

SRU trustees advance two names to BOG for presidential consideration

Mar. 7, 2018

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. - Slippery Rock University's council of trustees today voted unanimously to advance the names of William Behre and Rodney Hanley to Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education board of governors for consideration as SRU's 17th president.

The forwarding of the names of two candidates to the BOG concludes a nearly 14-month long search process following the December 2016 retirement announcement of former President Cheryl Norton. Norton remained at her post until July 2017 at which time the BOG appointed Philip Way, SRU's then-provost, to the position of interim president.

"This is a great day for SRU," said Jeff Smith, SRU trustee and chair of the Presidential Search Committee. "I want to thank the members of the search committee for the incredible amount of work they did to ensure the process was fair and produced candidates of the highest quality. I'd like to also thank my colleagues on council and everyone at the institution that participated in the candidate interviews and provided feedback. I believe we have identified two exceptional candidates to be the University's next president. Now the decision is in the board of governors' hands."

Behre is the chief academic officer for Georgian Court University, bringing nearly 25 years of experience as a public school educator, university researcher, professor, faculty leader and higher education administrator to the role.

As provost, he is responsible for partnering closely with deans, department chairs and members of the president's cabinet. He is also charged with academic program development and review, research and sponsored projects and faculty development.

Behre earned a Ph.D. in education with a focus on special education policy from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in education from Hunter College and a bachelor's degree in economics from Vassar College.

Prior to his time in higher education, he worked briefly with a New York public relations firm, while more recently he was on the leadership team at The College of New Jersey. At TCNJ, he served as vice provost, interim vice provost and as assistant vice president for grants, enterprise initiatives and summer and off-campus programs.

A former dean of TCNJ's School of Education, Behre is experienced in many critical areas of higher education, including sponsored research, fund-raising and development and student and faculty recruitment.

Hanley has served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Fisk since 2014. In that role, he serves as the chief academic and administrative officer in charge of all aspects of academic and student life. Prior to Fisk, Hanley was provost and vice-president (academic) at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario; dean of science at the University of Winnipeg;

and a faculty member and chair of the Department of Earth System Science and Policy at the University of North Dakota.

Hanley's career in academia spans more than 29 years, including experience as a professor, department chair, dean and provost.

He earned degrees from the University of Kansas (Ph.D., biology), the University of Cambridge (master's degree, sustainability leadership) and Eastern Illinois University (master's and bachelor's degrees, environmental biology).

Hanley has more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and professional presentations and has obtained more than \$100 million in research grants, fundraising awards and donations. He has significant experience in strategic and academic planning, budget development, fundraising, union and government relations.

His extensive research and administrative experience includes the operation of a NASA research jet that flew around the globe collecting measurements associated with ozone depletion, climate change, and extreme weather patterns; the engineering and installation of a custom built camera onto the International Space Station that provides near-to-real-time images to growers to aid in precision farming practices; and the development of the first new law school in Ontario in more than 43 years at Lakehead University.

Hanley has also made outreach to traditionally underrepresented students and minorities and their success in higher education a top priority in his work. To this end, he led the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master's-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program. Through this program, Fisk University is now the United States largest producer of African-American students with master's degrees in physics; and Vanderbilt is the largest producer of minority scholars receiving doctorates in astronomy, physics and materials science. The program is a national model for mentoring women and underrepresented minority graduate students and is being emulated by Columbia University, the University of Michigan, MIT and the American Physical Society.

Originally from Decatur, Illinois, Hanley is a military veteran having served in the Persian Gulf War as part of the U.S. Army and the Illinois Army National Guard.

The BOG will interview each candidate March 5 and select SRU's next president following those interviews.