

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, October 11, 2013

Location: SUNY College at Old Westbury, Student Union, Multipurpose Room C

Attendance:

Appointed Members of the College Council –Dr. Gary Wadler (chair), Dr. Debra Handel, Mr. William Hohausser, Dr. Mario Mignone, Mr. Nick Savva, and Mr. Scott Reich.

Representatives of the College –Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Ms. Mona Rankin, Dr. ML Langlie, Mr. William Kimmins, Mr. Michael Kinane, Dr. Duncan Quarless, Mr. Anthony Barbera, Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dr. Ruben Gonzalez and Mr. Rollie Buchanan.

Chairman’s Report

- Dr. Wadler opened the meeting and asked the members of the Council to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2013 meeting. The minutes passed without dissent.
- Dr. Wadler asked Ms. Rankin to discuss with the Council the Renaissance Education Pipeline project that had been initiated. Ms. Rankin reviewed past attempts to link the work of President Butts in Harlem with the work of the College to create a pathway to success for students from schools and programs in Harlem through to college. Ms. Rankin introduced Dr. Sandye Johnson, a consultant to the College on the project, who presented details concerning the components of the “pipeline,” the staff members from each body that was participating in the development of the plan, and the early concepts and programs that had already been developed. Discussion among the Council members centered on the need for the plan to include measurement and metrics for success, current applications for funding and potential future ones, and the role of parents and families in the proposed pipeline efforts.

President’s Report on the College

Dr. Wadler asked the President to provide an update on other campus projects and priorities:

- On enrollment, campus headcount this fall is 4,368 – 4,161 undergraduate and 207 graduate. This represents an approximate 1 percent decline from last year’s 4,411. There was a shift with slightly more students enrolling full-time versus part-time, which led to an increase in our full-time-equivalency enrollment over last year. Dr. Butts noted that Vice President for Enrollment Services Mary Marquez Bell was traveling in support of the College’s international recruitment efforts and that he would direct her to make a more thorough presentation on College enrollment at a future Council meeting.
- Regarding the College budget, Dr. Butts reported that New York State is facing a budget gap of \$1.7 billion and that it remains unclear how this will impact SUNY especially since there remains uncertainty about funding for the hospitals and contractual increases. Old Westbury’s SUNY funding (state-taxed and tuition) for 2013-14 is \$35.3 million vs. \$34.3 million last year, a modest increase of 2.8%. The increase is due primarily to the \$300 annual increase in tuition for undergraduate students. Total planned spending (operating budget) for the campus this year is \$38.8 million, as follows:
 - \$35.3 million in funding from SUNY and tuition
 - \$3.5 million from the College’s reserves
 - \$1.8 million allocated to Strategic Plan initiatives
 - \$1.7 million to supplement operations

- Capital funding for SUNY has been virtually frozen for the next 3-4 years with no new SUNY appropriations and the majority of the State's capital funds being diverted toward the construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge.
- The College received \$528,000 from FEMA for reimbursement for Hurricane Sandy related damages to the campus. We also received \$92,000 in rental income from FEMA for the use of Wang Hall by FEMA workers earlier this year. Another \$192,205 was received last year in reimbursements for expenses related to damages caused by Hurricane Irene in 2011.
- Regarding capital projects, Dr. Butts discussed the projects completed before the launch of the new academic year, including:
 - A \$1.3 million renovation of the Dining Hall.
 - The introduction to campus of Shop24, a totally automated, refrigerated convenience store.

Work also continues on two major renovations:

- The first phase of the renovation of the Campus Library, through which the entire first floor is being renewed and redesigned.
 - The Campus Center envelope project, which is seeing all windows and the façade of the building replaced and updated.
- Start-Up New York is one of the Governor's programs created to spur economic development, research and entrepreneurship within the state. It offers tax-free incentives to certain employers and individuals willing to start a business on a SUNY campus. For SUNY Long Island campuses, the business must be a high-tech or start-up. Mr. Kimmins is the campus liaison for the program. At this point, Old Westbury has been active in Start-Up New York in two ways:
 - Recalculated our campus' capital priorities and are asking in the next SUNY capital budget request for funds to renovate and expand the Natural Science Building. In addition to renovating and updating all spaces currently occupied by academic and research operations, this project would add academic and research space and create a 6,000 square foot area for local startup companies.
 - The campus is also in discussion with Mitogenetics, LLC, a research and development company headquartered in Chancellor, South Dakota regarding a possible move to New York. The company is currently focused on the research, development and refinement of biomedical technology with the primary research being done by Dr. George Stefano and his team at the College's Neuroscience Research Institute.

Following Dr. Butts, members of the President's Cabinet reviewed key issues in their respective areas.

- Vice President for Student Affairs Langlie discussed:
 - **Transfer Orientation:** The new Transfer Orientation model was reported as a success, with feedback from students giving positive reviews. All transfer students were required to attend orientation, which included course registration as the key draw.
 - **Summer Orientation:** The Summer Orientation for incoming freshmen was held in July in three, two-day sessions. Again involving a mandatory overnight experience, the program received positive feedback from students.

- **Panther Pride Homecoming:** Panther Pride Homecoming is set for next week, October 15-19. Events are scheduled throughout the week to drive interest, entertainment, and engagement among students.
- Assistant to the President Kimmins discussed:
 - **United University Professionals Contract:** The new agreement between SUNY and UUP calls for raises for which additional funding is not available. The raises are \$500 in the first year with an additional one percent available based on merit.
 - **Water Tower:** A remediation plan has been sent to the College by the Village of Old Westbury for the area that had been disrupted when construction began in the wrong location. The plan is being reviewed by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the College intends to have an engineer review it as well.
 - **Civil Rights Training:** The law and SUNY Policies require that the College provide training to all employees in the areas of Preventing Discrimination and Harassment, Reporting Child Sexual Abuse, Preventing Workplace Violence and Preventing Sexual Misconduct (Title IX). The College has arranged to provide that training by an on-line tutorial.
- Assistant to the President Kinane discussed:
 - **Campus Communication Systems:** The College will be moving to a suite of services provided by Google, including email, calendar, contacts and online storage. In addition to gains related to operating efficiency and reduced costs, this will reduce the amount of email being sent to students, which has been a long-standing complaint. In addition, the College will be introducing Rave Alert as a means of providing group messaging on a subscription basis to those who choose to use it.
 - **College Branding:** In accordance with its Strategic Plan, the College has engaged the firm Creative Partners to conduct research and creative development efforts to enhance and improve the institution's brand message. The first phase of research is underway at this time with work on the effort projected to be completed in early 2014.
 - **Alumni Outreach:** President Butts will be holding a dinner to celebrate alumni on October 17. Approximately 150 graduates are expected to attend.

New Business

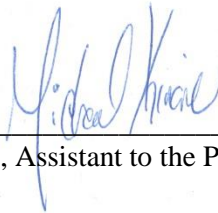
- Dr. Wadler asked the newly elected Faculty Senate Chair to provide an update from the faculty. Dr. Quarless noted that the Senate was going to engage in efforts to better communicate the support it provides to faculty and the campus as a whole. Additionally, focus is being brought to strengthening communications with all campus constituencies.
- Dr. Wadler asked Mr. Savva to introduce himself and to provide an update from the Student Government Association. Mr. Savva discussed:
 - **Take Back the Campus:** An effort through which the Student Government Association will work to advocate for more inclusion of student voices in the campus decision-making process.
 - **SUNY Smoke Free:** Advocacy will be taking place to make students aware of the January 1, 2014 implementation of SUNY's smoke free campus policy.
 - **Outreach:** Conversations have been held with SGAs at Stony Brook, Farmingdale, Buffalo State and Plattsburgh. A goal for the coming year is to hold a SUNY Student Assembly Executive Committee meeting on campus.

- **Social Media:** A new online ticketing system has been introduced which allows for easier access for students and better record-keeping. Also new is CampusVine/Allocate, an online system that allows clubs to access their funding records and learn about campus programs.
- Dr. Wadler asked each Dean present to provide updates:
 - School of Business Dean Barbera discussed:
 - **Shared Services:** Old Westbury is working on a joint grant proposal to hold a symposium in collaboration with SUNY Farmingdale.
 - **Five-Year Programs:** Students are now able to enroll in five-year programs that will lead to a BS/MS in Accounting or a BS/MS in Accounting/Taxation. These are the first five-year programs at the College.
 - School of Arts and Sciences Dean Hillery discussed:
 - **Faculty:** Ten new tenure-track faculty members have joined the campus or are in the process of being searched.
 - **New Graduate Degree Development:** A proposal has been submitted to SUNY for a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. The hope is to enroll the first cohort of students for the fall 2014 semester.
 - School of Education Dean Gonzalez discussed:
 - **Common Core:** The administration and faculty of the School are immersed in curriculum redesign to meet the requirements of the common core introduction.
 - Dean of Students Rollie Buchanan discussed:
 - **Career Development:** A key focus of student engagement activities across the Division of Student Affairs continues to be on issues, activities, and knowledge-sharing that offer early ties to career planning.

Open Meeting

- Dr. Wadler opened the floor to new items from the public. Hearing none, he moved to close the meeting.

Submitted by:



Michael Kinane, Assistant to the President for Advancement