

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**December 8, 2017**

The quarterly business meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, December 8, 2017, in Room 315 (Theatre) of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by William McCarrier, chair.

**Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Monica Traggiai, Mr. Richard Wukich, Senator Mary Jo White

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee White, approval of the Friday, December 8, 2017 meeting agenda. Motion carries. Agenda approved. (TAB 15) (Appendix A)

**Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of the October 6, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carries. Minutes approved. (TAB 16) (Appendix B)

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Smith, approval of the November 20, 2017 special meeting minutes. Motion carries. Minutes approved. (TAB 17) (Appendix C)

**Presentations**

Dr. Keith Dils, dean, College of Education, presented SRU's College of Education Highlights.

Chair McCarrier presented Trustee Monica Traggiai with a "Commendation of Service" and thanked Monica for her dedication and service to the students of Slippery Rock University.

**Public Comments**

**Dr. Ben Shaevitz, APSCUF President (SRU)**

Good afternoon to the members of the Council of Trustees, SRU Management, Students, Staff, and Faculty, and other Stakeholders.

I am pleased to share some information about a joint initiative between SGA and APSCUF concerning the Presidential Search.

In brief, SGA and APSCUF have agreed to partner in developing a process to gather input and feedback from at least 3000 students from the On-Campus Interviews. This number amounts to

over 1/3 of the student body and will allow the Search Committee and the Council of Trustees to have confidence in the Student Voice in this process.

As part of the initiative SGA and APSCUF will form a project team consisting of SGA leaders, APSCUF leaders, and professors from the Communication, Political Science, Information Systems, and Marketing programs.

We envision launching a PR campaign early in the Spring Semester for SRU Students to educate them on the importance of the Student Voice in the Presidential Search Process and to share the mechanisms that will be used to collect their input from the on-campus interviews.

In early Spring 2018, the Project Team will develop the process for gathering fact-based information from the On-Campus Interviews and the Social Media platform that will be used to share information and collect input from students. We will be sure to keep the Council of Trustees informed of our work.

After the conclusion of the on-campus interviews the project team will synthesize the student voice information into a report that will be shared with the Council of Trustees and the University Community.

SGA and APSCUF are hopeful that this purposeful and robust information system process and the resulting data set will be acknowledged as representative of the student body. We hope that this information will be used by the Council of Trustees when making decisions concerning the next President of SRU.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

**Dr. Itzi Meztli, SRU Associate Professor of English**

At this time, I want to express my outrage that you re-appointed Trustee Bob Taylor to the Council's "Presidential Search Committee." It's been obvious to all involved that Mr. Taylor's false accusations against three SRU employees (Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Scott Albert, and Molly Mercer) have generated tremendous negative publicity to our fine institution – yet you saw fit to include him yet again in the presidential search committee. Go figure!

After the Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, may I add, Mr. Taylor actually called me via his cell phone, as he was driving home to Harrisburg and he told me a very interesting tale: That there is a number of COT members that don't favor Amir Mohammadi's candidacy for SRU President, with Taylor saying something to the effect: "Do not send Amir's resume to the Council of Trustees because there was no support for Mohammadi's candidacy for president." Hence, there isn't just one person (Taylor) dead set against allowing Dr. Mohammadi an "Equal Employment Opportunity" shot to be seriously considered as a bona fide presidential candidate but there seems to be a "COT Conspiracy of the Few" against Amir.

Is it all based on the fact that Mohammadi's surname is a variation of the appellation term, "Mohammadi?" If that's the case, then tis' discrimination against his "national origin" for being "Persian-American" and that is not fair! So my message to our august Council of Trustees is STOP DISCRIMINATING! You are embarrassing us with your blatant shenanigans, and you need to stop it.

At this time, I am thus informing you that my Harrisburg sources have indicated that the State System has hired a prestigious law firm from Philadelphia to conduct an internal investigation into SRU's presidential search process, one especially focusing not only on Bob Taylor but also on Trustee Richard Wukich, who went around bragging that in this presidential search, "Amir Mohammadi was collateral damage." Mr. Wukich, what did you mean by that remark? Please, explain yourself, sir.

Thus, I leave you with the ancient narrative of the Sirens of Greek mythology: The Sirens were these dangerous, fabled creatures, masquerading as stunning women, with beautiful singing voices, who would lure unsuspecting sailors to their islet and thus shipwreck their vessels upon its rocky reefs. So, when the Trojan-War, Greek hero, Odysseus, passed by the Sirens' coast, he ordered his men to put beeswax into their ears, so they wouldn't be enchanted by the Sirens' magical, musical allure.

So, Council of Trustees, it's about time that you insert plugs into your own ears, so you won't have to listen to those "Harpies from Harrisburg" you know, the ones who give you your marching orders and who keep clamoring the following chorus, "Don't hire the candidate whose surname is 'a variation of Mohammadi.'" Just don't do it."

Otherwise, our SRU presidential ship, christened, "The Search," will be bashed, lambasted, and excoriated against the sharp and protruding rocks and sea ridges of bigotry, intolerance, and inequality.

I thank you.

**President's Remarks, Slippery Rock Student Government Association  
Provided by Scott Vogelgesang on behalf of Rachel Lawler**

At this time, I would like to provide a brief update on what SGA has accomplished, what we are currently working towards, and what we would like to see happen this upcoming spring semester. Week to week we are busy at work recognizing newly established clubs and organizations, approving new initiatives for different events and speakers, working with the Happy Bus schedule and providing the SGA Movie Series. The SRSGA has worked on an array of different projects, such as Express Your Comments, ran by the Campus Outreach and Student and Academic Affairs committee. On two mornings this semester, we provided free coffee for anyone who walked and simply asked if they had any comments or concerns they would like to share with their student representatives.

Also, the Social Justice Committee has diligently worked on a project in support of the transgender community on our campus. This project involved finding an alternative solution for trans students to have the ability to have their chosen name appear on Banner and other academic records systems until the whole system is updated allowing the names to be changed permanently, which then allows faculty class lists to show the same. Doing this will allow students within the trans community to step on to campus feeling safe and protected.

In efforts to continue to build upon relationships and creating a more inclusive environment on campus, SGA recently participated in the planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Suite Thanksgiving Dinner. The planning committee involved several students who attended the summer student leader Florida

retreat, including, Dallas Kline and Angie Vickers from SGA, Kennedy Moore from Black Action Society and Michael Putorti from Rock Out. This event allowed for many students, staff and administrators to communicate, bond and get to know one another on a more personal level over a delicious meal catered by AVI and through different activities involving social identity, inclusion and diversity. Overall, the group attendees developed an action plan to continue events such as this one, in order to continue these conversations of creating an all-inclusive and comfortable campus community.

Just recently, the Student Affairs Committee, has started working on a student food pantry project. Data was collected from questions provided on the Student Life Survey related to student food insecurity. Others involved in the conversation include, Dr. David Wilmes the Associate Provost for Student Success, Debra Pincek from Dining Services, Lauren Moran the Director for Student Engagement and Leadership, and MaryAnn King from the Provost's Office.

Some other accomplishments I would like to touch on include Harvestfest, led by VP of Campus Outreach Dallas Kline and her committee. This year the event was a tremendous success, with 16 other clubs and organizations involved, with games, music by WSRU Radio and harvest treats. The first Blood Drive hosted by SGA and the American Red Cross was able to provide 41 completed units, saving about 118 lives. The Finance Committee, led by Riley Keffer, worked on a capital budget providing up to \$37,000 for several clubs and organizations allowing them to continue on their success for years to come. We also awarded our annual SGA scholarship to one of our commuter senators, Nikol Damato.

In addition, it is my utmost pleasure to commend the members of the SRSGA for their commitment, pride and maturity in utilizing the power of the student voice and having such a presence during the Presidential Search. We as student representatives uphold a responsibility to advocate for the entire student body, with keeping their best interest in mind and I am very proud of our efforts to uphold the duty and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with such incredible individuals.

To our student trustee, Monica Traggiai, thank you for your service as the student representative on the Council of Trustees. The students of this university, especially SGA, appreciates your dedication, vocalizing students' concern and ensuring that decisions are made for the betterment of this institution.

To the rest of the council, knowing that Trustee Traggiai is graduating next week and will no longer serve as the student trustee. Therefore, we as students would like assurance from the COT that a new student trustee will be chosen and ready to sit as a voting member for the next meeting in March.

Lastly, moving forward the SRSGA is looking forward to a new semester where new ideas will arise and a refreshed mindset will allow for even greater accomplishments. Thank you for allowing me to speak today and Happy Holidays!

**Riley Keffer, Vice President of Finance, Slippery Rock Student Government Association**

The Slippery Rock Student Government Association would like to share our thoughts regarding the progress of the presidential search; we ask that those with the authority to effect change take our words into consideration with respect and an open mind. We believe that as the elected student representatives it is our duty to voice opinion regarding matters which not only affect us, but also thousands of students in the future. In conjunction, the 8,895 students at Slippery Rock University are essential to this institution and without their participation it would be a failing venture.

It is with vigor that we urge the Council of Trustees to proceed as a unified front. We urge you to respect the difference of opinions within the council as well as work towards our common goal; hiring a new presidential candidate to inspire full confidence during his or her tenure. To reiterate, our president should have a strong academic background, experience with a residential campus and the student culture it promotes, experience elevating a university that is already successful in the areas of enrollment, academics, finances, athletics, and more, proactive in promoting an inclusive environment, knowledgeable about issues that students face and the related policy, strong presence to communicate with the Board of Governors, and passion for SRU. The incoming president should have the benefit of all members in campus at heart and pursue such benefits throughout his or her tenure.

It is our hope that the search will progress further to reach a resolution that brings the different constituencies of SRU together and allow the opportunity to deliberate. The opinions of all members of campus are valuable in the decision making process. As student leaders we will maintain engagement with the search process to the best of our ability. In closure, we hope that these words will be taken into consideration while Chancellor Whitney, Board of Governors, Council of Trustees, and others consider the options moving forward in the presidential search process. Student Government looks forward to working together in the accomplishment of our shared goal of a new President.

Kind regards, Slippery Rock Student Government Association

**Samantha Swift, Director of Development, SRU Foundation Inc.**

Good afternoon. I am Samantha Swift, Director of Development for the Slippery Rock University Foundation, and I am before you to honor a member of the Council of Trustees for his philanthropy.

Through our Lifetime Giving Pin program, we recognize donors who have made significant contributions to Slippery Rock University, and today I am awarding a Sapphire Pin, given to those who have achieved \$100,000 in total donations. Currently, there are only 15 individuals who have met or exceeded that level.

Therefore, I am pleased to present this Sapphire Lifetime Giving Pin to Trustee Richard Wukich. Thank you, Trustee Wukich, for your generosity and for all that you do for SRU.

**Dr. Patrick Burkhardt, Dept. of Geography, Geology, and the Environment, SRU**

Dr. Burkhardt shared with the Council of Trustees his scholarly work, "Savor the Cryosphere," The GSA Today, Geological Society of America, (August 2017).

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Interim President Philip K. Way shared the Report of the President (Appendix D)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Trustee Smith, chair of the Governance Committee, reported the activities of the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee met this morning at 10:30 a.m. and discussed a number of informational items and had two action items for Council consideration and approval.

The first item was the selection of a search committee member for the #3, at-large position on the Presidential Search Committee. Janet Sargent was recommended to serve in this position, and we will bring this recommendation to the full board for vote. Janet is a '63 alumnae of Slippery Rock University and serves on the SRU Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors.

Senator Mary Jo White shared her thanks to all of the members of the community who submitted their letters of interest in serving on the search committee. This is an important endeavor and it is endearing to see the level of interest and passion shown by the campus to be involved in the process.

The second item was a recommendation to change the quarterly business meeting format from 1 ½ days to 1 day. After discussion, it was decided to leave the meeting format as it is currently structured.

Informational items included a Presidential Search Committee update and calendar mentions for winter 2017 and spring/summer 2018.

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

Senator White provided the Academic and Student Affairs Committee report.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting was called to order yesterday at 1:30 p.m.

Trustees heard a wonderful presentation by Dr. John Rindy, Director, Office of Career Education and Development. Dr. Rindy shared impressive data about the realities of the job market. In addition, trustees learned an area of focus for the career education office is to educate and prepare students for their lifetime careers early in their college careers. Dr. Rindy talked about the importance of developing networking skills, engaging in leadership opportunities through participation in student organizations on campus, job shadowing and internship opportunities. Trustees also heard as a highlight of the presentation, SRU student success stories. "Dr. Rindy's presentation was enlightening, energetic and very impressive. I am calling my granddaughter when this meeting is over and telling her to get to the Career Office."

There were no other items presented for information or action.

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

Trustee Breth chairs the Finance Committee, however, in his absence, Senator Mary Jo White reported on committee activities. The committee met yesterday at 2:00 p.m. to review a number of items for action and information.

Mr. David Jacobson, CliftonLarsenAllen, provided an overview of the financial statements and audit overview. Dr. Amir Mohammadi and Mr. Scott Albert provided the SRU Campus Master Planning update, which included an update on the Performing Arts funding status. Dr. Mohammadi also provided information related to parking. The Student Government Association is taking the lead on addressing the parking issues with the administration.

Following presentations and further discussion, all action items were moved forward for consideration by the full board.

Items brought forward for action:

- Affiliated Entities Certification of Compliance
- Performing Arts Resolution
- Contracts
- Fixed Assets
- Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Information items included the monthly financial report, the facilities and planning project list and personnel items.

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

Trustee Robert Taylor chairs the University Advancement Committee.

The University Advancement Committee met at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Dr. Ed Bucha, executive director, SRU Foundation, Inc., provided a report on the implementation of the Dee Jay Oshry Report (January, 2016). Highlighted in the discussion were general recommendations and recommendations for launching a capital campaign.

Ms. Samantha Swift, director of development, presented development updates including the coordination of athletic fundraising initiatives, crowdfunding initiatives, reunions and events. Paul Lueken, athletic director, also offered comments and we appreciated his attendance at the meeting.

Ms. Kelly Bailey, director, Alumni Engagement, presented an overview of the functions of the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Alumni Board. Kelly talked about the alumni profile, and initiatives to engage alumni in the life of the university.

Don Huddart, president of the SRU Alumni Association Board of Directors, also provided comments and we appreciated him attending the meeting today.

Dr. Amir Mohammadi leads the Advancement Advisory Group and presented an overview of the work of the advisory group, reviewed organizational structure, and discussed Advancement Models within the PASSHE System as well as CASE Models.

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

Council met this morning in executive session with Interim President Way.

**ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Affiliated Entities – Certification of Compliance (TAB 6) Appendix J**

Trustee Wukich moved, second by Trustee Breth, approval of the Affiliated Entities – Certification of Compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

**Performing Arts – Resolution (TAB 7) Appendix K**

Trustee Traggiai moved, second by Senator White, approval of the Resolution to reallocate previously approved bond funds in the approximate amount of \$2.5 million to be used for the Performing Arts project. 9 in favor; 1 opposed (Trustee Vessella). Motion carried.

**Contracts (TAB 8), Fixed Assets, (TAB 9), Service and Supply Purchase Orders, (TAB 10) Appendix L**

Senator White moved, second by Trustee Traggiai, approval of the Contracts, Fixed Assets, and Service and Supply Purchase Orders. 9 yes, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Trustee Taylor). Motion carried.

**Selection of Presidential Search Committee Members**

MOTION: Trustee Smith moved, second by Senator White, to move Janet Sargert forward as a member of the Presidential Search Committee, at-large position (#3). In addition, the motion will approve, Amanda Yale as the executive member, Joan Allen as the non-instructional representative, and Tina Renaud, non-instructional, alternate.

*After calling for the question and discussion, it was decided that Amanda Yale, Joan Allen and Tina Renaud serving in their respective roles on the presidential search committee were previously approved; therefore, the motion was amended to approve Janet Sargert to the at-large, #3 position.*

MOTION TO AMEND MAIN MOTION: Trustee Smith moved, second by Senator White, to amend the main motion to appoint Janet Sargert to the Presidential Search Committee, at-large, #3 position.

MOTION TO AMEND MAIN MOTION: Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee Wukich, a motion to strike out the name of Janet Sargert and replace with the name of Dallas Kline and appoint Dallas Kline to the Presidential Search Committee, at-large, #3 position.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention: Motion fails.

Trustee Angelucci	NO	Trustee Traggiai	NO
Trustee Breth	ABSTENTION	Trustee Vessella	YES
Trustee Lautman	NO	Senator Mary Jo White	NO
Trustee Smith	NO	Trustee Wukich	YES
Trustee Taylor	YES	Trustee McCarrier	NO



ACT ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION: Trustee Smith, second by Senator White, to appoint Janet Sargent to the Presidential Search Committee, at-large, #3 position.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion carries.

Trustee Angelucci	YES	Trustee Traggiai	YES
Trustee Breth	ABSTENTION	Trustee Vessella	NO
Trustee Lautman	YES	Senator Mary Jo White	YES
Trustee Smith	YES	Trustee Wukich	YES
Trustee Taylor	NO	Trustee McCarrier	YES

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Scheduled SRU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates – 2018

March 22-23, 2018

June 7-8, 2018

### Financial Report (TAB 12) (Appendix M)

### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 13) (Appendix N)

### HR Personnel Items (TAB 14) (Appendix O)

### Divisional Reports (TAB 18)

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee Wukich – I would like to acknowledge Marcus Martin for his outstanding academic and athletic achievements and call for a commendation to be presented at the next meeting. Also, congratulations to Professor Burkhart, this is a wonderful achievement, great scholarly work. Thank you for sharing the article with us.

Trustee Smith – We appreciate the efforts of the students to engage in the Presidential Search Process and we look forward to receiving the survey they are conducting. It would be wonderful to receive feedback from 3,000 students.

Trustee Traggiai - It has been an honor to serve.

Trustee Taylor - Congrats to Monica; Happy Holidays to all.

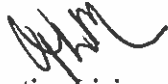
William McCarrier - We are moving forward in the Presidential Search

Suzanne Vessella – I am happy to see the search process resuming, but I am very disappointed that there is not another student voice on the committee. Thank you, students, for sharing your comments at this meeting.

Trustee Breth – Monica, best of luck in your teaching endeavors. Jeff – thank you for your tireless work on the Search Committee and keepin the process moving forward. Happy Holidays!

With no further business, the Friday, December 8, 2017, Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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