

## **SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

**March 29, 2019**

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, March 29, 2019, in the Theatre of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. Jeffrey Smith, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Mr. Jairus Moore, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Senator Mary Jo White, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: None

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Trustee Lautman moved, second by Trustee Angelucci, approval of the March 29, 2019 meeting agenda. Motion carries. (TAB 14) (Appendix A)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Young moved, second by Senator White, approval of the December 7, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carries.  
(TAB 15) (Appendix B)

### **Special Meeting of the Council**

Council met in Executive Session February 1, 2019 to discuss a personnel issue. In addition, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met. Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Mr. Lautman, approval of the February 1, 2019 Academic and Student Affairs Committee minutes.  
(TAB 16) (Appendix C)

### **Public Comments**

#### **Comments from SRSGA**

#### **Dallas Kline, president, Student Government Association**

Good afternoon Council of Trustees. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Dallas Kline and I am president of the Student Government Association. I am a senior Sport Management major from York, PA and I thank you for giving me the time to update you on all of the wonderful things Student Government has accomplished over the past couple of months.

I apologize for this being the first time I am able to attend your meetings this year, but as much as I would have liked to have been here in the past, class just had to come first.

Today, we have eight senators traveling to Houston, Texas to attend an international student government conference in which we will be presenting two presentations: one on the #mysrupresident campaign that we completed last year that we believe led to the committee ultimately selecting Dr. Behre who has been nothing but supportive of students during his first year.

We will also be presenting on the process that took to launch the food pantry in the MaCoskey Center. Many of you have heard Elizabeth Hernandez, vice president of Student and Academic Affairs, speak at your committees this week about the pantry, but if you have not, we are pleased to announce the official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place during the Earth Day celebration on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you are looking for something to do tomorrow night, the Music Therapy Club is hosting their annual Benefit Concert in which they will be accepting non-perishable items for our pantry. The event is at 7:30 p.m. in Swope Music Hall.

It is a very busy time for all students, but especially for us in SGA, because it is our spring election season. In just a week, all eligible candidates will be campaigning and meeting with students to become the next leaders of the student body. We will officially swear in our 2019-2020 senate on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Student Center Theatre. We have three formal meetings left which all SRU stakeholders are, of course, invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like to be at our next meeting, it is Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in this room.

Another large project that is almost complete is the restructuring of senate. Last semester, we approved the ad hoc restructuring committee, which has been hard at work proposing new representation for students changing the current structure based on residency to various other forms of representation such as by academic college and enrollment status. The committee has been hosting focus groups and open sessions to get student feedback before we officially amend our constitution.

The rest of the semester will involve two large events hosted by SGA. First, the Outreach Committee led by Chadwick Burdick is planning a Student Appreciation Day for their spring event. We are also planning the first-ever Big Event with the Green and White Society with the purpose of cleaning up campus and the community. Through a collaboration with the township and borough, we hope to say thank you to the Slippery Rock community through our work.

Finally, an accomplishment I am especially proud to report, the SGA Social Justice Committee just celebrated their one-year birthday, recognizing multiple achievements since their formation such as the name change policy on banner, the primary election project, and the Go with the Flow campaign. Recently, they hosted a World Café with a focus on what Slippery Rock would look like as a more racially diverse campus. Thank you so much for your time today and for your support of the reason we are all here, the students of Slippery Rock University.

### Presentations

**Commendations:** Chair Jeffrey Smith presented the following Commendations on behalf of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees. (Appendix D)

Trustee Taylor moved to approve the Commendations, Trustee Lautman second, motion carries.

### **Honoring the Service of Jairus Moore:**

In recognition of your outstanding service to the University as the Student Representative to the SRU Council of Trustees 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.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes on the occasion of your graduation from Slippery Rock University.

### **SRU Marching Pride:**

In recognition of your winning the 2019 Best Adult Band, Best Overall Band and Best International Band championships at competition in Dublin and Limerick, Ireland, and for the honor you bring to the University through your scholarship, musicianship and leadership.

### **SRU Cheerleading:**

In recognition of the team earning third place in the Small Coed Division II category, and fourth place in the Open All Girl category at the 2019 Universal Cheerleaders Association/Universal Dance Association College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships. Thank you for your time and energy you commit to representing The ROCK. Your accomplishments, both on-and-off the field, have brought great honor to Slippery Rock University.

### **Coach Julie Swiney and the 2018 Field Hockey Team:**

In recognition of your earning the NFHCA/Zag Sports National Academic Team Award. For posting the highest team cumulative grade point average (3.66) in all of NCAA Division II for the sixth time in the last nine years, and for having brought great honor to Slippery Rock University through your accomplishments both on-and-off the field.

Presentation: Food Justice

Presented by:

- Dr. Rebecca Thomas, Assistant Professor, Parks, Conservation and Recreational Therapy
- Juliana Sabol, Public Health, Freedom, PA
- Andrew (AJ) Sumser, Recreational Therapy, Avon, OH

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President William J. Behre provided remarks (Appendix E)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Matt Lautman, chair, provided the following report:

This morning we met in committee to discuss a number of informational items on the agenda.

1) Systemness and PACT Recommendations Update: PACT is the Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees, our local chair Jeffrey Smith serves as President of the Association. Trustee Smith shared an update to the discussion on Systemness and trustees role in the process. With the system redesign in process, PACT has been active in reviewing the role of trustees. Three committees have been formed to address various issues related to Systemness and will report out their findings at the spring conference scheduled April 11-12 in Harrisburg. The three committees are: 1) trustee selection process, 2) trustee commitment, responsibilities and evaluations committee, and 3) trustee advocacy committee. The deadline for trustees to attend the spring conference is April 5.

2) SRU Position on Controversial Topics – this was a brief discussion on how the University addresses controversial topics.

3) Student Trustee Selection Process – the Student Trustee Selection Committee completed its work and selected Dylan Colcombe as the next student trustee. Dylan is a junior 2, fitness management major from Irwin, PA. Dylan was appointed by the Governor and will be sworn in soon. We look forward to having Dylan join us on Council.

4) Proposed Council Meeting Dates – 2019/2020

- September 26 & 27, 2019
- December 5 & 6, 2019
- March 26 & 27, 2020
- June 4 & 5, 2020

5) Discussed the slate of officers to serve in executive roles for 2019/2020 with the following names put forward for official vote at the June meeting:

Jeff Smith – Chair  
 Joshua Young – Vice-Chair  
 Dylan Colcombe – Secretary

Calendar Mentions for Spring/Summer 2019 and Fall/Winter 2019 were included in the materials as information. This concludes my report.

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

Trustee Angelucci chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The committee met yesterday afternoon. There were no action items and three presentations on the agenda.

We heard from Lauren Moran, director, Student Engagement and Leadership, who shared an overview of the CORE software program which focuses on engaging students through involvement tracking, organization management, and event planning.

David Wilmes, associate provost, Student Services, presented the steps SRU is taking to address student food insecurity on campus.

Elizabeth Hernandez, vice president, Academic and Student Affairs, Student Government Association, shared an update on the SRU Food Pantry created on campus by students.

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

Trustee McCarrier chairs the Finance Committee. Trustee McCarrier joined us by phone and, therefore, asked Chair Smith to share his report at the business meeting.

The committee met yesterday to review a number of items for action and information. The committee was very pleased to report that there were no fees brought forward for consideration, so no increases to address and no action required.

Molly Mercer, chief financial officer, provided the financial update and shared enrollment trends/comparisons.

Amir Mohammadi, senior vice president for administration and economic development, shared the capital budget submission FY '19-'20 and major project updates:

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

#### **Action items:**

Capital Budget  
Contracts  
Fixed Assets  
Service & Supply Purchase Orders

Trustee McCarrier moved, second by Trustee Moore, to move forward all action items for consideration by the full Council. Motion carries.

#### **Information Items:**

Financial Report  
Facilities and Planning Project List  
HR Personnel Items

We were pleased to have Lois Johnson, associate vice chancellor for Administration and Finance at PASSHE, with us earlier today to share the financial risk assessment report. Slippery Rock University is in a strong position regarding the risk assessment, noting our assessment as "green" or low-risk and the second least-risky institution in the System, as well as the one that improved more than any other university in the State System over the past five years.

With no further items to address, the meeting adjourned.

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

Trustee Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee, reported on activities of the SRU Foundation, Inc., and Office of Alumni Engagement.

Dr. Tina Yoon, vice president with Campbell & Company, shared preliminary findings of the Internal Readiness Assessment that is currently underway. Dr. Yoon provided an overview of

activities to date including the materials review, internal interviews, and database review. She noted the volunteer survey is underway. She discussed current findings regarding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. She suggests the University hire a Vice President for Advancement who should determine and drive University-wide development strategies across the Foundation, Communications, Advancement Services, and the Alumni Association.

Dr. Amir Mohammadi reported on options related to the remodeling or rebuilding of the Gail Rose Lodge.

- Option 1: Renovations to address ADA requirements and safety issues would cost \$983,000. The building would be used approximately 30 times per year. Dr. Mohammadi noted the press box is also in need of repair in the range of approximately \$600,000.
- Option 2: Complete rebuild including a second floor with a banquet area for a minimum of 150 seats. The building would be able to be rented out and utilized more often. Dr. Mohammadi noted a third floor is being discussed to accommodate the press box.

Dr. Ed Bucha provided financial reports on the SRU Foundation and the SRUF Campus Housing from the quarter ending December 31, 2018.

- Total Net Assets & Liabilities of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$37,831,29
  - The SRU Foundation, Inc. investment portfolio value totaled \$29,287,825
  - The SRUF Campus Housing Inc. & subsidiary Net Assets & Liabilities totaled \$115,260,292
- Samantha Swift provided an updated on development activities:
- Gift Income as of December 31 totaled \$1,836,866 (\$310,752 or 20.36% ahead of the same date last year.)
  - As of this meeting, Gift Income reached \$2.3 million or 75% of the \$3 million goal.
  - Development officers conducted 209 visits and made 115 proposals for support.
  - The number of Founders' Society members (donors who give \$1,000 or more annually) totaled 365.
  - Nine new or increased endowed scholarships and eight new annual scholarships were created this fiscal year.

Erin Bryer, assistant director of development, and Marissa Cozza, senior coordinator, annual giving & communications, shared the results of the Third Annual Giving Day, which took place on Founders' Day, March 26, 2019. Student organizations were involved in crowdfunding opportunities for their organizations.

- The goal was to raise \$100,000 in 24-hours.
- 1,680 donors contributed \$134,691
- Prior year Giving Day results:
  - 2017 Giving Day = 134 donors gave \$23,517
  - 2018 Giving Day = 693 donors gave \$54,208

Kelly Bailey provided a report of alumni engagement activities:

- President Behre joined us to meet donors at the following Florida events:
  - Six events in a three-day span: the Villages, Orlando, Bradenton, Tampa, Naples and Ft. Lauderdale
  - Engaged 160+ alumni and friends

- Hosted our Tampa event at an alumni-owned establishment, Three Birds Tavern (Jack King '81)
- Jeff Podobnik '89, Director of Florida Operations for the Pittsburgh Pirates helped us to have President Behre do the first pitch at the Pirates vs. Blue James game.
- Future offers to host events
- Upcoming Events:
  - April: Harrisburg, Awards and Recognition Dinner
  - May: Columbus, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh
  - June: SRU Day at PNC Park, Alumni Weekend
- Alumni Weekend, June 21-23, 2019
  - Sessions to update alumni about campus happenings
  - Ghost Walk and Tour
  - Picnic in the Quad
  - Taste of Slippery Rock
  - Reunion Groups: Class years ending in '4 and '9; Golden Graduate Club Luncheon honoring 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> Reunions
  - Safety Management Alumni Reunion
  - Athletic Reunions: Gymnastics, Soccer
- Collaborative Initiatives
  - SRUnite: Online mentoring program for students and alumni, Since January, 400 alumni have registered, [www.srunite.sru.edu](http://www.srunite.sru.edu)
  - Senior Transitions Conference held annually for graduating seniors focused on preparing students for life post-SRU. Sessions included; managing student debt, budgeting, understanding compensation packages, multigenerational workforce, relocation tips/real estate. Alumni led the majority of sessions.

With no further business, the committee adjourned.

#### **Middle States Workshop (Agenda, Appendix J)**

This morning, Council met with Dr. Sean McKitrick, vice president, Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Dr. McKitrick reviewed the role of the governing board, discussed preferences for a visiting team about the accreditation process, and answered questions about the process.

Institutional practices are an important part of the self-study and Middle States expects the University to select three to five priorities. After getting feedback from campus, from listening sessions, and an on-line survey, President Behre selected the following priorities for SRU:

- Student Success;
- Transformation of students through curricular and extracurricular experiences;
- Development of a caring community experience;
- Appropriate use of resources.

The four priorities will be infused throughout the self-study. Trustees will be updated on the Middle States process at each quarterly business meeting moving forward.

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

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

## ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

### Capital Budget (TAB 7) (Appendix L)

Senator White moved, second by Trustee Young, approval of the Capital Budget. Motion carries unanimously.

### Contracts (TAB 8) (Appendix M)

Trustee Young moved, second by Trustee Lautman, approval of the Contracts. Motion carries unanimously.

### Fixed Assets (TAB 9) (Appendix N)

Trustee Moore moved, second by Trustee Lautman, approval of the Fixed Assets. Motion carries unanimously.

### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 10) (Appendix O)

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Senator White, approval of the Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carries unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Next Meeting Date:

June 6 & 7, 2019

### Proposed Meeting Dates: 2019/2020

December 5 & 6, 2019

March 26 & 27, 2020

June 4 & 5, 2020

### Financial Report (TAB 11) (Appendix P)

### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 12) (Appendix Q)

### HR Personnel Items (TAB 13) (Appendix R)

### Divisional Reports (TAB 17)

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee McCarrier – Congratulations to those who received accommodations. We have great students who not only have a full academic load but also are involved in extracurricular activities. Everybody around the world has heard of Slippery Rock University because of you. Congratulations to Jairus. I was



pleased to be on the committee that selected Jairus and he has done a wonderful job representing students on this Council.

Senator Mary Jo White – Congratulations to the student performers and athletes here today. The Food Justice program touches a lot of basis about what we are talking about, transformation experiences, collaboration among the different specialties. We have Macoskey Center, which is a unique facility, and getting out in the community engaging our neighbors is important and needed. Congratulations on this very innovate and successful program.

Trustee Young – Congratulations to the students honored today. I enjoyed watching the band in Ireland on my phone. I was impressed with the presentation today regarding risk management and our ranking as a low-risk university among the System schools. This speaks volumes to the accountability and responsibility in how we work and what we have accomplished together, so I offer many thanks to our students, faculty and staff. It is always great to be in Slippery Rock.

Trustee Moore – Congratulations to the students! Thank you for supporting me; this has been a wonderful experience serving on Council. Dylan will do a great job as the next student trustee. I am looking forward to graduation.

Trustee Lautman – I feel like I was with the band the entire time in Ireland. I watched every moment along the journey, and shared the video many times. Local media provided great coverage. This was such a great job by everybody!

Trustee Taylor – Thank you to Dr. Behre, Dr. Mohammadi and the team for your hard work and diligence in not raising fees. This is a big deal, thinking first about the students.

Trustee Angelucci – Congratulations to the band. I also want to offer congratulations to the Office of University Communication and Public Affairs on receiving 28 national awards. There is much to be proud of today. Congratulations students!

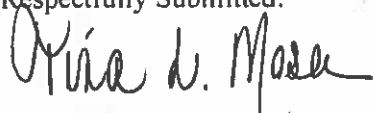
Trustee Breth – Congratulations to Dr. Behre and the entire staff. With what the State System is going through it certainly does not make it any easier to meet financial obligations and continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. Jairus – thank you for your service this council and to our country. God Speed and best wishes on your future endeavors.

Trustee Smith – It is such a blessing and such an honor to be on this council. I am honored to serve as a trustee at this university. This is an incredible place. SRU has nowhere to go but up. Thank you for letting us be here and be a part of it.

Dr. Behre – Mr. Chairman, I will humbly accept the praise on behalf of the SRU community. I have been doing this for a while and this is the strongest team I have ever worked with. Our success is their success.

With no further business, the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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