

# SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**June 5, 2015**

The quarterly business meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, June 5, 2015, in Room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Mr. Tom Breth, chairperson.

## **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Commissioner William McCarrier, Dr. Robert Marcus, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. Robert Taylor

Trustees absent: Mr. Matt Shaner, Senator Mary Jo White

## **Approval of the June 5, 2015 Meeting Agenda (TAB 22), Appendix A)**

Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, approval of the Friday, June 5, 2015 meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes (TAB 23)**

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Lautman, approval of the Friday, March 20, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Presentations**

SRU's New Web Design

Darcy White, web developer, University Communication and Public Affairs

Video – Disc Golf Tournament The first week in August we will be hosting the world championship disc golf tournament on the beautiful campus of Slippery Rock University. Players and spectators from all over the world will be competing in final competition play on campus. Our hope is to continue to host regional and national championships in the future. Disc golf is the fastest growing sporting event in the world.

## **Public Comments**

Chairman Breth welcomed public comments from the audience. Chairman Breth announced individuals to come forward in order as they appeared on the sign-up sheet with a time limit of three minutes per speaker.

## **Dr. Ben Schaevitz**

Good Afternoon. My name is Ben Schaevitz and I am a professor in the Department of Physics and Pre-engineering. I have just become the president of local APSCUF having just taken over the leadership from Dr. Carolyn Steglich who retired in May with 26 years of service to Slippery Rock University.

I grew up in Chillicothe Ohio, a town about the size of Butler, and attended undergraduate school at Purdue University. I earned my Ph.D. in Experimental Physics from Penn State in 1989. Slippery Rock University was my first academic job and I have worked here my entire career. I wanted to work at a teaching-focused university and Slippery Rock University then as now matched that criteria.

At Slippery Rock University I have worked under 4 presidents, 5 provosts, and 3 deans. I have served on the University Curriculum Committee and was chair of that body for 4 years, was vice-president of APSCUF for 4 years under Dr. Jace Condravy, who served on the Promotions committee for one term, and was chairperson of the Department of Physics for 17 years from 1997 to 2014. During that time the number of physics and pre-engineering graduates increased from about 3 per year to 15 per year in 2015, a 500% increase! I am especially proud that under my leadership the Department of Physics pioneered the use of active-learning pedagogy in the classroom. The new Scale-Up classroom in 175 North Hall is the result of 23 years of experience and focus on pedagogy within the Department. I am excited to bring a passion for teaching, a focus on student success, and leadership experience to the APSCUF presidency.

I think that most people in the audience would concur with me when I proclaim that Slippery Rock University is a special place. In late April, Provost Way presented the “State of the University” to faculty at the University Academic Forum. The statistics comparing SRU’s performance to other PASSHE universities’ was impressive! SRU is ranked #1 in performance indicators with a score of 9.5/10 and had the best 4-year and 6-year graduation rates system-wide! The lists of programs, initiatives, and other qualitative measures of the health of the University were impressive. Based on Provost Way’s analysis it would be hard to refute the observation that Slippery Rock University is among the top schools in PASSHE.

Some may bristle at calling a University “special,” as it is a quite un-objective characterization. I believe that the “specialness” of Slippery Rock University has its foundation in the unwavering focus on students and their success. The physical infrastructure of the campus, the people employed at all levels of operation, and the academic and non-academic programs are purposefully managed into a system that exists entirely for student success.

A great example of synergy amongst the elements of Slippery Rock University is Saturday Showcase. Employees from every division of the university are involved in presenting the University to potential students and their families; custodians, groundskeepers, facilities workers, secretaries, Student Life personnel, Admissions staff, faculty, and administrators are all involved. The entire University is showcased; the academics, the student life, and the infrastructure – in a highly purposeful and engaging way. When I represent my Department at Saturday Showcase I delight in the challenge of showing up the other Academic Departments using my “Mr. Wizard” cart of various physics demonstrations. My table is packed with vibrating strings, small heat engines, electric motors, lasers, springs, polarizers, levitating magnets, refracting glass plates, and a few pieces of recruiting literature. I try to show students and families visiting that physics has an experimental basis and is not just formulas, numbers, and calculations. Physics is about the natural world and learning physics at Slippery Rock University involves an intimate connection with that physical world. These demonstrations provide me a “hook” to communicate my most important message - that Slippery Rock University is a teaching-focused institution and a large part of the experience is the “face time” available with faculty and staff. A hard sell isn’t necessary; Slippery Rock University sells itself. Saturday Showcase, I feel, demonstrates that SRU is special. So, how does APSCUF fit in to this picture? A naïve view is that APSCUF is only about the compensation and working conditions for faculty. However, I contend that APSCUF actually is one of the primary contributors to the focus on students and student success at Slippery Rock University. Let me give you a few examples of this relationship:

1. Incentives to succeed – Faculty must navigate rigorous peer and administrative review for tenure, promotion, and every 5-years after tenure with a primary importance on teaching excellence.

2. Shared Governance – Collective bargaining seeks to maintain the influence of educators in curriculum, policies, and hiring.

3. Quality faculty – A fair contract attracts fine individuals, scholars, teachers, and authorities in their field to the classroom.

4. Engaged Campus Atmosphere – Faculty bolster SRU’s welcoming and enriching environment, in part because their contract promotes equity.

The effective representation of faculty by APSCUF and the sincere and collegial relationships between management and faculty are of primary importance to student success at Slippery Rock University. As APSCUF president I pledge to continue to work with management and the other divisions of the University to make Slippery Rock University even more special.

As a final note some of you know that the Athletic Coaches are members of a bargaining unit represented by APSCUF. There are approximately 450 student-athletes at Slippery Rock University which is about 5% of the entire student body. In a meeting with several coaches last week they shared a statistic that the average GPA for student-athletes for AY 2014-2015 was 0.2 points higher than that for the entire student body. The coaches are extremely proud of this statistic and its positive impact on recruiting. They also shared with me the final rankings for the Dixon Cup. The Dixon Cup is awarded based on the overall cumulative record for all athletic teams in PSAC. Slippery Rock University placed 3rd in the Dixon Cup this year and is one of the highest rankings in recent history. Hat’s-off to the coaches for their mentoring and guidance and to the student-athletes for their on-the field and off-the-field performance.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working together to make Slippery Rock University even more special place to study and work.

### **Dr. Itzi Meztli**

Mr. Chairperson, Commissioner McCarrier, Trustee Smith and the rest of the Council of Trustees, President Norton, Provost Way, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Itzi Meztli, I am a tenured professor, assistant professor in the Department of English. It pleases me today to express my gratitude for working at such a great institution of higher learning.

I have been working at Slippery Rock University for 12 years, hired in the fall of 2003. Prior to my arrival, I was teaching at a small liberal arts college in northern New Jersey within the New York area. The college had a student population of about 1800 students, very diverse. However, I knew that obtaining a PASSHE position was a plum opportunity. I was a bit hesitant to come to Western Pennsylvania, having been originally from south Texas, but I was willing to take the risk. What I soon realized is that Slippery Rock University is a wonderful place. I have never regretted my decision. My gratitude is extended to President Norton and Provost Way, our co-captains of the ship called SRU. We’ve gone through some stormy weather together. We are doing very well here and I thank you for your leadership. I want to support your efforts in recruiting students from all over the world, especially the Asian countries.

I would also like to acknowledge the good work of my colleague, Dr. Chris Kreiser who put together the curriculum for the Gateway Program, which is working out of the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry, PA. This is a great way to prepare students for college and helps our recruitment overall. In closing, it’s been a great twelve years. I am so happy to be here and expect to retire from SRU. I just wanted to take a few moments to express my gratitude. Thank you for your time.

**Abby Wetzel**

My name is Abby Wetzel, I am a student athlete on the women's volleyball team. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for opening a part-time position for an assistant coach. The team appreciates your response to our request; however, we are still not satisfied and are asking that you would consider making this a full-time position to help us with the continuity of the team. A permanent position would ensure that a person is with us for many years as opposed to leaving after one or two seasons. Overall, however, we are grateful for at least having a part-time position. Thank you.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Cheryl J. Norton provided remarks (**Appendix B**)

Before President Norton began her report, she was especially pleased to introduce our student nominee, Ms. Monica Traggia. Monica is a rising junior, she is a dual major in dance and early childhood education, and is our nominee to be the new student trustee. Monica is waiting to have her nomination confirmed by PASSHE and the Governor's Office. In the meantime, Monica is on her way to Duke University to participate in the American Dance Festival. Monica, Welcome! We look forward to having you join the Council of Trustees at Slippery Rock University.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix C)**

Trustee Matt Lautman provided the following report on behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The committee met yesterday afternoon and reviewed a number of items for Council information and action:

Provost Way introduced Dr. Warren Anderson, Associate Provost for Student Success. Dr. Anderson assumed his new role of Associate Provost for Student Success at Slippery Rock University on May 13, 2015. Prior to SRU, Dr. Anderson served as Associate Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion at Clarkson University and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at East Stroudsburg University. He also served for two years at the PA State System of Higher Education as Director of Student Access and Support. Dr. Anderson earned his Doctor of Education from Widener University and Master of Education from Eastern University. He and his fiancé, Mildred, reside in Cranberry Township.

Two proposed academic programs were brought to committee for review and action:

Ms. Ursula Payne, Professor, Dance, provided a detailed presentation of the proposed BFA in Dance program. The committee recommended approval of the program to move forward for consideration of the full Council.

Dr. Athula Herat, Associate Professor, Physics and Pre-Engineering, provided a detailed presentation of the proposed BS in Petroleum/Natural Gas Engineering program. The committee recommended approval of the program to move forward for consideration of the full Council.

Other items presented as information:

- 1) Strategic Planning Update/2014-2015 Action Plan was presented by President Cheryl Norton and Provost Philip Way. President Norton presented the revised University mission statement to trustees as information.
- 2) Dr. Amanda Yale, Associate Provost Enrollment Services, provided an enrolment update.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

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

Chairman Breth provided the report of the Finance Committee in the absence of committee chair Senator Mary Jo White. The committee met yesterday to review a number of items for action and information. In addition to the routine items, there were two presentations:

- Auditors Presentation (by teleconference) – David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
- Preliminary Campus Master Plan Update presented by Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Vice President. Finance and Administrative Affairs

Action items recommended by the committee to move forward for Council approval:

- Meal Plan Fees and Contract with AVI Food Systems, Inc., Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders

Information items included the financial report, the Facilities and Planning Project List, the 2015 Summer Project Schedule and HR personnel items.

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

Mr. Jeff Smith, chair, provided the following report:

The Governance Committee met this morning to discuss a number of items for action and as information.

President Norton presented a naming proposal to committee for approval. The request, from the faculty of the Department of Exercise Science, is to honor Dr. Susan Hannam, Dean, College of Health, Environment and Science, upon the occasion of her retirement following 28 years of distinguished service.

As the letters of support from her colleagues so eloquently reflect, Susan has demonstrated throughout her tenure at Slippery Rock University, incredible commitment to her athletic training roots, to her colleagues, and especially to her students. To recognize and honor Susan's significant contributions to the Athletic Training program and the Department of Exercise and Rehabilitative Sciences at SRU, President Norton submitted the request to Council to dedicate Patterson Hall classroom 202 (the athletic training lab) to recognize Dr. Hannam's contributions to SRU and her discipline by naming the classroom, the Susan E. Hannam Athletic Training Laboratory. Committee members were most pleased to move forward the President's recommendation for consideration by the full Council.

The President's Triennial Evaluation was completed and we are now moving the evaluation committee's revised letter to the full Council for review at Executive Session and vote by Council at the business meeting. The final evaluation letter will be provided to the Chancellor and Board of Governor's for final approval.

As mentioned before, the evaluation committee met with numerous constituency groups and over 50+ individuals to gather comments and feedback about the progress of the university and any areas of improvement to make this an even better institution. Dr. John Moore was the facilitator for the evaluation and we appreciated his guidance throughout the process. Chairman Breth shared that Trustee Smith provided important oversight and his efforts were appreciated by Council.

The SRU Council of Trustees slate of officers for 2015-2016:

Mary Jo White, Chair  
 Matt Lautman, Vice-Chair  
 Secretary, Jeff Smith

Meeting Dates: 2015-2016:

September 2 & 3, 2015  
 December 3 & 4, 2015  
 March 17 & 18, 2016  
 June 9 & 10, 2016

Holly McCoy, AVP, Diversity and Equal Opportunity and Title IX coordinator and Lynne Motyl, AVP for Human Resources, presented a Minor's on Campus Policy Update. As a sign of the times, there is a legal requirement for all employees, boards, and volunteers of the institution to complete background checks.

Trustees completed the necessary paperwork and fingerprinting with assistance from personnel from the Human Resources and Diversity and Equal Opportunity Departments.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

**University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)**

Commissioner Bill McCarrier provided the report of the University Advancement Committee.

The University Advancement Committee met at 4:00 p.m. yesterday. Samantha Swift and Ed Bucha provided the following updates for the committee.

Gift Income as of the end of the most recent quarter (March 31, 2015) totaled \$2,227,935. Gift income year-to-date totals \$2.55 million.

Dr. Bucha reviewed The Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. Balance Sheet Summary, Statement of Income and Expenses Summary, and Investment Portfolio Summary. Assets and liabilities as of March 31, 2015 totaled \$30,638,788. The market value of the investment portfolio increased \$1.69 million at the close of the March 2015 quarter compared to the same timeframe of the prior year.

Dr. Bucha highlighted several activities and projects undertaken by the Foundation Board of Directors, some of which include: refinancing the Series 2005 Bonds for Residence Suites, 2015-16 budget preparations, scholarship presentation, etc.

Ms. Swift provided a review of the Development Cycle, which includes Identification, Cultivation, Solicitation and Stewardship. She discussed the recent Scholarship Luncheon and Annual

Recognition Banquet, regional alumni receptions and upcoming alumni engagement opportunities, highlighting the importance of these types of stewardship events.

Ms. Swift updated the committee on continuing initiatives, including fundraising programs associated with SRU's 125th Anniversary, planned giving and phonathon and direct mail solicitations. She noted that identifying priorities and planning fiscal year 2015-16 fundraising initiatives is ongoing, and will include the introduction of crowd funding.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

### **Executive Session (Appendix, F1)**

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### **BFA/Dance Program Proposal (TAB 6, Appendix G)**

Trustee Lautman moved, seconded by Commissioner McCarrier, approval of the BFA/Dance Program at Slippery Rock University by roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

Motion: That the Council of Trustee of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approves the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance to move forward to the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education for final approval.

#### **BS in Petroleum/Natural Gas Engineering Program Proposal (TAB 7, Appendix H)**

Trustee Lautman moved, seconded by Commissioner McCarrier, approval of the BS in Petroleum/Natural Gas Engineering Program at Slippery Rock University. Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 in favor; 3 opposed.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	No	Trustee Taylor	No
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	No

Motion: That the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approves the Bachelor of Science in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering to move forward to the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education for final approval contingent upon Board of Governors approval of a permanent PNGE program fee with the exception to Student Fees BOG Policy 1989-05-A allowing a PNGE program fee to be assessed and set to increase regularly at the rate of tuition.

**Meal Plan Contract/Fees (TAB 8, Appendix I)**

Trustee Murray moved, seconded by Trustee Smith approval of the Meal Plan Contract and Fees. The 2015-2016 academic year will be year six of the contract between Slippery Rock University and AVI Food Systems, Inc. for the provision of food services to the campus. The CPI for the 2015-2016 year is 2.99%. The default meal plan charged to all SRU residence hall students is the 15-meal/\$255 flex plan. The fee increase will be \$49.00 per semester. Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 in favor; 3 opposed.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	No	Trustee Taylor	No
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	No

**Contracts (TAB 9, Appendix J)**

Trustee Murray moved, seconded by Commissioner McCarrier, approval of the Contracts. Motion carried by roll call vote, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, with one abstention.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Abstained
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**Fixed Assets (TAB 10, Appendix K)**

Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Trustee Murray, approval of the Fixed Assets. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**Service & Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 11, Appendix L)**

Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Trustee Murray, approval of the Service & Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**Laboratory/Naming Request (TAB 12, Appendix M)**

Trustee Vessella moved, seconded by Trustee Lautman, approval of naming Room 202 Patterson Hall (the athletic training lab), the Susan E. Hannam Athletic Training Laboratory. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. (SRU COT RESOLUTION)



Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**Triennial Evaluation – President Cheryl J. Norton (TAB 13)**

Trustee Vessella moved, seconded by Trustee Marcus, approval of the triennial evaluation of President Cheryl J. Norton. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Yes	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**Election of Officers – SRU Council of Trustees**

Trustee Murray moved, seconded by Trustee Marcus, approval of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees slate of officers for 2015-2016. Motion carried 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Senator Mary Jo White, Chair  
Trustee Matt Lautman, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Jeff Smith, Secretary

Trustee Breth	Yes	Trustee Murray	Yes
Trustee Lautman	Abstained	Trustee Smith	Yes
Trustee Marcus	Yes	Trustee Taylor	Yes
Commissioner McCarrier	Yes	Trustee Vessella	Yes

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Meeting Dates 2015 - 2016**

June 4 & 5, 2015  
September 2 & 3, 2015  
March 17 & 18, 2016  
June 9 & 10, 2016

**HR Personnel Items (TAB 15) (Appendix N)**

**Financial Report (TAB 16) (Appendix O)**

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 17) (Appendix P)**

**Campus Master Plan Update (Appendix Q)**

**2015 Summer Project List (Appendix R)**

**Divisional Reports (TAB 20)**

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustee Bob Taylor: I would like to extend thanks to Tom Breth for his leadership as Chair of our Council for the past year. Tom worked many hours with Dr. Norton and her team in addition to his other professional obligations. Even before he became chairman, he was very active and established goals that are meaningful for the President's evaluation process. Thank you, Tom.

Also, we will soon be losing an important member of our leadership team. Dr. Hannam has always been a tremendous asset to SRU, I will miss her, she has always been pleasant with a smile on her face. Thank you, Dr. Hanna, for your leadership.

I would also like to commend the organization of these meetings. It is completely heartening over this past year to see the attendance of our faculty, staff, and especially the students at our meetings. We appreciate hearing from the students who are very passionate about the causes they support. This is something we have fostered and we hope the students especially will stand up at the microphone and tell us how they feel. We've had a wonderful public participation at these meetings.

Trustee Bob Marcus – It's a great day to be at the Rock.

Trustee Dennis Murray – I'm glad to be back on campus for the meeting today. My appreciation is extended to Jeff for a wonderful job on the Triennial review. My thanks to all for a job well done.

Trustee Matt Lautman – I would like to thank Dr. Athula Herat for his fantastic explanation of the PNGE Program. Thank you also to Chairman Breth for your leadership.

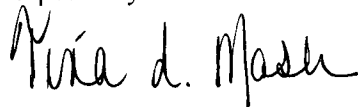
Commissioner Bill McCarrier – I would like to speak to the new programs moving forward today. Our University leaders have the vision for the needs of our students and our society. Both the Dance and PNGE programs are exciting and will be beneficial to our students in preparing for their futures.

Jeff Smith – As Chair of the Evaluation Committee for the Triennial Review, I was fortunate enough to sit through the interviews of 50+ individuals, listening to the different groups. Everyone had a slightly different perspective, and this experience helped me gain a better appreciation for all of the people who make up this wonderful community. Again, a great experience and the next couple of years we will continue to interview the constituency groups. I would encourage my fellow trustees to take advantage of that experience. I hope for as long as I am here, Dr. Norton is here to review.

Tom Breth – It's been a privilege and an honor to serve as Chair of this Council. I look forward to working with our new Chair, Mary Jo White, and continue to work together as a cohesive Council for the good of Slippery Rock University.

With no further business, the Friday, June 5, 2015 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Trustee Lautman moved, seconded by Trustee Murray, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:



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