

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

December 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, December 7, 2012 in the Alumni House and Conference Center. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Mr. Eric Holmes, chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. John Hicks, Mr. Eric Holmes, Dr. Robert Marcus, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Thomas Breth, Ms. Courtney Baker-Schroat, Mr. Robert Taylor

(Dr. Robert Marcus and Mr. Robert Taylor participated by telephone)

Trustees absent: Mr. Joshua Young, Dr. Dennis Murray, Ms. Grace Hawkins

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Breth approval of the December 7, 2012 meeting agenda. **(Appendix A)**

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baker-Schroat moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval of the September 27, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Dr. Patrick Burkhardt, president of SRU APSCUF, provided comments.

Mr. David Wolfe, president of the Student Government Association, provided comments.

**Mr. Robert Taylor, member of the Board of Governors and SRU Trustee, shared with the audience that David Wolfe attended his first meeting as a BOG Member last Wednesday. Dave's attentiveness to meeting discussions and his professional prowess in asking questions was impressive.*

Mr. Taylor extended congratulations to Dave for a job well done. Slippery Rock University is fortunate to have this young man representing the institution and, more importantly, the voice of the students, on this board.

Dave extended thanks to Mr. Taylor for his kind remarks (applause)....

PRESENTATIONS

Resolution – Honoring the Service of Dr. William F. Williams (TAB 9)

Ms. Baker-Schroat presented to Dr. Bill Williams a “Resolution of Service” and offered congratulations on behalf of Council. Dr. Williams retires February 8, 2013 with 31 years of exemplary

service to Slippery Rock University. Bill provided expert leadership, advice and counsel to the university community. He wore many professional hats, including faculty member, chairperson, interim provost, and provost/vice president for Academic Affairs, all served with distinction.

For nine years, Bill served with distinction as the president of the SRU chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State University Faculties (APSCUF), representing his colleagues with a deep understanding of the importance of promoting excellence in the classroom and a commitment to enhancing the academic environment. We wish Bill health, happiness, and much-deserved relaxation in his retirement. (**Appendix G**)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Dr. John Hicks, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, provided a report of fall semester activities for the division.

Provost's Search: The search process for the provost's position has concluded. The search committee forwarded four unranked candidates to the president. Negotiations with the selected, as yet unnamed, candidate are underway.

Programs:

The College of Business, Information, and Social Sciences has received permission from PASSHE to develop the MBA in a blended format. The program will be taught part online and part at the Regional Learning Alliance.

The College of Health, Environment and Science has received permission from PASSHE to develop the Master's in Physician Assistant program. The College is beginning preliminary work with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant to ensure that the program fills accreditation standards.

Information and Administrative Technology Services : SRU's Student Information System Core Team (functional and technical personnel) has completed the first massive upgrade of the Banner SIS environment with great success.

Grants and Sponsored Research: The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research is working in conjunction with the Finance Office to develop guidelines for service agreements and contracts that will generate revenue for the university.

Graduation Rate: By posting an 18.4% improvement in black student graduation rates between 2004-2010, SRU is ranked eighth in the nation among public institutions showing substantial gains, according to The Education Trust. The Education Trust has a mission of promoting high academic achievement for all students at all levels – pre-kindergarten through college.

Institutional Reporting: SRU received 13 out of 14 total points for performance funding. The performance funding per FTE document calculates the amount of performance funding on a per capita basis using fall full-time equivalent (FTE) data. Using this methodology, SRU received \$402 per FTE

student as compared to the PASSHE average of \$348 per FTE student. Amounts received per FTE student ranged from a high of \$402 to a low of \$226 within PASSHE for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Enrollment Services: Applications are down for Western Pennsylvania counties and out-of-state students and significant application declines are evidenced in the College of Education and in the College of Health, Environment, and Science. A number of strategies have been infused in the recruitment and admissions processes including decision days, additional campus visit days, and e-communications tactics, to address the decline in applications.

The number of students enrolled for the winter interim session has doubled since last year. This is the second time Slippery Rock has offered a winter interim session. Classes are offered through distance education, so students who are home for the holidays can still take advantage of this option.

Finance and Audit Committee

Dr. Charles Curry, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs, provided the following divisional updates on behalf of Dr. Dennis Murray, chair, Finance and Audit Committee.

Within the construction and design area of the division, we are pleased to report that Patterson Renovation Phase III is complete. Slippery Rock University's Climate Action Plan was submitted to the American College and University's Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) describing how the University will reach climate neutrality in twenty-five years. STARS report was submitted to the Association for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and obtained a Silver Rating.

The external auditors, Parente-Beard, concluded their annual audit work with no findings in the report and the University received an "unqualified" opinion on the June 30, 2012 audit and no management comments on internal control matters.

Recycling and Sustainability: Engaged the Sustainability Officer to develop a joint initiative to advance and advertise EHS recycling efforts as part of overall sustainability initiatives on campus. Formal University recycling policy will be developed and proposed to the President's Cabinet for approval.

Action Items

- Approval levels for Contracts, Fixed Assets and Service and Supply Purchase Orders
- Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders

Information Items

- Personnel Items
- Monthly Budget Report
- Facilities and Planning Active Project List
- Divisional Reports

Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Constance Foley, vice president for Student Life, provided the divisional report on behalf of Dr. Robert Marcus.

Fall 2012 has been a very active semester for Student Affairs. The Department has been involved in assisting with several activities this quarter such as: President Norton's Inauguration, Homecoming and related activities, athletic events, dances, and celebrations.

Highlights of these activities include:

Athletics: The Rock Athletic Department had a successful fall season. The Women's Soccer team won the PSAC Championships, and made it to the NCAA Sweet 16. Cross Country runner, Stephanie Case qualified for the DII National Championships. The Men's Soccer team finished runner up in the PSAC Championship and the Women's Field Hockey team qualified for the PSAC playoffs. Head Field Hockey Coach, Julie Swiney, and Head W. Soccer Coach, Noreen Herlihy, were named PSAC Coaches of the Year. The Rock also had several all-PSAC, All-Region, and All-American team selections in cross-country, field hockey, football, soccer and volleyball.

The Robert M. Smith Student Center: Opened in July 2012 for departments to relocate, and the building was operational for the start of the fall semester in August. The Student Center has been extremely busy with university events as well as conferences and banquets.

Residence Life: The Office of Residence Life opened with 2875 students residing on campus (99% occupancy). A restorative practice model for building residence hall community was introduced this fall and has already seen positive results. This model, coupled with the Co-Curricular Program, has given the Community Assistants the tools to connect students to each other, the campus community, and the world they live in.

University Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee met yesterday, and received updates from Vice President Ender, and Samantha Swift, Director of Development. Topics of discussion included:

Celebration of Giving, the annual donor recognition event, will take place tomorrow evening in the Ballroom of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. Eleven couples/individuals will be awarded Lifetime Giving Pins – 180 guests are expected to attend. Following dinner, students from music, theatre and dance will perform.

Gift Income as of November 30th is \$858,057, up 14.47% over the same period last year; reflective of several new initiatives that the development staff is pursuing, including the recent Title IX Fundraising appeal, which has garnered \$85,000 in gifts and pledges.

The Campus Family Campaign will conclude December 31st. As of November 30th, gifts and pledges totaled \$139,000 with just 13% remaining to reach the goal of \$160,000. Eight units have already achieved 100% participation.

Looking Ahead. . .planning has begun for a week of donor/alumni events in Florida in February. And, the fundraising staff has begun introducing giving opportunities in celebration of the University's 125th anniversary (1889-2014).

Governance Committee

Chairman Holmes reported on behalf of Mr. Josh Young, chair, that the Governance Committee will discuss items of interest at the next meeting in March.

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.

2013 Spring PACT Conference (Harrisburg): April 16-17

2013 Fall PACT Conference (Clarion): October 9-10

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

President Cheryl J. Norton provided the President's Report. **(Appendix B)**

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Approval Levels for Contracts, Fixed Assets & Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 2)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Baker-Schroat the approval of this item as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. **(Appendix C)**

This item confirms formal approval from Council to ensure that future reporting is consistent with the university's policies and to identify only items valued at \$18,500 and higher in each respective area for Contracts, Fixed Assets, and Service and Supply Purchase Orders.

Contracts (TAB 3)

Ms. Baker-Schroat moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval of Contracts as submitted. Motion carried with one abstention, Mr. Robert Taylor. **(Appendix D)**

Fixed Assets (TAB 4)

Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Mr. Breth, approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders as submitted. I's Hicks, Holmes, Marcus, Vessella, Breth, Baker-Schroat; Not Voting: Taylor. Motion carried. **(Appendix E)**

**Mr. Taylor could not hear the motion due to technology.*

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 5)

Mr. Breth moved, seconded by Dr. Hicks, approval of Service and Supply Purchase Orders as submitted. I's Hicks, Holmes, Marcus, Vessella, Breth, Baker-Schroat; Not Voting: Taylor. Motion carried. **(Appendix F)**

**Mr. Taylor could not hear the motion due to technology.*

INFORMATION ITEMS (TAB # 6 – TAB # 10)

Next Meeting Dates

~~March 14 & 15, 2013~~ March 7-8, 2013

June 6 & 7, 2013

Audited Financial Statements ending June 30, 2012 (TAB 6)

Personnel Items (TAB 7)

Monthly Budget Report (TAB 8)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (TAB 9)

Divisional Reports (TAB 10)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Suzanne Vessella – It's a pleasure being on campus for our meeting today. Happy Holidays!

Thomas Breth – I am honored to be a member of this Council. The warm welcome by President Norton, the campus community, and my fellow council members, is very much appreciated. President Norton graciously took me on a walking tour of campus shortly after my appointment, and I was (and continue to be) so impressed with the campus.

Courtney Baker-Schroat – Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I am thrilled to be appointed to serve on behalf of the students of Slippery Rock University.

John Hicks – Congratulations and welcome to Tom and Courtney. Congratulations Bill Williams upon the occasion of his retirement, we wish him the best.

Eric Holmes – I would also like to welcome Tom and Courtney, it's great having you with us. Also, if you had not heard, Kimberley Jones, our Alumni Association President is having health issues, so we ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you to all of the presenters yesterday and today – we appreciate your efforts. I would like to especially thank the exercise science faculty, staff, and students who provided Council with a tour of Patterson Hall – a very impressive tour!

With no further business, the Friday, December 7, 2012 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Dr. Hicks moved, seconded by Ms. Baker-Schroat to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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