

MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
April 17, 2009

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COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

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The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in the Watson Family Conference Room of the Alumni House, Friday, April 17, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. John Hicks, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Ms. Jessica Cosme, Dr. Robert Marcus, Dr. Dennis Murray

Trustees absent: Mr. Nick DeRosa, Mr. John Thornburgh, Mr. Joshua Young, and Mr. Richard Christofer

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the REVISED meeting agenda of April 17, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the meeting minutes of February 20, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Presentations

Chairman Taylor introduced Mr. Larry Brink, former President of the Student Government Association and a soon to be graduate of Slippery Rock University. Larry was an outstanding leader of the SGA and was also well respected as a student representative of the Board of Governors.

SGA Report

Mr. Larry Brink, President of the Student Government Association, Inc., offered the following report of SGA activities:

The student government elections were completed, and SGA was very impressed with the turnout of students who voted and their interest in having a voice in the election process. We are

seeing more students engaged in SGA meetings and activities and this shows that our student body is concerned about our campus and the initiatives that we are addressing.

We were recently informed by the administration that we now have wireless internet in the Quad and this was something that the students were very interested in having available to them. SGA would like to thank President Smith and the Council of Trustees for their support on this issue. We have also recently completed allocating funds for our student organizations on campus. Our student organizations keep the campus flourishing with activities and initiatives so it is important that we continue to fund these groups.

Mr. Brink concluded his remarks by saying that he has thoroughly enjoyed serving as the SGA President and on the PASSHE Board of Governors. He is very thankful for the support of everyone during his years at SRU, and is so appreciative of the friendships and the experiences he enjoyed as a student. He looks forward to graduation and going out into the world a proud graduate of Slippery Rock University.

Larry introduced Mr. Nick Barcio, our newly appointed President of SGA. Nick thanked Council for the warm welcome and is looking forward to working with the administration on future initiatives. Nick has had initial meetings with President Smith and Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, and is excited to move forward with the many initiatives already in place and looks forward to more active participation from students in the future.

Chairman Taylor on behalf of Council thanked Larry for his impressive service to SGA and extended best wishes to Nick in his new role.

Resolution Honoring the Service of Dr. C. Jay Hertzog

Dr. John Hicks recited a Resolution honoring the service of Dr. C. Jay Hertzog, dean of the College of Education, for 10 years of dedicated service to Slippery Rock University. Dr. Hertzog will officially retire June 19, 2009. During his tenure at SRU, Dr. Hertzog was instrumental in obtaining national accreditation through two successful National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education (NCATE) evaluations, led the College of Education through two successful PA Dept. of Education reviews, and guided the departments through significant curricular and program changes. Dr. Hicks presented the framed Resolution to Dr. Hertzog as a keepsake and Council applauded Dr. Hertzog for his outstanding contributions to Slippery Rock University and extended best wishes in his retirement.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Smith presented his Report of the President via power point.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor provided a report of the Finance and Audit Committee in the absence of Mr. Joshua Young. The Finance and Audit Committee met yesterday at 3:40 p.m. in the Marcus Conference Room, 108 Old Main.

The following action items were recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, and the Annual Inspection of Facilities. Information items reviewed: Quarterly Budget Report FY 2008-09, Internal Audit Report, and the Facilities and Planning Active Project List.

Dr. Curry introduced Mr. James Revesz, director, Contracts Management and Mr. Mark Combine, director, Purchasing. Jim and Mark presented the contract/procurement processes at Slippery Rock University.

University Advancement Committee

Dr. Robert Marcus, chair of the University Advancement Committee, provided the following report of activities.

Site preparation and design sessions continue toward implementation of Blackbaud Raisers Edge software. November 2009 is the target launch date.

Gift commitments totaling over \$39,000 have been received for the Scholarship Challenge matching funds program. This program offers donors matching (challenge) funds to leverage contributions to assist students with financial need - especially in these "challenging" economic times. Donor visits are ongoing.

The SRU Foundation Board continues meetings with architects and municipal officials for the Butler Health System medical services facility and the SRU Innovation Center, which will be part of the development of Slippery Rock Technical Park.

As of March 31st, assets of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$159.1 million, which include traditional assets of \$21.6 million and the Residential Suites assets of \$137.5 million. The Board's next quarterly meeting is April 30th. As of March 31st, gifts for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 totaled \$1.2 million. The Campaign for Slippery Rock University's gifts and pledges totaled \$31.1 million representing 94.25% of the \$33 million Campaign total.

The SRU Alumni Association's annual awards banquet on April 4th honored Larry Brink, A finance major from Uniontown, as Outstanding Senior Man and Kathryn George, a geology major from Wooster, as Outstanding Senior Woman; and four alumni who received the 2009 Young Alumni Award for outstanding accomplishment. Eighteen scholarship recipients were also recognized at the event.

Advancement Division's upcoming events include:

- April 18 – Annual Scholarship Luncheon that honors named scholarship donors and their student recipients
- April 25 – Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Premiere of *Cinderella* at the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh
- May 8 – Pittsburgh Alumni Event
- May 9 – Football Alumni Heinz Field Tour and Reception with Coach Mihalik
- May 17-19 – PASSHE Advancement Conference at Lock Haven University
- June 16 – Lowes Motor Speedway Alumni Reception in North Carolina
- June 16-19 – Golden Grad Weekend, honoring the Class of 1959

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Ms. Suzanne Vessella, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, reported the committee met yesterday to review the status of ESCO projects. Mr. Scott Albert, director of Facilities, presented the items for review and discussion. Ms. Vessella further stated that Slippery Rock University is making significant progress in energy efficiencies which will translate directly to cost savings in dollar amounts.

Student Life Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided a report of spring activities in the division of student life.

The Student Government Association received \$20,000 from the new green fund for a new tracking system for the student shuttle. SGA matched the \$20,000 and will have automatic passenger counting and GPS tracking for the beginning of the fall 2009 semester. The new system will enable students to follow the shuttle on their computer or via phone.

The Student Counseling Center received a 2008 Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable grant in the amount of \$1,491.00. The goal for the grant is to assist Student Counseling Center interns with their professional growth through the provision of funds to assist them with presentations at local, regional, and national professional conferences.

Rock Athletics had a very successful winter sports season. The women's indoor track and field team won the PSAC Championship and the men's team finished fourth. Whitney Hendershot was named the Outstanding Field Athlete of the PSAC Indoor Championship. Jenn Harpp and Whitney Hendershot earned All-America honors and Head Coach John Papa was also named Atlantic Region Indoor Women's Coach of the Year. Men's Basketball finished second in the PSAC West and won a first round game in the PSAC Tournament. Denell Stephens was named PSAC Player of the Year and Head Coach Kevin Reynolds was named PSAC West Men's Basketball Coach of the Year.

The use of CompassLink (our co-curricular transcript programs) has grown to over 2,700 students using the software program. The Compass Leadership Program now has 1,100 students enrolled in the program.

Sixteen students traveled to Costa Rica as part of an international leadership experience. This culminated their participation in Level 3 of the Compass Leadership Program.

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report based on information and materials presented at the committee meeting held at 2:30 p.m. yesterday in the Marcus Conference Room, 108 Old Main.

An update to the Middle States Self-Study process was presented by co-chairs, Dr. Cornelius Cosgrove, professor, English Department, and Ms. Cynthia Dillon, assistant to the Provost, Academic Affairs. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources. The Commission is dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation. Middle States accreditation instills public confidence in institutional mission, goals, performance, and resources through its rigorous accreditation standards and their enforcement. To obtain more information and monitor our Middle States process, you may access the link for the Middle States Website: <http://administration.sru.edu/MiddleStates/index.php>

Ms. Linda Suskie, Middle States Liaison, will be here for an all day campus visit on Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Dr. John Hicks is serving as an ex-officio member of the Middle States Steering Committee.

Mr. Simeon Ananou, associate provost, Information and Administrative Technology Services, provided information regarding the proposed student information system. A Resolution was presented to Council for approval to purchase and implement this system.

Dr. Hicks shared the following information to Council from a report provided by Dr. Bill Williams, provost and vice president, Academic Affairs.

Slippery Rock University has added a new program.

- The Board of Governors approved a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at their April meeting. The program will be offered as an on-line and is designed to help corrections officers in the field enhance their credentials. The first cohort of students will start fall 2010.

For the Fall Semester of 2009 applications from students seeking admission to Slippery Rock University are above last year's level with the university goal of increasing enrollment by 1.5% over last fall.

- First year student applications are at 5784 compared to 5616 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student applications are at 895 compared to 813 for last year at this time.
- First year student deposits are at 1557 compared to 1567 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student deposits are at 454 versus 416 for last year at this time.

- Out-of-state student applications are at 935 compared to 957 for last year at this time.
- First year student applications for minority students are at 756 compared to 673 at this time last year

The current economic recession seems to have slowed the time between application and deposits as families wait to see how the economy is going. However, we are on-track to meet our enrollment goals for fall 2009, in both the number and quality of students. Also, our spring orientation sessions are full with students and parents showing excitement about coming to the Rock.

Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks, PACT representative for SRU Council provided a report of the organizations activities. The Spring PACT Conference was held April 1-3, 2009 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill, PA. The program was developed around the theme of PASSHE's contributions to public higher education for the past 25 years. Alumni speakers were former Governor Mark Schweiker, who is currently the President and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and a graduate of Bloomsburg University; and Mr. John Nickolas, chief financial officer of the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team and a graduate of West Chester University. Both gentleman spoke well as alumni of PASSHE.

A thorough explanation of Governor Rendell's tuition relief plan was presented by State System staff, and a review of the Right to Know Law was presented by State System Legal Counsel. Chancellor John C. Cavanaugh provided a report on current issues and received questions and comments from the group. One other initiative was the enhancement of communication among student trustees and I am pleased to announce that our very own Jessica Cosme accepted a leadership role to get that accomplished. This conference was preceded by a gathering in the Rotunda of the Capitol building where we introduced some of our local legislators to the Chancellor and helped promote issues related to the state universities and Slippery Rock, in particular.

SAVE THE DATE -- The next PACT Conference will be held at Bloomsburg University October 14-16, 2009.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Contracts (TAB 2)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 3)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

Resolution – Student Information System (TAB 5)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the Resolution – Student Information System be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

Annual Inspection of Facilities (TAB 6)

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Dr. Murray that the Annual Inspection of Facilities be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix F)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for **Friday, June 19, 2009**

Instructional Appointments Effective the Second Semester 2008-2009Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2009-2010State University Administrator AppointmentSupport Staff AppointmentsRetirementsResignationsDismissalsProfessor Emeritus Status**Quarterly Report FY 2008-2009****Facilities and Planning Active Project List****Internal Audit Report****Divisional Reports**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Marcus – It is always a pleasure to be at Slippery Rock, particularly in the spring time. Glad to be here and see my fellow colleagues and the SRU staff. You all continue to do a great job and you make me proud.

John Hicks – Thank you to Cindi Dillon and Neil Cosgrove for providing an update of the Middle States process and for their work with this endeavor.

Dennis Murray – Congratulations again on your retirement, Jay. I appreciate the President's action to the possible change in the "block S" and I appreciate that the idea was quashed. I think the decision was good for the University.

Jessica Cosme – Thank you all for being here today. We are looking forward to celebrating Commencement in just two weeks – I hope to see you all there!

Grace Hawkins – I enjoyed the interaction with the Multicultural Taskforce and the wonderful people who are contributing on such a difficult topic. I really appreciate the efforts you all are contributing to this issue. At this meeting we were presented with people who are dealing with tough topics such as students drinking on college campuses, but they are really enthusiastic about it – not just there for show, but really concerned about making a difference. Congratulations to Dean Hertzog on your retirement – we are going to miss you. Thank you!

Robert Taylor – For those of you are not aware, our own Jessica Cosme has been assigned to an internship in Harrisburg next year and was recently informed she will be working for the Speaker of the House. Congratulations as you represent Slippery Rock in probably the most important office on Capitol Hill. A great honor for you! Also, I would like to thank Larry for your service to the University and to PASSHE – you've done an outstanding job and we congratulate you on your achievements. And, finally, Dr. Foley, thanks to you and your staff for doing a remarkable job on the student drinking issue this morning – very good discussion.

With no further business, the Friday, April 17, 2009 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 3:05 p.m. Dr. Murray moved; Ms. Vessella seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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