

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

**September 23, 2016**

The quarterly business meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, September 23, 2016, in room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Matt Lautman, chair.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Mr. William McCarrier, Dr. Dennis Murray, Senator Mary Jo White, Ms. Monica Traggiai, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert Taylor,

Trustees absent: Mr. Matt Shaner

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Chairman Lautman called for questions, changes to the Friday, September 23, 2016 meeting agenda. Hearing none, agenda was approved as submitted. (TAB 14) (Appendix A)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted. (TAB 15)

### **Presentations**

Heather Hertel, associate professor, Art Department presented the "Sailcloth Art Project" with students Clare Clark, Tyra Walsh and Chase Upchurch.

### **Public Comments**

Chair Lautman welcomed public comments from the audience.

### **Remarks from Logan Steigerwalt, SRUSGA President**

Good afternoon Council. It is nice to see some familiar faces and I am looking forward to working with you all for a second year in a row. Now being a senior, I am hoping that there will not be a third. Thank you for allowing me to present an update to you about the Student Government Association here on campus.

A few days before classes started back up in the fall, the SGA Executive Board and the SRU Cabinet had a retreat at the Presidents House. There, we went over a lot of information in relations to SGA progress and updates, along with SRU updates. Some of their updates included progress on building renovations, new diversity initiatives, and allocation of funds for the upcoming year. We felt that this was an excellent way for us to share information, improving our lines of communication. We have scheduled another meeting at the end of the semester, and also one at the beginning of next.

For months, we have been preparing for the BSGP Conference. BSGP stands for Board of Student Government Presidents, which encompasses all of the SGA's across the state in each of the 14 state schools. The weekend of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> we will host the schools here; allowing us to showcase our beautiful campus and also collaborate with the other organizations to see how they do things at their universities. We are looking forward to hosting and providing those students with a memorable conference experience.

A few days before that, we have teamed up with the President's Commissions on Race and Ethnic Diversity to bring a program to campus called Dear World. Dear World is an interactive, award-winning portrait project that unites people through pictures in their distinct message-on-skin style. They will take portraits over a series of two days and then share the pictures and unique stories at an evening finale. This program will showcase the powerful identities that make Slippery Rock such a special place. We felt like this would be a great initiative to highlight our increasing efforts to promote diversity and an all-inclusive environment for all students to feel comfortable expressing who they are.

This week we launched our annual student life survey. Last year we had roughly 375 respondents. I am proud to announce that with three days left in the week-long survey, we have around 1500 students who took the survey. We use this to compile information on key areas around the campus to see what is working, and we should look into. Starting next week, we will have our second annual Student Safety week. During this we will present various programs about keeping students safe during their time at Slippery Rock.

In addition to putting on successful events around campus, we have also generated a lot of buzz about our meetings too. In just two formal senate meetings so far, we have approved over 8 new clubs and \$15,000 of new initiatives. We also have more than 35 applications for new senators that will be voted in on October 10. This year, we are on the radar of many more students and we will be keeping this momentum going to best serve our constituents.

Students have been asking a lot of questions about a possible strike that we have very limited answers to. Today, a date has been released; October 19<sup>th</sup>. In our first meeting we had Dr. Norton and Dr. Shaevitz in attendance to answer possible questions from students. We do our best to distribute information to the students as soon as we find out.

All-in-all, we feel like we are off to a great start this year. I am looking forward to our upcoming events and engaging as many SRU students as possible. Thank you for your time. Are there any questions?

*Hearing no questions, Chair Lautman thanked Logan for updating Council on SGA activities.*

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Cheryl J. Norton provided remarks (Appendix B)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Jeff Smith, chair, provided the following report of the Governance Committee.

This morning we met in committee and the following items were addressed:

No action items were presented at this time, however, we discussed a number of information items as opportunity for Council's input on future initiatives:

- Chair Lautman and members of the Governance Committee encourage Committee Chairs to meet with their respective University representatives to engage in discussion and input as committee agendas are prepared for quarterly meetings.
- The PACT Workshop is scheduled for Oct. 7 in Harrisburg. This is a great opportunity for trustees to get to know each other and learn more about the System and the universities. In addition, workshops and presentations on higher education topics are beneficial for trustees. Should you be interested in attending the PACT Conference, you may contact Charissa Williams at the System to register.
- Jeff, Matt and Monica will host Edinboro trustees at Homecoming with a campus tour, a stop at the Alumni Tent, and off to the stadium to attend the football game. Anyone interested in joining us, please do so!
- There was discussion about having a trustee serve as a representative on the SGA advisory board. The item was tabled with more discussion at the December meeting.

Chair Smith shared the calendar mentions for fall/winter 2016. As a reminder, Council meeting dates through June, 2017:

December 8 & 9, 2016  
March 23 & 24, 2017  
June 8 & 9, 2017

This concludes my report.

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

Senator Mary Jo White chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

The committee met yesterday at 12:30 p.m., and was very pleased to hear an enrollment update from Dr. Amanda Yale, Associate Provost for Enrollment Services. We have experienced an increase in enrollment at a time when many institutions are seeing a decline in their enrollment numbers. This is testament to the incredible work of the administration, the enrollment team, the faculty, staff and students. SRU is a special place and the numbers show that the public agrees.

President Norton introduced Dr. David Wilmes, associate provost for Student Success and Jeffrey Rathlef, director, Service Learning and Community Service.

As we begin to plan for our December meeting, trustees would like to hear a progress report of our new academic programs.

This concludes my report.

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

Trustee Breth reported committee activities of the Finance Committee. The committee met yesterday at 1:30 p.m. to review a number of items for action and information.

Molly Mercer, associate vice president for Finance, provided a budget presentation. Scott Albert, assistant vice president for Facilities and Planning, provided an update of summer projects, with special emphasis on the Rhoads Hall renovations and Spotts World Culture building.

Items brought forward for action:

- 16/17 Proposed Budget
- Contracts
- Fixed Assets
- Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Information items included a monthly financial report, the facilities and planning project list and personnel items.

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Smith, to move action items forward for consideration by the full board.

This concludes my report.

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

Trustee McCarrier provided the following report. The University Advancement Committee met at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

Add report.

This concludes my report.

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

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

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

Senator Mary Jo White moved, second by Trustee Smith, approval of the Order of Succession. Roll Call Vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Trustee Traggiai	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Senator White	Yes
Trustee Murray	Yes		

**Contracts (TAB 8) Appendix I**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of the Contracts. Motion carries unanimously.

**Fixed Assets (TAB 9) Appendix J**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of Fixed Assets. Motion carries unanimously.

**Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 10) Appendix K**

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Murray, approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carries unanimously.

**16/17 Proposed Budget (TAB 6) Appendix L**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the 16/17 Proposed Budget.

Roll Call Vote: 9 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Traggiai	Yes
Trustee McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Vessella	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Senator White	Yes		

**INFORMATION ITEMS****SRU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates – 2016-2017**

December 8 & 9, 2016  
 March 23 & 24, 2017  
 June 8 & 9, 2017

**Financial Report (TAB 11) (Appendix M)****Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 12) (Appendix N)****HR Personnel Items (TAB 13) (Appendix O)****Divisional Reports (TAB 17)****FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dr. Murray – Today marks my last hoorah at SRU as a trustee. I served for 18 years; can you imagine the pension I will receive? I also served as a trustee at Lock Haven University for two years. I've had a wonderful experience here. When I began my trusteeship, Bob Aebersold was leaving as President and Warren Smith was coming in. I've had the privilege of working with Warren, Bob Smith and Cheryl Norton. I was also a student here at SRU, coming to campus in 1957. Eight years later I graduated. I did

not get off to a very good start, because I had a tough time getting up for an 8 a.m. class. My father decided that I should spend time in the mill and boy, did I grow up in a hurry and knew that wasn't where I wanted to be – it was hard work. I would just like to say that I've learned so much from the entire SRU family. Students, faculty, staff all have done a marvelous job here. It is a great institution! My tuition in 1957 was \$800 including room and board. It's been a pleasure working with my colleagues around this table, we didn't always agree, but we were always agreeable. These folks are professionals and they serve the University and the Commonwealth well and they do a marvelous job. It's been a pleasure serving in this role. I look forward to spending more time in Florida.

Tom Breth – It's been a sincere pleasure getting to know you, Dr. Murray, and working with you over my short period of time as a trustee. You will be missed! Thank you for all you have done for SRU.

Jeff Smith – It's such a pleasure serving as a trustee. I met with seven great students over lunch today. The best part of our meetings is having lunch with students. Thank you.

Bill McCarrier – Yes, 8,881 is a great number and we are proud of it, but it's only a number. We got there because we are the finest institution of all the universities in the State System. We have new programs and wonderful leadership here. I'm proud to be a trustee. I've been honored to work with Dennis Murray. Dr. Murray, I wish you all the best. Thank you.

Matt Lautman – Thank you for all you've done for the University, Dr. Murray. Also, to Dr. Yale and her enrollment team, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Senator Mary Jo White – 8,881 is astounding! The opening of the PA Program was a true highlight and the culmination of a team of people working very hard to make that happen. The Harrisville community is so pleased to partner with us and have that beautiful facility as an important showcase in town. President Norton received exciting news that a very famous group is coming to the area and needs a place to stay for the night. The Budweiser Clydesdales will be coming to campus Sept. 10 and will be bunking at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center. We are lucky to have such an amazing facility to host these beautiful animals.

Bob Taylor – Dr. Norton, congratulations on putting together a budget in these very trying times. To Amir and his team – thank you for an amazing effort. Dr. Murray, I have very much enjoyed the last 13 years with you. We had our moments together sometimes agreeing, sometimes not. I've always enjoyed your mentorship. I appreciate that you took the time to teach me an awful lot. We will miss you greatly and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We expect to see you at ROCK football home games in the future.

Monica Traggiai – Dr. Murray, it's been great getting to know you. I am so privileged to have this experience working with incredible leaders. Having the best interest of the University is our priority. SRU is a special place.

Suzanne Vessella – Dr. Murray, It's been an honor to serve with you and I wish you the best.

With no further business, the Friday, September 23, 2016, Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:10 p.m. Trustee Traggiai moved, second by Senator White, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, 

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