

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, December 1, 2017
Location: Student Union, Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: **Appointed Members of the College Council**
Ms. Melissa Archbold
Mr. William Hohausner

Representatives of the College

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| Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III | Mr. William Kimmins |
| Mr. Len Davis | Mr. Michael Kinane |
| Dr. Raj Devasagayam | Ms. Mary Marquez Bell |
| Dr. Wayne Edwards | Mr. Andrew Mattson |
| Mr. Omar Estrada Torres | Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan |
| Dr. Barbara Hillery | |

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

- In the absence of a quorum in part due to unexpected cancellations due to illness, Dr. Butts stated that it would not be possible for the members in attendance to select a member to chair the meeting or to carry out any official business. He suggested that Council members be given brief reports from various areas at the College. He wished all in attendance Happy Holidays and asked if anyone objected to his moving forward. There were no objections.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. Butts asked Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services, about the recent Open House. Ms. Marquez Bell reported that there were just under 1,100 total visitors who attended several workshops, including those in Business, Study Abroad, Teacher Education and Honors College. There were approximately 40 student ambassadors taking students around the campus, to show them our facilities. In all, there were approximately 200 more visitors than at the previous Fall Open House.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that Old Westbury has been recognized by SUNY as the number one college in the system as it relates to financial literacy...Smart Track registrations. Smart Track is an ongoing program that seeks to engage students in online and other learning efforts to improve their financial literacy skills. Old Westbury has had 3,976 active users since Smart Track's inception and 7,936 courses completed. Old Westbury's Director of Financial Aid, Ms. Millie O'Keefe, has been appointed to the SUNY Smart Track Task Force.

Dr. Butts asked Mr. Len Davis, Sr. Vice President for Business & Finance and CFO, to comment. Mr. Davis said that the program started approximately three years ago via a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) grant. We have a financial literacy program addressing some of the broad topics a student may need to deal with including banking, saving and managing debt. The program is growing and gaining traction and we are very happy with the results. There are pre and post course evaluations and the difference is approximately 35 points, indicating students are learning from this program. We are also planning a Financial Literacy Fair in April where we will bring in financial institutions to offer presentations and workshops, and we hope to have the Dean of the School of Business and Business students involved as well. Our cohort default rate has

fallen tremendously. Four or five years ago, it was 18% i.e., 18% of graduates who had entered into the repayment program were defaulting. It is down to 5.2% now.

- Council Member Mr. William Hohausser asked if any preliminary analysis had been done by either SUNY or Old Westbury to determine the impact of the new tax plan with respect to graduate students. Mr. Davis replied that this question came up in meetings with both SUNY and the College Foundation. He said there are still some parts of the puzzle missing. There is a basic structure and a plan to address this impact at some point.
- Dr. Butts went on to report that the College has several new degree programs including an MS in Forensic Accounting which will be offered starting Fall 2018; an MS in Data Analytics beginning Fall 2019 and an MS in Entrepreneurship which will start in Fall 2020.
- Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean of the School of Business, said that the School of Business would be hosting the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners on campus, hopefully in March, for the Emerging Leaders program which students will be able to attend. Academic Affairs will sponsor a portion of the event. This will be a good launch pad from which to announce the Forensic Accounting graduate degree. The MS in Healthcare Management has been approved hopefully to be offered in 2019.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises participation rate of the College is almost double that of the State. He asked Mr. Davis to comment. Mr. Davis said that we've concentrated on getting more of the minority population involved in our business as far as purchasing is concerned. The goal for the State is 30% and we are at 59% at mid-year.
- On the subject of parking, Dr. Butts said that he is happy to report that the situation is much better than at the beginning of the semester. He took a tour the other day and saw many empty spaces in the Clark Center parking lot as well as a few in the Campus Center parking lot. He applauds everyone, but particularly the police and those staff members who have been putting forth ideas. We are looking into alternative parking for the winter, as Parking Area B will not be usable in heavy snow. Currently there does not seem to be a great deal of use of Parking Area B. We have a new design process underway. \$2.38 million has been allocated for the State University Construction Fund and the design team to deliver 150 new parking spots to be ready for use before fall 2018. A connector road and still more parking are scheduled for 2019 and beyond.
- Dr. Butts asked Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, about the Student Success Center. Dr. O'Sullivan distributed a schematic of the services to be offered by the Student Success Center...some of which currently exist as well as new services. Two new positions to be filled in this area include a Transfer Student Coordinator and a Student Completion Coach. Both of these positions will focus on retention of both first time to college and transfer students. The overall purpose of the Student Success Center is to improve retention, graduation rate and timely completion of degrees.

Dean Hillery said that while much of this is being done, new hires in the Student Success Center would free up current advisory staff to interact more with students. The EAB (Education Advisory Board) software will enable faculty to report a student's problem with one click. Currently those problems are directed to the Advising Center. The goal is to have all of those alerts come to one person who will then be responsible for disseminating them to the appropriate area depending upon the issue.

Vice President for Student Affairs and CDO Dr. Wayne Edwards remarked that Career Development and Planning has been challenged due to its small size and lack of visibility because of its location. The hope is that with the visibility afforded by being part of the Student Success Center, small size notwithstanding Career Development will be able to connect much more with students.

Dr. O'Sullivan said that SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Purchase have put a focus on Student Success and are following a similar model.

- Dr. Butts went on to say that, SUNY has committed over \$1 million to Old Westbury for the next two years in four key areas. One of these areas is the Bottom Line College Success Program. Ms. Marquez Bell said this is very similar to what we are implementing with EAB, and we are hoping this will contribute information to the EAB Success Program. We have a Bottom Line counselor who will work with first generation New York City students who need financial assistance. There is a dedicated counselor who, starting the summer prior to enrollment, visits the campus routinely through the First Year Experience program to advise students on some of the challenging issues they may have. The first year has shown some positive results, as students have been retained at a slightly higher rate...82% vs. 79% previously.
- SUNY has also agreed to help us with funds for an online MS in Accounting to offset new faculty, instructional design staff, critical software needs, etc. Dr. O'Sullivan said that we have been working on putting at least one or two degrees online, as strongly suggested by SUNY Administration. Because of the success of the MS in Accounting, it was agreed that we would go in that direction. We expect that in 2019 at least 50% of the MS in Accounting should be available online.
- Ms. Archbold asked about the possibility of offering an Actuarial degree. Dr. O'Sullivan said that ten or twelve years ago there were discussions between the Math Department and the School of Business regarding an Actuarial degree at the baccalaureate level. However, there was insufficient faculty and the faculty that existed did not want to go in that direction. It was less pure in terms of mathematics than the direction in which the math faculty wanted to go. Dr. O'Sullivan agreed that it has become a popular degree. Data Analytics is the degree that we must insure we deliver in a sufficiently rigorous way to attract students.
- Dr. Butts asked Mr. Davis to comment on the area of Digital Teaching and Learning ... the expanded use of technology in support of teaching and learning. Mr. Davis said that this is a partnership between the faculty, administration and Information Technology Services (ITS). Part of this effort includes the creation of active learning spaces where professors and students can meet to share their ideas. The third floor of the library has a number of these areas promoting this interaction between faculty and students.
- Dr. Butts remarked that funding for the next two years is a little over \$1 million. Dr. Butts said that a lot of time and effort was spent going back and forth to Albany and talking to representatives there. He went on record thanking SUNY for the process and the funding. We had asked for considerably more, but we will use the funds efficiently and effectively to improve our student performance and to help our faculty and staff. Dr. Butts also thanked both our new Chancellor Kristina Johnson as well as our former Chancellor Nancy Zimpher.
- Dr. Butts went on to talk about several new changes in the College's administration effective January 2, 2018.

Dr. Wayne Edwards has assumed the position of Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement. He had served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer. He will now be responsible for seeing that the College moves forward in terms of both fundraising and our public face. He will also assume the position of Executive Director of the Old Westbury College Foundation, per a resolution passed earlier that morning by members of the Foundation.

Mr. Michael Kinane will move from his role as Assistant to the President for Advancement to assume the position of Acting Vice President for Communications and Chief Communications Officer. He will continue in his role as a chief spokesperson for our campus.

Mr. Usama Shaikh will be promoted from his current role as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs to become the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer. At the same time, the Office of Residential Life will move within the Division structured to report directly to the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs.

Mr. Omar Estrada Torres will be promoted from his role as Dean of Students to become Acting Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

Mr. Jeff Bolding will join the College as Acting Dean of Students. His experience includes serving Interboro Institute in New York City as Vice President of Student Services. He has also served as a consultant to Fisk University as a member of the strategic plan committee to improve Student Affairs management systems.

Dr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada Torres and Mr. Kinane expressed both their thanks to Dr. Butts for these new opportunities and their enthusiasm for their new roles.

Dr. Butts pointed out that we are not losing any of the talent we have had, but are gaining a new person and the College will still benefit from the input of Dr. Edwards, Mr. Estrada Torres and Mr. Kinane regarding their previous areas. He also complimented Ms. Mona Rankin, Chief of Staff, on her coordination of the sharing of information between those around the table.

III. New Business

- Dr. Butts asked if any staff members had anything to put on the table. Mr. Estrada Torres replied that he wanted to give a public acknowledgement to Mr. Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration, and to Mr. Davis. He mentioned that in addition to the challenges related to parking we were experiencing challenges regarding our shuttle to and from campus and around campus. Earlier this week we learned that there is an online application in use by students and faculty that tracks the shuttle's route.
- Dr. Edwards mentioned that with the increased enrollment we are at the point where we may have to consider once again utilizing the Academic Village residence halls, which had been closed down two years ago to house students in the Woodlands halls instead. The question has arisen as to whether we prepare the Academic Village buildings in advance or wait to see if enrollment requires their use. Discussions are ongoing re this challenge.
- Dr. Butts asked the Council members if they had any questions, but they did not.

IV. Open Meeting

- There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President