

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

**March 24, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304 of Old Main on Friday, March 24, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Vice-Chairperson.

### Attendance

Trustees present: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Ken Blair, Ms. Angele Waugaman, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Nicholas DeRosa, and Mr. John Thornburgh.

Trustees absent: Mr. Richard Christofer, Dr. Van Peterson (excused), and Dr. Dennis Murray (excused).

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ken Blair moved, seconded by Dr. Robert Marcus that the minutes of the September 9, 2005 meeting be approved and submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

Vice-Chairperson Vessella gave the audience an opportunity to address the Council at this time. President Smith asked candidates for the student trustee position to stand and introduce themselves. There were no additional public comments.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

(Appendix A)

President Smith distributed the Report of the President to the Council and provided comments.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### University Advancement Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor, Esq., Chairperson for the University Advancement Committee provided the following report to the Council.

The Advancement Committee met yesterday to strategize and provide assistance to the University Advancement office with the University's financial and fundraising goals. Mr. Taylor reported that last year, 100% of Trustees were credited with providing support to the University. The committee established a \$1000 goal for each Trustee to contribute annually, however, it is understood that Trustees will contribute according to their individual means. Mr. Taylor noted with the fiscal year ending June 30, it is the hope of the committee that all Trustees will again participate in this initiative in the coming year.

Mr. Taylor also thanked Mr. Bob Mollenhauer and his staff for their continued efforts with the moves management process. The Committee discussed a number of items including the development of a Corporate Friends of the Rock program for the purpose of attracting corporate support and involvement via sponsorship of special events. This program is under the direction of Mr. Bob Mollenhauer, Mr. Ross Feltz, and Ms. Deb Baker. Ms. Waugaman organized a student focus group with eight current students and two recent alums. The group discussed three main areas of interest which included better communication with current students and recent alums, that those students giving back to the university should receive some type of recognition for giving back, and the need to cultivate a greater interaction between older alums and recent alums. The focus should not be so specifically on mentoring, but more so on a general communication between alums. Mr. Taylor was especially impressed with the contributing dialog from our current students and recent alums during this session.

The Division of University Advancement is reported gifts and pledges received since the last Council of Trustees meeting include:

- A 30-acre farm valued at \$209,468 from Lois Hamilton that, when sold, the proceeds will be used to establish scholarships,
- \$150,000 from the Howard Heinz Endowment for the Regional Learning Alliance,
- \$25,000 from ING Financial Services for the performing arts series,
- \$25,000 from Mary Hulton Phillips for the SRU Jazz Band's trip to Europe next summer,
- \$18,800 from the Hoyt Foundation for the New Castle I CARE House,
- \$10,000 from J. William Shiner, professor emeritus, on his \$20,000 pledge for the Dr. Bill Shiner Scholarship, and
- \$1,250 from David and Delysa Descutner on their \$5,000 pledge for the Nesbit and Dorothy Descutner Scholarship.

In addition, the recently established Kyle McFeely Memorial Scholarship account totals \$10,795. Kyle was a safety management student who was tragically killed in an automobile accident during Homecoming weekend.

As of February 28, 2006, The Campaign for Slippery Rock University gifts and pledges total \$21.2 million, representing 64% of the \$33 million Campaign goal. Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 as of February 28 total \$1,804,018.93. The System Accountability Performance indicators for University Advancement are total charitable giving less the top three gifts and the value of the endowment. As of February 28, the charitable giving total less the top three gifts is \$1,232,013.15; and the value of the endowment as of January 31 is \$17,586,164.72, a 9% increase over last year. The charitable endowment represents the combined totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and Alumni Association endowments.

#### Student Life Committee

Dr. Robert Watson, Vice President for Student Life, provided the report of the Student Life Committee. Mr. John Thornburgh, Chairperson of the Student Life Committee, requested that Dr. Watson provide his last report to the Council. "It is with deep remorse and regret, but also with great appreciation that I ask Dr. Watson to provide what is his final report as the Vice President for Student Life." (*Dr. Watson will retire from Slippery Rock University on March 31 with 34 years of outstanding service.*)

First, residence suite construction continues ahead of schedule and this past week the model suite was open to prospective students and parents. All accounts report extremely positive reactions to the model suite. Secondly, the student union referendum took place in early December with the students voting nearly four to one for the design and construction of a new facility. Thirdly, after more than six months of comprehensive review involving the Student Athletic Advisory Council and the coaches union, it was decided that eight varsity sports would be discontinued effective the end of the spring semester. Fourthly, tragically on February 7, 2006 a female student was found dead in her Harner Hall room. To date, all toxicology reports are not known but it is anticipated that the coroner will identify the cause of death as natural causes.

Finally, on Friday, March 3, 2006 a house fire at 133 West Cooper Street resulted with three students losing all of their personal possessions. Fortunately, they are physically well and have realized first hand the positive spirit of the Slippery Rock University community through responses from cash donations through gratis living quarters. The students have expressed their extreme gratitude to the SRU community.

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs provided the following report to the Council.

Items reviewed for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, Compliance with Board of Governors Policy 1985-04-A, the 2006-2007 Capital Budget Project, and two street name changes. Construction project listing was reviewed. Personnel appointments, resignations and retirements were reviewed. Ms. Kimberly Greco, internal auditor, discussed projects completed the third quarter of FY 2006 as well as projects in process, which include the technology fee audit and preparation for the System Accountability Program Performance Review.

Projects are continuing to evolve throughout the year: Advanced Technology and Science Hall is near completion; an upgrade of the lecture hall in Strain Behavioral Science is to be completed this summer; and a design to renovate Vincent Science Hall has begun. These projects will clearly enhance the teaching and learning environment.

Since fall 2005, Diversity efforts have continued with the following: hired 6 regular managers, 5 female; and hired 8 tenure track faculty, 6 female and 3 persons of color.

Since October 2005 through December, we offered 12 training sessions in which 117 participated. January – March 2006 we conducted 19 training sessions with 199 participants. Since July 2005, one online program has been conducted with 29 participants. Two additional online courses are being finalized.

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. Robert Marcus, Chairperson for the Academic Affairs Committee, provided the following overview from the report provided by Dr. William F. Williams, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

During the last several months, Slippery Rock University had three significant programmatic actions:

- The Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work has put forward a new program proposal to move Criminology and Criminal Justice from a track in Sociology to a stand-alone Bachelor of Arts Degree program.
- An accrediting team from the National Council on Social Work Education visited the Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work Department October 5-7 to review the Social Work program and the program was reaccredited.
- Biology changed Cyto-technology and Medical Technology from stand-alone programs to tracks because of the low number of graduates.

For the Fall Semester of 2006 applications from students seeking admission to Slippery Rock University are well above last year's level.

- First-year student applications are at 4122 compared to 3343 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student applications are at 394 compared to 297 for last year at this time.

- African-American student applications are at 342 compared to 245 for last year at this time.
- Latino-American student applications are at 55 versus 39 for last year at this time.
- Out-of-state student applications are at 665 compared to 126 for last year at this time.

The increase in the number of applications for next year is attributable to the excitement being generated by the new student housing project and to our out-of-state tuition policy change that took effect last year. Applications reflect significant increase in interest in Exercise Science, Biology, Chemistry, Communications, Elementary Education and Special Education.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### Resolution – Compliance with Board of Governor’s Policy 1985-04-A (TAB 2)

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Ms. Waugaman that the Resolution – Compliance with Board of Governor’s Policy 1985-04-A be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix B)

#### Contracts (TAB 3)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Ms. Waugaman that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

#### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 5)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Ms. Waugaman that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

#### 2006-2007 Capital Budget Project (TAB 6)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. Blair that the 2006-2007 Capital Budget Project be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

#### Resolution – Street Name Changes (TAB 7)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the Resolution renaming Rocket Drive to Rock Pride Drive and renaming Rocket Way to Green and White Way be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

Resolution – Naming of Science and Technology Building (TAB 8)

Ms. Waugaman moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the Resolution naming the newly completed science and technology building the Advanced Technology and Science Hall be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix H)

Dining Services Fee Structure (TAB 9)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Mr. DeRosa that the request to approve the Dining Services Fee Structure (Budget 06-07) be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I).

Residence Hall Fees (TAB 10)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh that the request to approve the Residence Hall Fees (Budget -6-07) be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix J).

Resolution – Naming of Conference Room 108 (Old Main) (TAB 11)

Mr. Blair moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor that the Resolution to rename Conference Room 108 in Old Main to the “Dr. Robert Marcus Executive Conference Room” be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix K).

*(Mr. Blair noted that Dr. Marcus is a wonderful example of someone who truly supports his alma mater as a caring and generous alumnus through his dedication to provide financial support for students from non-majority backgrounds as well as for an absolute passion for the students of Slippery Rock and giving of his time and talents as a Trustee. We hope many will aspire to his spirit of giving back and we are all thrilled to see Dr. Marcus honored in this way.)*

Resolution – Naming of Building C (Housing Complex) (TAB 12)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the Resolution to name Building C of the Housing Complex “Robert J. Watson Hall” be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix L).

*(Mr. Kyle Kekic, representing the membership of the Association of Residence Hall Students, presented Dr. Robert Watson with a framed design of building C of the Student Housing Complex depicting the name “Robert J. Watson Hall”).*

*(Ms. Angele Waugaman presented Dr. Watson with a framed resolution and offered thanks for his service to the students of Slippery Rock University.)*

*(Mr. Blair noted that Dr. Watson has served the University through tremendous service for many, many years and has shown great compassion for the students of this University – he will be very much missed and we thank him for his service. This is such a fitting way to honor his dedication and selfless leadership).*

*(Mr. Thornburgh echoed Mr. Blair’s sentiments and wished Dr. Watson well in his retirement.)*

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2006.

### Substitute Instructional Appointment

Instructional Appointments Effective the Second Semester, 2005-2006

Instructional Appointment Effective the First Semester, 2006-2007

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointments

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointments

Grant-Funded Program Coordinator Appointment

Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointment

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Professor Emeriti

Tuition Waiver for New International Students - 0106

Judicial Programs Report

Quarterly Internal Audit Report

Facilities and Planning Construction Projects

Audited Financial Statements

Inspection Draft Report

SRU Internal Financial Statements

**Quarterly Division Reports**

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Thornburgh commented on the difficult budget decisions facing Harrisburg and the importance that the funding received permit us to continue to provide the excellent quality education our students deserve and expect.

Mr. DeRosa wished Dr. Watson the best in retirement and offered thanks for serving the students so well these many years.

Ms. Hawkins offered best wishes and thanks to Dr. Watson and Ms. Waugaman for their friendship and service – “you both have made me feel so welcome.” Ms. Hawkins commented that this is only her second meeting, but this will be a memorable one.

Ms. Waugaman commented on what an amazing experience this has been for her and she encouraged the student trustee candidates to stay active and involved in campus life. “Even if you are not selected for this position, you can contribute in so many other ways as an advocate for students.” Ms. Waugaman thanked the Council for mentoring her through this experience.

Mr. Taylor wished Dr. Watson well in his retirement and commended him for 34 years of exceptional service. “You have been such an advocate for students and you will be missed.” Mr. Taylor also thanked President Smith for his exceptional leadership. He wished Ms. Waugaman well and commented that Angele is a wonderful example of the student body at Slippery Rock University. Congratulations and best wishes in your professional role with Deloitte and Touche. Mr. Taylor also commended the student trustee candidates for their pursuit of this position and willingness to serve in this important leadership role.

Ms. Vessella provided thanks to Dr. Watson and Ms. Waugaman for their outstanding service and wished them both well in their future pursuits.

With no further business, the Friday, December 2, 2005 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Dr. Marcus moved, Ms. Waugaman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.