

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

June 14, 2024

The Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees held its quarterly business meeting Friday, June 14, 2024, in the Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center and via Zoom conferencing. Chair Domenic Ionta called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The video recording of this meeting in its entirety can be found on the SRU Council webpage, <https://www.sru.edu/about/administration/council-of-trustees/video-recordings>

Meeting materials for this meeting can be found on the SRU Council webpage: <https://www.livebinders.com/b/3592956>

Chair Ionta welcomed two new members to the SRU Council of Trustees.

Angèle Stoebener: Trustee Stoebener is a 2006 SRU graduate with a degree in business administration, was appointed to the SRU Council of Trustees in 2024. Stoebener was an SRU trustee from 2004-06 when she filled the one seat on the council designated for an SRU student. While at SRU, she was also a member of the Student Government Association, the Honors Program and Alpha Kappa Psi.

A native of Natrona Heights, Stoebener is a business credit team leader with First National Bank in Pittsburgh. At FNB, she is responsible for leading and mentoring a team to maintain and grow a diversified portfolio of asset-based lending client relationships. She is also active in various initiatives within her organization, including the FNB Diversity Council and FNB Women in Business Council.

Stoebener's background includes conducting asset-based lending field examinations for various industries, including manufacturing, service, distributors and energy companies. She earned a master's degree in fraud and forensics from Carlow University in 2012, and from 2018-21, she served as an adjunct professor in SRU's Homeland and Corporate Securities Department, where she taught introductory and specialized fraud courses.

Stoebener is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, SRU Alumni Association, and is a graduate from the Pennsylvania Bankers Association School of Commercial Lending and School of Banking.

Angèle is very excited to be back in the role as trustee at Slippery Rock University and looks forward to working with everyone.

Charli Severo: Trustee Severo joined the SRU Council of Trustees in May 2024. She occupies the one seat designated for a full-time SRU undergraduate student. Her term will expire when she graduates.

Severo was selected based on a campuswide application and interview process. A selection committee consisting of two members of the council of trustees, one of which is the incumbent

student trustee serving as chair, three employee union representatives, and a representative from the Slippery Rock Student Government Association recommended Severo to SRU President Karen Riley for consideration to the post. Charli’s application materials were forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education and final approval was made by PASSHE Board of Governors.

A dual political science and philosophy major from Albion, Severo is president of the Law Society at SRU and president of the Debate Society. Additionally, Severo was a peer leader for SRU's FYRST Seminar, a one-credit course designed to help bridge the transition for students between high school and college.

Severo plans to attend law school after graduating from SRU.

Charli heard about the position of student trustee from former student trustee Brooklyn Graham. Charli is hoping to be an attorney someday and believes this will be an amazing experience for her and is thankful to serve as student trustee at Slippery Rock University.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Dr. Alfonso Angelucci, Mr. Domenic Ionta, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. William McCarrier, Ms. Charli Severo, Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Ms. Angèle Stoebener, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Joshua Young

Trustees absent: Mr. Dan Lavalley, Ms. Elise Michaux

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the June 14, 2024, meeting agenda. Motion carries (TAB 6, Appendix A)

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Angelucci moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, approval of the quarterly business meeting minutes of Friday, March 22, 2024. Motion carries. (TAB 7, Appendix B)

Public Comments

None

Commendations

None

Presentations

None

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Karen S. Riley, Ph.D.

Slippery Rock University
 President's Report
 June 14, 2024
 10:30 a.m.
 Russell Wright Alumni House and Conference Center

The focus of the past three months has been on the hiring of the new cabinet positions as well as commencement. The Strategic Plan continues to move forward.

Commencement: We hosted 4 commencement ceremonies with an additional special event for the track team who was traveling to a regional meet on the weekend of the university ceremonies. There was positive feedback on the ceremonies and no concerns noted regarding the digital programs. There were some suggestions regarding the content of the script and those edits have been made for the December ceremony.

Spring 2024 Graduates

Group	Awarded	Still Pending	Total
Total Undergraduates	964	261	1225
Master's	212	131	343
Doctorate	81	4	85
Other GR (certificate/principal cert)	6	6	12
Total Graduates	299	141	440
Grand Total	1263	402	1665

Enrollment: We continue to focus on enrollment for fall of 2024, while diligently attending to the retention and persistence activities that support our current students. The information provided is as of May 31, 2024. These numbers change slightly and as such the numbers presented in the presentations may vary from those listed below.

Currently, we are at 1600 deposits with a budget goal of 1545 for incoming first year students. With traditional melt we are projecting 1560 incoming first year students. This reflects an increase of 49 students from this time last year. We will continue to work to reduce melt over the next few months and will continue our practice of reviewing late applications that meet our criteria. We had planned for increases in student head count related to incoming first year students and an increase in retention. Provost Zieg worked with the deans to ensure that we have enough sections for all of our courses. Housing continues to be a bit of a challenge, but we have many options and Dr. Wilmes continues to work with the staff to ensure we are doing what we can to meet the needs of our students. Sophomores requesting off campus options have been granted and the number has increased from 30 to 151 over the last few months. Faculty contracts and obligations have been set with an understanding that things could

change. The number of students who have signed up for orientation is up by 27. We will offer additional sessions in the summer to ensure that we meet the demand of our incoming students.

Transfer total applications are down by 54 and deposits are down by 82. Although we have added several transfer articulation agreements, the decline in community college enrollment has had a significant impact on this transfer pool. We have implemented new practices to increase these numbers and will continue to work to close the gap.

Graduate summer applications and deposits are a small number and reflect the national landscape. Summer Applications are down by 66 and deposits are down by 27. Fall Applications for graduate programs are down by -95 and deposits are up by 8. There is confidence that we will hit our enrollment targets in the graduate areas.

Financial Picture/Budget Scenarios: The initial CPP has been submitted to PASSHE for the 2024-25 school year with projections to FY26-27. The numbers submitted for enrollment are based on the budgeted numbers. As the actual numbers of new students and continuing students fluctuate over the next couple of months appropriate modifications will be made. The salary projections are based on the current CBAs and faculty and staff complements. New positions are very carefully considered within the context of the national projections of an enrollment cliff. All open positions are carefully considered prior to them being refilled. The FY23-24 budget is set to close with a \$400,000 shortfall. This shortfall is expected and not a result of current year overspends, but rather a result of the historic practice of allowing units to maintain their own reserves. This practice is being phased out, which will allow for more clarity and control over the spending of the budget and the use of reserves. For SRU, purchase orders that are not received prior to June 30, are expended in the next fiscal year. In addition, departments are able to carry forward remaining budget balances to use in the new fiscal year. However, the University has a reserve strategy in place that provides for the centralization of reserves to support the allocation of resources to strategic initiatives. One recent example of a non-recurring strategic initiative is the review of IT operations by an outside firm. In addition to our base budget, we supplement our planned expenditures throughout the year with one-time dollars. One-time dollars are comprised of prior year surpluses and utilized in a future fiscal year to address new strategic initiatives and/or truly one-time costs and are not recurring costs.

Construction Projects: The summary of construction projects reflects activities within Pillar #2, addressing initiatives - Enhance the quality, functionality, and aesthetic appeal of campus environment, and Provide state of the art facilities and technology.

The project to replace the roof of the ARC started May 6, 2024. Completion is scheduled next week.

The project to install protective netting at Jack Critchfield Park was completed last week. Adding new fence pads in the outfield is a project scheduled for the 2024-2025 budget cycle. New pads will help to decrease risk of injury for our student athletes.

The softball field construction is set to begin in June 2024. The bids have all been submitted and we will move forward as soon as possible.

The turf project for the IM fields is scheduled to begin August 2024, following the completion of the 2024 Can-Am Police-Fire Games taking place in the area July 15-21. Butler County is the host for this international event and SRU has volunteered to serve as a host. We do not want any of our construction to interfere with the games.

The removal of the asbestos on the old tennis courts should be completed by the end of August. The pace of this project is a result of a limited number of workers who can clean up asbestos. Concerns regarding the management of the team have been raised and are being addressed. We are exploring other options.

The construction and facilities staging area between the tennis courts and the baseball field will be cleaned up and excess dirt and old concrete will be removed from the premises. This project will be initiated in October. The excess equipment from our outside vendor will be moved off site by the end of July.

We will be moving the Police Station into the Campus Success Center. The blueprints have been completed and we are ready to move forward with the project.

The Governor's Blueprint for Higher Education: The Governor's plan is moving forward with some adjustments. The shifts will be shared in the executive session.

Death of a student: The COT was notified of the passing of one of our students. The protocol was followed on the evening of his passing. Student Affairs and Athletics were involved as the student was a football player, living in Slippery Rock for the summer because he was completing an internship. The Football Coach and the President both spoke to the father of the student the day after his passing. Several members of the community traveled to Delmont to pay their respects during the viewing and during the funeral, including the President, the Athletic Director, several coaches and trainers and several football players. The Head Coach of the football team provided remarks at the funeral and several players served as pallbearers. The university has been diligent in reaching out to those most closely associated with the students, to provide support. The football team is scheduled to engage in training sessions during the week of June 3rd. Counseling will be a part of these training sessions. Human Resources will provide group counseling for several of the coaches and staff members of SRU as well. We will continue to explore ways to support the mental health of our students.

Strategic Plan: The plan has been completed and the print version has been presented to all the members of the COT. Implementation teams have been selected as have the leaders for each pillar. The pillar leaders will be trained by Dr. Jessica Lerner on how to write smart goals and on the process of moving the plan forward. Tina Moser will serve as the point person for the Strategic Plan and will ensure that the data and documents of evidence are submitted in a timely fashion and will bring concerns and updates to the cabinet. The implementation plan

will be shared during the President's Report. A sampling of activities are provided as an update of the overall plan.

Pillar #1 Commitment to a Robust, Supportive, and Inclusive Culture

Ensure that all faculty, staff and students have the support and resources necessary to thrive. Embed the development of cultural competencies across the university through the integration of the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging strategies and initiatives across curricular and co-curricular experiences, training and programming opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. As an extension of inclusive efforts, initiated by our launching of the SRU Land Acknowledgement, we have been exploring options in connecting with members of the Indigenous people of our region. A conversation was initiated by Trustee Smith, and we had a positive conversation regarding possible partnership opportunities with the Delaware Tribe. The provost was in the conversation and will be making those connections with faculty. He will also be exploring options for bringing members of the Delaware Tribe to campus to extend opportunities for our students to learn more about the history of the region and to learn more about the Indigenous populations of the region.

Align individual performance evaluations and organizational assessment systems to support the university's core values and strategic direction.

We held a manager's meeting in May to review the performance process from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. We also shared why it will be important for SRU to reevaluate the annual review process for those not covered by a CBA. The data shows an issue referred to as "evaluation inflation". Supervisors are not differentiating between 4s and 5s on a 5-point scale. Very few employees received a score of 3, which denotes meeting expectations. The current approach does not allow managers to reward extraordinary performance and leaves many employees feeling as if the evaluations are not actually tied to performance. We will be working to create rubrics for managers and employees so that we can truly embrace a growth mindset and create an annual review process that accurately reflects annual performance.

Pillar #2 Commitment to Academic Discovery and Human Growth

Support the expectation of excellence and goal attainment.

Offer a mission-driven and market responsive mix of academic programs.

The provost provided the COT with an overview of the request to approve several new programs including nursing, construction management, and electrical engineering. The faculty and staff are working with the Academic Affairs committee of the COT to ensure that we can get these programs up and running by Fall of 2025.

Provide premier student experience.

Provide state-of-the-art facilities and technology.

Please see Construction Projects.

Expand learning experiences and opportunities to meet the needs of varied learners and groups.

We are currently exploring the options of creating partnerships with a couple of local school districts to offer concurrent enrollment. These discussions are in the early stages and would require a deep discussion with APSCUF. We are also exploring ways in which this can be funded. One possibility is to access EITC (Education Improvement Tax Credit). This fund was accessed in the past; however, we had allowed our application to lapse several years ago. Dave Hollenbaugh is working with the various university partners to reinstate this funding opportunity. This is clearly an additional revenue stream that we want to continue to explore and could also be captured within Pillar #4. As previously noted, SRU had allowed their eligibility for this program to lapse. Dave Hollenbaugh is working to reinstate our eligibility. He submitted 14 reports in May 2024. These reports were delinquent and had to be submitted as part of regaining eligibility.

Increase the enrollment of non-traditional learners through online degree completion programs and graduate online programs.

We have reached out to the Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Buffalo Bills to explore partnerships with their organization regarding our Finish What You Started degree completion program for those current and previous players who pursued their careers as professional athletes prior to completing their degrees. The discussions are in the early phases, but we have garnered interest from both the Pirates and the Steelers for some type of partnership.

Improve retention and graduation rates.

Increase FR first-to-second year retention by 0.5% annually to attain a goal of 85%.

Increase each upper-division FR cohort persistence by 0.5% annually to attain a second to third year goal of 78% and a third to fourth year goal of 72%.

The current levels of persistence across cohorts have outpaced the targeted annual improvement of .5%. These numbers will continue to be monitored throughout the summer. If the increases continue until the September 15 deadline, we will re-evaluate the annual targeted increases.

Persistence:

F23 Cohort - +4.7% (85.8% vs. 81.1%)

F22 Cohort - +2.7% (74.8% vs. 72.1%)

F21 Cohort - +6.1% (65.0% vs. 58.9%)

Pillar #3 Commitment to Community Impact and Collaboration

Expand educational learning and growth opportunities that add value to external constituencies.

Increase engagement, partnerships, and reciprocal relationships with K-12 schools, health care facilities, government, and business and industry at the local and state levels.

Patrick Joyal has left the Governor's Office. We are not clear as to when there will be a scheduled meeting with the Governor. We will be developing an intentional and strategic approach to bringing our elected officials to campus so that we can share our plan with them and so that they are very familiar with the opportunities and challenges faced by SRU.

Pillar #4 Commitment to Financial Sustainability and Resource Stewardship
Structure the University for success.

We were able to hire several key positions within the university during the past few months.

Michael May – VP for Enrollment Management

Mike started at SRU in September of 2012. He has both a BA in History and an MBA with a concentration in Marketing from Yale University. For 23 years, Mike has worked in college admissions for 4 institutions: Yale (1998-2001), West Chester (2003-2008), and Chatham (2008-2012). In his current role as Director of First-year Admissions, he serves as a member of the Enrollment Management leadership team and oversees a first-year staff numbering 11. He is responsible for leading a collaborative effort to meet the university's first-year enrollment goals including quality, diversity, and access indicators. He works closely with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships as well as the consultant Ruffalo Noel-Levitz for financial aid leveraging strategies, execution, and assessment. Mike serves on the enrollment management university marketing team and has also served as the Admissions Practices Chair and Finance and Budget Chair for PACAC (Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling). He was born in Mexico City, but spent most of his formative years in Portage, Michigan. In Mike's free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Tierney; son, Declan (12); son, Patrick (10); and dogs, Fletcher, Lily, and Monte. He also enjoys grilling year-round, learning about history, watching baseball and college football, and listening to country music.

Troy M. Miller - VP for University Advancement

Troy M. Miller CFRE, CNP brings 30 years of development experience and 20 years of higher education advancement experience to his role at Slippery Rock University. Most recently, Troy served as the Vice President of Development at York College of Pennsylvania where he led the first comprehensive campaign in the college's 250-year history. The campaign raised nearly \$93 million with a goal of \$50 million. Prior to coming to York, he served as Senior Director of Development at Auburn University's Harbert College of Business in Auburn, Ala., Executive Director and Chief Development Officer at the Lock Haven University Foundation, and Director of Individual Giving at Penn State University. Miller earned his bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Writing from Temple University and is studying for his licensed battlefield guide designation at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Ken Bach – Senior Director for Marketing and Communication

Ken brings an extensive background in communications and marketing, including more than 20 years' experience at three institutions. He was most recently the associate vice president of communications and marketing at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and prior to that he was executive director of university communications and marketing at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. He served as executive director at the City University of New York, Staten Island campus, and appointments outside of higher education included interim executive director and CEO of Historic Richmond Town of the Staten Island Historical Society and stage manager and handler for Liza Minnelli, the Academy Award-

winning actress and singer. A native of Hawley, Ken earned his bachelor's degree in communication arts and English from St. John's University in Queens, New York.

Implement policies and practices to optimize unit-level performance, including the acquisition and allocation of technological, financial, and physical resources.

The resignation of the Chief Diversity Officer has created an opportunity, similar to that created by the retirement of the Director of IATS, to re-evaluate the office, the mission of the office and the job description and responsibilities of the role. We are seeking input from the campus community as well as reviewing models from other universities and other industries. After the review has been completed, we will post the position and launch a national search.

Ensure alignment and efficiency between and within the affiliated entities.

The group continues to meet and has drafted a mission statement.

“Establish and maintain an effective partnership to ensure that all SRU Affiliates collaborate for the benefit of the University. By harnessing the collective energy and resources of this integrated Alliance, we strengthen SRU's position as a leading institution of higher learning to make a lasting difference for the entire University community and all its constituents. Through exceptional financial and strategic planning, we are committed to maintaining our position as a leader in the PASSHE system while preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the future.”

The group is working to explore how each entity will support the comprehensive campaign.

Diversify revenue streams.

Increase revenue streams through sponsored programs, grant awards, fundraising efforts, and other endeavors.

BWF completed their analysis regarding the potential for success in a comprehensive campaign. BWF feels that the case is strong for us moving forward with a multi-year plan. A summary of their slide presentation was shared by the Interim VP for Advancement. BWF met with the Chair of the Foundation Board and with the Executive Director of the Foundation to share some questions regarding SRU Foundation processes and procedures. Dennis Prescott from BWF recommended a conversation with AGB regarding best practices for foundations. He introduced the Executive Director to his contact at AGB. The Foundation will update the President on next steps.

We are launching a Letterman's Club within the Alumni Association. This started with a football alum, who is also a very generous donor and the father of a current player. The idea would be that there would be various levels of membership with accompanying benefits. The funds will go to support the designated team. We will start the process with football as a pilot and plan to expand to other sports as we learn how to implement this well. The money will not go to the SRU Foundation but will run through the Alumni Association because the donors will be alums and the program is for alumni. They also currently have a structure set up to handle these types of alumni groups and have done so with some affinity groups as well as a fraternity.

We submitted appropriations requests to Senators Casey and Fetterman and Representative Kelly. We submitted two proposals to each. One for funding sim labs for our expanding nursing programs and one for surveillance equipment for our police department. We have heard that Representative Kelly was not accepting proposals under the submission category for our police equipment. Senator Casey's office has submitted our sim lab project in the amount of \$500,000 to the Senate Appropriations Committee for funding consideration. The Appropriations Committee still needs to review each project to determine eligibility and funding level, so this is just one step in a process with many variables and does not guarantee funding.

Athletics

We had a remarkable year in athletics both on and off the field and courts. A summary of the accolades is provided.

Overall

- 2nd Dixon Trophy in school history and first since 2007-08
- 8 of our teams scored at least 16 points in the Dixon Trophy standings
- 13 of our teams scored at least 10 points in the Dixon Trophy standings
- Led all schools in the PSAC with 8 PSAC Champion Scholar award winners for student-athletes that had the highest GPA at the championship finals site.
- Swept the PSAC honors for the DII 50th anniversary scholarships – Anna Igims and Brayden Long
- NCAA Inspiration Award winner - alumna Roxanne Dunn
- 4 PSAC Coach of the Year Awards (WXC, FB, WIT&F, WLAX)

Awards totals 2023-2024

- 70 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 111 All-PSAC Honorees
- 76 All-Region Honorees
- 11 All-Americans
- 54 CSC Academic All-District Honorees
- 4 CSC Academic All-America Honorees (All teams not out yet)
- 4 PSAC Top 10 Awards (spring not out yet)

Women's XC

- PSAC Champions for first time since 1995
- Second in the region
- NCAA National Qualifier as a team for first time since 2008
- 2 PSAC Athlete of the Week awards
- 5 All-PSAC honorees
- 3 All-Region honorees
- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Steph Keelon
- PSAC Coach of the Year – Bobby Over

Men's XC

- PSAC runner-up – highest finish since 2008
- Fourth in the region
- 2 individual qualifiers for National Championships
- NCAA Elite 90 Winner – Ethan Brentham (1st SRU athlete in any sport to win Elite 90)

- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Ethan Brentham
- 5 All-PSAC honorees
- 3 All-Region honorees
- 1 Fall Top 10 honoree
- 3 PSAC Athletes of the Week

Field Hockey

- 10 NFHCA Scholars of Distinction
- 13 NFHCA National Academic Squad honorees
- National Academic Team award
- 2 CSC Academic All-District

Football

- PSAC West champions
- PSAC Runner-Up
- NCAA Quarterfinals Appearance
- 10 PSAC Athlete of the Week awards
- PSAC West Coach of the Year – Shawn Lutz
- PSAC West Athlete of the Year – Brayden Long
- Super Region 1 Athlete of the Year – Brayden Long
- 13 All-PSAC honorees
- Finalists for Harlon Hill Trophy and Gene Upshaw Lineman of the Year
- 7 All-Region honorees
- 7 All-Americans
- 1 Fall Top 10
- 6 CSC Academic All-District
- 4 CSC Academic All-Americans
- DII 50th Anniversary Scholarship – Brayden Long

Men's Soccer

- 2 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 4 All-PSAC honorees
- 1 All-Region honoree (1st in 7 years)
- 5 CSC Academic All-District

Women's Soccer

- PSAC Tournament berth
- 6 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 6 All-PSAC honorees
- 2 All-Region honorees
- 6 CSC Academic All-District

Volleyball

- 4 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 1 All-PSAC honoree
- 1 All-Region honoree
- 4 CSC Academic All-District

Men's Basketball

- PSAC Tournament berth
- 7 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 2 All-PSAC honorees

Women's Basketball

- NCAA Award of Excellence Finalist
- PSAC West Freshman of the Year – Regan Atkins (1st since 2000)
- 2 CSC Academic All-District

Men's Indoor Track & Field

- PSAC Runner-Up
- 3 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 4 individual PSAC champions
- PSAC Most Outstanding Track Athlete – AJ Virata
- 9 All-PSAC honorees
- 8 All-Region honorees
- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Joshua Gose
- 1 Winter Top 10

Women's Indoor Track & Field

- PSAC Champions
- 4 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 6 PSAC event titles
- PSAC Most Outstanding Track and Overall Athlete – Anna Igims
- 13 All-PSAC honorees
- 1 All-American – Kendall Grossman (pole vault)
- 11 All-Region
- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Regan Johnson
- 1 Winter Top 10
- PSAC Coaching Staff of the Year
- Atlantic Region Coach of the Year – Bill Jordan
- Atlantic Region Assistant Coach of the Year – Bobby Over

Women's Lacrosse

- Program record 15 wins
- 1st PSAC postseason win since bringing program back in 2007
- 5 PSAC Athlete of the Week awards
- PSAC West Coach of the Year – Taryn Burkholder
- PSAC-high 8 All-PSAC honorees
- 4 All-Region honorees
- 1 Senior All-Star game invite
- PSAC Champion Scholar award – Charleigh Rondeau
- 8 CSC Academic All-District

Men's Outdoor Track & Field

- PSAC Runner-Up
- 5 PSAC Athletes of the Week

- 15 All-PSAC
- 4 PSAC event titles
- 15 All-Region
- 3 national qualifiers
- 1 All-American – Drew Layton (pole vault)
- 5 CSC Academic All-District

Women's Outdoor Track & Field

- PSAC Runner-Up
- 6 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 3 PSAC event titles
- PSAC Most Outstanding Track Athlete – Anna Igims
- 19 All-PSAC honorees
- 1 All-American – Anna Igims (steeplechase)
- 19 All-Region
- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Tiffany Jolayemi
- DII 50th Anniversary Scholarship – Anna Igims
- 5 CSC Academic All-District

Baseball

- PSAC Tournament berth
- 6 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 5 All-PSAC honorees
- 1 All-Region honoree
- 1 All-American (Gage Gillott)
- PSAC West Pitcher of the Year – Gage Gillott
- PSAC Champion Scholar Award – Eoin Rossman
- 3 CSC Academic All-District

Softball

- PSAC Tournament berth (2nd year in a row, first time in 40 years)
- 3 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 1 All-PSAC honoree
- 1 All-Region honoree
- 5 CSC Academic All-District

Women's Tennis

- PSAC Runner-Up, NCAA Tournament 2nd round
- 4 PSAC Athletes of the Week
- 5 All-PSAC honorees
- PSAC West Athlete of the Year – Amaia Balaguer Brau
- PSAC West Freshman of the Year – Nicole Kempton
- ITA Atlantic Region Player to Watch - Amaia Balaguer Brau
- 3 CSC Academic All-District

Academics

- Spring Semester overall GPA – 3.387; Overall cumulative GPA – 3.398
- Women's Spring semester average GPA – 3.639; Cumulative GPA – 3.653

- Men's Spring semester average GPA – 3.153; Cumulative GPA – 3.128
- Highest semester GPA - Men's XC – 3.444 Tennis – 3.867
- Highest cumulative GPA – Men's Track and field – 3.380 Women's XC – 3.735
- General student body – 3.16
- 146 student-athletes with a 4.0
- 275 student-athletes with a 3.5 or higher (more than half our student-athletes)

As is customary, I'll leave you with a sampling of news about our university, students, faculty, staff and alumni.

STUDENT SUCCESS

SRU graduate Joe Coudriet, 64, finishes degree he started 47 years ago

"Finish What You Started" is what Joe Coudriet did after first enrolling at SRU in 1977. It's also the name of SRU's new campaign to reach the hundreds of former students who previously withdrew from university and encourage them to readmit.

Debate team at SRU wins NEDA national championship

The Debate Society at Slippery Rock University placed first in the nation at the National Educational Debate Association Conference, April 5-6, in Detroit, Michigan.

Men's Rugby Club Team at SRU wins national championship

The Men's Rugby Club Team at SRU won the National Collegiate Rugby Championships in the Small College Division.

PRESENTATIONS

Walsh, Strahler and Rathlef present at National Campus Compact Conference

Three representatives from Slippery Rock University presented at the National Campus Compact Conference, April 7-10, in Denver, Colorado. Christine Walsh, an SRU associate professor of elementary education and early childhood development, Douglas Strahler.

SRU students present research at the 2024 NCUR

Three Slippery Rock University students presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, April 8-10, in Long Beach, California.

Abbs presents at two conferences and is awarded Programs of Promise National award

Kristie Abbs, a Slippery Rock University assistant professor of social work, presented at two conferences and received an award for a program she created.

Three SRU artists accepted into national feminist art exhibit

Heather Hertel, a Slippery Rock University professor of art, Abigail Comes, a senior art major from Harrisville, and Tyra Welsh, a 2018 SRU graduate with a degree in art, had their artwork accepted into an exhibition titled "Feminist Art: Contemporary Perspectives," a national juried art exhibition.

PUBLICATIONS

Dieter and Zanin-Yost publish book about health communication

Daniel Dieter, a Slippery Rock University assistant professor of strategic communication and media, and Alessia Zanin-Yost, an SRU assistant professor of library systems, recently co-authored a textbook titled "Communicating with Purpose: An Introduction to Health Communication."

SRU social work faculty and alumni publish articles

Yvonne Eaton-Stull, a Slippery Rock University associate professor of social work, Christopher Streidl, a SRU assistant professor of social work, and Denna Hays, a SRU assistant professor of social work, co-authored a research paper that was published in the Research on Social Work Practice journal.

SRU research team publishes paper about new bacteria species

A faculty-student research team from Slippery Rock University recently co-wrote an article that was published in the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology.

GIFTS AND GRANTS

Macoskey Center receives state grant to improve grounds

Slippery Rock University's Macoskey Center received a grant of \$250,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

SRU benefits from \$3.8 million petroleum engineering software donation

Slippery Rock University's petroleum and natural gas engineering program recently received a major boost through an in-kind gift from an industry partner. SRU Foundation Inc. accepted a software donation valued at \$3.8 million on behalf of the University from PE Limited, an international company known as Petex that develops engineering software for the petroleum industry.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SRU's Trout in the Classroom program is making waves at Hillview Elementary School

With Slippery Rock University's Giving Day approaching March 26 there will be a wave of appeals to support SRU departments and organizations that impact students and the local community. One program organized by two SRU professors is doing both, and proving to Hillview Elementary School students that any-"fin" is possible when groups collaborate.

SRU after-school program helps children with special needs get active

An after-school, physical activity program hosted at Slippery Rock University is breaking barriers for children with special needs and simultaneously providing experiential learning opportunities for SRU students. The Kids In Action program recently completed its 15th year at SRU, leaving its mark on the participants and facilitators alike.

SRU students provide health care to low-income communities in Costa Rica

A group of Slippery Rock University students that traveled to Costa Rica recently is evidence of the mutual benefits of service learning. Thirty-one students from the MEDLIFE chapter at SRU provided free health care to low-income communities in Costa Rica, May 11-19, by staffing several mobile clinics.

AWARDS AND RANKINGS

SRU recognized by Intelligent.com for online programs and as one of the 'Best Colleges in Pennsylvania'

Slippery Rock University was recognized by Intelligent.com on several of the website's rankings of top programs and colleges for 2024. Intelligent.com is an online resource for program rankings and higher education planning.

SRU programs achieve Top 25 rankings by University HQ

Slippery Rock University was ranked on multiple lists by University Headquarters, an educational organization that provides independent college rankings.

SRU's online master's in data analytics ranked one of best in the country by TechGuide

Slippery Rock University's online master's degree in data analytics has been ranked as one of the top 25 best data analytics degree programs in the country by TechGuide for 2024.

SRU wins 17 Collegiate Advertising Awards and five Educational Advertising Awards

Slippery Rock University won 17 awards in the 2023 Collegiate Advertising Awards, a program that recognizes colleges and universities across the nation for excellence in communication, marketing, advertising and promotions. SRU also received five awards in the 39th annual Educational Advertising Awards.

Mathe and DeMaria receive national award from the American College Counseling Association

John Mathe, a Slippery Rock University assistant professor of counseling and development, and Rachel DeMaria, an SRU instructor of counseling and development, received awards at the American College Counseling Association Conference, Feb. 22-25, in Orlando, Florida.

Bryer receives award from Butler County Chamber of Commerce

Erin Bryer, Slippery Rock University interim vice president of advancement, received the 2024 Butler County Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year award, which is given to an employee of a chamber member organization.

Leckenby receives award at the Council for Exceptional Children conference

Katie Leckenby, a Slippery Rock University assistant professor of special education, received the Outstanding Student Chapter Advisor award at the Council for Exceptional Children conference, March 14, in San Antonio, Texas.

ALUMNI NEWS

SRU alumnus Brady Crytzer returns to campus to talk about his book 'The Whiskey Rebellion' Western Pennsylvania was the setting for the first and one of the most important political rebellions in U.S. history, and a Slippery Rock University alumnus has authored a book about it. Brady Crytzer, '08, '10M, author of "The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis" gave a presentation about his book, April 10, at SRU's Russell Wright Alumni House. The talk was recorded and broadcasted on the cable and satellite television network C-SPAN.

SRU alumna and retired Navy rear admiral reflects on military career

Forty-three years ago, Linnea Sommer-Weddington had a decision to make. Months before she was set to graduate from Slippery Rock University, Sommer-Weddington was home in New Jersey finishing an internship required for her degree in therapeutic recreation. In March of 1981, she raised her right hand and swore oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. That decision, which led to a rewarding 38-year career in the Navy, is one she will never regret.

SRU alumna delivers the 'wow!' as the Pittsburgh Pirates manager of ballpark entertainment

There are moments during a Major League Baseball game that make the fans cheer, boo or simply say "Wow!" These moments are most often authored by players who are paid millions of dollars to hit home runs, make diving catches and throw strikeouts, but sometimes those moments are driven by people who aren't playing the game. For Pittsburgh Pirates games at PNC Park, the person creating those moments is Celine Halt, a 2020 Slippery Rock University graduate with a degree in resort, recreation and hospitality management.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

SRU WINS DIXON TROPHY

The Slippery Rock University Athletics Department won the 2023-24 Dixon Trophy from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, recognizing The Rock as the top Athletics Department in the conference this year. This marks the second time SRU has won the Dixon Trophy since the award's inception in 1995 and is the first win for SRU since the 2007-08 academic year. Points are awarded to each team based on its finish in in the PSAC standings with 18 points going to the champion in each sport. SRU teams averaged 12.76 points, edging two-time defending champion Gannon (12.56 points) for the win.

BASEBALL SEASON REVIEW

The Rock baseball team finished the year 28-18 and 17-11 in the PSAC, good for fourth in the PSAC West and eighth in the NCAA Atlantic Region. Sophomore pitcher Gage Gillott was named to All-America honors and was the second pitcher in SRU history to be named the PSAC West Pitcher of the Year. Junior pitcher Eoin Rossman was named PSAC Champion Scholar for having the highest GPA among baseball players from the eight teams competing in the conference tournament.

SOFTBALL SEASON REVIEW

The Rock softball team posted a 25-27 record and a 18-13 mark in the PSAC, finishing fourth in the Western Division. The team made its second straight PSAC Tournament appearance for the first time in 40 years. Junior utility pitcher Alexsa Hurd earned second team all-region honors and first-team All-PSAC accolades.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD SEASON REVIEW

The SRU men finished second in the PSAC Championships and had three athletes qualify for the NCAA Championships: Kanye Thompson in the 100-meter dash, Drew Layton in the pole vault and Joshua Gose in the shot put. Layton became the only freshman pole vaulter in the nation to earn All-America honors. Twelve SRU men were named to all-region honors.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD SEASON REVIEW

The SRU women placed second in the PSAC Championships and had two athletes qualify for the NCAA Championships: Anna Igims in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and Sarah Corrie in the shot put. Igims earned first team All-America honors at the national meet after also being named the PSAC Most Outstanding Track Athlete. Thrower Tiffany Jolayemi was named the PSAC Champion Scholar for owning the highest GPA of all athletes at the conference meet. Sixteen SRU women made all-region.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE SEASON REVIEW

The SRU women's lacrosse team had the best season in program history, setting a new record for single season wins and finishing with a 15-4 overall record and an 8-2 mark in PSAC games. SRU won its first modern-era playoff game with a win in the PSAC quarterfinals and finished the year ranked No. 5 in the Atlantic Region. Taryn Burkholder was named the PSAC West Coach of the Year and SRU led the league with eight All-PSAC selections. Charleigh Rondeau was named the PSAC Champion Scholar for owning the highest GPA of all players that reached the PSAC semifinals.

WOMEN'S TENNIS SEASON REVIEW

The Rock women's tennis team went 15-8 (5-1 in the PSAC), finishing second in the league before advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. SRU has made 20 NCAA Tournament appearances and has won at least one NCAA Tournament match in each of the last three years. Gabriela del Val del Toro, Dari Sakhanova and Tina Slovak were named Academic All-District. Amaia Balaguer Brau was named the PSAC West Athlete of the Year, Nicole Kempton earned PSAC West Freshman of the Year accolades and SRU had three players voted to the all-conference team.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen S. Riley, Ph.D.
President

Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix C)

Trustee Elise Michaux chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Michaux was absent from the meeting. Trustee Stoebener shared the report of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on her behalf.

Dr. Zieg provided information about the financial status of the BFA Theatre program and upcoming program developments in Nursing and Engineering.

Comparing the projected revenues and expenses from the proposal to actuals, the Theatre program is one to two years behind projections in terms of enrollments and revenue growth, while expenses were generally in line with projections. Causes for the delays in enrollment and revenue growth include COVID and the delayed completion of Miller. Unanticipated expenses include the hiring of a staff accompanist and assistant technical director. Due to the high quality of the program faculty and curriculum, it is attracting higher numbers of out-of-state students than anticipated, expanding market awareness of the Theatre program (and SRU in general) to new markets.

SRU will be partnering with community colleges and/or health systems to offer a 1+2+1 Nursing program starting in Fall 2025, and we are working on a proposal to the State Board of Nursing to begin offering a full licensure starting in Fall 2026. Build-out of this program will require investments in new personnel and facilities renovation.

Proposals are being developed for two new programs in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Construction Management. The former will complete the core engineering suite that we need to offer a comprehensive engineering curriculum at SRU; the latter is in response to strong market demand for Construction Management and will draw on existing strengths and capacity in Safety, Civil Engineering, and Business. Full details of these proposals will be presented to the Council at a special meeting later this summer.

Michael May provided an enrollment update for summer and fall student enrollment.

Summer session enrollment is consistent with historical numbers. Fall enrollment is up as a result of larger incoming classes replacing smaller COVID cohorts and increased persistence rates.

Freshman deposits for fall are up and are approaching pre-COVID levels. Transfer deposits for fall are down which follows a national decline. New graduate deposits for summer are down in programs showing challenges nationally, and new graduate deposits for fall are consistent with last year.

With the federal delay in FAFSA delivery, financial aid packages for new students began going out in April.

Student retention for all three cohorts has increased from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024. These gains are larger than anticipated and will become final on census day in September.

Dr. Jones delivered an end-of-year summary of our DEIB initiatives, highlighting the total number of trainings, programs, and attendees. He also provided statistics on DEIB Debriefs, SRU Spotlights, Policy Consultations, and the SRU Discovery Days, which began in Fall 2022. Dr. Jones announced that he will be leaving Slippery Rock University to become the Vice President of DEI at Centre College in Kentucky. He expressed his appreciation for the SRU community and gratitude for his experience. Dr. Jones was

pleased to announce that Keshia Booker, currently the Assistant Director for the Office for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, will serve as the Interim Chief Diversity Officer until the position is permanently filled in the coming months. He reassured everyone that the role is in more than capable hands.

Dr. Wilmes presented highlights from the spring semester including club sport Men's Rugby winning the national championship in their league, a successful end-of-the-year donation drive in the residence halls which saved items from the dumpster by collecting them for charity, and the university hosting the PASSHE student affairs conference attended by over 130 professionals from across the state. Dr. Wilmes also shared projection numbers for on-campus housing occupancy for the fall semester.

Chair Ionta, this concludes my report.

Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)

Trustee Jeffrey Smith chairs the Finance and Administrative Committee and provided this report.

The Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee met yesterday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a presentation from the Gordian (Sightlines) about the status of Slippery Rock University's facilities. The report provided a lot of good news. From a facilities perspective, SRU is PASSHE's youngest campus which should lead to lower maintenance costs in the near future. One future concern is that nearly 1/3 of the University buildings were built between 2006 and 2010. That means that there is a potential "bubble" of maintenance coming at some point in the near future.

Carrie Birckbichler, vice president for Finance and Administration, gave an update on the University's financial picture as of the end of the 3rd quarter which painted a very positive picture.

Ms. Birckbichler also provided an update on the preliminary CPP which was submitted to PASSHE on May 22nd with an update due in September. The updated CPP will have the full year actuals. Unlike some of Slippery Rock's institutions, the SRU CPP shows a very positive picture for the University.

The meeting concluded with a review of the informational items in the trustee binder along with a discussion of some of the items in the Facilities Project List.

The meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Ionta, this concludes my report.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Trustee Joshua Young, committee chairperson, provided the following report. The University Advancement Committee met at 9:00 this morning.

Erin Bryer, interim vice president for University Advancement, reported on fundraising activity and provided a recap of comprehensive campaign work conducted during the spring semester. Fiscal year to date, fundraising efforts have resulted in \$10,400,800 received in support of Slippery Rock University – providing a solid foundation for the comprehensive campaign in its first year.

Comprehensive campaign activity, conducted in consultation with BWF, that occurred during the spring semester included 14 feasibility studies held on campus and via zoom. Dennis Prescott and the BWF team visited campus in May to present their campaign recommendations drawn from the extensive data analysis work conducted as well as on campus interviews and feasibility study meetings. BWF evaluated

SRU's campaign readiness against key best practices and feels strongly that SRU can conduct a successful capital campaign. Initial campaign timeline scenarios provided by BWF show a 6-year campaign, with an anticipated public phase launch in FY27. Campaign fundraising progress will continue to influence the timeline during preparation and leadership gift phases of the campaign. In addition to providing their insight analysis report, BWF conducted a dean's fundraising training on campus in May. Additional training and resources for the campus will be provided as we progress through the campaign.

Kelly Bailey, director of Alumni Engagement, reported on the final quarter of alumni events and activities, including a re-cap of the student leadership trip to Washington, DC, where students had the opportunity to engage with alumni in their workplaces and network with a variety of alumni based in the Northern Virginia/Maryland area. Students from both the Green and White Society, as well as the Finance and Accounting clubs participated in this trip. The Alumni Association also hosted the annual Awards and Recognition Reception, honoring the students selected to receive awards in the 2024-25 academic year.

Alumni Weekend 2024 was held from June 7-8. A variety of reunion groups returned to campus, including the Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sigma Sigma Sigma Greek organizations. Milestone reunions were also celebrated. The Rock Solid 10 Under 10 Awards Brunch recognized 10 alumni who have experiences significant personal or professional success in the 10 years post-graduation. Looking ahead, the SRU Alumni & Friends Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, August 5 at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course and a full schedule of events for the fall is being prepared. The Alumni Association welcomes their new directors in July and will retreat on July 12-13 to lay their plans for the upcoming year.

Mark Palmer, Chair of the Board and Dave Hollenbaugh, Executive Director of the SRU Foundation, provided a Foundation update:

- They explained the gift process for private funds such as
 - Permanently Restricted and Designated
 - Not Permanently Restricted, but Designated
 - Unrestricted and Undesignated
- They reviewed the financial summaries for SRU Foundation, Inc. and provided additional information about "Non-athletic Operating Expenses for both the University and the Foundation" as a follow up to a question presented during the March COT meeting.
 - They discussed the portfolio asset allocation and reviewed a report on these allocations.

They reviewed the financial summaries for SRUF Student Housing, LLC

- They provided an update on current projects
- Scholarship Dinner Event in April
- Cozy Home – Technology Park

Chairman Ionta, this concludes my report.

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Trustee Alfonso Angelucci, chair of the Governance Committee, provided the following report.

Trustee Angelucci opened the floor for discussion to address the process for nominating a slate of officers for 2024-2025.

Trustee Smith offered comments about the different management styles of the chairs through the years. Some chairs of the past served in a facilitator's role, a sounding board for the President. Other than confidential information, these chairs kept council members well informed. Some chairs were in the role

and the style tended to be more of a boss. Trustee Smith offered that he would like to hear from those nominated which camp they fall into [in terms of leadership style]. “We are all equals here, but someone has to run the meeting. I just wanted to put that out there.” “We never really talked before about what we all look for when electing a chair. This was the kind of discussion that I wanted to have.”

Trustee Taylor offered comments with an emphasis that everybody on this board is fully capable of serving in the chair role. Trustee Taylor further commented that in his opinion Matt [Trustee Lautman] probably did the best job because he was chair when he had some real problems [to address] on this council, and he managed us through it. “You’ve heard my position in March, we have four people who have never served, we are all volunteers, and everyone has the right to serve as chair, if they want to do this. There may be circumstances where some may want to, and others may not want to serve. We have accomplished businesspeople, and in a few circumstances, we have alumni who have not yet served.”

“We should look at the cohort of those individuals who have not yet served. We’re about to go into unsettled, unchartered waters in Pennsylvania. Nobody knows what’s coming out of the legislature in the next couple of months. We need a new perspective, fresh, energized leadership. Any one of those four people I mentioned (Dan, Angèle, Elise, Charli) could serve in the role as chair. I’ve not talked to any of them, but I would be interested to know if they have an interest in serving. It is time for new perspectives and time for new change. It’s time for great leadership.”

Trustee McCarrier clarified that Trustee Angelucci has also never served as chair.

Trustee Angelucci commented that he served as vice-chair in the past and was nominated before as chair [by Trustee Taylor] but declined due to professional and community obligations in his professional position. He does not feel that he could give the proper time that is deserving for the role.

Trustee Smith: Chairs need to be here for meetings.

Trustee Young: Elise [Trustee Michaux] is interested in serving as vice-chair.

Trustee Taylor asked Angèle if she was interested in serving in the role of chair.

Trustee Stoebener: “I was a former student trustee, and I am certainly interested in getting more involved. If you all feel that chair is the best spot for me at this time, I am interested. I would like to be more involved, and if you all feel comfortable with this, I am committed to coming to the meetings regularly and since my appointment I have been doing my best to get to as many events as possible. I live in the area and am happy to support in any way you all see appropriate.”

Trustee Smith asked Angèle if she would share her leadership style with the group.

Trustee Stoebener offered, “I very much try to be as inclusive as possible, I would love to facilitate, be able to pull in everyone’s perspectives, and ideas. From what I understand with Dom’s, and Dr. Riley’s, relationship, they talk on a regular basis, and they pull in all of us to get our opinions and our perspectives. So, this would very much be the facilitator-style, Jeff, that you are looking for, and what all of you are looking for. So, certainly as we go along, and [if I were elected chair], I would certainly be open to having discussions to improve us and move us in a forward direction.”

Trustee Angelucci offered special thanks to council members for the open, transparent, and honest dialog regarding the slate of officers that we are set to vote on in a few moments.

With no more discussion from the floor, Trustee Taylor moved, second by Trustee McCarrier, to open the floor for nominations.

Following discussion, the slate of officers for 2024-2025 is as follows:

- Angèle Stoebener, chair
- Elise Michaux, vice-chair
- Charli Severo, secretary

Trustee McCarrier moved to forward the nominations. All were in favor. Motion passes. The slate of officers is moved forward to the business meeting agenda for a vote by the full board. Thank you.

Trustee Severo asked what the role of secretary entails.

Trustee Lautman commented that the secretary should review the minutes before they go out to Council. They are produced from the President's Office, but the secretary could review for accuracy. That's what the secretary is charged with in the role.

- Meeting dates set September 2024 – June 2025:
 - September 26-27, 2024
 - December 5-6, 2024
 - March 20-21, 2025
 - June 12-13, 2025
- Calendar mentions (summer/fall 2024)
- SRU Council bylaws were included in the materials as information.

Trustee Smith: Is there a basis for setting the meeting dates?

Tina Moser: Chair Angelucci, if I may comment? Trustee Angelucci: Go ahead, Tina.

Tina Moser: So, I look at the university-wide calendar, the holiday schedules, any [campus] breaks that are occurring, as well as the Board of Governor's meetings and when they fall to ensure that we have ample time to prepare and move materials forward to the Board of Governors. I send those proposed dates on to the Chair of the Council and President Riley to review and move forward to all of you.

Trustee Taylor: Should the goal be that we are on campus when the kids are on campus, let's try to do that.

Trustee Angelucci: Does this warrant further study, the meeting dates?

Trustee Smith: "All I'll say about this, and this is 100% selfish on my part, I plan my life around these meeting dates. Generally, I don't plan that far out, but If I do have something planned and I get my packet, I will change my plans. That just happened in next June. It all makes sense what you do. Maybe going forward, we will go with what we got here, maybe moving forward we circulate these ahead of time before they are in stone. Is there any change of conflicts. With 11 people this could [be challenging]. Anyways, if we could perhaps have more options – a couple dates that could work. Doodle polls or whatever – again, 99.9% of the time, it won't matter. It might help get more people rather than zooming."

Tina Moser: “So, if there is a consensus to change the December meeting to around Commencement, we could certainly do that. It is a lot for staff to do that, but in the past, frankly, we’ve done that, and it did not make a difference in terms of Council attendance at graduation.”

Tina Moser: “For the June 12-13, 2025, meeting, Alumni Reunion Weekend is being planned, so we were hoping to have the opportunity for trustees to engage with alums at the planned events since we have a number of trustees who are alums. This could potentially be a cool engagement opportunity.”

President Riley: “We are happy to work around whatever you think is best. These are your meetings, and we will accommodate you as best we can. My goal, and I think Dom’s as well is to try to get as many trustees here as possible, it makes for the best discussions. We are here to listen to one another and move the university forward. So, whatever we can do that increases the likelihood that we will have more trustees here, and involved in other things, all the better.”

Trustee Taylor: “So, let’s look at the first semester, which I think is fabulous. That’s the most active time we have students on campus. I think those dates are beautiful just the way they are planned. Then we go a long stretch, we go 3 ½ months without any activity, and then a meeting, and then another stretch. Does it make any sense to move the March meeting back a little bit and the June meeting back into May.”?

Trustee Smith: “According to statute, we must meet four times per year. There could be a case for maybe we take a summer break and be here when the kids are here.”

President Riley: “The only thing about taking a summer break and poor Cabinet is going to hear my diatribe on this. We do not take a summer break; we work all the way through. We are, as Bob [Trustee Taylor] said, we are about to face probably the strongest headwinds we’ve ever faced in higher education, we are not terribly popular right now, and we are moving. So, taking a summer break per what our Provost was doing even yesterday, we have a lot of business that needs to get done, and we need your approval, and we need your input. If there is some other mechanism than I am okay with that, but from my own perspective, and I may be the end of one, I don’t like the idea of taking a summer break, we don’t break. We work 12 months a year. That’s my only push back.”

Trustee Smith: “And that’s certainly fair, but you know what, we could have a fifth meeting if there was something going on. But hey, I’m here at all the meetings. So, I can talk this way.”

President Riley: “We’re very happy that you’re here. And I appreciate the efforts to try to get here, I was thrilled that we had good participation at commencement. We love having you here. It’s important for the students to see that as well as their parents and faculty and staff. So, if you feel that these, you know, kind of stacking things would increase that visibility and help with your schedules, then I think we’re open to that.”

Trustee Taylor: “Well, the other thing you could do is you could, although I think summer vacations make it really difficult. We talked about workshops in the summertime just to get everybody [together]. That’s a lot of extra work for staff. So, you guys have to decide whether that makes sense.”

President Riley: “So, that’s been something that I think was floating around. We would love to do whatever we can that makes us more effective, all of us together. So, if that’s a summer workshop, we’re all in on that. I don’t know if [the topic] is on the agenda, but I know something was floating around a little bit about a summer workshop as a possibility. We are open to those things and completely open to doing things differently than what we have done in the past, however many years. It’s a different era. And if you all think this summer break is the way that you want to go, then that again, is up to you. We will adapt.”

With no further business, Trustee Angelucci adjourned the meeting.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix G)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Riley and University Legal Counsel. No report; closed session.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Election of Officers (TAB 4)

Trustee Angelucci moved, Trustee Taylor second, approval of the slate of officers for the coming year. Motion carries.

Chair:	Angèle Stoebener
Vice-Chair:	Elise Michaux
Secretary:	Charli Severo

SRU COT Meeting Dates: September 2024 – June 2025 (TAB 4)

Trustee Angelucci moved, Trustee McCarrier second, approval of the SRU COT Meeting Dates for the coming year. Motion carries.

September 26-27, 2024
 December 5-6, 2024
 March 20-21, 2025
 June 12-13, 2025

Trustee Smith made comment for the record in terms of submission of the CPP (information) and the budget (approval) timeline. We can keep these meeting dates, which are fine, if the CPP and the budget is to be submitted by September 30. However, if the items need to be reviewed and the budget approved before September 30, the Council will have to call for a special meeting.

Next Quarterly Business Meeting Date:

September 26-27, 2024

Contracts: (TAB 8) (Appendix H)

Facilities & Planning Active Project List (TAB 12) (Appendix I)

HR Personnel Items (Tab 13) (Appendix J)

- Instructional Appointments: Effective Academic Year 2023-2024
- Administrator Appointments
- Non-Faculty Athletics Coach Appointments
- Management Appointments
- Support Staff Appointments
- Retirements
- Resignations
- Tenure

Budget/Financial Update (TAB 11) (Appendix K)**CliftonLarsonAllen Planning Communication (TAB 9) (Appendix L)****Comprehensive Planning Process (TAB 10) (Appendix M)****Committee Presentations (TAB 14)****Divisional Reports (TAB 15)****FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Trustee Smith: "Retirement is something that people look forward to their entire careers. And speaking from personal experience, it is better than advertised. However, when one retires, there is a certain amount of reflection and the realization that a major phase of your life has ended. For the past couple of years, I have advocated that the trustees do a better job of recognizing those who have given so much to the University when they finally move onto the next chapter of their lives.

So today, I would like to recognize and thank the following individuals, some I never met and some who were very special friends of mine.

Dr. Padma Anand, professor, Secondary Education/Foundations of Education, 37 years

Dr. Colleen Cooke, professor, Recreational Therapy, 27 years. Long before DEIB was a thing at SRU, Colleen taught me the difference between "tolerance" and "acceptance" and I will always be grateful for her mentoring.

Dr. John Golden, assistant professor, Accounting, Economics and Finance, 20 years

Dr. Mary Ann Holbein-Jenny, professor, Physical Therapy, 29 years

Dr. Tamra Schiappa, professor, Geography, Geology and the Environment, 22 years

Kristina Benkeser, director, Student Health and Wellness, Health Services, 31 ½ years

Bryan Fuhs, business intelligence analyst, Finance and Administration, 20 years

Mimi Campbell, associate director, Housing and Residence Life, 28 years. Over the past couple of years, Mimi was someone, who no matter what, never lost her love for the University. It was an attitude that I really respected and will miss.

Well over 200 years of service. Thanks to all and best of luck in your retirement."

President Riely: "Thank you, how nice."

Trustee Ionta: "Congratulations."

Trustee Taylor: "First of all, I'd like to welcome our student trustee to her first meeting. Congratulations on being elected secretary to the executive committee of the Council of Trustees. You've got a great responsibility ahead of you, but we're very much energized and excited. To all three of our leaders on the executive committee, welcome aboard."

Trustee Taylor: "The job of chairman is a thankless job, but we're not going to go without thanking our chairman. And Domenic, you know, you have served for the last two years in this position, and you have been incredible in your management of the chair and of the council. The one thing that has never, ever occurred here at Slippery Rock is the inability of council members at council meetings to debate, discuss and let their feelings be known. And you've never done that. And as leader of this council, I want to thank

you for that because that is the foundation upon which higher education institutions operate. And your leadership in that regard is very much appreciated. And thank you for the great work you did as chairman of this council.”

Trustee Taylor: “I’m going to try not to get emotional. Samantha (Swift) left a lot of footprints in the sand. You’re one of them, Erin. You’re majorly one of them. So, whatever happens, you know, you’ve got a great career ahead of you, but if you can stay, if you can help us, we’d love that. Thank you.”

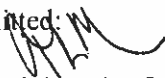
Chair Ionta: “Thank you, Erin. Is there anything else for the good of the order”?

President Riley: “I just wanted to thank you as well, [Chair Ionta]. You didn’t say what I thought you were going to say [Trustee Smith], but you did, [Trustee Taylor]. And as someone new to the role and new to the university, I could not have asked for a better chair. It was not only your wise counsel, but just really a constant support. I knew that you were standing both beside me and behind me. And it allowed me to truly lead. And I would not have been able to do the things that we’ve been able to accomplish this year already without your support. So, thank you very much. Appreciate it very much.”

Trustee Ionta: “Thank you. I retired a couple years ago and when I got involved with Slippery Rock, I mean, it’s really a great institution! We have a great staff and it’s been a real pleasure, you know, working with the trustees and I’ve just had a lot of fun with this. And, thanks to everyone for the support.”

With no further business, Chair Ionta called for adjournment. Trustee McCarrier moved, Trustee Angelucci, second, to adjourn the Slippery Rock University Council of Trustees business meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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

