

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, March 9, 2017
Room 320, Smith Student Center**

A special meeting of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees convened Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 9 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matt Lautman.

At this meeting, the Council considered the selection of members to serve on the SRU Presidential Search Committee pursuant to Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors' Policy, Section B2(b)(2), (4), and 7 of 1983-13-A: Process for Recommending a Presidential Appointment, and any other business that comes before it.

Attendance:

Trustees Participating: Alfonso Angelucci, Matt Lautman, Robert Taylor, Suzanne Vessella, Richard Wukich, Tom Breth, William McCarrier, Jeffrey Smith, Monica Traggiai, Senator Mary Jo White

Trustees Not Participating: Matt Shaner

Introduction: Chairman Lautman

I convened this meeting for the Council to consider the selection of members to serve on the SRU Presidential Search Committee pursuant to the BOG Policy 1983-13-A. This Policy has been on the SRU website since last December. Specifically, I called this Special Meeting so this Council can consider the remaining members to the PSC that require selection by Council. That being:

1. One individual at the executive level from the university that does not report directly to the president;
2. One individual from the non-instructional bargaining unit; and
3. Up to three at-large individuals. The at-large members, per the Policy, should be individuals within the University, including students, selected by the Council to assure appropriate involvement by constituency, gender, race, generation, etc.

The PSC also needs to choose a current or former president from a list designated by the Chancellor to sit on the PSC in a non-voting capacity. The Policy does not indicate whether this is by election of this council. In fact, it is silent to this. So, we will deal with this at the end of our meeting and Mr. Smith can provide more background.

As you all know, at our December 9, Quarterly Business Meeting, Dr. Norton announced her retirement.

- On December 22 this council met and selected its 3 members to serve on the PSC. Those being Jeff Smith, Chair, Tom Breth and Bob Taylor.
- In the beginning of 2017, Mr. Smith sent out letters to various constituencies under the Policy that have the capability to elect and/or appoint members to the PSC along with an alternate.
- Also, during this period of time, Mr. Smith worked with our liaison at the Chancellor's office, Dr. Kathleen Howley, to begin the consultant interview process, along with identifying the current or former president to serve on the PSC in a non-voting capacity.
- On February 14 the final member of the PSC from the nominating groups was identified to Mr. Smith.

Those members are:

Colleen Cooke – appointed faculty member
 Kurt Schimmel – appointed faculty member (alternate)
 Christine Pease Hernandez – Elected faculty member
 Derrick Pitard – elected faculty member (alternate)
 Amanda Nichols – appointed non-instructional member
 Susan Elwell – appointed non-instructional member (alternate)
 Jacklynn Choma – SGA appointed member
 Malika Fields - SGA appointed member (alternate)
 Lisa Holmes – Alumni Association member
 Don Huddart – Alumni Association (alternate)

This information was conveyed to Council in a February 17 email attaching a matrix of the PSC members

- On or about February 15, Mr. Smith, Pursuant to the Policy, and after interviews by the PSC, chose AGB Search to assist with our presidential search.

Also, on February 15, I communicated a list of people, after consultation with Mr. Smith for consideration by Council to sit on the PSC at a special meeting that was scheduled for February 21. These individuals are:

Molly Mercer (executive)
 Michael White (non-instructional)
 Corrine Gibson (at-large)
 Scott Albert (at-large)
 Steve Park (at-large)

Until we knew the composition of the members elected or appointed to the PSC by the nominating groups, we could not identify individuals that provided the necessary diversity we sought, and as directed, by the Policy—namely that the PSC “assure appropriate involvement by constituency, gender, race, generation, etc...”

On February 6, Mr. Wukich provided a list of people for consideration by Council to sit on the PSC. These individuals are:

Erienne Roberts
Andrea Rodriguez
James Revesz
Elliott Baker

Around that same time, I heard from some council members with concerns about the process to select these five remaining members, as well as the pace of the process--that it was moving too quickly. So, on 2/18 I cancelled the Special Meeting. On 2/20 & 2/22 I spoke individually with each of you about the process and the pace of the process.

On February 24 an announcement went out to the University stating, in part, that:

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees will convene a Special Meeting at 9:00 a.m., March 9, 2017 in room 322, Smith Student Center, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

At this meeting, the Council will consider the selection of members to serve on the SRU Presidential Search Committee pursuant to Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors' Policy, Section B2(b)(2), (4), and 7 of 1983-13-A: Process for Recommending a Presidential Appointment, and any other business that comes before it.

This selection includes: one individual from the executive that does not report directly to the president; one individual from the non-instructional bargaining unit; and up to three at-large individuals.

Those interested in being considered by the Council must submit a letter of interest, by e-mail only, to Mary Hennessey at mary.hennessey@sru.edu, by 4 p.m., March 3, 2017. Please note that Council is considering the entire SRU community, not just those that submit a letter of interest.

The public is encouraged to attend.

By the deadline of March 3 at 4 p.m., letters of interest were received from:

Itzi Meztil
Bradley Wilson
H. William White, III
Jerald A. Barris
Amanda Yale
Elliott Baker
Brett Barnett

The letters of interest were conveyed to the full Council on March 6. Moreover, I informed Council that Robert Watson also expressed his interest to serve on the PSC to me. Moreover, I informed Robert Watson and council that in my opinion the Policy only allows this Council to select members to the PSC that are currently employed by or enrolled in the University.

Meaning, Dr. Watson would not be eligible. I believe this also applies to some of those who submitted letters of interest. Specifically, Mr. Barris, Mr. White, and Mr. Baker.

That is a short summary from my perspective of procedurally where we are. Today, I hope we can discuss the selection of the five remaining members to the PSC along with the non-voting President or former President. In my opinion, many members of the SRU community have the necessary engagement with the University and the desired skills to sit on the PSC. But, we as a Council are limited to selecting only five individuals. My hope is that this Council can put forth a PSC with diverse and complementary qualified individuals.

I will remind everyone that once we fill out the PSC, whether today or a later date, the full PSC still needs to be submitted to the Chancellor for approval before the PSC can proceed.

Discussion

Trustee Taylor cited section 4.b., Confidentiality, of the BOG Policy 1983-13-A: Process for Recommending Presidential Appointment. “Confidentiality in presidential searches is essential. Each member of the search committee must agree to maintain confidentiality.” Trustee Taylor commented that it is important that committee members be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the responsibilities of the search consultant and whether or not search committee members should be required to complete a confidentiality agreement.

ACTION

Motion: Confidentiality agreement

Trustee Breth moved, second by Trustee Taylor, the requirement that all participants of the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) shall sign a confidentiality agreement as a requirement to participate on the search committee. Roll Call Vote: 8 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passes.

All members of the Presidential Search Committee shall be required to sign a confidentiality search agreement.

ROLL CALL:

Alfonso Angelucci	Y	Matt Lautman	N	Robert Taylor	Y
Suzanne Vessella	Y	Richard Wukich	N	Tom Breth	Y
William McCarrier	Y	Jeffrey Smith	Y	Monica Traggiai	Y
Senator Mary Jo White	Y				

Discussion

COT Presidential Search Committee Chair Smith referenced PA State System of Higher Education Board of Governors *Policy 1983-13-A: Process for Recommending Presidential Appointment*. According to policy, the chairperson of the Council shall form a committee, with the advice and consent of the Council, to be known as the Presidential Search Committee (PSC).

ACTION

Motion: Selection of five members to the PSC

Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, to approve five members selected by Council to serve on the Presidential Search Committee (PSC). Roll Call Vote: 8 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passes.

The names of community members brought forward for consideration by the full board are:

- Molly Mercer (executive)
- Michael White (non-instructional)
- Corinne Gibson (at-large)
- Scott Albert (at-large)
- Seungku (Steve) Park (at-large)

Alfonso Angelucci	N	Matt Lautman	Y	Robert Taylor	Y
Suzanne Vessella	Y	Richard Wukich	N	Tom Breth	Y
William McCarrier	Y	Jeffrey Smith	Y	Monica Traggiai	Y
Senator Mary Jo White	Y				

Discussion

COT Presidential Search Committee Chair Smith thanked campus community members for their interest in serving on the PSC. We will be establishing a new timeline and we believe a new president will be seated by January 2018. The SRU Council of Trustees will be in consultation with the Chancellor’s Office as to the process for recommending and appointing an Interim President.

One additional item is the selection of a former president/chancellor to be appointed to the PSC as a non-voting member. The Chancellors Office submitted three names of current presidents for Council consideration representing Lock Haven, Clarion and East Stroudsburg. President Michael Fiorentino, Jr., Lock Haven University, is recommended by the COT search committee for full consideration by Council.

ACTION

Motion:

Selection of one current or former president/chancellor from a comparable university from a list designated by the chancellor (non-voting). Trustee Smith moved, second by Trustee Vessella, that Michael Fiorentino, Jr, President of Lock Haven University, be appointed by Council to this post. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:

Alfonso Angelucci	Y	Matt Lautman	Y	Robert Taylor	Y
Suzanne Vessella	Y	Richard Wukich	Y	Tom Breth	Y
William McCarrier	Y	Jeffrey Smith	Y	Monica Traggiai	Y
Senator Mary Jo White	Y				


Discussion

Trustee Taylor offered congratulations and thanks to Chairman Lautman for his leadership and guidance throughout this process. "Matt has taken considerable time over the past three weeks to prepare for this meeting." Trustee Taylor thanked Trustee Smith for his efforts and leadership as Chair of the PSC. Council members expressed their thanks as well.

Chairman Lautman announced the complete list of search committee members will be sent to the Chancellor's Office for final approval. Thank you, trustees, for your participation in today's meeting.

Having no additional items for discussion or action, Trustee Vessella moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



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