

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**  
**March 18, 2011**

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**March 18, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held in The Watson Family Conference Room of the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center on Friday, March 18, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson.

### Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Brandon Maharaj, Mr. Eric Holmes, Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Joshua Young, Dr. Dennis Murray, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. John Thornburgh

Trustees absent: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq.

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks approval of the March 18, 2011 meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix A)

*\*Mr. Young added one addition to the agenda – immediately following the presentations there will be a motion to create a standing committee of Council – the Governance Committee.*

### Approval of Minutes

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins approval of the December 3, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 1)

### Public Comments

Mr. Jeremiah Rosser, president of Slippery Rock Student Government Association, Inc., extended regrets he was unable to attend the meeting today.

Dr. Jace Condrary, APSCUF President (SRU) provided brief comments to the group.

### Presentations

#### **Resolution – Naming of Mihalik-Thompson Stadium**

Dr. George Mihalik, distinguished professor in the Department of Safety Management, and the Rock's Head football coach, was presented a Resolution by the Council of Trustees honoring his many contributions to the Rock Football Program. The former Thompson Stadium is now the Mihalik-Thompson Stadium. (Voting Action Item Tab 8)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, motion carried unanimously.

### **Faculty Presentation**

Dr. Carena Winters, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Jeffrey Lynn, Associate Professor, Department of Exercise and Rehabilitative Sciences, presented "Exercise is Medicine." The initiative will address what professors call the epidemic of physical inactivity and will include curriculum enhancements, networking with physicians and new opportunities for SRU students to help peers and community residents improve fitness.

Exercise is medicine argues that physical activity is integral in the prevention and treatment of diseases and should be regularly assessed by primary care providers, like screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and heart rate. SRU's initiative will encourage physicians and other health-care providers to evaluate a patient's level of activity at office visits and prescribe exercise when devising treatment plans.

Long-term, the goal is to help the greater health community, including the American Medical Association, realize that exercise is medicine. Greater awareness is the first step to improving the public's overall health and reducing health-care costs.

Trustees received an invitation to attend the official kick-off of the "Exercise is Medicine" initiative at Slippery Rock University on Tuesday, April 19. A dignitary luncheon begins at noon in the Alumni House followed by the wellness program in the Multi-Purpose Room of the University Union.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

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

#### **Liberal Studies Revision:**

SRU faculty members passed a referendum to change the liberal studies program by reducing the college writing requirement from 6 to 3 credit hours and making it a competency requirement. Further, they voted to make it possible to demonstrate competence in public speaking and waive the 3-credit hour public speaking requirement.

#### **Middle States Update:**

As you well know the Middle States Evaluation Team, led by Dr. John Ettlign, SUNY Plattsburgh, N.Y. will be on campus March 22 – 23. A final oral report will be delivered by the evaluation team early Wednesday morning, March 23.

#### **Academic Deans:**

Dr. Kathleen Strickland, Interim Dean for the College of Education, will become the official Dean, effective June 3, 2011. Dr. Kurt Schimmel, Associate Dean, Robert Morris University, has verbally agreed to accept the position of Dean, College of Business, Information and Social Sciences, effective July 1, 2011.

#### **Enrollment for Fall 2011 are strong:**

- First year student applications are at 5987 compared to 5655 for last year this date.
- First year deposits are at 1207 compared to 1288 for last year this date.
- Transfer student deposits are at 310 compared to 274 last year at this time.
- Out-of-state deposits are at 194 compared to 204 last year at this time.

- First year applications for African-American students are at 557 compared to 570 at this time last year.

Because of current uncertainty of the budget in Harrisburg, it is difficult to know what the impact will be on tuition and consequently enrollment for next year.

Although applications are up year-to-date, we believe that economic difficulties are causing families to delay making deposits as long as possible.

### **Finance & Audit Committee**

Dr. Dennis Murray, chair, shared a report of the Finance and Audit Committee based on information provided by Dr. Charles Curry, vice president of Finance and Administrative Affairs. The following action items were recommended for approval: Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, and the Capital Budget Request.

Items reviewed as information included personnel items, Facilities and Planning Active Project List, and the monthly budget report.

### **University Advancement Committee**

Mr. Eric Holmes, chair, shared the activities of the University Advancement Division based on a report provided to him by Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for Advancement.

Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 as of January 31<sup>st</sup> totaled \$1,281,577, reflecting a 47.4% increase over last year for the same period. The value of the endowment is \$17.1 million. The endowment represents the combined totals of the SRU Foundation and SRU Alumni Association endowments.

The Campus Family Campaign, which concluded on December 31<sup>st</sup>, brought in a total of \$146,032 in gifts and pledges with a 53% employee participation rate, 396 employees using payroll deduction as their giving option, and 65 increases to existing payroll deductions. In addition, nine units had 100% participation in the Campaign.

The Spring phon-a-thon is underway with student callers requesting support for the College Campaign. As of March, 1,444 pledges totaled \$62,824.00, a 1% increase over last year during the same time period.

Searches to fill vacant positions within the Advancement division and the SRU Foundation continue. Candidates were interviewed last week for the Constituent Services and Database Assurance Manager and search processes continue for the Director of Alumni Engagement and Director of Advancement Services. The SRU Foundation recently hired Ms. Meagan Gribbin as the Director of the Annual Fund; and as a result of candidates provided by the executive search firm, RPA, Inc., interviews are currently underway for the positions of the Director of Development and a development officer.

Construction continues at the former Vincent property (known as Slippery Rock Technology Park) with 90% of the infrastructure complete and the Butler Health System facility scheduled to open on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, road construction continues at the intersection of routes 108 and 173 to ease the related traffic congestion. The road's topcoat will be added this spring.

This evening, the 2010-2011 Performing Arts Series will conclude with the performance of "From Galway to Broadway" in Miller Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Other events scheduled for this spring are listed in your binder.

### **Student Life Committee**

Mr. Brandon Maharaj, chair of the Student Life Committee, provided the following report based on information from Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life.

Bids have been awarded for the Weisenfluh renovation project, which is scheduled to begin May 16, 2011. Plans are being finalized to provide alternative dining options for students on the upper campus during the fall 2011 semester. The renovated facility is scheduled to open in January 2012.

Multicultural Development presented the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration on January 20, 2011. The theme this year was "Remember, Act, Celebrate...Live the Dream!" Various student organizations participated in the program. The office also collaborated with the Slippery Rock University Black Caucus in having an essay contest.

Construction of the new Student Center continues on schedule. The building frame was completed in January, and concrete floor slabs are being poured in February and early March. A second furniture showcase was held in February to gather student feedback. Final selections of furniture are expected to occur in April.

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

Dr. John Hicks serves as the Slippery Rock University trustee representative and serves on the executive board of PACT. He provided this report.

The Executive Board met on January 10, at the University Center. Discussion with the Chancellor centered around the loss of stimulus money. The governor had not yet presented his budget report. Preliminary plans were laid out for the upcoming PACT Conference to be held at Edinboro on April 27 & 28. Opportunities to discuss issues with the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Governors are on the agenda.

On February 22, members of the Executive Board had the opportunity to participate in a conference call to suggest areas the Chancellor might visit or approach in a different manner. The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held at the April PACT Conference.

At PACT Conferences you can:

- Experience the unique nature of another PASSHE university;
- Interact with talented student leaders;
- Benefit from other PASSHE university best practices and challenges;
- Learn more about innovative programs offered at other PASSHE universities;
- Receive updated information on PASSHE policies, programs, and legal issues that impact the work of trustees, and
- Relax and mingle with other trustees, students, presidents, faculty and PASSHE staff.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**  
(Appendix B)

**ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Contracts (TAB 2)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

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

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

Capital Budget Request (TAB 5)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj, approval of the Capital Budget Request as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix F)

Resolution – Compliance with BOG Policy 1985-04-A (TAB 6)

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval of the Resolution – Compliance with BOG Policy 1985-04-A. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix G)

Resolution – Addition to Patterson Hall (TAB 7)

Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes, approval of the Resolution – Addition to Patterson Hall. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix H)

Resolution – Naming of Mihalik-Thompson Stadium (TAB 8)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval of the Resolution – Naming of Mihalik-Thompson Stadium. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix I)

Student Union Fee (TAB 9)

Mr. Thornburgh moved, seconded by Dr. Murray, approval of the Student Union Fee. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix J)

Meal Plan Fee (TAB 10)

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes, approval of a 5% increase in the Meal Plan Fee. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix K)

Residence Hall Fee (TAB 11)

Mr. Maharaj moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins, approval of a 3% increase in the Residence Hall Fee. Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB #12 – TAB #15)**Next Meeting Date

**March 17 & 18, 2011**

Slippery Rock University Trustees – Nomination of Officers (TAB 12)Personnel Items (TAB 13)Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 14)Monthly Budget Report FY 2010-2011 (TAB 14)Divisional Reports (TAB15)**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dennis Murray – Congratulations, George – well deserved! Congratulations to Bob Smith for his incredible leadership in the face of these tough budgetary times.

Brandon Maharaj – I feel very privileged to be part of these discussions in my role as student trustee.

Eric Holmes – Happy to be here.

Bob Marcus – It's been a great day at the Rock!

John Hicks – It is indeed a special day having George honored in this manner. Congratulations, Coach! It's so nice to see your beautiful wife and daughters here to share in this moment.

Josh Young – It's always a great pleasure to be on campus for our meetings. Thank you to President Smith and his team for your hard work and dedication in your continuing efforts to move the University forward. This was a very productive meeting with great discussion and a collaborative spirit.

John Thornburgh – Great job everyone

Ms. Grace Hawkins – A highlight of every meeting is enjoying lunch with our students and their advisors. This was a very enjoyable and productive meeting – thanks to Dr. Smith and all the people here who make great things happen at Slippery Rock University each day.

Following adjournment, Trustees were invited to tour the newly renovated Vincent Science Center. The classes/labs for Biology, Math, Nursing, Physics and Psychology will be held in this facility.

With no further business, the Friday, March 18, 2011 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Dr. Murray 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