussed the value proposition, priorities, and goals of the plan, and reminded the Council about how the Alumni Association benchmarks results. Tim went through the metrics, provided an update on A Vintage Homecoming, and provided an overall list of upcoming events.

Dave Hollenbaugh, the Executive Director of the SRU Foundation, provided an update on the Foundation with a concentration on financials, scholarships, and all Foundation activities.

Foundation assets increased to over \$57 Million with \$290,000 of total liabilities. The Foundation asset allocation continues to remain within the guidelines of the Foundation Investment Plan. In addition, total scholarship support over the 24/25 fiscal year was over \$3 million dollars. Dave then updated the Council on the SRUF Student Housing, LLC Balance Sheet.

Finally, Dave provided the Council on additional Foundation activities including approving and implementing an updated endowment administration process, working with the University for long-term capital projects related to the Residential Suites, and finding the next productive project for Technology Park.

Madam Chair this concludes my report.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Resolution: Certifying Resolution: Order of Succession (BOG Policy 1983-14-A) (TAB 15) (Appendix H)

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of Certifying Resolution: Order of Succession (BOG Policy 1983-14-A). Motion carries.

Resolution: Naming: Messer Field at Critchfield Park (TAB17) (Appendix I)

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of Resolution: Naming Messer Field at Critchfield Park. Motion carries.

Trustee Lautman commented, "As far as discussion Madam Chair, I just wanted to acknowledge the Rock Baseball Alumni community for bestowing this honor on Coach Messer, who's been a leader, a mentor and a coach for many decades."

INFORMATION ITEMS

Meeting Dates:

March 26-27, 2026

June 4-5, 2026

Contracts: **(TAB 10) (Appendix J)**

Facilities & Planning Active Project List **(TAB 11) (Appendix K)**

HR Personnel Items **(Tab 12) (Appendix L)**

- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2025-2026
- Administrator Appointments
- Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations
- Sabbaticals: AY 2025-2026
- Promotions: AY 2025-2026
- Tenure Fall Semester 25-26
- Emeritus Status

Budget/Financial Report **(TAB 13) (Appendix M)**

Committee Presentations **(TAB 9)**

Divisional Reports **(TAB 8)**

Proposed FY 25-26 Budget Request (DRAFT) **(TAB 16) (Appendix N)**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee Smith: "As has become my tradition, I want to wish the following people well in their retirement from Slippery Rock University. I always like to say that until you've done it, you don't appreciate what a big deal retiring is [for the person]." "We have five retirees with a combined service of 106 years."

Dr. Edwin Christmann	Professor	Curric, Instruct and Educ Leadership	30 years
Paul Scanlon	Director of Sustainability	Facilities, Planning and Env. Safety	16 ½ years
Joanna Hastings	Assistant Director	Fin Aid and Scholarships	19 years
Barbara Haizlett	Admin Asst. 1	Athletics	22 ½ years
Connie Schmidt	Clerical Asst. 3	Exercise Science	18 years

Trustee Smith: "So, best of luck to the five of you and hope you find retirement is as great as it has been for me."

Chair Stoebener: Thank you, Trustee Smith.

Trustee Michaux: "I apologize for missing the festivities yesterday. But again, It's good to hear the good news, right? And to get to see the intramural fields and all the good things that are coming that are just going to continue to help build the reputation of the institution. Even though I've been in Philly for a short time, folks know where I attended, and to work with folks who are familiar with the good work and are alumni themselves, it's really, really cool." "Continue the great work." "It's evident, it's palpable." "And that is really fantastic to see." "Kudos to all of you for your work – seen and unseen." "So, thank you."

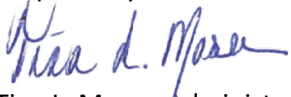
Chair Stoebener: Thank you, Trustee Michaux.

Trustee Ionta: "I would like to, on behalf of the Council, thank the faculty, staff and administration. It's just amazing to hear all the accolades and all that happens around here. It's amazing. I mean, it's a great team and everyone's working together. And, as Jeff reported 70% to 80% of the budget is staffing and the ability to utilize staff at any university or school district. How you utilize staff is the biggest thing as far as expenditures in an institution and it's how you organize staff and what you do in terms of programs and also facilities. And Michael, your presentation at the workshop just hit the nail on the head. And I think you know that those are the things that create success. And so, on behalf of Council, I would like to commend and thank our entire faculty, staff and administration." "Thank you very much."

Chair Stoebener: "Thank you."

With no further business, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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