

SRU trustees select presidential search committee representatives

March 9, 2022

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. - The Slippery Rock University council of trustees today elected three representatives to serve on the University's Presidential Search Committee. The committee is tasked with finding a successor to University President William Behre.

Behre, who was appointed as the 17th president of SRU in 2018, announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2023, in February after formally notifying the trustees and Daniel Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, of his intentions.

Matt Lautman, Elise Michaux and Jeff Smith will serve as the council's representatives. Smith will also serve as chair of the search committee.

In addition to the trio of trustees, membership on the search committee, as outlined by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education board of governors' policy 1983-13-A, will include: a University executive; faculty; non-instructional employees; a student; an alumnus; and up to three others from within the University, including students, selected by the trustees, to assure appropriate involvement by constituency, gender, race, generation, etc. In addition, a liaison from the State System chancellor's staff and the president of another State System university will serve on the committee as non-voting members.

"I'd want to thank Chairperson Lautman for nominating me to chair the search committee and thank my fellow trustees for showing confidence in me by electing me to this post," said Smith. "I very much look forward to working with Elise and Matt as the council representatives to the search committee as well as the various campus constituent groups as we search to find the 18th president of this wonderful institution.

"I am confident that our search committee will find someone who will not only maintain SRU's position as one of the preeminent educational institutions in the region but take us to even greater heights."

Lautman, chair of the COT, sees today's event as a "triggering event" for the search committee.

"Naming the search committee chair and other COT members now allows for outreach to the other participating constituencies in order to begin shaping the committee and moving it forward in an expeditious manner," Lautman said.

"It's important to for the campus community to know that everyone will have a place at the table and that this search committee will be transparent, involved, and keep the entire University community abreast of everything we do throughout the process.

“SRU is a special place and we want to find a candidate who reflects its mission and high academic standards just as President Behre has done since his arrival in 2018.”