

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

October 2, 2009

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, October 2, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Ms. Grace Hawkins, vice-chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

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

Trustees absent: Mr. John Thornburgh, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Nick DeRosa

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella that the meeting agenda of October 2, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Cosme that the meeting minutes of June 19, 2009 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 1)

Public Comments

Vice-Chair Hawkins welcomed Eric Holmes to his first official meeting as a member of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees. Welcome Eric!

Vice-Chair Hawkins asked the audience to pause for a moment of silence in memory of Carol Ann Hemphill Taylor, beloved wife of Robert Taylor, passed September 16, 2009. The SRU family extends our deepest sympathies to Bob and his children, Wyeth, Kendall and Hollyn.

Presentations

Tyson Johnson, vice president for Public Relations, Student Government Association, presented the SGA NextBus GPS Tracking System (Green Fund Initiative).

Nick Barcio, president of the Student Government Association, provided a highlight of activities of the Board over the past few months.

The Council of Trustees presented a Resolution honoring the exceptional achievements of SRU's Adapted Physical Activity Program to Dr. Robert Arnhold, professor of exercise and

rehabilitative sciences and coordinator of the Adapted Physical Activity Program. Also present to accept accolades were Amanda Budzowski, a graduate student in adapted physical activity from Hermitage, PA, and Lauren Rhoads, athletic training major with an adapted physical activity minor from Souderton, PA, and Ms. Pamela Arnhold, assistant professor, exercise and rehabilitative sciences.

The Resolution officially designates November 11, 2009 as Adapted Physical Education Day at Slippery Rock University and encourages the entire University community to join them in congratulating the program for its outstanding achievements. (Appendix B)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

(Appendix C)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Young, chairman provided a report of the Finance and Audit Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee met briefly this morning in the Marcus Conference Room (108 Old Main) to discuss items for Council Action.

The following action items were recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, and Service and Supply Purchase Orders. The Facilities and Planning Active Project List was reviewed.

University Advancement Committee

Mr. Eric Holmes, recently appointed chair of the University Advancement Committee, provided the following report of activities.

In yesterday's Advancement Committee meeting, the staff provided an update on the conversion process and the many benefits that Blackbaud Analytics Raiser's Edge software will provide when it is implemented in early November.

Five alumni will be honored at the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award banquet this evening in the Alumni House. This is the first year the award ceremony has been held in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend. Our Distinguished Alumni awardees are: Gary Lancaster, a 1971 graduate, now a United States District judge for Western Pennsylvania; Quentin Currie, a 1962 SRU graduate and professor emeritus of East Stroudsburg University; Dorothea Elder Anderson, a 1937 SRU education graduate, who with her husband, Orville, built one of the nation's premier transportation companies, Anderson Coach and Travel, headquartered in Greenville, PA; Daniel Gillen, a 1978 SRU political science graduate, now senior manager in human resources at the McDonald's Corp. headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill.;

and Rose Spataro Dillner, a 1957 SRU bachelor of science graduate in health and physical education, who used her education as part of her 30-year teaching career.

The annual awards honor individual SRU graduates who have translated their Slippery Rock University experience into distinguished personal and professional achievement, community service, university service, or philanthropy to the SRU community. Recipients must have also distinguish themselves by reaching the highest level of accomplishment and possess the highest standards of integrity and character to positively reflect and enhance the prestige of their alma mater.

Gifts and commitments totaling \$71,000 have been received for the Scholarship Challenge matching funds program. This program offers donors matching funds to encourage contributions of \$2,500 to this initiative. This year 235 students with financial need, compounded by the economic downturn, received supplemental aid through the combined Scholarship Challenge and the Rock Opportunity Fund.

The 2009 Campus Family Campaign is underway with an ice cream social kick-off that was held on September 15 in the campus quad area. The goal for this year's Campaign is a 5% increase in donor numbers and contributions.

Assets of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc.

- As of August 31, assets of the SRU Foundation, Inc. (including traditional operations and the Residence Suites) totaled over \$163.6 million.
- The Board's next quarterly meeting is October 29.

Gifts Received and Campaign Reports

- As of August 31, gifts for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 totaled over \$182,000
- The Campaign for Slippery Rock University's gifts and pledges totaled over \$31.6 million representing 96% of the \$33 million Campaign total.

A list of the many events that are scheduled for the fall semester was distributed earlier. In addition, plans are underway for the 2010 Gala in the Garden, scheduled for Saturday, May 15 in SRU's North Hall. The rooms and courtyard will feature American regional themes in decorations, music, cuisine, and auction items.

Student Life Committee

In the absence of Chair John Thornburgh, Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Constance Foley, provided the Report of the Student Life Committee.

The Division of Student Life was actively involved in preparation for the 2009-2010 academic year during the summer months. This included the hiring of new staff, both student and professional; the planning of programs and activities; conducting training programs for staff; cleaning, renovating, repairing, and constructing facilities; and the operation of a summer campus/conference program.

The traditional campus wide Week of Welcome (WOW) welcomed the new first year and transfer students with a variety of programs including move-in, a graffiti dance, a bonfire sponsored by SGA, the President's lecture on the summer reading book, *The Ultimate Gift*, and workshops focusing on sexual assault awareness, alcohol and nutrition, public safety, and diversity.

The RFP and model contract were finalized and will be sent to prospective bidders the week of September 21. The mandatory on-site visitation for potential bidders will be held on October 20 with proposal submissions due January 18, 2010. The new contract will be awarded in early March 2010 and become effective June 1, 2010. The 200+ page bid package includes very detailed specifications pertaining to every aspect of a student-focused food services program.

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership continued its focus on leadership programming on campus offering a high school leadership camp, a Greek leadership summit, two club and organization trainings, and a pre-kick off University Program Board and Student Government Association retreat for a total of over 225 students.

In July, the Institute for Community Service-Learning and Nonprofit Leadership was shifted from Academic Affairs to Student Life. This year will be one of assessment of the current program that consists of over 150 Americorps members, 40 of whom are SRU students, for the purpose of writing a proposal for 2010-2011 that focuses on involving SRU students in community service and service learning.

A new director, Corinne Gibson, was hired this summer and began working diligently to implement the Jump Start Transition Program. There are 95 first-year students in the program that represents an increase from last year. The first-year students were accompanied by 40 peer mentors that will work with the students throughout the academic year. This program was very successful through the collaborative effort of many offices on campus.

Residence Life welcomed 2800 new and returning students to campus in August. The renovation projects for North and Rhoads were completed on time for students to move in. The addition of air conditioning and elevators were well received by both students and parents. Demand for on campus housing remains high.

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, provided the following report based on information provided by Dr. William F. Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Summer school enrollments:

Undergraduate student credit hour generation increased by 825 credit hours (+6.1%). Graduate student credit hour generation increased by 243 credit hours (+5.9%) from 2008. Total headcount increased by 167 students, and total credit hour generation increased by 6.1%. This

was the largest credit hour total since 1993. This summer's enrollment increase at the undergraduate level was due in large part to the increased number of courses being offered via the web. In total, we offered 22 liberal studies courses via the web this summer as compared to 13 last year. We also offered 61 non-liberal studies courses via the web as compared to 41 last summer.

Program changes:

During the summer for budgetary reasons, Slippery Rock University was forced to look at graduate programs based on cost and revenues. As a result, the Principals program, MA in English program and MA in History programs were asked to submit plans for increasing enrollments or to close the programs.

Enrollments for fall 2009 are strong:

- 8,638 students are enrolled at SRU for fall 2009 compared to 8,458 last year, an increase of 2.25%
- Our retention of first year to second year students is over 80%, the highest in recent history.
- The quality of our new class of students is strong. The percentage of new students in the top half of their graduating class in high school is 83.6% compared to 80.4% last year.

The Fall 2009 tenure-track hires:

28 total faculty (includes one in counseling center/one in library)

17 females (60.7%)

5 minority (17.9%)

26 Tenure-track hires are counted for terminal degree calculations

22 with terminal degrees (84.6%)

4 other faculty members are scheduled to defend dissertations during the fall semester.

Fall semester at the Rock opened with a strong enrollment of students and an excellent group of faculty members.

Middle States

Co-Chairs Dr. Neil Cosgrove and Ms. Cindi Dillon provided a Middle States Accreditation Update to Trustees yesterday.

On September 17, the Self-Study Steering Committee met to begin the subcommittee research and writing process. Dr. Cosgrove and Ms. Dillon met with the co-chairs of the subcommittees prior to September 17, to provide guidance on preparing their reports, answer any questions that the co-chairs had about the focus of the report, and to define clearly the research questions. The subcommittees will meet monthly and provide brief reports on their status to the Self-Study

Steering Committee co-chairs. In addition, the co-chair will attend the subcommittee meetings to continue the support as they work on their reports.

University Strategic Planning

President Smith introduced two Chairs of the TREND Sub-Committees during our Friday morning session to present an update of the work of their respective committees. Thanks are extended to Dr. Eva Tsuquiashi-Daddesio, chair, Trend 3, and interim dean, College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts, and Mr. Elliott Baker, chair, Trend 4, and executive director, Academic Records and Summer School, for leading the work of their committees and for informing Council of their progress.

Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks did not provide a report, but reminded Trustees of the importance of attending PACT Conferences as excellent opportunities to network with fellow Trustees and also to hear from PASSHE officials about State System initiatives. Dr Hicks serves on the executive board of PACT and promises this conference at Bloomsburg to be a great experience.

The next PACT Conference will be held at Bloomsburg University October 14-16, 2009. Trustees would have received registration materials by mail from Linda Min, conferencing coordinator for PACT. If you have questions, call or email Tina Moser for assistance.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Contracts (TAB 2)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

*Ms. Vessella abstained from voting on this item.

Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

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

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB #9)

Next Meeting Date

The remaining meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees for 2009:

Friday, December 4, 2009. Meeting dates scheduled for 2010: **Friday, April 16 and Friday, June 4, 2009.**

Instructional Appointment Summer 2009

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2009-2010

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointments

State University Administrator Appointments

Grant-Funded Program Coordinator Appointments

Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments

Support Staff Appointments

Resignations

Dismissals

Professor Emeritus Status

Sabbaticals

COT Proposed Meeting Dates (TAB #5)

Tuition Waiver for New International Students (TAB #6)

Internal Audit Report (TAB #7)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB #8)

Divisional Reports (TAB #10)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

John Hicks – I am especially pleased with the report provided by the Advancement staff yesterday during the committee meeting. Thanks to the vendor and to members of the Advancement team, Kelli McKee and Bob Petrick – they did a thorough job of explaining the new software system. Also, my high school coach was recently inducted into the Slippery Rock Hall of Fame; that completes the group of four people who started the N. Kerr Thompson Scholarship. And lastly, I've said it before, I'll say it again, God smiled on SRU the day the Arnhold's arrived.

Eric Holmes – It's a pleasure to be here today and I look forward to serving in this capacity for Slippery Rock University.

Suzanne Vessella – Congratulations to Bob Arnhold and his staff. You do incredible work here and you bring great recognition to Slippery Rock University in your efforts. We are doing things here that nobody else is doing. Welcome, Eric! Go Rock!

Bob Marcus – I also would like to congratulate Bob and his group for the work that they do. I participated in a similar program and it is incredibly challenging and rewarding work. Also, I am disappointed in the SRU Foundation for its inability to manage funds to help our best students.

Jessica Cosme – I am so proud to be a Slippery Rock University student! I have been away for two months at my internship in Harrisburg and when I come back there are so many exciting things happening. It was very nice having lunch with our international students, Pam Frigot and Kelly Slogar from the International Office today and learning about the students' experiences here on campus. We are happy they are with us!

Robert Smith – We are going back to federal court in November and we think this is our last time. We believe we have met all of the stipulations that we agreed to and we have met our goals to be fully compliant with Title IX. We are still only 1 of 2 institutions, public or private, in Pennsylvania that is in compliance with Title IX. *Women's Sports Opportunities at Slippery Rock University*, the publication designed and written by Jon Holtz with contributions from Heidi King and Bob McComas (covers designed by Aaron Moore) is a wonderful testimony to the work of those who are responsible for women's athletics, those who work within women's athletics, and those who are the benefactors during this period of time.

Josh Young – It's always great to be back. I would also like to thank the Arnold's for everything they do. Congratulations on your recognition -- thank you for the programs you do to help veterans, an area that is near and dear to my heart. We have an excellent ROTC program here and I am proud of what we do here. Also, welcome Eric, glad to see you up and running. Congratulations to Jessica and Tina, both selected as a 2009 Woman of Distinction.

Grace Hawkins – I am amazed each time we have our meetings on Thursday and Friday that there is so much that is brought before us and we learn so much. Everything that is planned is just over the top - excellent. Thank you!

With no further business, the Friday, October 2, 2009 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Hicks 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