

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY**  
**April 27, 2012**

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

April 27, 2012

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, April 27, 2012 in the Alumni House and Conference Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Joshua Young, chairperson.

### Recording of Attendance

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

Trustees absent: Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Dr. Dennis Murray

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks approval of the April 27, 2012 meeting agenda with the following additions:

- Health Services Fee: 1) Rescind automatic increase (4.8% of tuition)  
2) Enact Fee Increase for 2012-2013, 5.5% of the current fee;  
Approximately \$7.50 increase per semester.  
(Appendix A)

### Approval of Minutes

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj, approval of the January 27, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes, approval of the February 24, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix C)

### Public Comments

Mr. Jordan Bailey, president of Slippery Rock Student Government Association, Inc., provided brief comments to the group. As we are quickly approaching the end of the semester, I have also come to the end of my tenure as the SGA President. "This experience was incredible for me, and I want to thank the people in this room as well as many others on campus for providing me tremendous support, advice, and counsel."

Jordan introduced David Wolfe, the new SGA President. David is a member of the honors program, pursuing a double major in Sport Management and Communication/minor in Business. Also present at the meeting was Ben Motyl, Vice President for Finance, an Accounting major/minor in Economics. Council extended best wishes to the new SGA Executive Board members.

Dr. Jace Condravy, APSCUF President (SRU) was not able to be present at the meeting. Both Dr. Condravy and incoming APSCUF President, Dr. Patrick Burkhart, were attending APSCUF's legislative assembly in Harrisburg. On behalf of Council, Chairman Young extended congratulations to

Dr. Condravy on her exemplary tenure as APSCUF President. Chairman Young also extended congratulations to Dr. Burkhart, who will begin his tenure as APSCUF President May 1.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Resolution – Honoring Dr. John Hicks, PACT President (TAB 8)**

Ms. Hawkins presented to John Hicks, a Resolution of Recognition” and offered congratulations on behalf of Council. Dr. Hicks was recently appointed President of the Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees (PACT). Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix D)

### **Resolution – Commendation – Presidential Search Committee (TAB 9)**

Chairman Young presented individual certificates of commendation to the members of the Presidential Search Committee, and on behalf of Council, extended thanks and appreciation for their hard work and dedication in selecting the 16<sup>th</sup> President of Slippery Rock University. Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix E)

### **Recognition of Student Advocates**

Dr. Charles Curry, Acting President, presented Slippery Rock University students with a special pin designed by Wendell August. The pins were provided in recognition for attending Advocacy Days in Harrisburg on April 2 and 3. Along with the Chancellor, the Chairman and members of the PASSHE Board of Governors, students met with more than 40 legislators. Our 2012 advocacy team: Jordan Bailey, a senior political science major and SGA president; Elise Michaux, a graduate student in student affairs in higher education, Michael Thornhill, a senior communication major, and Grace Evans, a senior mathematics and philosophy major.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, provided a report of divisional activities shared by Dr. William F. Williams, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

### **Dean of the College of Education**

Dr. Keith Dils has been selected as the Dean of the College of Education and will arrive on campus on July 1.

### **School of Business**

Dr. Diane Galbraith, assistant professor in the School of Business, has been named the recipient of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs 2012 Teaching Excellence Award for the Eastern Council of Business Schools and Programs in Region 2.

### **Program Reviews and Accreditation Visits for Spring 2012**

The College of Business, Information and Social Sciences hosted the ACBSP accreditation site visit team for the School of Business.

The following departments went through five-year reviews:

- Communication
- Criminology and Criminal Justice

Geography, Geology and the Environment  
Library  
Mathematics

### **STEM**

PASSHE will be emphasizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) undergraduate research beginning Fall 2012 and have broadened the STEM definition to include health-related fields. Each PASSHE university has identified a team of five people to be trained in this area in Fall 2012. Slippery Rock University is already in the forefront with the number of students currently presenting and publishing. Six undergraduates travelled to Ogden, Utah in March and presented their research at the Council of Undergraduate Research National Convention. They were selected from over 3,500 applicants. On-going quality research not only brings great recognition to Slippery Rock University, it opens doors and helps students as they apply to graduate and professional schools.

### **Enrollment for Fall 2012**

- First year student applications are at 5952 compared to 6192 for last year at this time.
- The offer rate is currently at 63% as compared to 60% last year.
- First year deposits are at 1386 compared to 1411 for last year at this time.
- Transfer student deposits are at 362 compared to 446 for last year at this time.

Slippery Rock University is running slightly behind last year's numbers primarily as a result of lower enrollments in education.

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

Dr. Charles Curry, acting president and vice president for Finance and Administrative Affairs, provided a report of the Finance and Audit Committee in the absence of Dr. Murray, chair.

New Student Center is nearing completion. Contractors have all requested substantial completion inspections. Furniture and kitchen equipment is being delivered and installed. Anticipate occupancy permit in May (\$38.8 million).

Patterson Renovation Phase II under construction. Project is ahead of schedule due to unseasonal weather. Completion scheduled for September 2012 (\$2.6 million).

Green Fund: Facilities and Planning received two grants to install an electric meter at the Old Student Union and to purchase energy dashboard software to display energy consumption in Residence Halls A-F. The goal is to use the dashboards to educate students about how their behaviors can impact energy consumption at SRU. Facilities & Planning is teaming with Residence Life on the initiative.

#### **Items for Council Action**

- Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders, BOG Policy 1985-04A, and Budget Request

#### **Items for Council Information**

- Personnel Items, Monthly Budget Report, and the Facilities and Planning Active Project list

## Student Life Committee

Mr. Brandon Maharaj, chair of the Student Life Committee, deferred to Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life to provide the report of activities in the area of student life.

**Residence Life:** The Office of Residence Life has been busy with housing assignments for returning and new students since the last report. 1301 current residence hall students have signed agreements and chosen rooms for the 2012-1013 academic year. As of April 5, 1068 first year students have applied and been placed in housing. With an admissions goal of 1600 new first year students, our office is on target for 100% occupancy for Fall 2012. In order to maintain the quality of the living environment, residence life is requesting a 2% increase in the traditional residence hall fees. The rates for the residential suites will increase 2% as per the proforma.

**Dining Services:** With the opening of the renovated Weisenfluh in January 2012 and the completion of the Robert M. Smith Student Center, the Dining Services facilities master plan developed in 2008 will be completed. The changes to the meal plan structure implemented for the 2010-2011 year have been very well received by students giving them the flexibility that they want in choosing a meal plan. Students are excitedly looking forward to the opening of the Starbucks and Quaker Steak & Lube operations. The dining program offers an array of cuisines and dining experiences, each facility with its own unique identity. The requested meal plan fee increase for Council approval is three percent.

**Student Health Services:** As of the first of April, clinicians have provided care through 12,943 visits. The time spent with each student averages 24 minutes per visit. This is the fourth consecutive year of increasing visit length. This data reflects a growing trend in student health; patient visit length is increasing secondary to the complexity of presenting issues. The requested increase in Student Health Service Fees is 5.5%, which translates to \$7.50 per semester.

## University Advancement Committee

Mr. Robert Taylor, chair of the University Advancement Committee, shared an update of advancement activities based on a report provided by Ms. Barbara Ender, vice president for University Advancement.

Gifts received for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as of March 31, 2012 totaled \$1,532,838 representing a 13% increase over the same period last year.

Through the Annual Fund, student callers are reaching out to parents of the freshman and senior classes for the first time. To date, this new initiative has resulted in 721 pledges and gifts totaling \$26,246.

The annual scholarship stewardship luncheon was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> in the newly renovated Weisenfluh Hall. Scholarship donors and their student recipients were honored and five Lifetime Giving Club pins were awarded.

A market study was recently completed related to the new Performing Arts Center by *Gronlund Sayther Brunkow*. The consultants presented findings and recommendations to the Foundation Board this week. The recommendations will be reviewed with President Norton for future planning.

Future plans include: Homecoming 2012 (Oct. 19-20); Sunset Serenade (Oct. 6); and a variety of initiatives to promote additional fundraising in conjunction with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University (2014).

### Governance Committee

Mr. Eric Holmes, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, confirmed that as requested by the committee, Ms. Tina Moser, campus coordinator of the Presidential Search Committee and administrative liaison to Council, archived documentation of presidential procedures to remain in the Office of the President for future reference.

Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Taylor, chair of the nominating committee to provide his report. Mr. Taylor presented to Council the slate of officers for 2012 – 2013:

Mr. Eric Holmes, Chair  
Dr. John Hicks, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Robert Marcus, Secretary

The Governance Committee under Council of Trustees by-laws serves as the nominating committee and is comprised of five members, Mr. Eric Holmes, Ms. Grace Hawkins, Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Robert Taylor, and Ms. Suzanne Vessella. It is noted that Mr. Holmes and Dr. Hicks did not participate in the recommendation process for the slate of officers this year.

In addition, Chairman Young received a memo from Mr. Holmes stating that with the resignation of Mr. John Thornburgh, the committee recommends that Mr. Brandon Maharaj is appointed secretary effective immediately until the June meeting.

Chairperson Young thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work in bringing forward the recommendation of officers for consideration and action at the June meeting.

### 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.

There has been no meeting of the executive council since our last meeting in January. The spring conference was held at Dixon Center in Harrisburg March 20 & 21, 2012. The executive board brought a powerhouse of speakers and panel presenters to share with us. Included on the agenda was our very own Dr. Bill Williams, who presented on work force development and Dr. Amanda Yale, who presented trends in enrollment strategies. It was an informative and exciting place to be. This is a wonderful opportunity for Trustees and it is an important event to attend.

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

Acting President Charles T. Curry shared his report. **(Appendix F)**

### ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

#### Contracts (TAB 3)

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

#### Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

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

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

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

#### BOG Policy 1985-04A (TAB 6)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes that the BOG Policy 1985-04A be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix J)**

#### Capital Budget (TAB 7)

Ms. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj that the Capital Budget be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix K)**

#### Student Fees (TAB 10)

##### **Residence Hall Fees**

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj to approve the Residence Hall Fees. Hicks, yes; Maharaj yes; Hawkins yes; Holmes yes; Marcus yes; Young yes; Taylor No. Motion carried. *2% increase in traditional hall fees; rates for residential suites will increase 2% as per the proforma* **(Appendix L)**

##### **Meal Plan Fees**

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Maharaj to approve the Meal Plan Fees as submitted. Motion carried. *3% increase to satisfy CPI food service contract.* **(Appendix M)**

##### **Health Service Fees**

1) Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, to rescind 4.8% annual increase of health services fees based on tuition. Motion carried.

2) Mr. Holmes moved, seconded by Ms. Hawkins, to approve a health services fee increase of 5.5% of the current fee, results in \$7.50 per semester. Hicks, yes; Holmes, yes; Hawkins, yes, Marcus, yes; Young, yes; Maharaj yes, Taylor, No. Motion carried. (Appendix N)

#### Appointment of Council Secretary

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the appointment of Mr. Brandon Maharaj as Council Secretary effective immediately to June 15 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 11 – TAB #14)**

#### Welcome Dr. Cheryl J. Norton – Presidential Designee

On behalf of Council and the Slippery Rock University campus, Chairman Young extended a warm welcome to Dr. Norton, who was on campus for a two-day visit prior to her arrival on June 4 as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of Slippery Rock University.

President-elect Norton offered brief remarks to the group. She emphasized what an honor and privilege it is for her to be the next president of this incredible institution. Remarking that though she had a brief view of the campus during her whirl wind interview on campus, she has had the opportunity in the last 24 hours to get out on campus, spend time talking with faculty, students and staff, and truly get the feel for what she has known to be true – Slippery Rock University has great energy, strives for excellence, and is a caring and vibrant community. She, her spouse Henry, her two dogs, and two cats are excited to be part of the Slippery Rock University family.

#### Next Meeting Dates

**June 15, 2012**

#### Personnel Items (TAB 11)

#### Monthly Budget Report FY 2010-2011 (TAB 12)

#### Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 13)

#### Divisional Reports (TAB 14)

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Grace Hawkins – This is a wonderful day and we look to the future of Slippery Rock University with great enthusiasm and excitement as Dr. Norton joins us. And, to Acting President Curry, thank you for your service in this role, you've done an outstanding job.

Bob Marcus – It's great to be at Slippery Rock University! It is so nice to have Dr. Norton on campus with us. We look forward to your leadership!

John Hicks – I have accolades to share with you:

Kudos to: Drs. Herb Hunt and Kim Creasy and committee for directing the highly successful, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Student Teaching and Supervision Conference. Faculty from Pennsylvania Universities, and



several other states attended. Student teachers accompanied their Professors and offered poster presentations. Local public school administrators attended a breakfast and a session on legal issues presented by Bernard Hoffman, who consults with the United States Supreme court on basic education issues.

Kudos to: Dr. Jace Condravy, who has announced her intent to step down after leading APSCUF as President for several years. Thanks for reporting regularly to this council and for successfully walking the tightrope between faculty rights and university preservation with grace and aplomb.

Kudos to: Vic Campagna and Joe Walton, retiring members of our SRU coaching family for so many years of service. Their contributions to SRU and its athletes will be difficult to duplicate.

Kudos to: Dr. Kathleen Strickland, who as interim and permanent dean, has led the College of Education through the mine fields of government and accreditation. Thank you, job well done!


Bob Taylor – I've made an exciting observation walking around campus and I think it is important to celebrate our campus rich in different cultures and respectful of all individuals. The campus has been led very successfully through this transition by an Acting President, who just happens to be African American. We selected a very, very qualified candidate – the most qualified of all our candidates – to lead this university who just happens to be a woman. And today, Council just nominated a very qualified person to lead this group who happens to be African American. I am proud of our campus and the caring and respectful understanding of each other and our differences.

Brandon Maharaj – Welcome Dr. Norton! Congratulations Dr. Curry and thank you for your leadership.

Eric Holmes – It's always great to be on campus and we appreciate the work of Dr. Curry and the senior leadership team. Dr. Norton – we are very excited to have you join us and very much look forward to your leadership as our 16<sup>th</sup> President.

Joshua Young – Dr. Norton, it is a great pleasure to have you here with us today. We know that the campus community is excited to have you with us and we look forward to working with you. Congratulations to Dr. Curry and the senior leadership team for an outstanding job during this transitional period.

With no further business, the Friday, April 27, 2012 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Dr. Murray 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