

## **Norton announces retirement; Presidential search process begins**

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

For Norton, the timing will mark five years at the helm of SRU, a time during which she and husband Henry "... have been privileged to be part of the Slippery Rock University community."

The announcement caught many in the audience by surprise.

"I can certainly appreciate and understand the surprise all of you are feeling right now," said Matt Lautman, chair of the council of trustees.

"Dr. Norton has been a dynamic, innovative and just wonderful leader of Slippery Rock University for almost five years. She has led this team and our University community, to some remarkable results, honors and achievements.

"The decision to retire is that of Dr. Norton. We, as trustees, congratulate her, and we all long for the day when we can retire from our chosen profession on our own terms."

With Norton's announcement, the COT will now begin the process set forth by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education board of governors, specially, policy number 1983-13-A. This policy addresses the process for recommending a presidential appointment.

To begin the process, the Council has scheduled a governance subcommittee meeting at 10 a.m., Dec. 22 in Room 320 in the Smith Student Center. The single agenda item will be to identify the three trustees that will be recommended to serve on the Presidential Search Committee.

Following the governance subcommittee meeting, the full Council will then meet at 10:30 a.m. in Room 320 of the Smith Student Center. The agenda is to nominate and approve the three Council members to serve on the Presidential Search Committee and to nominate and approve the appointment of a Council member to serve as a non-voting member on the SGA Advisory Board, and any other matter that comes before the Council. Both meetings are open to the public.

Once the three trustees are selected, the process will move forward to form the full Presidential Search Committee that will be made up of individuals as set forth in the BOG policy.

"We understand the importance of this task," said Lautman. "We look forward to working with the SRU community and all of its stakeholders in undertaking a complete and thorough search - ultimately identifying the next leader of this great University."