

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

**December 15, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304 of Old Main on Friday, December 15, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Chairperson.

### Attendance

Trustees present: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Ken Blair, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. Dennis Murray, Dr. Van Peterson, and Mr. Scott McCaskey

Trustees absent: Mr. Richard Christofer, Mr. John Thornburgh, and Mr. Nick DeRosa.

### Approval of Minutes

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Blair that the minutes of the September 8, 2006 meeting be approved and submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

Ms. Vessella gave the audience an opportunity to address the Council at this time. Ms. Amie Homa, President of the Slippery Rock University Student Government Association (SGA), provided a report of SGA activities.

- Instituted a plan to revive the Rock Rowdies, a fan base on campus. Took about 200 students to the IUP game this past semester, which indicates an interest to continue this group. Working collaboratively with the Student Society of America, a campus student group, to promote Rock Rowdies on campus
- Continuing to work with the Advancement Office on the senior class gift – Kiester Road entrance sign to match the pillars
- Reinstated library hours to 2 a.m., with the library operational 24 hours through finals week
- A new student lounge will be available to students in the McKay Education Building beginning next semester
- Completed a student survey to assist in determining the presence and impact SGA has on campus – returned a 10% response
- Witnessing very good attendance at SGA meetings
- SGA will continue to work on numerous exciting initiatives in the spring semester

## 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., Chair for the University Advancement Committee provided the following report to the Council.

The Advancement Committee continues to provide assistance to the University Advancement office with the University's financial and fundraising goals. The President's Gala has produced a net total of \$93,000 for student scholarships. The Gala was a great success with 296 in attendance. The Gala Committee are to be congratulated for a job well done.

As of November 24, 2006, The Campaign for Slippery Rock University gifts and pledges totaled \$26.9 million, representing 81% of the \$33 million Campaign goal. Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 as of November 27 totaled \$1,331,193.28, a 73% increase over last year at this time. As of November 27, the charitable giving total less the top three gifts was \$693,943.28; and the value of the endowment as of October 31 was \$19,123,948.74, a 16.35% increase over last year. The endowment represents the combined totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and Alumni Association endowments.

A fourteen-member fundraising planning team for the proposed performing arts center has convened twice to identify markets, communication plans, and sources of revenue. The committee will develop a fundraising plan and make recommendations to President Smith.

The Advancement division website will be upgraded to include a microsite that is an attachment to the "Giving at SRU" portion of the website, and it will include two short videos and donors' testimonials. The website will also include a focus on gift planning. A DVD on the importance of giving at SRU and a brochure highlighting SRU's endowed scholarship donors will be mailed to Rock Society, Legacy Society, and Lifetime Giving Club members.

The Celebration of Giving event, honoring Rock donors, was held on Saturday, December 2. The event included a campus tour that highlighted the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center, the new student residential suites, and the Advanced Technology and

Science Hall. Following the tour, close to 100 guests attended a reception and dinner in North Hall. The Celebration of Giving was sponsored by RBI Development, the developer of the proposed "Village at Slippery Rock."

### Student Life Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, Vice President for Student Life, provided the committee report on behalf of Mr. John Thornburgh, Chair for the Student Life Committee. Dr. Foley provided highlights of activities since September 2006 for the Division of Student Life.

Student Health Services administered 321 influenza vaccines to faculty and staff and 379 influenza vaccines to students as a proactive measure to improve the overall health of the campus and to decrease missed class time secondary to illness. Immunization efforts continue as Influenza season approaches. Utilization of electronic office management software has allowed the Student Health Services to track health data and student need trends in an accurate and efficient manner. Analysis of the data has shown an increase in alcohol related health problems and psychiatric concerns.

The Counseling Center has completed its move to Rhoads Hall, which will provide additional space allowing for professional internship opportunities to the graduate students in the Counseling & Development Department.

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership developed and implemented new programs this quarter including a Sophomore Welcome Back Reception, Sophomore Workshop Series, STAR Sophomore Mentoring Program, Homecoming and an Emerging Leader Program.

Dr. Foley commented that plans are moving forward for the new university union and the development of a conference bureau that will be located in the university union as a joint effort between Athletics, the current Camps and Conference program, the Foundation, and Residence Life. Dining Services is working on plans for the Boozel renovation project approved at the September Council of Trustees meeting.

Athletics had a very successful Fall Sports season with Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Women's Tennis, Football and Women's Volleyball all performing well in either the PSAC or NCAA playoffs. Several student-athletes were selected to receive individual awards in contributing to their team's success. SRU also hosted the NCAA DII East Cross Country Regional, WPIAL Cross Country Championships, and PIAA football playoff games.

Residence Life reports that Building C. Watson Hall, was fully opened October 14-16 by students occupying Bard and Harner Halls. The demolition of Founders Hall has begun and should be completed by March 2007.

### Finance & Audit Committee

Dr. Van Peterson, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, provided the following report to the Council.

Items reviewed for Council action included: Contracts, Fixed Assets, and the Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Also presented was a request to approve FY 2006-2007 Fire Department Contributions, and a Resolution to approve the construction of a 4,700 square foot locker room facility at N. Kerr Thompson Stadium, which will serve both the field hockey and lacrosse teams.

Dr. Peterson also reported the implementation of background checks for new faculty members beginning with the fall of 2007 hires. The SECA (state employees combined appeal) Campaign exceeded the dollar goal of \$20,000 with a total of \$21,225 based on 83 participants.

### 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 three months, Slippery Rock University had two significant programmatic actions and a significant recognition:

- At the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland the Theatre Department received outstanding reviews for its production of David Skeele's play, *DARK NORTH*. A British critic from *Three Weeks* referred to the play as "one of the most gripping and original pieces of theatre I've ever seen, and it deserves a packed house every night."
- In July the Board of Governors approved the Bachelor of Art in Criminology and Criminal Justice as a stand alone program.
- In August we sent a letter of intention to The Office of the Chancellor to create a new major in Adaptive Physical Activity.

Enrollments for fall 2006 are strong:

- Currently 8,234 students are enrolled at SRU for fall 2006 compared to 8,045 last year.
- Currently we are 1.9% ahead of last year in credit hours generated.
- Our Mean SAT combined score for new first year students is 1002 compared to 1001 last year.

- The percentage of new students in the top 25% of their graduating high school has remained at 29%, the same as last year.
- Registered out-of-state students are currently at 206 compared to 148 last year.
- Registered transfer students from Pennsylvania Community Colleges are at 13% compared to 12.45% last year.
- 133 African-American students are registered compared to 96 last year.

Dr. Marcus concluded his remarks by commenting that the impressive work of the faculty and staff within Academic Affairs is certainly apparent.

### **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

#### Contracts (TAB 2)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. McCaskey that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix B)

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

Dr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Blair that the Fixed Assets be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

#### Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Peterson that the Service and Supply Purchase Orders be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

#### FY 2006-2007 Fire Department Contributions (TAB 5)

Dr. Peterson moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the FY 2006-2007 Fire Department Contributions be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

*Dr. Peterson commented that we do owe a lot to our volunteer firemen, they contribute a good bit to the area and provide an important community service and we appreciate their efforts.*

#### Resolution – Stadium Locker Room Facility (TAB 6)

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus that the Resolution – Stadium Locker Room Facility be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

Council of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2007 (TAB 7)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Blair that the Council of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2007 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2007.

Substitute Instructional Appointments

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester, 2006-07

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointment

State University Administrator Appointments

Grant-Funded Program Coordinator Appointments

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Dismissal of Support Staff

Professor Emeritus Status

Adjunct Faculty

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report)**

**Quarterly Internal Audit Report**

**Quarterly Division Reports**

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dr. Marcus thanked President Smith for his tremendous leadership, and commented that it is always a great pleasure coming to campus and meeting with friends. He also commended Amie Homa for a great report of SGA activities.

Mr. McCaskey commented on the success of the President's Gala and the Celebration of Giving – two important events. He also wished everyone a safe & happy holiday.

Dr. Peterson sends congratulations to our students who have ended another semester of intensive study and to our graduates for choosing our university in order to prepare themselves to go out into the world as capable citizens and support the community and country as best they can. Dr. Peterson acknowledged Mr. Blair for his outstanding efforts on the council and appreciates his fine work in service to the university.

Mr. Blair acknowledged Dr. Van Peterson for his extraordinary work as a member of the SRU Council and commended his service as an executive committee member of PACT. "Van – you have represented the university in the most complimentary light and we thank you for your leadership and friendship."

Dr. Murray extended congratulations on a job well done to President Smith for his leadership. "You have mapped out a long-range plan to prepare this university for the future." Dr. Murray also thanked Dr. Peterson and Mr. Blair for their mentorship of him and leadership to the university while serving on this Council.

Grace Hawkins commented on how excited she was to hear about our five-year goals and the method in place to achieve our goals.

Bob Taylor thanked Amie Homa for a great report and is very impressed with the student leadership on campus. He also thanked Scott McCaskey for his diligence in keeping the students in communication and connected with the Council. Mr. Taylor also welcomed Rita Abent to the university. He concluded by wishing all a happy holiday season.

Suzanne Vessella thanked Amie Homa for an informative and impressive report of SGA activities. She also thanked Van and Ken for their impressive service to the University and Council, and ended with thanks to President Smith for his continued fine leadership, and wished all a happy holiday season.

President Smith thanked the Council for their support, their commitment, and their time in service to the university. "Thank you for your confidence in Slippery Rock University." Dr. Smith commended Scott for his work as Student Trustee, saying, "Scott is a terrific student trustee – he represents the Council and student body so well." President Smith wished everyone "Happy Holidays."

With no further business, the Friday, December 15, 2006 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:20 p.m. Mr. Taylor moved, Ms. Hawkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.