

SUNY OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, February 26, 2021

Meeting Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting, conducted via Zoom

Attendance

Appointed Members of the College Council: Ms. Mili Makhijani, Esq. (Chair) Ms. Melissa Archbold Dr. Phillip E. Elliott Ms. Cania Infante Ms. Martha Maffei Ms. Theresa A. Regnante Mr. Kalief Metellus* <i>*Student Representative</i>	Representatives of the College: Dr. Timothy E. Sams Mr. Randy Daniels Mr. Len Davis Dr. Raj Devasagayam Dr. Amanda Frisken Dr. Barbara Hillery Dr. Michael Kavic Mr. William Kimmins Mr. Michael Kinane Ms. Claudia Marin Andrade Dr. Duncan Quarless	Dr. Jo-Ann Robinson Dr. Magdy Shady Mr. Usama Shaikh Dr. Diana Sukhram Ms. Lisandra Ramos
--	---	---

I. Chair Welcome, *Chair Makhijani*

Chair Makhijani opened the meeting at 12:31 pm by acknowledging that the meeting would be taking on a different format, welcoming President Timothy E. Sams and beginning with any reports and other business. Upon motion of Judge Hohausser, seconded by Mr. Reich, Council approved by unanimous vote the minutes of the December 11, 2020 Council meeting.

II. Report from the President, *Dr. Timothy E. Sams*

COVID-19:

- Readiness and response Spring semester has gone well.
- 7% of classes have in person elements at this point.
- Library is also open to students by appointment for studying and supportive services, tutoring, writing, etc.
- Defend the Den against COVID-19 testing program has done approximately 1000 tests in the first five weeks of this semester and have surfaced only four positive cases. Another eight cases have been self-reported through external testing by students and faculty.
- Planning discussions for Fall 21 are moving forward in areas including instruction related modalities, potential Residence Life offerings, and other campus operations.
- Residential Life proposals being developed for occupancy at 50 and 100% levels. No firm decisions to announce as of yet, due to shifting variables, state guidance to come.

Virtual Middle States Visit, March 22 through the 24th, 2021:

- Self-study report has been submitted as required.

- College council members may be invited to participate and will be contacted by our Middle States co-chairs.

Enrollment Management:

- SLATE has been implemented, a state-of-the-art CRM feature for admission, will go live next month. It will help us improve response time on inquiries toward applications and generate better communications with prospects and create greater efficiencies in the management and process of prospective student information.

Institutional Advancement:

- Critical to the strategic plan for the college leveraging our assets and building relationships.
- Surveys of alumni and the class of 2020 clearly indicate a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the education and overall college experience that we provide for our students.
- OW will recruit a dedicated team of experienced development professionals to build on our efforts.

College Foundation:

- Strengthened and expanded to meet our fundraising goals and the needs of our students.
- Build stronger, deeper relationships with the communities we serve, and work with like-minded institutions.

New Search for Vice President for Institutional Advancement (IA):

- Mr. Randy Daniels will end his formal role as interim director of advancement April 30th, and he will remain until the Fall with a narrow focus on re-energizing the foundation.
- New Chief of Staff, Dr. Joanne Robinson, will chair the search and oversee IA until that new VP arrives.

Business and Finance:

- State budget process has begun in Albany, Higher education is as strong
- Federal stimulus funding is uncertain.
- SUNY anticipates a loss of direct state tech support totaling just \$69 million, of which \$6 billion is in new Federal aid.
- Outreach to local state elected officials both to introduce myself and to support SUNY's budget advocacy efforts: Chuck Lavine, Senator James Gaughran.
- Cares Act student award of \$2,761,000 of that, approximately \$6,300 remain. CARES ACT institutional award of just about \$2.7 million are all expensed and encumbered.
- MSI award, minority serving institutions, received about \$423,000, under \$200,000 remaining for distribution. CRRSSA student award funding we received about \$2.7 million and we are waiting for SUNY guidance. CRRSSA institutional funding, we received about \$6.8 million, waiting for SUNY guidance on how we are able to disperse.

Capital projects:

- These items are in the design phase:
 - The replacement of the Student Union roof, rehab rehabilitation of campus greens between securely behind the Campus Center, replacement of the ring road and replace emergency generators.
 - Construction phase we have the renovation of Duane L. Jones Recital Hall. The expansion of the success center replaced hand stairwells and bathroom atrium and replaced seating in McGuire theater.
 - Feasibility study for the Clark Athletic Center and the athletic field.

Student Affairs:

- Student Athletics will participate in spring sports in the skyline conference with baseball softball and men's golf that will begin in March.
- The college is receiving \$75,000 in student emergency funds
- \$7,500 for administrative support from the Heckscher Foundation for Children
- Student Affairs will be managing the application and approval process for our students. We've seen we received 41 just over \$41,000 match is being provided by the Old Westbury College Foundation to secure this funding. We're awaiting the completion of contract before announcing the process to students and funding is to be used throughout 2021.
- The Center for Student Leadership and involvement and the Office of Residential Life hosted in virtual MLK Day of Service in honor of Dr. King's Birthday in January.
- SUNY's Celebration of 25 years of Hispanic serving institutions in the system that featured the gains made in supporting Latinx students over the past quarter century.
 - The Chancellor announced the removal application fees
 - Automatic enrollment into Snap programs for eligible students.
 - The push for EOP for medical school programs, Hispanic serving Leadership Institutes.
 - At the Board of Trustees meeting the system wide diversity equity inclusion action plan was revealed and a resolution was passed that made all single use bathrooms across the system, gender neutral.

Introduction of President staff:

- Dr. Jo-Ann Robinson, new Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff.
 - Responsible for the strategic elevation of the college emergency response.
- Lisandra Ramos, new Executive Assistant to the President
- Martha Santana, new Assistant to the President for Administration and Special initiatives.
 - Responsible for management of special projects

Governance design:

- Is to ensure shared governance and greater transparency we have added the following:
 - VP meetings to work on the administration of the institution at a high level.

- Cabinet meetings which include the Deans of the schools, Enrollment Management and our Faculty Senate Chair.
- Monthly Senior Leaders Meeting, which will include selected middle managers from across the college.
- Transition team made up of about 14 key stakeholders from across the campus community who agreed to aid me in my transition to the college. We talked about leveraging the alternative care facilities, shared governance and transparency, the brand and brand management and resources and fundraising.
 - **Take-aways:**
 - Buy-in to the Old Westbury mission both internally and externally.
 - Old Westbury needs greater regional awareness,
 - Need for brand identity and a brand campaign.
 - Project based work in the external community that allows all Westbury students to show the community their dedication and commitment to social justice.
 - Need for alignment with some of Long Island's largest social service organizations to enable the college to better support the diverse needs of our student body.
 - Need resources to support our student's success. We need resources to financially stabilize the college and we need resources to elevate the college.

III. What is the function of the College Council? *Chair Makhijani*

- Under the education law, our primary role is to provide local supervision of the institution we represent. But this primary function, promulgated by the legislature, has proven to be outdated. Under the rubric of ACT, a Strategic Planning Committee was recently formed with only eight members, eight council members, including several Council Chairs from various institutions.
 - Tasked with creating a more workable framework for all college councils, including developing a mission statement and perhaps proposing revisions to the statute to present to the legislature.
 - Goal is to have council members serve as liaisons for their local community, assisting in building a relationship with the President.

IV. College Council Members: Vision and Ideas

- Provide the President with their vision, and what some of their ideas are as to how to best integrate our new president into local communities, build relationships with important leaders, stakeholders, whether it's in politics, the area of fundraising, the area of branding and identify political leaders to meet with.

Council Member, Scott Reich, Esq.: *Attorney & one of the longest standing council members*

- Meet with local elected officials:

- Ones whose districts overlap with Old Westbury as well as Assembly and Senate members from the Long Island delegation (across party lines).
- Can connect you with the opinion editor at Newsday- responsible for curating content (emphasizes relationships in the press).
 - Opportunity to share ideas or reports about the state system.
- Visit local high schools:
 - Could help with attracting people to the student body in terms of application pool.
 - Give priority to the schools that have become “feeders” for our academic body
 - 15–20-minute talks for larger student bodies, engaging with students and putting a face on the university, after a transition of leadership there is a fresh opportunity to put “new blood and new energy” and make rounds again.
- Community newspapers:
 - They have far reach, and you can craft a monthly column where you tackle a different issue in public education (emphasizes good visibility)
 - In addition to the column there are online forums, such as panel discussions.
- Build a relationship with the Long Island Association (very influential) even though Kevin Law is stepping down.
 - “High dollar donors” could potentially be found there (emphasizes good connections)
- Local organizations
 - Find other foundations that are not affiliated with Old Westbury where you could become an “honorary” that represents work you have done, which will allow you to meet a diverse group of people.
- Think more locally around the Westbury community.
 - Speaks in terms of the residents of the village, try to find ways to inculcate deeper relationships there (Madam Chair and Scott can go offline to identify people).

Council Member, Melissa Archibald: *works with the Xi'an Youth and Family Center in Elmont*

- Is an advocate for education as well as mental health issues (focusing on students of color)
- Due to changes colleges have made for remote learning many students have challenges in applying learning --> wonders if there is any data about those changes (emphasizes that a lot of students share those challenges).
- Would like to see how she can assist in providing resources, redirecting them to implement on mental health awareness workshops (virtual) and expand a pipeline of referrals.
- When students are coming on board to the college as freshman, they can also partake in those workshops simultaneously and be acclimated into the college experience.
- Wants students to be prepared (mentally, psychologically) for college and for OW to have something in place, visually, for students that are coming on board.

Council Member, Dr. Phillip Elliot: *Senior Pastor at Antioch Baptist Church (also politically connected in Nassau County – works for the Nassau County Board of Elections)*

- Has major connections in the faith communities.
 - o 46 years of giving leadership in the faith community.
 - o Has taught people in seminary (for 30+ years)
 - o Many of the persons in the faith community of “occupants of pulpits” are former students of his- many of whom have strong connections.
- Has served as former deputy county executive over Health and Human Services, Minority Affairs, etc.
 - o Will make himself available for strong introductions to chairpersons of both political parties of Nassau courts and state because those are strong inroads to elected officials whom he also has strong relationships with, whether in Senate or the Assembly, whom have a lot of control and influence over funding.
- Is involved in economic development, and developers can be a strong source of “philanthropy” that you would want to achieve.
- Has strong ties in Community Development.
 - o Allows him to engage with strong community leaders, some of whom serve in student populations, such as the EEOC (a federally designated anti-poverty program), which can create opportunities (i.e., internships).
- Considers himself to be a specialist in terms of the MWV - “your Westbourne has some consideration for MW, BP minority and a woman business enterprise that could really impact the circulation of revenues.”
- Deals with community impact studies that the students could engage in, as well as disparity studies- “those kinds of opportunities available for them to get involved in and also be a path toward post college opportunities.”
- Serves on the District Attorney’s Task Force and has had interns coming from SUNY Old Westbury, the district attorney’s office (emphasizes career paths and valuable experiences.)
- Has already met with major community leaders in the faith communities that go beyond some elected officials and aspiring officials.
- Will be available to be a liaison to the community.

Council Member, Bill Hohausser: *District Court Judge in Nassau County District Court (prior to that, in private practice to a brilliant attorney, phenomenal writer), is also officially the longest standing council member.*

- Working on political campaigns- can give very good introductions and has worked with various politicians (can introduce you to someone who will very likely be the next supervisor in North Hempstead- Wayne Wink.
 - o Can get people internships there- shows how to run a campaign.
 - o People who have interned at his introduction has gone on to work for what is now the campaign manager and office manager for Chuck Levine.
- Has contacts with Nassau County in financial services.

- Had a program getting people internships at various financial services (Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley) and this is an opportunity to resurrect communication with them.
 - Financial services provide more than a third of the tax revenue in New York City.
- Has contacts with the securities exchange commission (FINRA) and the New York State Attorney General's office (specifically with respect to financial institutions)
- Has very good connections with almost every major financial firm.
- Suggests getting involved in local newspapers and local civic groups.
- "Blank Slate Media" - a paper that is very prevalent and popular and columns are available for people who want to write. He can connect them to OW.

Council Member, Cania Infante: *Vice President, Brand Strategy, Bethpage Federal Credit Union*

- Wants to re-energize SUNY Old Westbury.
- Can provide OW with assistance in Branding.
 - Has expertise within her role in Bethpage Federal Credit Union- is looking to get OW connected to the community.
- Has strong relationships within the Hispanic community, especially with the largest Hispanic newspaper on Long Island, *Noticias*, and the current owners, the Schneps Family.
- They also have a Best of program, sponsored by Bethpage.
- Sponsors a program with News 12 with Kevin Maher, Scholar Athletes program
 - Identifies high school graduates throughout Nassau and Suffolk County and, if nominated by the school, get awarded scholarships (it is good synergy and an effective way to make connections with those funds)
- Created an ambassador program internally (Bethpage) with employees and that can be used to engage the student body and create a program (the students are the best advocates/representation of the school).

Council Member, Martha Maffei: *Executive Director, SEPA Mujer, services for the Advancement of Latina Immigrant Women*

- Social Justice is critical right now.
- Would like to bring the programs and internships at SEPA Mujer to Old Westbury. Their programs work with Immigrant women and provide different internship opportunities in civic engagement, political campaigns, and leadership development.
- Works in collaboration with nonprofits and social justice organizations, network of 15 coalitions and over 150 organizations to look for opportunities for OW students to get involved in Nassau, Suffolk in Long Island.
- Coalition building, community organizing, leadership development are great opportunities for students who are aligned with a career in organizing.

- Is interested in having a project that works with the youth programs in social justice and empowerment that can allow them to work with immigrant students in high schools before they choose what college, they want to go to.
- Has a program that focuses on supporting young Latinas, Girls Act, which has a partnership with Suffolk County where they get to prepare different careers, financial literacy, and have the opportunity to work in a nonprofit platform. Looking for funding to run this program all year around and work with schools who have Latino and black communities like William Floyd High School who are working with young people and then bring them to Old Westbury as students.
- Create a Social Justice Incubator (the first in Long Island).
 - o *SEPA Mujer* has their own building.
 - o Would like to create a HUB of social services.
 - o Good opportunity for organizations that are looking for students to help with voting campaigns, educational forums and vaccination campaigns. Involving students in all these initiatives-to work with government, elected officials and non-profit opportunities.
 - o Get more funding with private foundations.
- Relationships with local business, Chamber of Commerce and elected officials.
- Suggestion: When you reach out to the media/press, it's very important to bring this information to the Latino Community. Reach out to the local media for access to the bilingual community for a both a language and cultural connection.
- Connect Dr. Sams with Progressive groups in the area.
- Community Forum to become familiar their new agenda and social justice movements of Long Island.

Council Member, Kalief Metellus: *Student representative and SGA President*

- Met with his team and has creative ideas on how to integrate the president into the communities and departments of Old Westbury:
 - o Sit down Roundtable talk- once a semester (not an open forum or town hall), a dress down casual conversation style event where students can just talk to the president.
 - o Attend two to three programs for the semester SGA or SGA club.
- In order to advance the institution from a student's perspective.
 - o Promote student events and initiatives and provide press – social justice and academic to offer a better perspective of all Old Westbury has to offer.
 - Examples: when they flew people out to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the social justice march for BLM in June, the social justice from Hicksville train station, the curbside pickup for the OW students.
- Fundraising Ideas:
 - o Commencement --> fundraise for a cause /order shirts.
 - o Homecoming—fundraising moment for ALL OW community.
 - o Leadership dinner, (\$350/p) break that up into monthly payments, and have successful alumni come back and fundraise for a special cause.

- Community Service Events/Press for all community events.

Council Member, Theresa Regnante: *President and CEO of the United Way of Long Island*

- Can align her Senior Vice President team with some of your senior members to help integrate them with different external environments to the college.
- Would like to involve more OW Senior staff in RADC meetings to serve externally on the College's behalf.
- The more Old Westbury people are connected and in partnership with other projects and programs and services, will have a greater impact to the students (Labor, Community, Corporate, Comptroller, Business and Academia).
- The United Way of Long Island has a board of 55 board members, as powerful as the LIA. Do not expect Board members to give \$25,000 in a sponsorship but would like to put your name in for nominations in November.
- Provide help with Strategy and implementation.
- Building external partnerships (with other Colleges to gain momentum together).
- Can spend some time helping members of Dr. Sams' team know what is relevant on Long Island (training programs, vocational programs).
- Hopes Old Westbury will be a leader in building partnerships with other institutions, colleges, city colleges, and try to gain more momentum together rather than separately.

Mili Makhijani, Chair

- Is going to follow up and have discussions offline.
- Would like to set aside meetings with Dr. Sams and Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, as well as the DA Madeline Singas and the Chairperson of the Democratic Party, Jay Jacobs; and maybe Dr. Elliot can help set up the meeting with the Republican chairperson.
- Would like to arrange a meeting with Dr. Sams and the President or head of a company called *Symbiosis* - educational consultants that should come in and do a presentation about course development and program development.
 - There is a revenue sharing model they are building where certain student support services are provided as well as marketing for new degrees or courses and be a hybrid of both.
 - They can train faculty and expand course offerings in distance learning programs to increase revenue.

V. Responses:

President Sams is grateful for the support in elevating our institution.

Joanne Robinson, Chief of Staff

- Offers different models/ formats on how to organize subcommittees of the College Council.

- Breaking up into small committees where they identify priorities and representatives from the council and are assigned different workgroups and is willing to share some of those models.

Mili Makhijani, Madam Chair

- Keep the meetings between members small (4-5 people) to be in compliance with the Open Meetings law.

Duncan Quarless, Provost

- Middle States is likely to have some activity with the College Council on March 21st.
- Reports that the faculty has been very good about the development of new credentialing options for students that include micro credentials (examples: Spanish translation, professional skills for the workplace) --> wants to use those to develop our distance learning platform and create other options for students, including adult learners and alumni who want to continue their own professional development.

VI. New Business:

Theresa Regnante:

- Offered \$10,000 worth of gift cards for the Veterans at Old Westbury.
- Madam Chair will connect Theresa with Penny Chin.

Kalief Metellus moved to motion to adjourn, and Cania Infante seconded the motion. Then, hearing no other comments, motion to adjourn granted. Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Dated: February 26, 2021



Lisandra Ramos
College Council Liaison