

**SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Friday, December 6, 2013

**Location:** New Academic Building, Room 1100B

**Attendance: Appointed Members of the College Council**

Dr. Gary Wadler (Chair)

Mr. William Hohausser

Dr. Mario Mignone

Mr. Nick Savva

**Representatives of the College**

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

Mr. Len Davis

Mr. William Kimmins

Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan

Dr. Duncan Quarless

Mr. Anthony Barbera

Mr. Rollie Buchanan

**I. Welcome and Meeting Opening**

Chairman Wadler opened the meeting and asked the Council to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved without dissent.

**II. President's Report on the College**

Dr. Butts thanked the members of the College Council in attendance. He discussed recent speculation in the media about a reported run for Congress that he might be considering. He reported to the Council that he would not be pursuing such a run.

He thanked Council Member Scott Reich for participating as the keynote speaker for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Action, Learning and Leadership Partnership Fair.

**Seamless Transfer**

Dr. Butts reported on the efforts of SUNY to promote "seamless transfer" for students from community colleges and between SUNY four-year schools.

The idea behind this effort is that it will:

- increase the number of transfer students graduating and graduating on time
- reduce the need for repetition of coursework; and
- reduce the cost of degree completion.

The President has had meetings with his counterparts Dr. Ken Saunders, Acting President of Nassau Community College, and Dr. Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, on the matter. Dr. O'Sullivan has been asked to meet with the appropriate staff at those colleges to discuss a clear path for students. This can improve enrollment and benefit students.

While there remain issues to be discussed and resolved, Dr. Butts noted that this was a requirement from SUNY that we are faced with and we must continue to try and move forward with this mandate as best we can for the benefit of our students.

### Enrollment - Revenue

Student headcount of 4,368 was down about one percent from last fall's 4,411, and was about three percent down from the College's projected goal. Dr. O'Sullivan and Mary Marquez Bell have noted that our enrollment mix is where we are suffering, with fewer graduate and out-of-state students than originally projected.

As a result, SUNY is requiring that the College return \$1.3 million in revenue.

Dr. Butts reported that he has instructed every member of the Cabinet to look at what is being done, and what must be done to improve recruitment and student retention. He said he challenged the Provost particularly to bring to conclusion key discussions that have gone on for some time on campus. These chiefly relate to:

- the need to offer New Programs,
- the class schedule and limitations it may place on the ability of students to advance,
- the General Education program -- to ensure it is offered as efficiently as it can be to help students move along, and
- revisions of our class schedule, current offerings or new offerings.

He noted that he wants the discussions to move along and for actionable decisions to be made on these and other issues.

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

- Discussion  
Dr. O'Sullivan noted that in many cases we don't have the degrees students prefer, which leads them to transfer to places such as Stony Brook and CUNY schools. He noted that there are also financial and personal reasons why students transfer.

Vice President for Business and Finance Len Davis discussed:

- The College is seeking a grant of up to \$2 million from the state's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that would be used to obtain and install a generator that would service the entire

campus for short periods in times of emergency outages.

- The SUNY Budget Request for 2014-15 does not offer good news for Old Westbury. An increase of \$23 million is being sought for the system, with \$18 million of that tied to strategic initiatives. The request seeks total taxpayer support of \$180 million for SUNY, would fund contracted pay increases to union employees, and institute the fourth year of the five year rational tuition program that had been approved previously.
- The capital plan request continues to suffer under the knowledge that most state capital monies are being earmarked for the reconstruction of the Tappan Zee Bridge. The largest request in the current budget is for \$750 million to support immediate critical life safety projects.

Bill Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration, discussed:

- Modifications being made to the co-generation equipment at the Heat Plant to limit noise and comply with new emissions standards.
- The SUNY/State contract was ratified by United University Professional employees.
- The Start-Up New York project is Governor Cuomo's economic development program designed to attract businesses to SUNY campuses. Old Westbury is limited by having little vacant space currently. Some inquiries received are being discussed internally, including a research and development company with whom Distinguished Teaching Professor George Stefano is working.

### **III. Reports from Campus Representatives**

Duncan Quarless, Chair of the Faculty Senate, discussed:

- The research being conducted by Dr. Stefano.
- Faculty concern about SUNY's "seamless transfer" effort and the development on campus of a response to SUNY regarding the policies and guidance that have been provided to each campus. The response will include information from the General Education and Curriculum and Academic Planning committees. Dr. Quarless noted that guidance from SUNY serves as a means to take a good look at what the College offers and how it offers it. There are concerns that the "seamless transfer" effort will affect the mission of Old Westbury and other colleges.
- Our campus is the host for this year's Sigma Psi Scientific Research Conference in the Northeast region to be held April 26, 2014. The keynote speaker is a faculty member at Stony Brook, Prof. Peter Gerkin, Biology, Life Sciences. The conference has two purposes; research and discovery, and networking with science educators from high school and other

colleges.

- Faculty Senate and Executive Committee will be considering a resolution to integrate and move in the direction whereby issues and ideas related to social justice will be built into the majors offered by each school as opposed to relying solely on General Education for the conveyance of the ideals.
- More to report at next meeting on Academic Program development.

#### IV. **Comments from Council Members**

Council Member Mario Mignone noted that the areas of research and fund-raising should be central efforts. He commented that Stony Brook University is very aggressive in getting funding, which seems very different than Old Westbury. He asked for information on whether the College is doing enough in the areas of grant development and fund-raising.

- **Discussion**

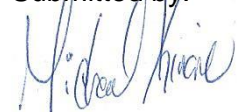
Dr. Butts reported that the need to ramp up fund raising efforts was the central theme at the College Foundation meeting held yesterday. He noted the potential of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College in 2015 to bring attention, relationships, and donors into the College's network.

He expressed his belief that the College is poised to significantly increase its fund-raising over the next two years.

#### V. **Open Meeting**

Dr. Wadler opened the floor to questions and comments from the public. Hearing none, the meeting was closed.

Submitted by:



Michael Kinane  
Assistant to the President for Advancement