

## SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

**December 5, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, December 5, 2014, in room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Thomas Breth, chairperson.

### **Recording of Attendance**

Trustees present: Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Ms. Laura Ordaz, Commissioner William McCarrier, Senator Mary Jo White, Dr. Robert Marcus

Trustees absent: Mr. Matt Shaner, Ms. Suzanne Vessella, Mr. Robert Taylor, Dr. Dennis Murray

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Senator White, approval of the business meeting agenda, Friday, December 5, 2014. Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 19) (Appendix A)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Lautman moved, seconded by Commissioner McCarrier, approval of the Friday, September 26, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. (TAB 20)

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Breth welcomed public comments from the audience. Chairman Breth announced individuals to come forward in order as they appeared on the sign-up sheet with a time limit of three minutes per speaker.

**Rev. Kevin G. Poecking, Campus Ministry, Rock Catholic Center, Saint Peter, Slippery Rock**  
**Ms. Diane Magliocca, Campus Ministry, Rock Catholic Center, Slippery Rock**

Rev. Poecking presented a DECREE on behalf of the Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, in honor of Slippery Rock University's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (Appendix B, C)

*“At the close of this historic 125<sup>th</sup> year of Slippery Rock University, I am happy to extend to the entire Slippery Rock University community my solemn blessing and my prayers for your welfare and prosperity. May you carry forth your outstanding commitment to educating minds and hearts for generations to come.”*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik, D.D., M.Ed., Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

### **Chalice Streitman, East/West Gym, Miller Auditorium Renovations**

Hello. My name is Chalice Streitman and I am a Slippery Rock University student pursuing majors in exercise science and dance.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees for your unanimous approval to renovate the East/West Gym and Miller Auditorium at the September 26 Council of Trustees meeting. Words cannot describe my appreciation that this project is moving forward.

Because I am on the Dance Advisory Board, I have been constantly updated on this project throughout my four years on campus. Words cannot quite describe the feeling of knowing that this project will be completed. Even though I will be graduated by the time the project is complete, I could not be more proud of SRU for making this investment in our future.

I would like to especially thank Trustee Bob Taylor for not only presenting this project to the Board of Governors, but for aiding in a positive outcome. I greatly appreciate your willingness to listen to the resounding voice of the student body. I look forward to coming back as an alumna to see the beautiful renovation that is scheduled to take place.

Thank you again, Council of Trustees, for your unending support. It not only means a great deal to me, but also to the students, faculty, and staff of the Departments of Dance and Theatre. Thank you!

**Katie Hill, president, Student Government Association, Inc.**

Thank you Chairman Breth. Good afternoon.

I wanted to start by saying thank you all for embracing the new student ambassador program. I know that students appreciated the time you took to sit and talk to them at lunch and I hope the experience was valuable to you in return. Mr. Breth and I had a wonderful time sitting with some first-year female students. I am excited to continue this ambassador relationship in the future and see how it can continue to grow.

I also think that all of you deserve another thank you for helping to support the student trip to Michigan for the Battle at the Big House game. SGA worked hard to send 7 busses of students to Michigan with breakfast and lunch. It was truly a great experience to be cheering on the Rock with Michigan students and also with the faculty, staff, and those of you who were able to make the trip. This was a memorable event that I am sure we will all cherish for a very long time.

I wanted to update you on a few things that the Student Government Association has been doing these past few months since your last visit. SGA sent out a student life survey to students asking them about campus life. The survey was a success; we had over 1,000 students give their feedback. This survey has allowed Student Government to reach out to different groups and offices on campus as well as in the community to share the results.

Another recent campus wide event was our campus crawl. SGA, faculty, staff and other students walk the campus to see any safety hazards, for example lighting and sidewalks. We then work with facilities to see what we can fix and improve so that students continue to feel safe on campus.

The Happy Bus evening route has also been brought back for student use. The bus will run in between the daylight savings time for all night-time classes. It travels both on and off campus so students can have a warm ride as the nights get colder and as it continues to get darker earlier. Students have been excited about the return of this route, and we are hopeful that the numbers will continue to increase as it starts to get colder.

Other exciting news is that our Board of Directors is planning to have their first meeting in January. SGA is excited to be gaining this board and utilizing their insight and wisdom.

Lastly, SGA has adopted a new ethics statement. As a senate, we really wanted to be able to define ourselves to students in a way that is memorable. We came up with a phrase and it says, “SGA is all E.A.R.S. Ears is an acronym that means that SGA is going to work towards enhancing the student experience, advocating on behalf of the student body, representing the students’ interest, and supporting students to reach excellence.

The Student Government Association has continued to be a student voice on multiple committees and commissions. We are thankful for the opportunities and will continue to embrace them throughout the year.

I just want to thank you again for your time and I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

Thank you!

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Highlights of the Big House Battle, Oct. 17-18, 2014**

Introduced by Jon Holtz, Director of Athletic Communication

Video developed by SRU emerging technology students: Michael Williams, Brandon Lombardo, Jacob Miller

### **Commendations:**

Chairman Tom Breth presented the following commendations on behalf of Council:

**Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of your service to Slippery Rock University as an “honorary chair” for the University’s yearlong 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: (**Appendix, D, E**)

**Wilma J. Cavill**

**Robert Watson**

**Certificate of Appreciation** in recognition of your service to Slippery Rock University as a steering committee tri-chair for the University’s yearlong 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: (**Appendix F, G, H**)

**George Mihalik**

**Judy Silva**

**Laurel Dagnon**

**Award of Excellence** presented to: (**Appendix I**)

**Coach George Mihalik and the 2014 Rock Football Team** in recognition of your outstanding season, for capturing the 2014 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championship and for having brought great honor to Slippery Rock University through your accomplishments both on-and-off the field.

**Presentation, “The antimicrobial activity of eryngial, a natural product with immense potential for drug development”**

Wayne Forbes, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Biology

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Cheryl J. Norton provided remarks (**Appendix Ia**)

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix J)**

Mr. Jeff Smith, chair, provided the following report:

The Governance Committee met yesterday afternoon to discuss a number of items:

Three action items were discussed and approved. These items are important and necessary to the structure and organization of COT committees to be in line with the structure of university divisions:

- 1) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect changing the committee name **from** Finance and Audit Committee **to** Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee
- 2) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect Governance Committee structure changed **from** three members serving on the Governance Committee **to** four members serving on the committee.
- 3) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect combining the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees to one committee, Academic and Student Affairs Committee

The Governance Committee recommended approval to move the action items forward for Council's consideration.

Chairman Breth provided a tentative timeline and overview of Council's responsibilities in preparing the President's triennial evaluation. We are awaiting additional information from the Chancellor's Office before proceeding with the process.

The PACT Conference was held Oct. 2, in Harrisburg. The theme for the conference was Effective Governance. I provided my colleagues a copy of the conference presentations for their review.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix K)**

Mr. Matt Lautman provided the following report on behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met yesterday afternoon and reviewed a number of items.

Our only item moving forward for action is the Physician's Assistant program proposal. Dr. Susan Hannam, Dean, College of Health, Environment and Science and Ms. Teresa Preston (MBA, MPAS, PA-C), provided an in-depth explanation of the structure, admission requirements, revenue projections, cost analysis, and the needs and benefits to our surrounding communities and the region by offering this program at SRU. The committee is moving this item forward to the full board for consideration.

President Norton shared the very good news that for the second year in a row, SRU has placed #1 in performance indicators in the System. Congratulations to the SRU community for a job well done in receiving this repeat recognition. Dr. Amanda Yale provided an update to our enrollment outlook with the very good news that applications are up moving forward.

Due to time constraints, we moved the Student Health Services discussion to the Governance Committee.

That concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

### **Finance and Audit Committee (Agenda, Appendix L)**

Sen. Mary Jo White chairs the Finance and Audit Committee. The committee met yesterday to review a number of items for action and information. In addition to the routine items, there were three presentations:

- Mr. David Jacobson, CliftonLarsonAllen presented the results of the external audit process. We reviewed the financial statements and received confirmation that our internal controls are in place, responsible and effective.
- Dr. Amir Mohammadi and Ms. Molly Mercer presented a budget overview and noted that moving forward our outstanding pension obligations will be part of our balance sheet.
- The proposal to purchase Har-Mer Elementary School in Harrisville, PA was discussed. The space would be utilized to house the Physician's Assistant Program. This action item is moved forward for Council approval.

Additional action items recommended by the committee to move forward for Council approval:

- 1) STEM-H – This pilot program focuses on the high-demand Science and Tech fields that are more costly to offer. The program fee would not impact current students, but would begin with the 2015 class. The committee moves forward the recommendation for full board consideration.
- 2) Military – This program would provide a 15% discount to active military personnel and their spouses. The committee moves forward the recommendation for full board consideration.
- 3) Expansion of Scholarship Program – Provide low and middle students additional assistance through need-based scholarships. The committee moves forward the recommendation for full board consideration.
- 4) Contracts, Fixed Assets, Service and Supply Purchase Orders – Senator White commented that these are routine items and the committee recommends approval.
- 5) Affiliated Entities Certification of Compliance – Senator White commented this is an annual approval process recommended by the Board of Governors.

Information items included the financial report, the Facilities and Planning Project List, and HR personnel items. It was good to hear the Performing Arts Center project planning is moving ahead on schedule.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

### **University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix M)**

Ms. Laura Ordaz offered the report of the University Advancement committee in the absence of Matt Shaner, chair.

The University Advancement Committee met at 10:45 a.m. today. Barbara Ender, Samantha Swift and Ed Bucha provided the following updates for the committee.

Gift Income as of the end of the most recent quarter (September 30, 2014) totaled \$986,060. Gift income as of November 30th totals \$1.4 million in comparison to \$858,057 at the same time last year.

A review of alumni engagement activities, special event success, and impact of giving was discussed in the context of the Development Cycle: Identification – Cultivation – Solicitation – Stewardship.

As the 125th Anniversary year closes, many of the initiatives will carry-over in that there are multi-year pledge commitments, and of course the recognition opportunities (Founders Society and the 1889 Society) created in conjunction with the Anniversary year. These will be perpetuated as a means of donor stewardship.

Campaign Planning was discussed, with emphasis on the pre-campaign planning and preparation necessary for a successful campaign. After reviewing a graph of the typical phases of a campaign, a recent CURRENTS magazine with a feature on Campaigns was shared with the committee. In addition, a review of the ongoing work with the academic deans and the Provost was provided.

Ed Bucha shared information about the excellent relationship that has been established with Mine Safety Appliance Company (MSA) – and the commitment of in-kind equipment valued at \$140,000. The relationship has been cultivated over the past year, and holds significant potential for the future of the Safety Management program and facility.

Council members were reminded that they have 26 days to make their charitable gifts to SRU for the 2014 tax year.

The Council of Trustees was presented a scholarship proposal to establish a Trustee Fund for Leadership Experience Abroad.

This concludes my report, Chairman Breth.

### **Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix N)**

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

## **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

### **Tuition Pilots (TAB 7)**

Senator White moved, seconded by Ms. Ordaz approval of the STEM-H High Cost/High Demand (undergraduate) Pilot Program and the Active Duty Military Tuition Discount Pilot Program. Motion carried unanimously. (**Appendix O**)

**Expansion of Scholarship Program (TAB 8)**

Senator White moved, seconded by Mr. Lautman approval of the Expansion of Scholarship Program. Motion carried unanimously (Appendix P)

**Acquisition of Property Proposal (Har-Mer Elementary School, Harrisville, PA (TAB 10)**

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Marcus approval of the Acquisition of Property Proposal (Har-Mer Elementary School) to move forward for Board of Governor's approval. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix Q)

**Contracts (TAB 11)**

Senator White moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix R)

**Fixed Assets (TAB 12)**

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the Fixed Assets. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix S)

**Service & Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 13)**

Dr. Marcus moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the Service & Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix T)

**Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program (TAB 14)**

Mr. Lautman moved, seconded by Senator White, approval of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program to move forward for Board of Governor's approval. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix U)

**Affiliated Entities of Certification of Compliance BOG Policy 1985-04-A: University External Financial Support (TAB 22)**

The Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, upon recommendation of the president, hereby certifies, as per Board of Governor's Policy 1985-04-A, that the following affiliated entities make a financial contribution to the University or provide similar benefits on a regular basis, satisfactory to this Council of Trustees and to the president.

Slippery Rock University Foundation  
Slippery Rock University Student Government Association  
Slippery Rock University Alumni Association

Senator White moved, seconded by Mr. Lautman, approval of the Certificate of Compliance BOG Policy 1985-04-A: University External Financial Support. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix V)

**Trustee Fund for Leadership Experience Abroad Scholarship (Shared in Committee)**

Ms. Ordaz moved, seconded Mr. Smith, approval of the proposal to establish a Trustee Fund for Leadership Experience Abroad Scholarship. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Breth acknowledged Laura Ordaz and Katie Hill, who worked together to bring this proposal to Council. “This is a totally student driven initiative and I am pleased to bring it forward to Council on their behalf.”

### **SRU Council of Trustees Governance Committee (Action Items)**

Three action items were discussed and approved at the Governance Committee to move forward for approval by Council. The items are important and necessary to the structure and organization of COT committees to be in line with the structure and organization of university divisions:

- 1) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect changing the committee name **from** Finance and Audit Committee **to** Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee
- 2) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect Governance Committee structure changed from three members serving on the Governance Committee to four members serving on the committee.
- 3) COT Bylaws were amended to reflect combining the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees to one committee, Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner McCarrier to approve the recommendations of the Governance Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Meeting Dates 2015**

March 19 & 20, 2015  
June 4 & 5, 2015

### **Preliminary Discussion on Potential High School Discount (Shared in Committee)**

### **HR Personnel Items (TAB 15) (Appendix W)**

### **Financial Report (TAB 16) (Appendix X)**

### **Financial Statements and Audit Overview (TAB 17) (Appendix Y)**

### **Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 18) (Appendix Z)**

### **Divisional Reports (TAB 21)**

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

Matt Lautman – I would like to acknowledge SGA for extending the bus service in the evenings. This request was brought forward by students. SGA appropriately reviewed and responded to the need. Thank you is also extended to Dr. Aaron Cowan, associate professor, History, for inviting us to a great

experience at the Old Stone House last evening. Trustees learned about the program, the many activities at the Old Stone House throughout the year, and the historical significance of the structure. Congratulations to the team for a wonderful evening.

Commissioner Bill McCarrier –As the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration comes to a close, it is exciting to look back and reflect on a very great feeling of satisfaction. There were many events to highlight and, more importantly, many accomplishments and advances to move the university forward. The PA Program is highly needed in the region. It is exciting to see the university fulfilling the academic needs for students, for business and industry. Dr. Forbes report was exceptional as he described the fascinating research he is conducting. Slippery Rock University is a world class institution. It's been a great year for the university and we will continue to excel in the future.

Jeff Smith – There are so many amazing things happening here. The trip to the Big House was an incredible experience and I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the event. The PA Program will meet the needs of our students, our communities, and region. The idea of acquiring the Har-Mer School outside of Slippery Rock is important to meet the space requirements for the program, but also is an excellent example of municipal cooperation and having government entities working together. The facility will house the program appropriately as it continues to grow. The plan is fiscally sound and cost efficient. Congratulations to President Norton and her team for moving forward with this project.

Laura Ordaz – SRU is a fantastic place to be. We have new programs introduced, students involved in research, and new building projects and facility improvements to meet our needs. It is a great time to be at SRU.

Tom Breth –Thank you all for coming today. As we approach the holiday season, on behalf of Council, we wish you a happy time spent with family and friends. We will see you all in 2015!

With no further business, the Friday, December 5, 2014 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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