

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

**September 27, 2019**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, September 27, 2019, in Room 109, Strain Safety Building. Jeffrey Smith, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Mr. Dylan Colcombe, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Senator Mary Jo White, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young, Mr. Tom Breth

Trustees absent: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Ms. Suzanne Vessella

### **Approval of REVISED Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Senator White, a motion to amend the September 27, 2019 meeting agenda to include Item G., Approval of President's Performance Review. Motion carries. (TAB 15) (Appendix A)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the September 27, 2019 revised meeting agenda. Motion carries. (TAB 15) (Appendix B)

\*Added Item G., Approval of President's Performance Review.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Colcombe, approval of the June 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carries. (TAB 16) (Appendix C)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the August 16, 2019 special meeting minutes. Motion carries. (TAB 17) (Appendix D)

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Lautman, approval of the September 11, 2019 special meeting minutes. Motion carries. (TAB 18) (Appendix E)

### **Public Comments**

**Kaitlyn Hazelett, VP of Financial Affairs, on behalf of Nicole Dunlop, President, Student Government Association**

Good Afternoon Council of Trustees, I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying this weather while it is here! My name is Kaitlyn Hazelett, the VP of Financial Affairs, and I will be sharing President Dunlop's Student Government Association report with you since she is currently in class.

Since returning from the summer, SGA has accomplished many things that we are excited to share with everyone. The weekend before classes started, we held our annual Senate Retreat that was

informative for returning and new members. President Dunlop also got the opportunity to speak at New Student Convocation as well as the New Faculty Orientation.

Since the start of classes, we have held two formal meetings. At our first formal meeting we approved 6 members of SGA to sit on the Board of Directors Search Committee for the open non-student position. The committee will create a process to analyze the applicants and recommend who they believe will best serve the BOD which will then be voted on by Senate. During our most recent formal meeting we had the honor of electing 9 new senators filling 4 commuter, 3 freshman, and 2 graduate senator positions. We are all thrilled to see what they will accomplish in their time on SGA and how they themselves will grow.

On this past Wednesday, we hosted our first Town Hall meeting with Dr. Behre to answer any questions, comments, or concerns that students may have. We had a wide range of topics discussed from graduate student inclusivity to mental health to Bailey library's hours or operations. We are in the beginning stages of taking the information that we gathered to determine what steps to take from here. We are also taking what we learned from this meeting to improve our second Town Hall, scheduled for November 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the Smith Student Center Theatre. The focus of this next Town Hall discussion will be mental health and self-care.

Looking into the future we have many plans along with the Town Hall. Last spring SGA contributed \$250,000 from the SGA Bookstore with the intention of offering scholarships to students who are most in need. We are excited to work with the SRU Foundation and university administration to develop criteria for this new SGA scholarship.

Thank you, Council, for your time.

### **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Behre provided remarks (Appendix F)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Angelucci chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. In his absence, Trustee McCarrier provided the following report on behalf of the committee.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met yesterday at 1 p.m. There were two presentations and no action items.

Dr. Amanda Yale, chief enrollment officer, provided the enrollment report for Slippery Rock University. Summer enrollment was up in headcount by 1.43% and credit hours generated by 1.40% as compared to last year. Graduate was up by 4.95% and up 4.86% in credit hours.

For the fall term, enrollment is very stable and on target with the enrollment projections. Three enrollment records were made in graduate headcount, full-time enrollment, and credit hours.

The quality of the freshmen class is strong with slight increases in high school rank and GPA. The high school GPA is a record for SRU at 3.47.

The number of in-state students in the freshmen cohort is also a record at 1463.

New transfers were reported down and this is no unusual with the Pennsylvania community colleges reporting enrollment declines for the past several years.

All marketing and recruitment strategies are launched for the fall 2020 academic year. And, the cycle begins again.

The co-chairs of the Middle States self-study, Rebecca Morrice and Mary Hennessey, gave an update on the ongoing self-study process. They began with an overview of the process and the value of Middle States to the University. The self-study will cover the seven Middle States standards, which will be addressed through the lens of the SRU mission, the four institutional priorities, assessment, and innovation and improvement.

In addition to the two co-chairs, 103 members of the University community as part of working groups are developing the written self-study report. Working groups are beginning early drafts of their sections, and a full draft will be available for comment in late summer 2020. A team of outside peer reviewers will visit campus in Spring 2021 to validate the report, and the Commission's decision about reaccreditation will be made in June 2021.

This concludes my report, Chairman Smith.

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

Trustee McCarrier chairs the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee met yesterday afternoon at 2 p.m. Molly Mercer, chief financial officer, presented the fiscal 18/19 results and the fiscal 19/20 budget. The 19/20's budget is balanced with required cost increases and a 0% tuition increase. The budget will rely more significantly on the personnel savings and a reduced level of Plant contributions compared to prior years.

The Committee was provided with a demonstration of an interactive financial tool. This model is being used to communicate with university stakeholders on the impacts of key financial variables. It simulates the impact of changes to tuition rates, salary rates, state appropriation levels, and other financial elements over a five-year time horizon.

Molly and Amanda Yale provided a status update on the tuition pricing study that the university is currently undertaking. An outside firm is working with the university to conduct a comprehensive pricing study to determine the appropriate pricing and discount rate for SRU's market such that the university can set its own tuition beginning Fall 2020. This work will inform a comprehensive pricing plan that the university plans to review at the December Council of Trustees quarterly meeting and send forward to the Office of the Chancellor and Board of Governor's for approval in the spring.

The following action items were approved to move forward for action by the full Council.

- FY 2019/20 Budget
- Contracts, Fixed Assets and Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Amir Mohammadi, senior vice president for Administration, Global Engagement and Economic Development and Scott Albert, assistant vice president for Facilities, Planning & Environmental Safety provided a presentation and highlighted 15 major and ongoing projects as well as 2 DGS projects, including:

- Equestrian Center – addition of 6 stalls, viewing room, storage, added 2 bathrooms and increased the arena size.
- Strain Safety Building – completed renovations and highlighted the building at today's official opening
- Campus beautification – focused on updates near the President's Tent, Residence Halls and the Leadership Development Center.
- Ongoing projects – Honors College in Watson Hall in collaboration with the Foundation as well as the Engineering and Science Labs.
- DGS Projects – Performing Arts and the Student Services and Success Center

Additional reports were provided to the committee as informational items; including the Facilities & Planning Project List, and the divisional report.

Chairman Smith, this concludes my report.

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

Trustee Matt Lautman, chair, provided the following report:

Yesterday we met in committee and discussed two information items, and reviewed/approved three action items for consideration by the full board.

Chairman Smith provided a PACT update and shared information related to trustee accountability and discussions that are taking place to enhance the role/responsibilities of trustees. In addition, a discussion about proposed revisions to ACT 188 and the impact to the role of trustees.

- The committee re-approved the President's first-year, informal performance review and the item will move forward for vote by the full Council. President Behre's performance exceeded Council's expectations throughout his first year as President of Slippery Rock University. The performance review is due the end of September, and will be reviewed/approved by the Chancellor and sent on to the Board of Governors for final approval.
- The committee reviewed the Order of Succession – certifying resolution in accordance with BOG Policy 1983-14-A (Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers) and approved the resolution move forward for consideration by the full board.
- PACT Dues (Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), \$3,500. Approved to move forward for full consideration by the full board.

- Calendar mentions for fall/winter 2019 and spring/summer 2020 were included in the materials as information.

This concludes my report.

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

The meeting was called to order by committee member Matt Lautman.

The following updates were provided by President Behre, Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Dr. Ed Bucha, and Ms. Rita Abent.

- Status of Major Fundraising Campaign
  - Timeline
  - Committee Membership
  - Giving Categories & Plan Components
- Policies
  - Comprehensive Fundraising & Gift Acceptance Policies
- Naming Opportunities
  - Ribbon Cutting of the Strain Safety Building & other opportunities
  - Public Exposure & Newsworthiness

Kelly Bailey reported on Alumni Engagement: 2018-2019 (In Review)

- Hosted 46 events (many with a “Meet the President” theme) with 2,878 attendees. This represents eight fewer events than the prior year but an increase of 35 in total attendance.
- As of June 30, 2019, the SRU Alumni Association (SRUAA) Membership totaled \$5,549.
- The SRUAA provided \$59,225 in scholarship support in 2018-2019 and committed \$79,000 of scholarship support for 2019-2020.
- SRUAA plans for 2019-2020
  - Continued strengthening of outreach and engagement efforts through a strong external event offering, focusing on the key areas where alumni live throughout the country.
  - Continued modification and improvement of existing campus events, including Homecoming Weekend, Alumni Weekend and the Awards programs to enhance lifelong relationships with our alumni.
  - Continued collaboration with natural campus partners to promote and facilitate alumni involvement with the University (Career Development, Admissions, Student Life).
  - Work with the Green and White Society to engage students in embracing SRU traditions and develop a lifelong relationship with their alma mater. Use this platform to further engage young alumni involvement in alumni activities throughout the year.
  - Shared an overview of upcoming Alumni Engagement activities.

- Dr. Bucha provided financial reports on the SRU Foundation and the SRUF Campus Housing as of June 30, 2019.
  - Total net assets and liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc., totaled \$39,852,984
  - The SRU Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$32,227,505
  - The SRUF Campus Housing Inc. & subsidiary net assets & liabilities totaled \$112,167,286

Samantha Swift, director of Development, reported activity as of June 30, 2019:

- 2018-2019 Gift Income totaled \$3,164,480.
- Development officers conducted 556 visits and made 330 proposals for support resulting in 43 new and increased scholarships for students.
- The number of Founders' Society members (donors who give \$1,000 or more annually) totaled 507.
- The final result of the 2019 Giving Day was \$139,109 by 1,709 benefactors.

Dr. Mohammadi provided updates on the following topics.

- Prospect Research position
- Gail Rose Lodge
- Vice President for University Advancement search

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

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

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **Proposed 2019-20 Budget (TAB 6) (Appendix L)**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the Proposed 2019-20 Budget. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Contracts (TAB 7) (Appendix M), Fixed Assets, (TAB 8), (Appendix N), Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 9, Appendix O)**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **Resolution: Order of Succession (TAB 10) (Appendix P)**

Senator White moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of Resolution: Order of Succession. Motion carries unanimously.

**PACT Dues (TAB 11) (Appendix Q)**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the PACT Dues. Motion carries unanimously.

**President's 2019 Performance Review**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the President's 2019 Performance Review. Motion carries unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****Next Meeting:**

December 12 & 13, 2019

**Meeting Dates: 2020**

March 26 & 27, 2020

June 4 & 5, 2020

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 12) (Appendix R)****HR Personnel Items (TAB 13) (Appendix S)****Financial Report (TAB 14) (Appendix T)****Divisional Reports (TAB 19)****FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Senator White** - I would like to acknowledge the collaborative work of the enrollment, admissions and the finance area. The Board of Governors are giving the institutions more authority on matters and with that comes more responsibility and a lot of work. These opportunities are important for our future. I look forward to continued engagement and learning more about this topic as planning unfolds.

It is also impressive to see how many of the donors recognized today are family businesses. Slippery Rock University is supporting the community through these connections. Congratulations to all involved in the event today – it was a wonderful showcase for the Safety Management program and for Slippery Rock University.

**Trustee Breth** – It is impressive that time after time, there is challenge after challenge and you don't hear complaints or excuses at SRU, instead you hear enthusiasm to plan and resolve those challenges. Slippery Rock University is strong and continues to excel – we greatly appreciate the efforts of the SRU leadership and community who are making great things happen.

Trustee Lautman – I would like to acknowledge the University Advancement staff and the great work they have done in securing gifts and in-kind equipment for the Safety Management program. This was a great event today and we thank our donors for their generosity. Congratulations to all!

Trustee McCarrier – It is always a great day to be at Slippery Rock University. It is a great privilege to be on this board. I am very proud of this university, the leadership, the faculty, staff, and especially our students.

Trustee Colcombe – My fellow classmates are very appreciative of the renovations to this building. It is an honor to serve as student trustee and I appreciate the experience and the opportunity to continue to learn in this role.

Trustee Young – I would echo the comments already shared in thanking the leadership, faculty and staff for all of the good work they do to ensure that we are a top institution in the System. SRU is one of the two institutions that are financially strong and excelling in so many areas because of hard work and dedication to our students.

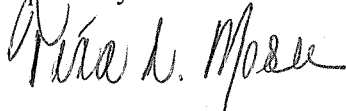
Trustee Smith – I am very fortunate over the past year to work with the PACT group. I listen to colleagues across the state and hear the woes of the challenges they face. We are so blessed at Slippery Rock University.

Trustee Taylor – I would like to thank Trustee Lautman for his hard work in preparing the President's performance review – this evaluation was seriously done and seriously considered by trustees. Congratulations to Dr. Behre on a great evaluation, very deserving. Of course, I know you will credit your team for their work because that is what a great leader does. We chose the best person to lead the University and further develop the Advancement program.

President Behre – Thank you, trustees, for your statement of support. It is not just by luck that this institution is thriving but rather through thoughtful planning and hard work by leadership past and present. I contribute our success to the collaborative work of everyone on this campus.

With no further business, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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