

SRU trustees elect Presidential Search Committee representatives

Dec. 22, 2016

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 Cheryl Norton.

Norton, who was appointed as the 16th - and first female - president of SRU in 2012, announced her retirement, effective July 21, 2017, at the COT's quarterly business meeting Dec. 9.

Jeffrey Smith, COT vice chair; Thomas Breth and Robert Taylor 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 the BOG policy 1983-13-A, includes: 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 serve on the committee as non-voting members.

"It's a real honor to not only be a member of the Search Committee, but to serve as the chair," said Smith. "It's also bittersweet because I hate to see President Norton leave us. That being said, I'm looking forward to the challenge and think the three trustees on the Committee - as well as the other members - will work extremely hard to find someone equal to the caliber of President Norton."

Despite the University being generally idle until Jan. 23 and the start of the spring semester, Smith said he would be "as aggressive as possible in getting the full Committee together, because the sooner we find our candidate, the sooner they can get here, work with President Norton and facilitate a smooth transition so that the University can just keep getting better."

Matt 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 will now allow (Jeffrey Smith) to reach out to the other constituencies, begin shaping the Committee and moving it forward," Lautman said.

"It's important for everyone 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 and how the search is progressing."