

SUNY OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 25, 2021

Meeting Time: 12:30pm

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. Scott Reich Mr. William A. Hohausen Ms. Oluwademilade O. Ogunlade, Student Representative	Representatives of the College: Dr. Timothy E. Sams Dr. Duncan Quarless Dr. Jo-Ann Robinson 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. Magdy Shady Mr. Usama Shaikh Dr. Diana Sukhram Ms. Lisandra Ramos Ms. Martha Santana Mr. Kalief Metellus Dr. Mike Kavic Dr. Jennie D’Ambroise
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I. Chair Welcome, *Chair Makhijani*

Chair Makhijani opened the meeting by congratulating Mr. Kalief Metellus on being selected for the newly created position of student advocate. Mr. Metellus will be working directly under Chancellor Malatras. Acknowledging that everyone had received a copy of the April 23, 2021 College Council meeting minutes, Ms. Melissa Archbold made a motion to accept which was seconded by Mr. William Hohausen. Council approved by unanimous vote the minutes.

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

The President welcomed the Council members and thanked them for their continued service. He reported the following:

Middle States

- The College is waiting for the final determination from the accrediting agency. The College’s response was submitted in April and the Commission is scheduled to make its decision any day now.

COVID-19 and Fall Preparations

- SUNY has not yet provided guidance or recommendations for fall operations on its campuses, thanks in large part to the continually changing nature of the pandemic.
- Regarding vaccinations, the College cannot yet mandate vaccinations for students and no discussion has been had at the state level regarding required vaccinations for employees. Students will be required to have a vaccine once a vaccine receives full FDA approval. While there is no employee vaccination requirement, the College continues to ask employees to volunteer their vaccination status and to urge employees to get vaccinated.
 - Progress to date:

- Students – No firm data available. SUNY is working with the State Health Department to provide a mechanism for campuses to check vaccine status of students against the state immunization service, rather than the one-by-one cataloging we are doing now.
- Employees volunteering vaccine evidence:
 - 20% of Faculty
 - 63% of the Staff
- Outstanding issues:
 - The length of time the Clark Center will remain a vaccination center is still open-ended.
 - The amount of COVID-19 testing required for fall. If requirements mirror the spring semester, early cost estimates are \$1.2 million for the campus.

Questions:

Ms. Regnante offered to work with OW on an incentive plan to increase the number of vaccinated students on campus. Ms. Regnante had received grants for vaccine hesitancy and education. Dr. Sams said that Dr. Jo-Ann Robinson and or Mike Kinane would follow up.

Fall 2021 Preparations

- Expected Course Offerings
 - 80% of classes with either one or two in-person class sessions each week.
 - Remaining 20% being offered remotely or via distance education.
- Student Housing
 - All residential rooms are being offered as singles to encourage students to reside on campus while promoting a more COVID-safe environment.
 - 700 beds became available for students because NYIT vacated Academic Village (AV).
 - Woodlands Halls will house primarily first-year students
 - Academic Village will house juniors and seniors.
 - Improvements underway include: Improved wifi service in all halls and new lounge furniture in Woodlands (via a donation from the Student Government Association).
- Facilities Improvements
 - Campus Center:
 - Renewal of the Atrium Amphitheater, including new “social media friendly” painting of the stairs and the installation of seating
 - Replacement of Maguire Theater seating, for all audience spaces.
 - Memorial Garden clean up and expansion of outdoor seating areas
 - Campus Grounds:
 - New and increased planting
 - Outdoor promotional banners

State Budget and College Finances

No significant news to share. The College awaits information from SUNY and the New York State Division of Budget regarding: Planned allocations for this year, tuition rates for 2021-2022, and fee amounts to apply for 2021-2022.

Announcements — Administrative Changes

- Reiterated the role of Jo-Ann Robinson as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff.

- Revision in title for Mike Kinane, now Vice President for Communications and College Relations, to reflect now formal responsibility for expanding government and community relations activities.
- Departure of Raj Devasagayam as Dean of the School of Business for the same role at Monmouth University (effective June 30, 2021).
- Appointment of Monica Calzolari as Interim Vice President for Enrollment Services, to reshape and reinvigorate our admissions and enrollment services programs.
- Transition of Usama Shaikh to the position of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Promotion of Claudia Marin-Andrade to serve as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs.
- Retirement of Len Davis as Senior Vice President for Business & Finance and Chief Financial Officer (effective July 1, 2021).
- Transition of Martha Santana to role as Vice President for Business & Finance and Chief Financial Officer (effective July 1, 2021).

Accolades

- The following SUNY awards were announced in May:
 - SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Marty Cooper, Psychology Department, and Dr. Jennie D'Ambroise, Mathematics and Computer Information Sciences Department
 - SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Creative Scholarship and Research: Dr. James Fornaro, Accounting Department
 - SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service: Ms. Rafat Sada, Educational Opportunity Program.
- Assistant Professor Sarah Kamens of the Psychology Department received the American Psychological Association Division 32: Society for Humanistic Psychology "Early Career Award" for her contributions to humanistic-existential research and scholarship in psychology.
- Assistant Professor Solomon Chak of the Biological Sciences Department was lead author on research published in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," the prestigious peer-reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences. The research into the sociality and genome size in snapping shrimp earned the cover of the publication.
- The Amelie A Wallace Gallery, under the leadership of Director Hyewon (Hi-whan) Yi was awarded a prestigious Korean Art Abroad grant by the Ministry of Culture of Korea. The funding will support "The Great Chain of Being," an exhibition by Korean animation and video artist Sung Rok Choi, scheduled for Spring 2022. The Wallace Gallery was one of 20 international finalists for the award.

The President closed his report.

Ms. Makhijani congratulated those appointed, promoted and honored. She also congratulated Dr. Sukhram on her pending appointment as Dean of the School of Education. Dr. Quarless noted that Dr. Shalei Simms would be the Interim Dean of the School of Business beginning July 1, 2021.

III. New Business, Chair Makhijani

The chair noted she had met with Robinson with regard to creation of subcommittees for the Council. She described this as part of a new vision of engagement for the Council members. At least one college council member would serve as a subcommittee's chair and there would be at least one other member from the Council appointed to each group.

The discussions regarding committees was built upon the comments and ideas proposed by Council members during the February 2021 meeting of the group. The proposed subcommittees are:

1. **Strategic advancement of the college:** Supports the campus community and aligning the guiding principles of liberal education, integrity, participatory government governance, intercultural understanding sustainability and social justice and strategic planning, internal controls policies and procedures and the assessment process.
2. **Coalition building around social justice:** Supports learning communities in collaboration with faculty that support OW social justice mission. And the committee will work in partnership with nonprofits and social justice organizations to develop a network for students to engage in coalition building, community organizing and leadership development.
3. **Recruitment, branding and community engagement:** Re-energizes the Old Westbury brand and foster stronger relationships with the surrounding communities. This subcommittee that will serve as a liaison to the local community organizations, foster strategic relationships with local, state, local and state communities. And the committee will also support enrollment services with recruitment initiatives, because that is the marketing umbrella.
4. **Resources for students:** Identifies various resources and activities that lead to personal and professional growth and development, and academic persistence. The committee will also address mental health awareness, and work to expand the pipeline of referrals and resources available to our students to overall increase or enhance the student experience.
5. **Internships and career development:** Works to increase internship and postgraduate opportunities for the OW students, members will introduce students to opportunities in business, politics and social justice.

The ensuing discussion among Council members included:

- The membership of the committees, which Ms. Makhijani noted would likely include two council members and 3-4 members of the College staff. In response to a concern about staffing the work of the groups raised by Ms. Regnante, Dr. Robinson stated the goal would be to engage the representatives on campus who have some responsibility for those areas and OW would want to lean on the members of the college council to expand the College's network to provide additional opportunities for our students.
- Dr. Shady questioned whether it might be worthwhile for the Council and the Old Westbury College Foundation Board of Trustees to develop a shared committee structure to maximize participants' time, avoid duplication, and develop relationships between the members of each group. Mr. Daniels shared that the Foundation has recently been restructured and reorganized and committees were created with mission statements clearly defined and committee members appointed. He offered to share that process with the Council chair.
- Ms. Regnante sharing that an organization can at times get unwieldy in terms of committees and structure. She suggested that, rather than have subcommittees on topics initially, it might be best to have sessions where Council members meet with College personnel in conversations that serve as "think tanks" on one or two very two specific goals. Then, from that, having a subcommittee that really stays with the work around those two goals might be more productive.

Dr. Sams thanked the Council members for the discussion and noted that he appreciated the energy they were bringing to the work. He asked that he, Ms. Makhijani and Dr. Robinson go back to fashion parameters to enhance the structure,

IV. Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Kavic thanked Ms. Mikhijani, the Provost, and the President for all their support, leadership and engagement with the faculty and students over the past year. As he leaves his role as Senate Chair, he noted he was excited about where the College was headed, specifically related to:

- Middle States process in the middle of a pandemic. There were some challenges, but we got through it successfully. In the middle of the pandemic, faculty adapted created innovative labs to lock in all of those great new ideas and new capabilities and new techniques for advanced pedagogy so that we're going to lock them in for the future.
- We developed with a new prodigy program, we've established a new prodigy Committee, which is already having tremendous benefits for increasing diversity and increasing the number and quality of our faculty in an era in a time when there was intense, difficult issues related to racism, structural racism, and the quest for social justice. The faculty rose to the challenge, we formed a committee, the parody committee, there have been numerous events, engaging the faculty on issues related to social justice.
- The introduction of the President's performance planning to budget process.
- The development of cutting edge pedagogy related to residential colleges.
- Outreach to the community both for the benefit of students' life and career aspirations but also engagement with activities on issues of social justice
- The development of a culture of assessment

Dr. Kavic introduced Dr. D'Ambroise as the new Faculty Senate chair saying that the governance is going to be in tremendous hands. Dr. D'Ambroise thanked Dr. Kavic and noted:

- She is a member of the faculty in the math department
- She has served on the Senate Executive Committee in various capacities for the past three or four years, secretary treasurer as well as Vice Chair most recently
- She worked on the faculty senate website, as well as the background spreadsheets where we can keep track of faculty data.
- In the coming year she wants to work on not only building on faculty engagement, but in a more robust way that we've been doing in the past to work on transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next generation within faculty governance. As part of that effort, she reported she is writing a faculty senate chair handbook, that she intends to transmit to the next faculty senate chair.
- She also noted she is excited to work on the new initiatives in cooperation across the institution with assessment, and to see that come to fruition in the fall semester and beyond.

V. Alumni Representative's Report

Mr. Chitty was not present so the report was skipped.

VI. The Student Government Association Report

- Mr. Metellus thanked the College Council and the President and made his final recommendations-
 - Recommended the Residence Halls in Woodlands name be changed from Hall 1,2,3,4 and 5.
 - Recommended the library have a picture of each president that served at the College with information about their service.
 - Recommended that the College history be more visible on campus to show how Old Westbury came to be what it is today.
- Mr. Metellus announced Ms. Oluwademilade O. Ogunlade as the incoming SGA President and shared that there will be SGA representation on the College Foundation. Olu is a political economics and law major, African American studies minor. During her student career, she has served SGA as Campus Life senator and executive vice president. She was a Student Union building manager, president of the African Student Association, and co-founder of Black Girls Advocate. She was elected recently to be the vice president of the state-wide SUNY Student Assembly.
- Ms. Ogunlade thanked Mr. Metellus and shared the following-
 - SGA budget for the 2021 to 2022 academic year has been approved.
 - Planning for the upcoming academic year has started so we have regularly scheduled meetings.
 - Current goals: Increasing benefits for students in leadership.
 - Improving the relationship between the SUNYs on Long Island: Nassau, Suffolk, Stony Brook, Farmingdale.
 - Establishing standard community service days
 - Establishing Student Leadership Collective
 - Improve the relationship between students and University Police.

VII. Open Meeting

Ms. Mikhijani opened the floor for public comments. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Cania Infante moved the motion to adjourn, and Ms. Melissa Archibald seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Submitted by:



Lisandra Ramos
Executive Assistant to the President, SUNY Old Westbury