

MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
February 20, 2009

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

February 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in Conference Room 304, Old Main Friday, February 20, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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, Mr. John Thornburgh

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the meeting minutes of December 12, 2008 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Chairman Taylor called for a moment of silence in memory of President Smith's mother, Mrs. Lillyan Smith, and asked that we keep Dr. Smith and his family close to our hearts and in our thoughts during this difficult time.

SGA Report

Mr. Larry Brink, President of the Student Government Association, Inc., offered the following report of SGA activities:

We are in the middle of our election cycle, and there has been tremendous interest by a number of students to become involved in Student Government, which is both exciting and says a lot about our student's interest in obtaining leadership positions and having a voice on our campus.

SGA funded the addition of a second shuttle bus and reports a 160% increase in ridership in the fall. In addition, SGA recently approved an extended late night shuttle service to meet the needs of our students.

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

Chairman Taylor congratulated SGA for a job well done and thanked Larry for keeping Council informed of the Association's activities.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Smith was called out of town on personal business; therefore, The President's Report was not submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Advancement Committee

Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for Advancement, provided the report of activities for the Advancement division.

You have in your materials reports reflecting the most recently concluded quarter ending December. Our numbers pretty accurately mirror the numbers you are seeing as far as both in investments and gift income. The Foundation Board met on January 29 and heard reports from the investment committee which reflected losses since June 30 of the endowment of 27.7%, which impact in real dollars with the endowment from the June 30 number of just under 19 million, to a January 31 number of just under 14 million. The endowment represents the combined totals of the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. and Slippery Rock University Alumni Association endowments.

The Campus Family Campaign was very successful and concluded on December 31. We contribute that success to our volunteers on campus who served as unit leaders and encouraged others to participate. Our participation ended at an impressive 49%. Our goal was to increase payroll deductions to 175; the Campaign surpassed the goal with a total of 311 employees participating.

The division is launching a scholarship challenge, which is a matching funds program that we are creating with a goal of \$100,000 to go out and incentivize and leverage scholarship support which will be matched one to one. We have found and the literature indicates that the one area that continues to resonate strongly with donors is scholarship support. We are responding to the economic challenges that students and parents are facing in these economic times.

Also, the Foundation Board approved a ground lease with Butler Health Systems for the construction of a medical services facility and that is part of the development of the technical park on land that is owned by the Foundation.

The university hosted the CASE affiliated student advancement program, which brought about 200 students and advisors throughout the country and Canada to campus. This was a successful event and a great opportunity to showcase the university to others.

The Scholarship and Donor Luncheon is scheduled for April 18. This event brings our donors and their scholarship recipients together over lunch and provides our students an

opportunity to share their college experiences with the donors who helped to make their dream of attending college possible.

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.

The following action items were recommended for approval: Compliance with Board of Governor's Policy 1985-04-A, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, and the Capital Budget Authorization Request 2009-2010. Information items reviewed: Annual Inspection of Facilities, Quarterly Internal Audit Report, Facilities and Planning Active Project List, and the Quarterly Report FY 2008-09.

Dr. Curry continued discussion from December's committee meeting and provided an analysis of the current budget. As was reported in December's meeting, because of sound management practices at Slippery Rock University, we will make it through this economic downturn.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Ms. Suzanne Vessella, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee reported the committee met yesterday to discuss five projects under the capital budget authorization request and Council approval to construct a classroom building for the Executive Leadership Program. All rooms and the building itself will be ADA compliant and handicapped accessible. After discussion yesterday, the committee brings forth the recommendation for Council to approve all projects.

Additionally, Mr. Scott Albert, director of Facilities, presented a power-point presentation of the Facilities and Planning work order process.

Student Life Committee

Ms. Jessica Cosme, student trustee, provided a highlight of activities from the Division of Student Life from a report provided by Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life.

Dr. Foley provided a report on campus climate activities and the recent town hall meeting conducted by the President's Multicultural Taskforce, which centered on the theme RESPECT. President Smith and the University community are to be commended for this proactive approach to addressing cultural awareness and inclusiveness on campus.

The Student Life Committee at yesterday's committee meeting was presented with recommendations for a University Union Fee Increase (\$50 increase to the current fee of \$196 per year effective with the 2009-2010 academic year, Residence Hall Fee Increase (2.5% increase in the university-owned residence hall fees), and a 7% increase for Dining Services

Fees). After much discussion, it was determined that Council will recommend a 6% increase in Dining Services Fees for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Athletics:

SRU student-athletes performed well in the classroom with 178 attaining Director of Athletics Honor Roll status with a 3.5 or above QPA in the Fall 2008 semester. Forty-six Honor Roll members attained a 4.0 QPA.

Dining Services:

The new and improved Boozel Dining Hall re-opened to students on January 8, 2009. Students and staff are raving about the renovation complimenting the new atmosphere, menu variety and quality of food.

Student Union Project:

Design and financial planning meetings continued as we refined the food service and meeting room aspects of the new Union. An initial site survey for the Starbucks operation has begun and talks continue regarding a national and regional branded concept for inclusion in the food court area.

Diversity Initiatives:

The Student Life Multicultural Competency Task Force implemented the first of a series of workshops for Student Life staff. The goal of this first workshop was to focus on self-awareness in the area of multicultural competency.

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee provided the following report based on information provided from Dr. William F. Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

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

- The Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP) re-accredited Our Community Counseling program, our School Counseling program, and gave a new accreditation to our Student Affairs in Higher Education program.
- The departments in the College of Education have started to upload information for our new certification programs as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

International Seminars:

- During spring break 319 Slippery Rock University students will travel abroad for international experiences connected with courses that they are taking.
- The students will be accompanied by 23 faculty members representing 18 different programs.
- They will travel to 9 different countries including England, France, Italy and Ireland.

Enrollments:

- Spring semester 2009 started with 7972 students compared to 7836 last year, an increase of 1.74%
- First year student applications for fall 2009 are at 5220 compared to 5133 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student applications are at 521 compared to 480 for last year at this time..
- African –American student applications are at 465 compared to 432 for last year at this time.
- Latino-American student applications are at 92 versus 95 for last year at this time.
- Out-of-state student applications are at 914 compared to 866 for last year at this time.

Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT)

Dr. John Hicks, PACT representative for SRU Council reminded members that the PACT Conference is being held April 1-3, 2009 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, PA. The program has been developed around the theme of PASSHE's contributions to public higher education for the past 25 years. The deadline is fast approaching (February 25). I urge my fellow members to represent our fine institution at this event.

Also, The Chancellor recently asked us what we had done to cultivate a relationship with our legislators, and I was pleased to tell him that we had our legislative appreciation day planned for this meeting. Our meeting today was very positive, very cordial and I don't recall having ever had this many legislators on campus at one time – a great event. Also, having our students meet with legislators today was a perfect opportunity to see our students represent SRU so well - this was a proud moment for all of us.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks to approve Resolution – Compliance with Board of Governor's Policy 1985-04-A. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A)

Capital Budget Authorization Request 2009-2010 (TAB 3)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the Capital Budget Authorization Request 2009-2010 be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

Contracts (TAB 4)

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

Fixed Assets (TAB 5)

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

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 6)

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

University Union Fees (TAB 7)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks that the University Union Fee Increase of \$50 effective 2009-2010 academic year be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

**The revised annual fee will be \$246*

Residence Hall Fees (TAB 8)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins that the Residence Hall Fee Increase of 2.5% be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix G)

**Fee applies to university-owned residence halls. The fee results in a \$39 per semester fee increase for a student living in a double room.*

Dining Services Fee (TAB 9)

A recommendation calling for a 7% increase for Dining Services Fee was submitted to Council for approval. Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Ms. Cosme the motion to approve a Dining Services Fee increase of 6%. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix H)

Resolution – Leadership Reaction Course (Classroom Building) (TAB 10)

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Thornburgh that the Resolution – Leadership Reaction Course (Classroom Building) be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees is scheduled for **Friday, April 17, 2009**

Substitute AppointmentsInstructional Appointments Effective the Second Semester 2008-2009

Instructional Appointments Effective the First Semester 2009-2010

Operational Leadership/Professional Appointment

Tactical Leadership/Senior Professional Appointment

State University Administrator Appointment

Support Staff Appointments

Retirements

Resignations

Sabbatical Leave Approvals

Professor Emeritus

Tuition Waiver for New International Students - 0109

Annual Inspection of Facilities

Quarterly Internal Audit Report

Facilities and Planning Active Project List

Quarterly Report FY 2008-2009

Divisional Reports

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

John Hicks – We have many things to be excited about – SRU is a great place. I've enjoyed watching men's basketball – congratulations to the players and Coach Reynolds as they continue an impressive season.

Jessica Cosme – The committee meetings yesterday went very well – great discussion. Thank you all for coming to the meeting. Enjoy the weather. Personally, I am looking forward to spring break in Costa Rica!

Josh Young – It was such a lovely day here in Slippery Rock. I think yesterday went extremely well with constructive, lengthy discussions and ultimate solutions. I am also very much looking forward to Commencement this year – we anticipate a large ROTC class. We are also having two Commencements this year, which means double the fun and excitement!

Suzanne Vessella - It is a beautiful day in Slippery Rock. We had a spectacular lunch today with our legislators. Our students spoke with such passion and I am sure that message will go back to Harrisburg. I also agree the committee meetings were very informative and very helpful.

Grace Hawkins – I agree with what has been said. It's been a great meeting.

John Thornburgh- My apologies for my tardiness today - I was helping Thiel College choose a President. I know, however, that I was very well represented by Jessica Cosme and Dr. Foley. I extend my sympathies to Dr. Smith and his family.

Robert Taylor – Recently, Dr. Hicks received recognition (impressive bauble on his finger) for coaching his Ohio high school baseball team to victory as state champions 40 years ago. That's a career accomplishment that we are happy he shared with us – Congratulations, coach! I also want to thank my colleagues for being here and I hope the new routine we have set up provides opportunity to allow everybody to get their points of view across, and ample time to discuss issues. Anything can be modified, anything can be tweaked – we welcome feedback from our Council members as we work together for Slippery Rock University. Also, at our Retreat in November we discussed one of our major priorities was to advocate for our University and our System. Thank you for implementing that priority today. This is going to be a tough, tough year in Harrisburg. There are too many good people sitting around this table who work too hard to have their budgets slashed. We have priorities here at the University and we want to continue to see great things happen here for our students.

With no further business, the Friday, February 20, 2009 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:35 p.m. Ms. Vessella moved; Dr. Hicks seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

