

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**December 12, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in the Watson Family Conference Room of the Alumni House on Friday, December 12, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

### Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Joshua Young, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Ms. Jessica Cosme

Trustees absent: Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. John Thornburgh, Mr. Nick DeRosa, Dr. Robert Marcus, and Mr. Richard Christofer

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the meeting minutes of September 12, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comments

### **SGA Report**

Ms. Cosme introduced Tyson Johnson, vice president of the Student Government Association, Inc. Tyson reported on a number of exciting activities including the submission of a proposal to have wireless internet access at the patio behind Bailey Library, at the SGA Pavilion, and at the patio outside of the Physical Therapy building.

Thanks to funding dollars provided by a grant through Pittsburgh 250, SGA purchased benches, picnic tables, and a message board for the SGA Pavilion. The message board is constructed from recyclable materials and is environmentally friendly, durable, and weather resistant. In addition, a Green and Growing grant ceremony took place this fall, which began with a bicycle ride with 50 cyclists participating, followed by a ceremony held at the SGA Pavilion with special guests - a representative from Pittsburgh 250, Representative Jaret Gibbons, and numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students. A special dedication closed the ceremony with the dedication of two trees in memory of two beloved professors who passed away this past year, Dr. Claudia Balach and Dr. David Dixon.

SGA was informed via a conference call with the representatives from Pittsburgh 250 that they were so impressed with the way in which students utilized the funds from the green and growing grant they have decided to showcase Slippery Rock University in a publication to be completed in the spring.

SGA funded the addition of a second shuttle bus and reports a 160% increase in ridership in the fall. Weekend trips were added including the Clearview Mall in Butler and the Robinson Mall in Pittsburgh

SGA has implemented a campus-wide email newsletter to keep students informed of SGA activities.

On behalf of the Council, Chairman Taylor congratulated SGA for an impressive list of activities and thanked them for all of the hard work they do on behalf of the students of Slippery Rock University.

### **APSCUF Report**

Dr. Jace Condavy, president of APSCUF provided a report of activities and informed Council of two important projects recently completed -- faculty worked very cooperatively with management to revise important documents relating to performance review, specifically for annual performance reviews of probationary faculty, as well as reviewing and revising tenure documents.

Two years ago the Wilma J. Cavill award for service was created. Ms. Cavill is now in her 51<sup>st</sup> year of service to Slippery Rock University, and truly exemplifies the concept of service. Dr. Condavy announced this year's recipient of the Wilma J. Cavill Award for Service is Dr. Bill Boggs, professor of English. Dr. Boggs has served as the APSCUF legislative assembly representative for over 15 years and is a strong supporter for APSCUF through his writings in newspapers and other news sources at critical times when higher education has come under attack. APSCUF congratulates Dr. Boggs on this achievement and thanks him for his exemplary service to APSCUF and to Slippery Rock University.

### **Check Presentation to the SR Volunteer Fire Company & Rescue Team**

A check presentation took place recognizing the many years of outstanding service of the Slippery Rock Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Team to Slippery Rock University and the surrounding Slippery Rock community. Present to accept thanks and accolades from Council were:

Ken Harley, president  
Al Taggart, vice president  
Puddie Taggart, medical officer

## **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

Chairman Taylor provided the following report on behalf of Dr. Marcus, chair of the Advancement Committee.

Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for Advancement presented an overview of division activities this morning. Ms. Ender provided a realistic picture of the challenges in these economic times and what that means to our portfolio and to the program. We are encouraged that she has a plan in place and is steadfast in continuing to build relationships and foster a spirit of giving in these challenging financial times.

The Campus Family Campaign continues through December 31<sup>st</sup> with participation currently at 48%. One goal was to increase payroll deductions to 175; the Campaign has surpassed the goal with a total of 311 employees participating.

The Advancement Division organized many successful, well-attended events this semester including:

- September 12 – Performing Arts Series performance of Capitol Steps.
- October 4 – Sunset Serenade raised \$50,000 to benefit the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center.
- November 8 – Celebration of Giving honored 120 donors and included a campus tour hosted by President Smith and entertainment provided by talented students from the performing arts departments.
- November 16 – Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre attracted over 100 guests.
- December 6 – Performing Arts Series performance of the Four Freshmen.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Division welcomed the new development officer for athletics – this allows athletics fundraising to be integral to overall fundraising efforts.

As of November 30, 2008, assets of the SRU Foundation, Inc. totaled \$168.5 million, which include traditional assets of \$20.9 million and the Residential Suites assets of \$147.6 million.

### Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee shared the following report based on information obtained from the meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee yesterday.

Mr. Young thanked Dr. Charles Curry, vice president for Finance and Administration, and his staff for all of their work in preparing materials for the committee meeting. Action items to be recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders,

and Fire Department Contributions. Dr. Curry provided an overview of the current budget in light of the state's economic picture and the plan of action to deal with possible state funding cuts. Because of sound management practices at Slippery Rock University, we will make it through this economic downturn. Under the leadership of Dr. Smith, it was decided to forgo construction plans on the master plan rather than cut faculty positions or take away from our true mission, which is to educate our students. We will not compromise the quality of our student's education.

### Buildings and Grounds Committee

Ms. Vessella, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee reported that the committee met yesterday to discuss an item on the agenda for Council approval to undertake a system-financed capital facilities project to renovate North Hall. The renovations include the installation of an elevator to bring the building in compliance with ADA standards. After discussion yesterday, the committee brings forth the recommendation to Council to approve the project.

Ms. Vessella offered appreciation to Dr. Curry and his staff for providing the necessary meeting materials for discussion of this project.

### Student Life Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided a highlight of activities from the Division of Student Life.

An article in the *Rocket* served as a catalyst for student concerns regarding racism on SRU's campus. A series of meetings and two town hall meetings were held with the university community to identify specific concerns. As a result, Student Life is reviewing its **Weekend of Welcome** agenda of activities to include programs focusing on diversity. Students have taken the initiative to reenergize Building Bridges – a student organization that implements activities focusing on creating a dialogue among students representing numerous diverse groups. SGA has recently increased its representation by students of color. There are numerous other programs and activities that are being reviewed. Additionally, a Presidential Taskforce was recently formed with student, faculty, staff, and administrative representatives charged with reviewing current programs and activities and offering a plan of action to proactively address this issue. In general, SRU has made significant strides to improving the campus climate over the past few months, and is committed to making this issue an on-going priority.

Slippery Rock University Athletics had a very successful fall sports season. Men's and women's cross country teams both finished runner-up in the PSAC Championship, and the women's team finished second in the NCAA Atlantic Regional and qualified for the NCAA National Championship, hosted by SRU at Cooper's Lake Campground. The men's cross country team also had 2 qualifiers for the National Championship. The men's and women's soccer teams both competed in the PSAC Playoffs and both were selected to participate in the NCAA Soccer Championships. The women's volleyball team also competed in the PSAC Playoffs and was also selected to compete in the NCAA Volleyball Championships. Many student-athletes from fall sports also received post-season honors in their respective sports.

Planning for the new student union continue with monthly meetings between University officials, students, architects, engineers, and others. A sustainability workshop was held to determine the impact of environmental issues on the union. The architects also presented preliminary diagrams to the union planning committee and to a student forum on November 5, 2008.

The Center for Student Involvement & Leadership has been enjoying a very positive semester. Over 700 individuals are now actively participating in our Compass Leadership Program. The office has also officially launched our online co-curricular transcript program. This program now serves as a resource for hundreds of our students to document their experiences while here at The Rock.

Community Assistant staff members have been working with a new programming model that incorporates the learning outcomes established for the department, which include global citizenship, personal development and lifelong learning. The showcase event is “Up till 2am” for St. Jude. Over 300 students participated in the event that last year raised over \$21,000.00 for St. Jude Research Hospital. The total contributions for this year’s event will be tallied in February 2009.

#### Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report of division activities.

#### **Performance**

Slippery Rock University met or exceeded the PASSHE June 30, 2009 performance goals for faculty diversity, faculty productivity, and faculty with terminal degrees. Within the PASSHE universities, Slippery Rock University finished fifth in total amount of performance monies received (\$3,814,938) and third in the amount of performance dollars per student (\$488).

Slippery Rock received performance funding the in the following catergores:

- Degrees Awarded (Bachelors and Masters) \$248,332
- Second Year Persistence \$398,867
- Four- and Six-Year Graduation Rates \$301,070
- Faculty Productivity \$774,185
- Employee Diversity \$1,102,674
- Personnel Ratio \$259,720
- Instructional Costs \$349,731
- Terminal Degrees \$3,814,938

#### **Programs**

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs sent a team to review the School Counseling program (M.A. degree) and the Community Counseling program (M.A. degree) both of which are housed in the Department of Counseling and Development. A decision on accrediting the programs will be decided at the July meeting of CACREP’s accrediting Board.

### **Enrollments**

The number of new students joining Slippery Rock for both Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 is strong.

- New student applications are up slightly for Spring 2009, 607 compared to Spring 2008 581.
- New first-time student applications for fall 2009 are up 333 over last year.

These numbers assure that we will be able to manage controlled enrollment growth while maintaining the quality of students at Slippery Rock University.

### Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks, PACT representative for SRU Council indicated there was not a report to share at this time.

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### FY 2008-2009 Fire Department Contributions (TAB 2)

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks to approve FY 2008-2009 Fire Department Contributions. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

*The 2008-2009 contribution increased to \$20,000 and comes with the recommendation that the Fire Department share the contribution with the Rescue Squad, and that \$2,000 of the contribution be split between the Sandy Lake Volunteer and Stoneboro Volunteer Fire Departments for their availability to the McKeever Environmental Learning Center.*

### Contracts (TAB 3)

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the Contracts be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

### Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

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

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

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

Resolution – North Hall Renovations (TAB 6)

Ms. Cosme moved, seconded by Mr. Young that the Resolution to renovate North Hall be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix F)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for **February 27, 2009 (date changed to Feb. 20, 2009 per Jan. 9, 2009 conference call)**

Substitute Appointments

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2008-2009

Instructional Appointments Effective the Second Semester 2008-2009

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointment

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointment

State University Administrator Appointment

Grant-Funded Program Coordinator Appointment

Non-Faculty Athletic Coach Appointments

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Dismissal of Support Staff

**Quarterly Internal Audit Report**

**Facilities and Planning Active Project List**

**Quarterly Budget Report FY 2008-2009**

**Divisional Reports**

**Special presentation honoring the achievements of Dr. Charles T. Curry**

Dr. Curry received accolades from Council in the form of a Resolution honoring his leadership and achievements as Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs at Slippery Rock University. (Appendix G)

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

John Hicks – Thanks to all of you who do so much to make this place what it is. SRU has been a big part of my life for many years and I thank those who do so much everyday to make this an exceptional learning experience for our students.

Jessica Cosme – I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Thanks to the Council and to all of you for a wonderful two days.

Josh Young – Congratulations, Dr. Curry – well deserved! Most of what we covered yesterday was the direct result of your work. The tour of Boozel was amazing and when students come back they are going to be so pleased to dine in that wonderful facility. Thank you, President Smith, for your leadership – great things continue to happen. (President Smith acknowledged Ms. Deb Pincek, assistant to the vice president, Student Life for her guidance and leadership in overseeing the Boozel renovation project)

Robert Taylor – Thanks to Dr. Curry and his staff for all that you do. Thanks to Herb Carlson and Scott Albert for the work that you did to prepare for this meeting – much appreciated. Thanks also to Rita Abent for keeping us continually informed of student/faculty/staff accomplishments and other news worthy items.

Suzanne Vessella - I thank everybody for their dedication and service to Slippery Rock University. Happy Holidays!

Grace Hawkins – I would also like to extend my holiday greetings. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the presentations and the information that provides us what we need to make good decisions for the University. Thank you to the staff and all those who work diligently every day to make this such a wonderful place.

President Smith – Tomorrow is a special day as we honor 561 of our family members who will be out of the nest - we want to wish them well. This is going to be a very exciting ceremony. For the first time ever we will have a campus event web-streamed and viewable on the Internet any place in the world. Thank you to Simeon Ananou and Rita Abent for working with our great IT staff to make this possible.

With no further business, the Friday, December 12, 2008 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Ms. Cosme moved; Ms. Vessella seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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