

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

June 10, 2011

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, June 10, 2011 in Conference Room 304, Old Main. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. John Hicks, Dr. Robert Marcus,
Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees joining by phone: Dr. Dennis Murray, Mr. John Thornburgh, Mr. Eric Holmes

Trustees absent: Ms. Grace Hawkins, Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Mr. Brandon Maharaj

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Young approval of the June 10, 2011 meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously. (**Appendix A**)

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks approval of the March 18, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (**TAB 1**)

Public Comments

Mr. Jordan Bailley, president of Slippery Rock Student Government Association, Inc., provided brief comments to the group. Jordan looks forward to his new role as SGA President, and especially looks forward to working with the campus community on student initiatives and projects important to our students.

Dr. Jace Condravy, APSCUF President (SRU) provided comments to the group. Dr. Condravy, on behalf of APSCUF, extended congratulations to Mr. Taylor on being appointed to the Board of Governors. "We hope his experience with Slippery Rock University, a fiscally responsible institution that delivers on the promise of providing quality education, will influence the kind of decision making that goes on at that level."

Dr. Condravy reported the appointment of faculty to the Presidential Search. Dr. Christine Pease-Hernandez, Communication Department and Dr. Bradley Wilson, Philosophy Department, will serve on the committee with Dr. Ben Shaevitz, Physics, appointed as alternate." "These individuals are dedicated to this institution and have a lot of experience here. We are confident they will do a great job."

"We are all feeling a bit relieved by the recent budget decisions in which the house bill reduced the proposed cut to higher education. Though this is a reduction, there are still serious concerns about the

impact the remaining proposed cuts will have on us. APSCUF continues to be committed to speak with our legislators and the decision makers who can make a difference for us. We hope the Council of Trustees will continue to get the message out in support of higher education to the individuals they know as well.”

Presentations

Recognition of Student *ROCKNation* Advocates

ROCKNation is Slippery Rock University’s unified voice to our legislators, our community leaders, and the people who are making decisions about our future. Membership is open to students, current and former faculty and staff, alumni, community members, and friends of the University. Advocates share fundamental concerns with elected officials, businesses, community groups and prospective friends of the University.

Eight students stepped up and answered our call for help by taking time to tell their stories in Harrisburg. President Smith and Chairman Joshua Young presented each student with a special SRU lapel pin crafted by the talented artists of Wendell August Forge especially to honor those who have taken extra steps as a *ROCKNation* advocate.

To join *ROCKNation*, go to the SRU website at <http://www.sru.edu/president/rocknation/Pages/WhatIsRockNation.aspx> and make a difference!

Jim Kramer -- Senior Therapeutic Rec major, minor in Adapted Physical Activity from Butler, PA. Upon accepting the invitation to attend today’s presentation, Jim said, “what an incredible experience going to Harrisburg...thank you, President Smith, for giving me the opportunity to represent Slippery Rock University and to give back to the place that has given me so much.”

Adam Kennerdell – Senior Finance major from Houston, TX

Logan Miller – Senior Chemistry major from Franklin, PA

Elise Michaux – Senior English Literature major from Connellsville, PA

Jeremiah Rosser – BSBA Management, minor in Information Systems from McDonald, PA

Sarah Browne – Junior English Literature major, minor in writing from Cranberry Township, PA

Nicole VanDyke – Senior Communication major, minors in Business Administration and Spanish, from Homer City, PA. Author of our ROCKNation Advocacy Network

Louis Bouselli – Senior Information Systems major from Hawley, PA. Lou has provided the technology expertise to the ROCKNation Advocacy Network.

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.

Lifelong Learning Division:

After several months of assessment of the division of Lifelong Learning a decision was made to terminate the program resulting in the elimination of: three positions and reallocation of one half-time clerical position to the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Technology (CETET).

International Travel Spring:

Gordon Thomas, Elementary Education/Early Childhood, supervised 15 student teachers at American School Foundation in Mexico City.

Sixteen faculty members along with 251 students went to 6 countries for Spring Break Seminars:

Como, Thomas and Kurt Pitluga – Art, to Italy, 30 students.

Nola-Holland, Nola – Dance, to France, 24 students

Permenter, Rachela and Mark O'Connor – English, to Italy, 31 students

Winters, Carena – Exercise & Rehab. Science, to Ireland, 15 students

Smith, Kimberly – Exercise & Rehab. Science, to Italy, 19 students

Schiappa, Tamra and Jack Livingston – Geog/Geol/Envi, to Bahamas, 18 students

Solomon, Nanette Kaplan and Colleen Gray – Music, to Italy, 27 students

Shipe, Nancy – Physical Therapy, to Ireland, 17 students

Leight, Joanne – Physical Education, to Italy, 18 students

Orvis, Bruce – School of Business, to Italy, 20 students

Galbraith, Diane – School of Business, to England, 12 students.

Katsafanas, Jodi – Special Education, to Costa Rica, 20 students

Academic Department Relocation Plan:

To ensure cohesiveness within the academic colleges, a plan was developed to relocate some of the academic departments:

College of Education – Special Education moving to the first floor of McKay Education Building;

Secondary Education moving to the lower level of McKay Education Building; Counseling and

Development moving to Carruth Rizza Hall.

College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts – Modern Languages and Cultures moving to BSB;

History moving current offices in Spotts to other offices in Spotts.

College of Health, Environment and Science – Public Health and Social Work is moving to the Dinger

Anex; Parks and Recreation moving to Patterson when the building is renovated.

College of Business, Information and Social Sciences – Plans to create a business incubator center are being discussed; the Dean's Office is to be moved eventually to the 3rd floor of Eisenberg when the new Dean of the college arrives on July 1.

Enrollments for Fall 2011 are strong:

- First year student applications are at 6315 compared to 5940 for last year at this time.
- The offer rate is currently at 61% as compared to 67% last year.
- First year deposits are at 1549 compared to 1634 for last year at this time. The goal for the Freshmen class this year is set at 1550.
- Transfer student deposits are at 549 compared to 555 for last year at this time. Transfer student applications are at 1170 as compared to 1124 last year.
- Out-of-state deposits are at 194 compared to 204.
- First year student applications for African American students are at 103 compared to 93 at this time last year.
- Quality indicators are up again for the FR class. Deposits are up for students in the top 10%, 25%, and 50% of their high school graduating class. The average high school grade point average is currently at 3.45 as compared to 3.36 last year.

Student Life Committee

In the absence of Mr. Brandon Maharaj, chair of the Student Life Committee, Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided a report of activities.

Athletics enjoyed another impressive spring season. The women's tennis team hosted the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional and finished 2nd. The women's lacrosse team completed a very successful season by tying the school record by having 11 wins in a season. The Rock Baseball team qualified for the PSAC Championships. SRU hosted the PSAC Championships. Many SRU student-athletes won PSAC and NCAA post-season honors during the spring sports season.

Slippery Rock University has been named to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

Weisenfluh dining hall has been vacated for renovations. An auction was held May 10 to sell furnishings and some equipment. The Student Life Administration offices have been relocated to Patterson Hall. Construction began on May 16.

Construction of the new Student Center continues on schedule. Exterior framing is complete, and interior framing is in progress. In May, final furniture and equipment review was completed in preparation for purchase.

University Advancement Committee

Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for University Advancement, presented the following report in the absence of Mr. Robert Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee.

Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 as of April 30th totaled \$1,623,512, reflecting a 16% increase over last year for the same period. The value of the endowment is \$18 million. The endowment represents the combined totals of the SRU Foundation and SRU Alumni Association endowments.

The Spring phonathon will conclude on June 16th. To date, gifts and pledges to the spring College Campaign total \$126,101, which is 94% of the semester's goal.

The Advancement Division's two vacant University positions have been filled since the last report. Nicholas McIntire '09 began his duties as the Constituent Services and Database Assurance Manager on March 28; Brad May has been hired as the Director of Advancement Services and will start on June 13. The SRU Foundation is working to conclude searches for the Director of Development and a gifts officer.

Butler Health System's facility at the Slippery Rock Technology Park opened in April and held a grand opening celebration on May 2.

The 2011 Performing Arts Series will kick off with the Flying Karamazov Brothers on Friday, September 9. Tickets for the Series can be purchased by calling 724-738-2018. Also on September 9 and 10, events are scheduled for the Mihalik-Thompson Stadium Dedication. For information about the planned events, contact Bill Richter, Athletic Department Officer at: 724.738.2387 or via email at: wrichter@srufoundation.org

Governance Committee

Chairman Young reports that today is the first meeting of the Presidential Search Committee.

Recently, President Smith announced his intent to retire in January 2012. Chairman Young explained this first meeting is a meet and greet opportunity for the search committee members.

The selection process is in accordance with Board of Governor's Policy *1983-13-A: Process for Recommending Presidential Appointment*. The search committee members appointed to this charge have tremendous experiences and talents and will collectively work very hard throughout the process.

Eric Holmes, Suzanne Vessella, John Hicks, and Robert Marcus were selected by Council to serve on the committee. Eric Holmes is appointed to serve as chair of the search committee.

Chairman Young commented that we obviously want a dynamic and visionary leader to continue the outstanding work of Dr. Smith. The University has made incredible strides forward in the past nine years under Dr. Smith's leadership. We will conduct a thorough and exhaustive search to find the best person to lead Slippery Rock University.

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 at the April PACT Conference held at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on April 28. The subject discussed involved the serious impact of budget cuts to PASSHE institutions. It is so important that Trustees across the system get involved in advocacy and promote the importance of funding for higher education to the decision makers in Harrisburg.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania will host the Fall PACT Conference, October 19-20, 2011.

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)

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks to approve the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix C)**

Fixed Assets (TAB 3)

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

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 4)

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

Student Enhancement Fee (TAB 5)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, approval of the Student Enhancement Fee, a \$5 per credit hour fee for on-campus undergraduate students commencing with the Fall, 2011 academic term. The fund created from this fee would be restricted to the Division of Student Life and managed by the Vice President for Student Life. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix F)**

Slippery Rock University Trustees – Election of Officers (TAB 6)

The Governance Committee recommended to retain the current officers for a second term, (June 2011- June 2012). **(Appendix G)**

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus, approval to appoint Mr. Joshua Young to a second term as Chairperson, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval to appoint Mr. Eric Holmes to a second term as Vice-Chairperson, motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Young, approval to appoint Mr. John Thornburgh to a second term as Secretary, motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB #7 – TAB #9)Next Meeting Dates

September 8-9, 2011
January 26-27, 2012

Personnel Items (TAB 7)Monthly Budget Report FY 2010-2011 (TAB 8)Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 8)Divisional Reports (TAB 9)**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Bob Marcus – It's always a pleasure to be here to enjoy the company of the great people at the Rock!

John Hicks – Congratulations to Facilities – the campus looks beautiful. It is not an easy job to maintain the grounds and our crews do a wonderful job of taking special care to make sure the campus looks great.

Suzanne Vessella – Congratulations to our student advocates recognized today. You are perfect examples of the importance of community engagement and civic involvement. I hope you all seriously consider a future in politics.

Joshua Young – Thank you, President Smith, for your outstanding leadership of Slippery Rock University. Our student advocates – Congratulations! We have a great University and we are all committed to working together and moving forward to provide our students with a tremendous academic experience.

President Smith – Thank you to Council for your much appreciated guidance and counsel. We have achieved great things here and will continue to move forward. We are positioned to attract very good candidates to the Presidency.

With no further business, the Friday, June 10, 2011 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 12:35 p.m. Ms. Vessella moved; Dr. Marcus seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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