

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

May 7, 2020

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Thursday, May 7, via ZOOM. Chair Jeffrey Smith called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Mr. Dylan Colcombe, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Dominic Ionta, Ms. Elise Michaux.

Trustees absent: Mr. Tom Breth

Approval of Revised Meeting Agenda

Trustee Smith called for additional items or changes to the meeting agenda before approval.

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Taylor, a motion to add Item F: SRU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates to the meeting agenda. Motion passes.

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Ionta approval of the May 7, 2020 revised meeting agenda. Motion passes. (TAB 14) (Appendix A)

*Added Item F., SRU COT Proposed Meeting Dates

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the December 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion passes. (TAB 15) (Appendix B)

Public Comments

Joey Sciuto, president, Student Government Association

First and foremost, I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. My name is Joey Sciuto and I am a rising junior from New Wilmington PA, and I study social work and communications here at the Rock. I have just been sworn in as the new SGA president this past Monday along with five other executive board members. In my report I will briefly go over the most recent elections, conducting business on an online format, and engaging with students during COVID.

These past elections were just the start of navigating through uncharted territory amidst the current circumstances. Unsurprisingly, there were a lot of differences between our past elections and the most current election. The election committee, with the input of the former executive board decided that it would be best to only elect executive board positions, as they feared being online would hinder the amount of people that would not only vote, but run in general. The reason that they

wanted to continue with executive board elections was due to the fact that so much work is done over the summer by the E-board in order to prepare for upcoming year. Given all the uncertainty that lies ahead, it is crucial that our new executive board has this summer to prepare for returning to campus or remaining online. Although our voter turnout was lower than in years' past due to our current situation, I did not run unopposed for President. We as an SGA are excited that the position of president had a competitive election this year, and we hope that this is just the beginning of that trend.

Since moving to an online format, we have been able to conduct business efficiently with the help of Slack, a business communication software, and Core, the University's on-line student engagement platform. Slack enabled us to discuss various motions throughout the day as we normally would during debate and discussion per Roberts rules. Then, at 5pm voting would be open on Core via forms and the senators had the evening to submit their votes. This proved to be an effective substitute as we were able to pass 4 financial motions, amend our bylaws, elect a student at large to our Board of Directors, and approve 11 new student organizations. I have to give a shout out to former SGA Vice President of Finance Hazlett and Director Wendy Leitera. Through their planning and organizing we were able to budget for the 2020-2021 school year all online. That consisted of reviewing 157 budgets, and ultimately, we were able to allocate 2.5 million dollars to clubs and organizations.

Finally, I would like to briefly go over our outreach and student engagement efforts since COVID 19. We hosted two town halls this semester via zoom. The first focused on the topic of diversity and inclusion and we had 28 students in attendance. Former SGA VP of Diversity and Inclusion Maggie Calvert did a wonderful job of facilitating and organizing the panel. The second town hall discussed sustainability on campus and had 42 students present. This time it was SGA Parliamentarian Corrine Rockefeller who orchestrated all of the behind the scenes preparation and facilitated the discussion. The former E-board compiled the discussion points from these town halls and will pass them to the new E-board sometime after finals. In addition to town halls, the outreach committee lead by former SGA VP Kemoni Farmer has been very active on social media, reposting any online events/meetings they come across as well as taking the time to high light clubs and organizations that are going above and beyond on their social media and outreach through an "organization of the week" spotlight.

As I begin to acclimate to this new position, I look forward to getting to know each of you, and hopefully we will get to meet in person soon. I wanted to conclude my report by reaching out and saying that if there is any way that we can aid the COT please feel free to contact me. Though we have only met once, the new executive board recognizes that the best way to counter the current circumstances is by working collaboratively together with faculty and administration. Please do not hesitate to send me an email, jds1034@sru.edu. Thank you for your time.

Presentations

Commendation of Service – Dylan Colcombe, student trustee (Appendix C)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Behre provided remarks

Normally you would get a document with campus updates and highlights of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been communicating daily with the community and I know that Council members have received those updates as well.

I will echo Chairman Smith's comments in that this has been an amazing coming together of a community around a single issue serving our students. The academic version of barn raising, if you will. I am very proud of the campus community, and although we are not yet out of this storm, as there are debates continuing on the national stage as to when this is going to end, what I do know is that we will weather the storm together.

We all want to be back in the fall face-to face, however, we are hoping for the best and planning for the worst. I could not be prouder of how we came together as a campus community and responded.

Commencement is a special time on a campus and we are committed to a face-to-face ceremony sometime in the future. We have produced videos commemorating this special day for our graduates. Many departments are celebrating with their students virtually. People are commemorating the day in many different ways. We are committed to having our students walking across the stage sometime down the road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)

The Academic and Student Affairs committee met this morning and trustees received an update of the status of new academic programs from the period fall 2016 – fall 2020. We also received an enrollment update for fall 2020. Many thanks to Dr. Jerry Chmielewski, Ms. Carrie Birckbichler and Dr. Amanda Yale for presenting this information.

The 2011-2012 academic year marked the high-water mark for collective student enrollment in the State System. Except for SRU and West Chester, which achieved peak enrollments in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 respectively, two of the remaining 12 schools peaked in enrollment in 2010-2011, with the remaining 10 schools peaking in enrolment in 2011-2012.

From 2010 to 2019 State System enrollment declined by 23,711 students, or by 19.8%. To curb the 6% decline in enrolment being experienced at SRU between 2011-2012 and 2014-2015 we began a market driven approach to program development. Over the next five years 11 undergraduate and 15 graduate level programs were developed by faculty. These new programs collectively added over 700 students to our headcount which equates to slightly more than 1.5%. While we were developing these new programs and recruiting students to stem enrollment losses, Clarion's enrollment decreased by 36%, California's decreased by 27%, and Edinboro's decreased by 46%.

Admittedly, our undergraduate enrollment decreased by 7% from 2010-2019, but graduate enrollment increased by 62%. Overall, our new programs added 749 students reflecting 96% of the enrollment target.

In 2015-2016 new programs generated net revenue of \$35,700, in 2016-2017 net revenue of \$384,900 was generated, in 2017-2018 net revenue of \$1,223,923 was generated. We are pleased to report that in 2018-2019 net revenue of \$1,522,400 was generated.

In summer 2020 we will be launching the Master of Science in Athletic Training, and in fall 2020 we will be launching the Master of Social Work and the Doctorate in Educational Administration.

Our enrollment numbers are impressive despite these challenging times.

Credit hours generated for the 2019 winter term are reported at +4.10% over the 2018 winter term. Credit hours generated for the 2020 spring term reported have increased over the 2019 spring term. To date, after the continuous registration period ended, the university is reported to be currently up in credit hours generated by 1.0% as compared to the same time last year. The university gained over 100 deposits last week. Due to COVID-19, the enrollment deadline was moved from May 1 to June 1 this year.

New graduate student deposits are up for summer and the same as last year for the fall term. Retention at the freshman, sophomore and junior levels are comparable to rates from the same time last year.

We are appreciative of the academic planning and enrollment teams for their efforts.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

Finance Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

The Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee met with the Council of Trustees earlier this morning and discussed several topics:

Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Senior Vice President for Administration, Global Engagement and Economic Development discussed the ongoing construction projects. He also discussed the following action item of the Universities Capital Budget for FY 20/21.

Action Item: Capital Planning Budget Submission: SRU is required annually to submit project requests to PASSHE in the spring for consideration by the Board of Governors. The proposed projects are the same as what was submitted last year:

- Replace Campus Electrical System \$18.1 million
- Morrow Field House Renovation \$24.5 million
- McKay Education Renovation \$19.3 million
- Eisenberg Building Renovation \$17.5 million

Ms. Molly Mercer, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial and Budget Update including the estimated impacts of COVID-19. During the presentation she reviewed the financial

outlook for FY 19/20 and the projection for FY 20/21. This includes the impacts of rescinding the tuition proposal and other updates to the financial outlook. A discussion of possible scenarios in light of COVID-19 was presented and the financial impact of such scenarios and the administrations' approach in response to these.

The following action items approved to move forward for action in today's public session include:

- Capital Budget
- Resolution to Rescind Tuition Increase
- Contracts, Fixed Assets and Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Chairman Smith, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Trustee Matt Lautman, chair, provided the following report.

In the Governance committee earlier this morning, we had two presentations, tabled a few discussion items until June, and reviewed two items for council action.

Dr. Lia Paradis, associate professor, History, shared with us a proposal to permit the SRU representative of the system-wide Interim Faculty Council to join Council in deliberations in a non-voting capacity. This would include participating in all meetings except the Executive Session. **(Appendix G)**

Trustees will review the proposal and appreciate that Dr. Paradis brought forward this recommendation for Council consideration.

Dylan Colcombe provided his report as Chair of the Student Trustee Selection Committee. We appreciate the work of the committee and are pleased to have Samantha Hawk join us in June. **(Appendix H)**

The slate of officers for nomination was presented with a motion by Trustee Taylor, second by Trustee Vessella. Officers serve a one-year term with consideration for a second term in accordance with Council bylaws. The slate of officers will be presented for approval by the full board at the June meeting.

Matt Lautman, Chair
Elise Michaux, Vice-Chair
Samantha Hawk, Secretary

Proposed meeting dates were reviewed and approved for consideration by the full board.

- September 24 & 25, 2020
- December 10 & 11, 2020
- March 25 & 26, 2021
- June 3 & 4, 2021

Calendar items were provided for Council Information.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix I)

Trustee Robert Taylor chairs the University Advancement Committee. He provided the following report.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix J)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Behre. No report; closed session.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**Contracts (TAB 6) (Appendix K), Fixed Assets, (TAB 7), (Appendix L), Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 8), Appendix M)**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion passes.

Capital Budget Submission (TAB 9) (Appendix N)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Colcombe, approval of the Capital Budget Submission.

Resolution: Rescind Tuition Increase (Action of 12.13.19) (TAB 10) (Appendix O)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval to rescind its call to action of December 13, 2019 regarding tuition.

Approval of SRU COT Meeting Dates 2020/2021

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of Council meeting dates through June, 2021.

September 24 & 25, 2020

December 10 & 11, 2020

March 25 & 26, 2021

June 3 & 4, 2021

INFORMATION ITEMS**Next Meeting:**

June 4, 2020

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 11) (Appendix P)**HR Personnel Items (TAB 12) (Appendix Q)**

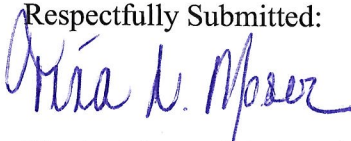
Financial Report (TAB 13) (Appendix R)

Divisional Reports (TAB 16)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina L. Moser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tina L. Moser, Administrative Liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees