

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

**June 6, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304 of Old Main on Friday, June 6, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Ms. Suzanne Vessella, chairperson.

### Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella., Mr. John Thornburgh, and Dr. Robert Marcus

Trustees absent: Dr. Dennis Murray, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. Nick DeRosa, and Mr. Richard Christofer

### Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the meeting minutes of April 4, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

Mr. Larry Brink, president of the Student Government Association provided a report of activities since the Council meeting in April. Larry was happy to report the SGA Pavilion project in the quad is complete and it looks wonderful. The only problem now is that students and campus departments are already trying to book the pavilion and the reservation procedure is not yet ready. As Larry commented, "this is a very good problem to have." Larry thanked the administration for help with this important project for our students. Also reported was the completion of a budget assessment survey.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

(Appendix A)

President Smith distributed the Report of the President to the Council and provided comments.

Dr. Smith introduced Ms. Jessica Cosme, a political science major from Butler, and our candidate for student trustee. Jessica's review was cleared by the Chancellor's Office and we are awaiting confirmation from Chairman Jarin and official appointment

by the Governor's Office. We look forward to Jessica representing our students on Council.

Mr. Paul Lueken, director of Athletics, introduced the Dixon Cup, proudly showing our first win of the cup in SRU's history to Council. Our athletic teams had a great year and our men's and women's track teams were outstanding. This is the farthest west the Dixon Cup has ever been and we hope to keep it!

Mr. Lueken introduced our new men's basketball coach, Mr. Kevin Reynolds, a graduate of Bloomsburg University who brings a wealth of experience having served previously as assistant coach with both Div. I and Div. II teams.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### University Advancement Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor, Esq., committee chair for University Advancement, provided the following report to Council.

The Division of University Advancement is pleased to report significant gifts received since the last Council of Trustees meeting include the following:

- \$1M from the Winner Foundation for the Winner Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund
- \$34,450 from the Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania for the New Castle I CARE Project
- \$20,400 in real estate from Mr. Howard E. Meyer to establish a scholarship account when property is sold
- \$7,500 from Mistick Construction for a Gala sponsorship
- \$6,000 from Dr. Mary H. Meyer for the Hockenberry Memorial Scholarship
- \$5,000 from General Electric Company for the Computer Science Department Scholarship
- \$5,000 from The Triangle Tech Group for the Triangle Tech Scholarship
- \$3,375 from the Exxon Education Foundation as a matching gift for the John Phillips Memorial Scholarship
- \$3,000 from Mrs. Ruth Madalyn Harris for the Kenneth Esker and Ruth Madalyn Harris Scholarship
- \$2,603 from Charles A. Gottschalk for the performing arts

As of March 31, 2008, The Campaign for Slippery Rock University gifts and pledges totaled \$29,425,669 representing 89.2% of the \$33 million Campaign goal. Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 as of March 31, 2008 totaled \$2,510,847. The System Accountability Performance indicators for University Advancement are total charitable giving less the top three gifts and the value of the endowment. As of March 31, 2008, the annual charitable giving total less the top three gifts was \$1,350,676; and the value of the endowment as of March 31 was \$19,929,262. The endowment represents the combined

totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc., and Slippery Rock University Alumni Association endowments.

Assets of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. (including traditional operations and the Residential Suites) totaled \$172.3 million as of March 31, 2008. Assets for traditional operations totaled \$27.4 million and the asset value of the Residential Suites (Phase I and II) totaled \$144.9 million.

President Smith and his wife, Ramona hosted a Celebration of Scholarship luncheon on Saturday, April 5 in the University Club with more than 100 scholarship donors and student recipients in attendance.

The President's Scholarship Gala, "Swing Time at the Rock," was held on May 17, 2008 at the Marriott North at Cranberry Woods. More than 220 guests attended this successful event. Net proceeds are anticipated to exceed the 2006 Gala totals, another significant boost for student scholarships.

Mr. Taylor concluded his report by reminding Council of significant upcoming events:

- A tribute to the late Mr. Blasé Scarnati is scheduled for June 12 with a reception prior to the event. Mr. Scarnati was band director at SRU for 32 years and also conducted the Musician's Concert Band. A 6:30 p.m. reception at the Alumni House precedes the 8:00 p.m. event at Miller Auditorium.
- June 20 and 21 - Alumni Weekend
- June 24 – bus trip to Pirates vs. Yankees game at PNC Park
- September 13 – dedication of the renovated Alumni House
- October 4 – Sunset Serenade at Storm Harbor Equestrian Center

### Student Life Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided the report of the Student Life committee at the request of Mr. John Thornburgh, chair.

The Division of Student Life spent the last two months of the academic year celebrating the achievements of students and beginning preparation for the 2008-2009 academic year. The highlights of these activities include:

- The Center for Student Leadership and Involvement, in partnership with AVI Food Services, honored outstanding student leaders at the annual Rising Star Awards Program.
- The Office of Intercultural Programs hosted the annual Spring Graduation and Awards Ceremony in conjunction with the Frederick Douglass Institute bestowing the kenté to over 20 students and presenting 14 campus awards to students, faculty and staff for their outstanding service and commitment to diversity, multiculturalism and social equity on campus.

- The Student Government Association held a banquet honoring the outgoing executive officers and senate members and the incoming executive officers and senate members.
- Tau Sigma leadership (the National Transfer Honorary) honored 44 new transfer students by inducting them into the membership.
- The SGA Preschool and Childcare Center was recognized by the Department of Education for their curriculum and schedule for early childhood education. A description of our program has been posted to the Department of Education website as a model for other early learning programs.
- To give students the opportunity to say good-bye to Boozel, AVI Food Services held the “Boozel Bash” on the last day of classes/services. Students enjoyed starting the “demo” of Boozel and relieving stress before finals week.
- Rhoads Hall has been closed for the 2008-2009 academic year for renovations. Air conditioning will be added.
- As part of Greek week, our fraternities and sororities participated in a week long competition. The activities raised over \$2,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and donated over 4,000 cans to the Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard, a local food kitchen.

As we look forward to next year, our greatest challenge will be making adjustments due to facilities projects. The Counseling Center will be relocated to the Vincent House during renovations of Rhoads Hall. Student Health Services will also be impacted by the Rhoads Hall renovation. The only low-cost residence hall available for male students for 2008-2009 will be Krause Hall. Weisenfluh will be the only dining hall available for students. Grab and Go meals will be available in the basement of the Union.

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson for the Finance and Audit Committee shared the following report based on information provided by Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

Items reviewed for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, and the Annual Inspection of Facilities Report.

Items provided to Council for information included: Quarterly Budget Report FY 2007-2008, Quarterly Internal Audit Report, and the Facilities and Planning Active Project List. Mr. Young commented that there is an extensive list of construction and renovation projects listed in the Finance and Administrative Affairs division report for Council review.

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Robert Marcus, chairperson for the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report to Council.

Slippery Rock University has made a significant programmatic action.

- The Department of Social Work, Criminology and Criminal Justice has proposed a Master of Arts degree program in Criminal Justice. The program will make a master's degree available on-line to people already in the field working with our large prison population. The program will go to the Board of Governors for final approval.

For the Fall Semester of 2008 applications from students seeking admission to Slippery Rock University are well above last year's level. The data below was taken on May 30, 2008.

- First year student applications are at 5743 compared to 4739 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student applications are at 993 compared to 842 for last year at this time.
- First year student deposits are at 1538 compared to 1505 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student deposits are at 566 versus 481 for last year at this time.
- Out-of-state student and international applications are at 999 compared to 173 for last year.
- Graduate applications are at 723 compared to 589 for last year.

The quality of the first year students who have deposited is higher than that of last year's

- The average SAT score of deposited first year students is 1032.6 compared to 1002.6 for last year at this time.
- 11.5% of deposited first year students are in the top 10% of their graduating class, an increase from last year.

The increase in the number of applications for next year is attributable to the excitement being generated by the growing reputation of Slippery Rock University.

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Degree Proposal (TAB 2)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh to approve the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Degree Proposal. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

### Annual Inspection of Facilities Report (TAB 3)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus to approve the Annual Inspection of Facilities Report. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

Contracts (TAB 4)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

Fixed Assets (TAB 5)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 6)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

Resolution -- Proposed Student Fee (Green Fund) (TAB 7)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the Resolution be approved proposing the creation of "The Green Fund," to begin in the Fall, 2008 semester with the stipulation that funding mechanisms and a final version of the proposed constitution and by-laws are approved by the university president. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

*\*Note – Council will receive an annual report in April of each year from the Green Fund Advisory Board on the work of the organization and its achievements.*

*\*Note- With regard to student fees, President Smith reminded Trustees of the five-year auxiliary fee distributed to Council during the morning session of the Dec. '07 meeting. (Appendix H)*

Election of Officers (2008 – 2009) (TAB 8)

The slate of officers were presented for nomination for a one-year term (June 2008 – June 2009) and submitted as follows:

Mr. Robert Taylor, Esq.	Chairperson
Ms. Grace Hawkins	Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Josh Young	Secretary

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the slate of officers brought forth for nomination be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Next Meeting Date (REVISED)

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for **Friday, September 12, 2008.**

Instructional Appointments Summer 2008

Visiting International Exchange Faculty Appointments

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2008-2009

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointments

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointment

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Professor Emeritus Status

Non-Renewal of Faculty Member

Tenure Effective Fall Semester 2008-2009

Promotions Effective Fall Semester 2008-2009

Adjunct Faculty

**Quarterly Report FY 2007-08**

**Quarterly Internal Audit Report**

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List**

**Quarterly Division Reports**

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

John Thornburgh – I would like to extend a moment of praise for our outgoing chairperson. Suzanne - thank you for your time and for your leadership to this Council and to this University. Bob, you've definitely invested the trifecta of your time, leadership, and resources to this University. We look forward to your leadership

John Hicks – The University Trustees have been ever present in the selection process of the next Chancellor. I was involved in the process, and we have a new Chancellor, Dr. John Cavanaugh. I’ve also had the opportunity to talk with Trustees across the state from my involvement with PACT, in comparison to thing they had to say, things are going well at SRU.

Josh Young – Thank you, Suzanne, for your hard work . Good luck, Bob!

Robert Marcus – You’ve done a fine job, Suzanne, thank you! It’s a great time to be at the Rock!

Robert Taylor – Congratulations to the administration and staff at SRU for their hard work and dedication to this institution. It is incredible to see the talented students we have with us and those who have graduated. We’ve had two premiere events on campus that define this point – Academic Honors Convocation and Commencement. “Suzanne, your leadership, hard work and emotional commitment to this institution are incredible and we thank you for your continued commitment to help make this institution the best possible place it can be.” *(Bob presented Suzanne with tokens of appreciation for her service to the Council – an SRU sweatshirt and a Rocky doll.)*

President Smith – “Suzanne, thank you for your two years of service as chair – we appreciate you and your commitment to the students very much. And, good luck Bob as you step into the chair’s role. You have been a great friend for a number of years – there are great days ahead of us.” Jessica – I know you are watching and you will have to get used to this bantering back and forth. We work hard and just as important we have fun while we work. Rachel and Dan – you are incredible people and you have left a legacy. We are committed to continuing the goals you want to achieve through the creation of the Green Fund. Welcome, Kevin (Reynolds) to the SRU family – we are very happy you are here.

Suzanne Vessella - “Thank you all for your kind words. There is no chairman who can be successful without a wonderful, dedicated, and talented group of trustees. My success is a direct reflection of your work here and I thank you for that. Jessica – welcome – we look forward to working with you. Kevin, welcome and best wishes to you. Also, I want to congratulate both Paul Lueken and Dr. Smith for bringing the Dixon Cup to SRU and doing so in a manner and in a way that no other university has done. Rachel and Dan – thank you for bringing the Green Fund to this Council. Congratulations for your exceptional work bringing this project to light. SRU is indeed a great place, and I look forward to my continued service as a Trustee.”

With no further business, the Friday, June 6, 2008 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 1:10 p.m. Dr. Marcus moved; Mr. Young seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.