By Erica Kurvach
Pennsylvania voters will have to present photo identification at the polls this November, after a judge ruled in favor of the Republican-backed law earlier this month. Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson said he believed the law would be carried out in a nonpartisan manner, striking down the complaint challenges of the law had claiming it would deny many state citizens the right to vote, particularly elderly and young voters, as well as minorities and the poor. Republican legislators insist the new law is to prevent fraudulent voting.

Sharon Sykora, a political science professor at Slippery Rock University, believes the new voter law is ridiculous because there have been no notable instances of voter fraud in PA. “It is unfair and unkind. The democracy should include everyone,” Sykora said.

Dave Kershaw, political science professor, believes the idea of the law is generally a bad policy. “It is based on little factual problem,” Kershaw said. “There is not a big problem of fraud in PA. The Republican legislature wants to suppress the Democratic voters.” Kershaw believes the Republicans want to reduce the turnout of the minorities in the election.

“People, who are not informed ahead of time, are going to show up at the photo booth and not have IDs,” Kershaw said. “We need to have an inclusive Democracy and not put up barriers in front of the people.”

To comply with the new law, SRU has updated their ID card employee like them, explained Burkhardt. Burkhardt recalled something that Penn State President Bill Williams once told him, “The only thing that’s worse than an exam, is no exam where you’ve left to begin with by yourself and you don’t know what other people are making, and when you’re given a salary, you’ve told that you don’t talk about it. Don’t tell anybody about it.”

One of the main issues the APSUCUF is that PASSHE wants to make it so that professors have to teach a minimum of five sections to be considered fulltime staff instead of four. Congrove believes that this decreases the quality of the classes by taking away from individual instruction.

“We would like to see smaller classes as well, but we have to keep everything into consideration,” Marshall said. “We’re not like the federal government, we can’t just take say, two years’ we’re two years we’ve come ready with proposals and often times they’ve been unprepared at the negotiating sessions. They just didn’t know what they wanted to offer back, or how they wanted to respond to offers. They’ve just kind of sat on it.”

English professor and APSUCUF member, Dr. Neil Congrove has been actively involved in raising awareness of the contract negotiations. He explained that the main problem right now is that PASSHE is not being fair about benefits and salary increases.

“We want to encourage them to negotiate, which they’ve hardly done,” Congrove said. “For two years we’ve come ready with proposals and often times they’ve been unprepared at the negotiating sessions. They just didn’t know what they wanted to offer back, or how they wanted to respond to offers. They’ve just kind of sat on it.”

President and president of the APSUCUF chapter of SRU, Dr. Patrick Burkhardt explained that APSUCUF is vital to being a professor because of the Collective Barging Agreement. The Collective Bargaining Agreement allows all professors to negotiate their contracts together in order to get comparable salaries to one another. Without the Collective Bargaining Agreement, professors’ salaries can be determined simply by how much their