

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

June 3, 2022

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, June 3, 2022, in the Robert M. Smith Student Center, Room 321, and via ZOOM conferencing. Chair Matt Lautman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The video recording of this meeting in its entirety can be found on the Council webpage, <https://www.sru.edu/about/administration/council-of-trustees>

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Ms. Brooklyn Graham, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Elise Michaux, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young.

Trustees absent: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Dan Lavalley, Ms. Suzanne Vessella

Approval of Amended Meeting Agenda

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the June 3, 2022 amended meeting agenda. Motion carries. (Tab 6, Appendix A)

Items for Council Action: Added Item G. COT Resolution: Financial Audit Report
Items for Council Action: Added Item H. COT Resolution: PA Legislative Delegation (Butler County)
Requesting solution to preserve Council of Trustees' positions and appointments

Approval of Minutes

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the quarterly business meeting minutes, Friday, March 4, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 21, Appendix B)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Ionta, approval of the special meeting minutes, March 9, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 21, Appendix C)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Taylor, approval of the special meeting minutes, April 22, 2022. Motion carries unanimously. (TAB 21, Appendix D)

Trustee Ionta moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the Finance and Administrative Committee meeting minutes, May 3, 2022. (TAB 21, Appendix E) Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Commendations

Resolution of Service: Trustee Smith presented the Resolution to Ms. Lynne Motyl, chief human resource officer, upon the occasion of her retirement, following 36 years of outstanding service to Slippery Rock University. (TAB 11, Appendix F)

Resolution: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Dr. Jerome “Jerry” Francis Bejbl, (TAB 14, Appendix G)

Trustee Bob Taylor commented on the resolution honoring Dr. Bejbl: “I am a friend of Jerry Bejbl’s and this is a wonderful tribute to an incredible alumnus of Slippery Rock University, who was successful throughout his life and has always given back generously to his alma mater.” “For those of you who do not know, Jerry was part of a group of former student athletes known affectionately as “Charlies’ boys.” “All of these athletes were part of a team that Charlie coached. There are a number of them still alive from the ‘50’s and ‘60’s. On behalf of them, I think this is a really fabulous tribute to Jerry and we are going to miss this guy.” Great friend, supporter, and loved SRU.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT **William J. Behre, Ph.D.**

Good morning, Trustees:

The following updates are provided as we look back on another successful semester at SRU while preparing for the fall.

On May 6-7 we celebrated four commencement ceremonies to mark the graduation of more than 1,600 eligible students. It was an extraordinary two days that featured guest speakers and a wonderful sense of accomplishment.

Looking forward, we are still recruiting our next first-year class. While Amanda Yale will update you with the most recent numbers during her presentation, I will let you know that we are currently just shy of our goal of 1,500 new first-year students. Here are some other highlights from Amanda’s team:

First-Year Admissions:

With the opening of the Performing Arts Complex last fall, we’ve seen increases in the number of incoming performing arts students:

- Dance: +57% (Fall 2022; Fall 2021, 12)
- Theatre: +125% (Fall 2022, 27; Fall 2021, 12)

Our largest undergraduate program, exercise science, increased 6% (Fall 2022, 212; Fall 2021, 201).

FAFSA's have increased among new, first-year applicants, from 2,925 to 3,102 (+6%). Great outreaches from the financial aid team and new, targeted communication in Slate have helped families qualify for the most aid possible.

Transfer Admissions:

- More than 250 student appointments so far for Summer/Fall 2022; only 16 haven't applied.
- FAFSA filing rate for offered transfers stands at 67%; FAFSA filing rate for deposited transfers is at 74%.

Graduate Admissions:

- In Spring 2022, graduate admissions hosted or participated in 41 events including graduate college fairs, info sessions (on-campus, off-campus and virtual evening events) and open houses to increase enrollment for the Summer and Fall 2022 semesters. This is a significant increase from 2012 when graduate admissions attended six events per year total.
- New CRM SLATE communications technologies in undergraduate and graduate admissions created a seamless application to enrollment communications process for prospective and new students.

Center for Career and Academic Progress:

- CCAP centered student academic success upon the "essential five" of goals, relationships, valuing education, growth mindset and bias to act. The offices within the Center for Career and Academic Progress moved on several initiatives, such as the implementation of the Civitas Learning series of products, including the application of predictive analytics to identify and intervene with our most academically at-risk learners; SRU is returning to stronger first-year retention performances following the global pandemic.
- The life design toolkit was integrated into more than one-third of all FYRST seminars, and the University offered its first three sections of an experimental, three-credit life design course for at-risk, undeclared students, with more than 75% of students declaring a major by the completion of the course.
- SRU adapted new student orientation to focus upon a scholarly mindset; Fall 2022 first-year students have been engaging in 90-minute learning sessions on the essential five, while composing letters to themselves on why they are attending college, what their goal are for their first semester, and how they will accomplish those goals; they will receive these letters back, prior to Fall 2022 midterms.

University Police recently completed a very successful accreditation visit. While we will not have a formal decision for several weeks, every indication is that we will be awarded accreditation.

Athletics ended the year strong with a post-season run from baseball and several track and field athletes appearing in the Division II finals.

Former SRU football player Henry Litwin was the only NCAA Division II player to be a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, known as the “Academic Heisman,” and a member of the 2021 National Scholar-Athlete Class. Litwin was the only Division II player in a class of 13 finalists from across the country and was honored in Las Vegas during the 2021 National Football Foundation Awards Dinner and College Football Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. He is the first football player from any PSAC Institution to be recognized with that award and is the first SRU student-athlete in any sport to ever earn the Academic All-America of the Year Award, which goes to just one athlete per division each year.

Former SRU quarterback Roland Rivers made his professional debut for the USFL’s Pittsburgh Maulers this past weekend. We hope to see more of him this Friday evening as Pittsburgh takes on the New Jersey Generals at 8 p.m.

With the waning of the pandemic, SRU’s Office of Global Education, led by Sam Heikinen, has been gearing up. Below are some highlights from Sam’s team:

- Our SRU joint program in Management Information Systems with Quanzhou University of Information Engineering has continued to build enrollments and will see the first cohort successfully complete SRU instruction this December.
- OGE Worked across the institution to continue to deliver instruction to our QUIE students in a virtual modality due to travel restrictions caused by COVID-19. OGE sent a series of videos supporting our partners and students at QUIE in lieu of being able to be there in person due to the pandemic, which QUIE enthusiastically responded to with videos of their own, welcoming SRU to Quanzhou and celebrating the SRU/QUIE relationship.
- OGE provided virtual orientation sessions at the beginning of each semester and maintains constant communication between SRU stakeholders and our partners at QUIE. QUIE students have earned high grades and positive feedback regarding their academic performance from SRU faculty instructing the program.
- The increase in new enrollments is expected to continue to grow.
- After carefully assessing data from the CDC, State Department, professional associations and global partners abroad, OGE created a plan to strategically re-open Study Abroad (with students abroad this past spring and departing this summer and fall) and faculty-led programming (currently set to re-launch May 2023).
- Faculty-led proposals are now being reviewed with additional safety protocols including limiting travel to one country/city and mandating a minimum of two faculty/staff program leaders participation.
- OGE is continuing to monitor conditions and communicate with partners abroad to assess conditions. Students and faculty are continuing to express interest in Study Abroad and faculty-led programming.
- After participating in virtual international recruitment events for more than a year, OGE staff are now recruiting in-person abroad as conditions permit with enhanced COVID safety protocols in place.

- International student applications, admits, and deposits are up significantly versus this time in 2020 and 2021.
- OGE welcomed 12 new international students this past spring and hosted two in-person international student arrivals and orientations this past year.
- OGE held a series of in-person events this past year, including a Valentine's Day event with the president, an event at the OGE office with the provost, an international dinner (with an estimated 400 in attendance), and two in-person global graduation events celebrating our international graduates, exchanges and graduating SRU study abroad students, OGE also hosted a series of trips for International Club to visit Washington, D.C. and other sites in Pennsylvania that U.S. students participated in as well.
- Professional staff from the Office of Global Engagement worked with members of the President's Commission for Race and Ethnic Diversity to support diversity training and development of faculty resources to promote inclusive practices for teaching and learning at SRU.

In short, I am happy to report that SRU is emerging from the pandemic on strong footing. Of course, I am concerned that western Pennsylvania has seen a recent surge in COVID cases. Pitt and Penn State have resumed indoor masking. Given SRU's relatively small population in the summer, I am currently not planning on any mitigation efforts on campus. We will continue to watch developments closely. That said, I believe that we have reached an endemic state and need to do our best to maintain a campus environment that is as close to normal as possible.

Chair Lautman, this concludes my report.

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix H)

Trustee Elise Michaux chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and shared the following report.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met yesterday afternoon and we heard three engaging presentations and had the opportunity to meet our new Dean of Health Professions, Dr. Christine Karshin. Dr. Karshin comes to us from Eastern Michigan University and will officially join SRU June 21.

Dr. Anthony Jones, chief diversity officer, provided an update to the diversity efforts on campus since his arrival at SRU. Dr. Jones is excited to announce that he is creating a physical office and will be searching to hire staff that will be a huge benefit for the campus as he further develops his goals and action steps for diversity initiatives on campus. He has created a foundation that will culminate in a specific three-year action plan. Currently, Anthony is piloting three goals from the Diversity Strategic Plan and will continue to engage and collaborate with the campus community to further our efforts together.

Ms. Lynne Motyl, chief human resources officer, co-presented with Anthony and walked through the current hiring process, shared advertising strategies and shared diversity requirement strategies, including diversity training requirements of our employees.

Dr. Amanda Yale provided an enrollment update. We are seeing a lot of in-person and virtual meetings and lots of good activity in making connections with our new students. Campus visitations have returned to pre-pandemic levels. 88% of deposits attended are registered for Orientation and 86% of new students have schedules for the fall. Our faculty are second to none in the help they provide in orientation and recruitment efforts. We are cautiously optimistic and will continue to positively drive our efforts.

Dr. David Wilmes, chief student affairs officer, provided an update of preparations for the fall. We are so pleased to have returned to a greater sense of normalcy and experienced a greater level of normalcy during the spring semester. Staff and students organized and participated in over 4,000 events during the spring semester, SGA elections realized a 12% participation rate from students, the largest participation rate in years. Our intramurals and recreational activities are going strong and we anticipate an exciting fall athletic season as NCAA has lifted all COVID restrictions.

In terms of COVID planning on campus, we are remaining optimistic and have no plans to require testing students or employees this fall. We will not engage in contact tracing. The Student Health Center staff will assist students with any health-related questions or concerns. We will continue to monitor what is occurring regionally and nationally, always with the concern for the health and wellness of our students and the campus community our top priority.

Chair Lautman, this concludes my report.

Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix I)

Trustee Dan Lavalley chairs the Finance Committee. Trustee Jeff Smith provided the committee report on behalf of Trustee Lavalley.

The Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee met with the Council of Trustees Thursday afternoon and discussed several topics:

Rebecca D'Imperio and Ryan Milloy from Gordian presented the 2021 fiscal year facilities measurement, benchmarking and analysis report.

Mr. David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP presented the audit plan for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The completed audit will be shared with Council at the September 2022 quarterly meeting.

Dr. Christopher Cole presented a proposal to increase meal plan rates by 3.5 percent for fall 2022.

Ms. Birckbichler, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented the Financial and Budget Update for the third quarter of FY 2021-22. The University is projected to end FY 2021-22 in a positive position. An updated planning scenario for FY 2022-23 was presented to Council.

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

- A proposed increase to the Dining Fee.
- Resolution to pause Educational & General contributions to the Green Fund.

The following information items were provided to Council for its review:

- Report of contract, service and supply purchase orders issued from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022.
- The Division Narrative Report.
- The third quarter Financial Report.
- The Facilities and Planning Active Project List.
- Human Resources Personnel Items.

Chairman Lautman this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix J)

Trustee William McCarrier, committee chairperson, provided the following report.

The University Advancement Committee met this morning. Samantha Swift, executive director of Development, reported that as of March 31, \$2,689,995 was raised in private support, an increase of more than \$870,000 over last year in the same period. This is due in large part to the success of the 6th Annual SRU Giving Day, which raised \$652,745 from 1,531 donors, 130% of the \$500,000 goal. She introduced the newest member of her team, Brandon Berns, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Kelly Bailey, director, Alumni Engagement, gave an update of Alumni Association activities, and announced the 10 under 10 young alumni award recipients, who will be honored at next weekend's Alumni Weekend. She reported on the events that took place in Florida in March, and shared a list of upcoming events, including the Alumni Golf Outing, August 1 and Homecoming, October 14-15.

We had two action items: a resolution honoring Dr. Jerry Bejbl, one of Slippery Rock University's most loyal and generous alumni, and the naming of the softball field in honor of Coach K Jan Kasnevich.

Vice President Washington concluded the presentation with the SRU Foundation, Inc. quarterly report.

Chairman, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix K)

Trustee Domenic Ionta, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report.

Trustee Jeffrey Smith moved, second by Trustee Joshua Young, amending the Governance Agenda with the addition of two action items:

- 1) Resolution re: trustee positions and appointments,
- 2) Resolution dealing with the financial audit. Motion carries.

Items addressed for action, discussion, and information were:

- Council welcomed Trustee Brooklyn Graham, a Slippery Rock University junior political science major from Kittanning. Brooklyn was officially sworn in to office, April 27.
- Trustee Jeffrey Smith shared a PACT Update.
- Trustee Jeffrey Smith shared a Presidential Search Update: As you know, the search process began a few months ago. There has been great progress made. RPA, Inc. was selected by Council as the search consultant. To date, they've done a great job. The prospectus was finalized yesterday and the link to the prospectus will be uploaded to the Presidential Search webpage early next week. According to the timeline, the committee is collecting applications through the summer, we anticipate a good array of applicants for search committee review. Hopefully identify candidates late in the fall. The intent is to forward candidate names late November/early December, understanding the timeline is subject to change.
- Resolution of Service: Lynne Motyl, chief Human Resources Officer
- Resolution: Faculty Liaison to the Council of Trustees
- Resolution: Financial Audit Report
- Resolution: Legislative Delegation (Butler County): Requesting solution to preserve Council of Trustees' positions and appointments.
- Election of Officers (June 2022-June 2023):
 - Domenic Ionta, chair
 - Joshua Young, vice-chair
 - Brooklyn Graham, secretary
- Chair requested members provide committee membership preferences to him at the members earliest convenience.
- Chair shared that President Behre provided his goals to the evaluation committee.
- Calendar mentions (spring/summer 2022, fall/winter 2022) were provided as information in Council materials.
- SRU Council bylaws were included in the materials as information.

Resolutions were approved and moved forward for consideration of approval by the full Board.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix L)

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

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Resolution: University Order of Succession (TAB 9) (Appendix M)

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the University Order of Succession in accordance with BOG Policy 1983-14-A, *Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers*. Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Faculty Liaison to SRU Council of Trustees (TAB 10) (Appendix N)

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the appointment of a faculty liaison to SRU Council of Trustees. Faculty liaison participates in non-executive session meetings as a non-voting liaison to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees (2022-2023). Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Naming Softball Field: “Kasnevich Field” (TAB 13) (Appendix O)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval to name the field at the SRU Softball Complex, “Kasnevich Field” in honor of Jan “Coach K” Kasnevich,, '68, who led The Rock softball team to three national tournament berths during her 10 years as coach from 1977-86. Kasnevich was also a successful field hockey coach at SRU for 13 seasons (1985-88, 90-97). As a student-athlete at SRU, she played basketball, volleyball, tennis and field hockey, before going on to play on the U.S. National Field Hockey Team. Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution: Dining Services Fee (TAB 7) (Appendix P) (TABLED)

Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee Young, approval by Council by roll call vote to table action by resolution calling for a 3.5% base price Dining Services Fee increase, no flex fee increase, until further notice. Motion carries unanimously.

Chair Lautman: Dining Service Fee request. Specifically, which seeks to increase by 3.5%, base price, does not include flex dollars. As detailed in Tab 7 of the meeting materials.

Chair Lautman: Motion to approve? Hearing none. We will move forward with our agenda.

Trustee Taylor: Mr. Chair: I move that we table the dining fee resolution until the September meeting when we understand the budget better and have more clarification on the State System’s investigation of our finances. That’s offered as a form of a motion, if someone wants to second the motion, that’s fine.

Chair Lautman: If the intent is to table, I would ask that instead of tabling the item until September, just to table it, that way we wouldn’t be prohibited from possibly bringing it up prior to September. Would that be acceptable?

Trustee Taylor: Yes, I am comfortable with that, as long as we agree, that this is contingent upon receiving the kind of financial information and the background on the budget that we need to make clear and fully educated decisions about finances. This being part of that, Yes, I would be happy with the change in the motion.

Chair Lautman: Motion: Table the Dining Services Meal Plan Fee Request behind tab 7.

Trustee Young: Second (on the motion)

Question: Trustee Smith: My question is, and, I don’t know the answer to this, if this motion fails to table it, did the original motion fail in its entirety?

Chair Lautman: There was no original motion, it was never brought forward.

Mr. Ferguson: It can be reattended to at any subsequent meeting.

Chair Lautman: This just formalized the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Brooklyn Graham	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
Domenic Ionta	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
Matt Lautman	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
William McCarrier	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes

Resolution: Green Fund (TAB 8) (Appendix O) (TABLED)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval to table the resolution for language revision. The revised resolution will be placed on the agenda for consideration of approval at the September quarterly business meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

SRU Council of Trustees: Election of Officers (2022-2023) (TAB 12) (Appendix R)

Trustee Michaux moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the SRU Council slate of officers (2022-2023). Motion carries unanimously with a roll call vote for each officer position.

Domenic Ionta elected chair of the Council. 7 Yes, 1 No. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	No
	William McCarrier	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes

Joshua Young elected vice-chair of the Council. 8 Yes, 0 No. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes

Brooklyn Graham elected secretary of the Council. 8 Yes, 0 No. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
	William McCarrier	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes

Resolution: Trustee Appointments: (Appendix S)

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Michaux, approval of a resolution requesting the Pennsylvania legislative delegation from Butler County to seek a better solution to preserve the positions of all current trustees and keep the power to nominate, appoint, and confirm trustees with the Governor and the Pennsylvania Senate. 7 Yes; 0 No; 1 abstention. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL:	Domenic Ionta	Yes	Jeffrey Smith	Yes
	Matt Lautman	Yes	Robert Taylor	Abstain
	William McCarrier	Yes	Joshua Young	Yes
	Elise Michaux	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes

Trustee Smith commented this is DRAFT legislation. Trustee McCarrier commented that trustees should consider extending this action to legislators beyond Butler County.

Resolution: Financial Audit (Appendix T)

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of a resolution requesting release of a recently completed financial audit report. 8 Yes, 0 No. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:

Domenic Ionta	Yes	Matt Lautman	Yes
William McCarrier	Yes	Elise Michaux	Yes
Jeffrey Smith	Yes	Robert Taylor	Yes
Joshua Young	Yes	Brooklyn Graham	Yes

Trustee McCarrier commented with emphasis that this action casts no shadows on former or current SRU employees or administrators. There was no evidence of any wrongdoing. We believe as trustees that we should have access to the report.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Meeting Dates:**

September 22-23, 2022

December 8-9, 2022

March 23-24, 2023

June 8-9, 2023

Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders (Tab 17) (Appendix U)**Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Tab 19) (Appendix V)****HR Personnel Items (Tab 20) (Appendix W)**

- Instructional Appointments: Effective Spring 2022
- Instructional Appointments: Effective Summer 2022
- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2022-2023
- Administrator Appointments
- Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments
- Management Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations
- Emeritus Status

Budget/Financial Update (TAB 18) (Appendix X)**CPP Assumptions Narrative (TAB 16) (Appendix Y)****Committee Presentations (TAB 15)****Divisional Reports (Tab 22)**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Ionta commended the author of the Jerry Bejbl resolution as the words captured perfectly who Jerry was and what he meant to so many.

Trustee Ionta thanked Matt for his outstanding work as chair of the Council these past two years.

Trustee Young thanked Samantha Hawk for serving as secretary and Elise Michaux for serving as vice-chair these past two years. Trustee Young also extended thanks to Matt for serving as chair and keeping the Council moving forward in our work on behalf of the university.

Trustee Smith echoed the sentiments of others extending gratitude to officers. Trustee Smith also commented that sometimes these meetings get a little contentious, but I think that everybody understands this is for the common good. I especially want to commend this Council of Trustees for the stand you took on these resolutions.

With no further business, Trustee Young moved, Trustee Ionta second, to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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