

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**September 24, 2020**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Thursday, September 24, 2020 via Zoom conferencing. Chair Matt Lautman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Ms. Samantha Hawk, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Dan Lavalley, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: Ms. Suzanne Vessella

Dr. Lia Paradis, faculty liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees, was present. Welcome Lia!

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the September 24, 2020 meeting agenda. Motion passes. (TAB 6) (Appendix A)

**Approval of Minutes**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of the June 4, 2020 quarterly business meeting minutes. Motion passes (TAB 15) (Appendix B)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the July 29, 2020 University Advancement committee meeting minutes. Motion passes. (TAB 16) (Appendix C)

Trustee Ionta moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the August 4, 2020 special meeting minutes. Motion passes (TAB 17) (Appendix D)

**Public Comments**

**Joey Sciuto, President, Student Government Association**

Good afternoon, Council of Trustees:

My name is Joey Sciuto and I am the Student Government President for the 2020-2021 school year. I hope that you all have been able to establish a routine despite the circumstances. Personally, being completely virtual and having all asynchronous classes has forced me to hone in on my time

management and organizational skills. In my report I would give a brief update on how our services have been impacted due to COVID, go over the results of the past elections and the new senate structure, discuss current initiatives our senators are working on, and introduce a few goals I have for the semester.

In terms of how the operations run by SGA have been impacted by COVID, it is worth noting that the student activity fee was reduced by 50% again for the fall semester. Despite this cut, we are still able to fund the Happy Bus, Bob's Cupboard, and funding the student's clubs and organizations. In terms of funding clubs, because there is no travel within the university, we decided to fully fund all clubs since travel arguably takes up the most money allocation.

This year's elections will go down as one to remember, as it was a project three years in the making. This year we were able to utilize the new senate structure. In the past, senator's constituencies were based upon where that senator lived. While that was effective for a long time, the organization began to realize that maybe residency wasn't the best way to represent students. Thus, the concept of a new senate structure was born. This was definitely a key marketing point for the most recent fall elections. We were pleasantly surprised to have such a large turnout due to both applicants and write in candidates. I will briefly go through the new positions as well as how many seats we have filled:

- A. Both of the Two (2) at large commuter senators
- B. Both of the Two (2) resident hall senators
- C. Three out of the Four (4) College of Business senators
- D. All of the Four (4) College of Education senators
- E. All of the Four (4) College of Health, Environment, and Science senators
- F. Three out of the Four (4) College of Liberal Arts senators
- G. Five of the Twelve (12) at large senators
- H. One (1) transfer senator
- I. Still need One (1) veteran senator
- J. One (1) international senator
- K. 2 of the Four (4) freshman senators
- L. 1 of the Four (4) graduate senators

In total our senate currently has 35 students which is the largest I have seen in my tenure here at SRU.

Now that we have a senate, we are excited to get to work on a variety of initiatives. The Student and Academic Affairs Committee is beginning to sculpt our annual student life survey. They have also been working hard to open up Bob's Cupboard at the Macoskey Center so that we can safely provide students with food if they are in need. In addition to contributing financially, our Social Justice Committee and Outreach Committee had been working with the Office for Inclusive Excellence to advertise the Defamation Experience which occurred on Thursday September 24. Finally, SGA was recently approached by APSCUF and will be working collaboratively on a variety of voter registration and election initiatives.

In conclusion, I wanted to share two goals I had for the school year. The first of which is shifting more focus onto our students who sit on the presidential commissions. As each senator is appointed, they will be required to present at our formal meetings twice a semester. They also will be responsible for advocating for more student voices to be present during commission meetings. The other goal I wanted to discuss involves transparency and accountability within SGA. While we were

waiting for elections to occur, I had each executive board member create checklists for three or four of their yearlong goals. One of these goals had to address diversity and inclusion in some way. Once we get our website revamped, I would like to post each of these checklists publicly. As we complete each task towards a goal, we will check off the corresponding box. This enables all students, staff, and faculty to see our progress as well as holds us accountable to complete our goals.

Thank you for your time. Please reach out if there is anything I can do for you.

### Presentations

Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees presented commendations to former trustees:

Senator Mary Jo White (Appendix E)

Mr. Thomas Breth (Appendix F)

In recognition for your outstanding service and especially your leadership in fostering communication between and among the trustees and students, the integrity you demonstrated in the face of having to make hard decisions, and the honor you have brought to the University through your dedication and achievements.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Behre shared a video presentation highlighting the food services, library and outdoor seating accommodations that provide a safe learning environment for our students.

President Behre expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our students, faculty, staff and the entire community for coming together in this unprecedented time. This is a great example of what Slippery Rock University is all about, an exceptional community of caring individuals going above and beyond to serve the needs of our students. By coming together, we changed a hundred-year-old business model in what seems like overnight. This is a proud moment for our campus.

The members of our COVID-19 Response Team have been incredible preparing spaces, creating walkways, completing all of the compliance reporting in accordance with CDC guidelines, working with Allegheny Health Network, and coordinating efforts with our food services provider. These individuals are working many long hours and we are so grateful to them for their efforts.

In these times of civil unrest, fostering diversity and inclusion remains a priority. There is a need for both challenging conversations and actions particularly as they relate to ethnic and racial diversity. This work at SRU continues:

Recently, we have:

- Increased financial aid dollars by more than \$1.15M since 2018
- Hired Terrence Mitchell as a special assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion.
- Named Clitha Mason, instructor of nonprofit management and interdisciplinary studies, as a Frederick Douglass Institute scholar fellow for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Launched an anti-racism and social justice resources webpage.
- Charged the President's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity to review and recommend revisions to University policies and procedures, including police procedures.
- Created the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee to develop a diversity strategic plan

by the conclusion of the 2020-21 academic year.

- Conducted multiple diversity and inclusion workshops during the past year, focusing on front-line employees, University Police, and the president's cabinet.

As my final comment, we are pleased to have Dr. Terrence Mitchell, special assistant for Diversity and Inclusion, on board as we continue our efforts. Dr. Mitchell will be working part time at SRU in helping to strengthen the University's strategic diversity planning; to assure the success of all students; and managing SRU's efforts in creating a more inclusive environment for all students and employees. He will also be serving as a resource to relevant presidential commissions in order to enhance, facilitate and coordinate University diversity efforts. Mitchell brings a breadth of experience in leading diversity and inclusion efforts and we are fortunate to have him with us.

Chairman, this concludes my report.

## Committee Reports

### Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

The Academic and Student Affairs committee meet this morning and trustees received an update on changes in Title IX regulations and on the status of new academic programs. We also received an enrollment update for summer and fall 2020. Many thanks to Ms. Holly McCoy, Dr. Abbey Zink, Dr. Michelle Amodei, Ms. Carrie Birckbichler, and Dr. Amanda Yale for presenting this information.

Holly McCoy, Title IX Coordinator provided an overview of the US Department of Education's new Title IX regulations, which were effective on August 14, 2020. Working with members of Pennsylvania State System legal counsel, PASSHE Title IX Coordinators and Student Conduct Directors, SRU has updated its Student Conduct and Sexual Misconduct policies to comply with these changes. In addition to the policy changes, individuals who work directly with these conduct issues (Title IX Coordinator and Investigators, Student Conduct, Hearing Board Members, Student Support, etc.) will complete extensive training on the new regulations. Additionally, training for all employees and students to familiarize them with the protections of Title IX will be implemented in the coming months.

Summer 2020 total credit hours was down -15.1%. Graduate headcount was up by +1.1% or a headcount of 53 students. Undergraduate credit hours was down -24.1%, mostly due to internships.

Fall 2020 total FTE was up +.13%. Graduate FTE was up +10.63%, while undergraduate FTE was down -1.16%.

Fall 2020 freshman cohort landed at 1460 or down -119 students. At the end of July, the FR cohort was around 1578. The loss is mostly due to a changing COVID 19 online and housing environment. The quality of the cohort is similar to last year with slight increases in students in the top 25% of their high school graduating class and high school grade point average. Currently, nearly 40% of the cohort is in the top 25% rank and the average HSGPA is a 3.51. Out of state students increased by 33 students and under-represented students increased by 36 students.

Fall 2020 new transfer students landed at 468 domestically and 67 international students for a total of 535 students. The China program is comprised of 61 students. Fall 2020 new graduate students are reported at 33 for the summer and 54 for the fall.

Three new graduate programs commenced, including, Athletic Training, Social Work, and the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration.

The 25 new academic programs added over the past seven years had nearly 1,000 students enrolled in fall 2020. As to be expected, some new programs are performing better than others. The University is actively looking for ways to improve performance in programs that haven't met expectations.

Chairman Lautman this concludes my report.

#### **Finance Committee (Agenda, Appendix H)**

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 shared the Sightlines Presentation. Rebecca D'Imperio and Sam Galanak from Sightlines presented an overview of SRU's FY18-19 facilities benchmarking results. Sightlines is hired each year by PASSHE to perform an independent facilities benchmarking assessment of each campus. Some of the highlights included the impact of recent building renovations on the overall campus construction age, the capital investments SRU made into the campus and the impact those had on the deferred maintenance backlog. They also suggested some future building renovation projects and shared SRU's Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Score (finished 3rd behind West Chester and Bloom).

Ms. Molly Mercer, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial and Budget Update that included a recap of the estimated impacts of COVID-19, the financial results for the 2019-20 fiscal year, and budget for approval for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The update on fiscal year 2019-20 showed a strong bottom line for FY20. The projection for fiscal year 2020-21 is showing a deficit of \$1M for E&G Funds, which was an improvement from prior projections, due to stable revenue and cost savings being implemented. The Auxiliary Operations for FY21 are experiencing greater losses due to the Covid-19 circumstances with a deficit of \$2.8M. All deficits for FY21 can be covered by university reserves from prior years.

The 20/21 proposed budget was approved to move forward for action by the full council.

Chairman Smith, this concludes my report.

#### **University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix I)**

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

Trustee Taylor thanked committee members for their participation today. He also thanked the university advancement team for their efforts in preparing materials and reports for committee review and action.

The committee met earlier today. We heard from Mr. Dennis Washington, Vice President for University Advancement, who presented two naming resolutions for action by Council.

- o Falcon Power Consultants Naming Opportunity  
Strain Safety Building Rooms 201 and 106 – The Falcon Power Consultants Classroom and Falcon Power Consultants Administrative Suite, respectively.
- o New Pig Corporation Naming Opportunity  
Strain Safety Building Room 204 – The New Pig Classroom

Mr. Washington also provided a report on the University Advancement Reorganization and an update to the comprehensive fundraising campaign and the work of Bentz Whaley Flessner, contracted campaign counsel.

Ms. Samantha Swift, Executive Director of University Development & Advancement Services, provided a summary of the 2019-20 campaign and goals for the 2020-21 campaign.

Mr. Washington provided a report on the following topics.

- o The Slippery Rock University Advancement Long-term Fundraising Plan
- o How the Student Body is Engaged in Fundraising
- o National Perspectives on Fundraising During a Pandemic

Ms. Kelly Bailey, director for Alumni Engagement, provided an update about fall engagement opportunities, including Homecoming activities.

Mr. Washington provided financial reports on the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and the SRUF Campus Housing as of June 30, 2020.

- o Total Net Assets & Liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$40,501,099
- o The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$34,051,303
- o The SRUF Campus Housing Inc. & subsidiary Net Assets & Liabilities totaled \$107,334,195

Chairman, this concludes my report.

### **Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix J)**

Trustee Young, chair, provided the following report.

The Governance Committee met earlier today. We heard a brief update from Trustee Jeff Smith re: the upcoming virtual PACT Conference sessions.

Council reviewed the President's evaluation process and timeline to submit evaluation materials. Trustees are asked to complete and return their evaluation instruments to Trustee Young by Oct. 15. An evaluation document will be completed for review by trustees.

We were pleased to approve the Commendations of Service for Senator Mary Jo White and Mr. Tom Breth.

Information items included calendar mentions and Council bylaws. We will be reviewing bylaws at the next meeting of the Council to determine if there are any changes that have to be made due to Act 50 of 2020.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

**Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix K)**

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

**ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**20/21 Proposed Budget (TAB 10) (Appendix L)**

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the 20/21 Proposed Budget. Motion carries unanimously.

**University Policy: Community Memorial Award (TAB 11) (Appendix M)**

Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee Smith, the , Jeff Taylor– work with the COT to finalize the working for rThe Policy was tabled for further discussion and review.

**Resolution: Falcon Power Consultants (TAB 12) (Appendix N)**

Trustee Hawk moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the Resolution: Falcon Power Consultants. Motion carries unanimously.

**Resolution: New Pig Corporation (TAB 13) (Appendix O)**

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the Resolution: New Pig Corporation. Motion carries unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Next Meeting:**

December 10 & 11, 2020

Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 7) (Appendix P)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 8) (Appendix Q)

HR Personnel Items (TAB 9) (Appendix R)

Financial Report (TAB 14) (Appendix S)

CPP Narrative (TAB 18) (Appendix T)

Divisional Reports (TAB 20)

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Before calling for adjournment, Trustee Lautman took a moment to thank Mr. Michael Ferguson, university legal counsel, for his guidance and counsel to Slippery Rock University and the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees. Mike is taking on new assignments in his role with the System. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Laura Neal as our newly assigned legal counsel. Laura, we look forward to working with you.

With no further business, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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