

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, February 1, 2019
Location: Student Union, Multipurpose Room C

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

Ms. Melissa Archbold
Ms. Cania Infante

Dr. Mario Mignone
Mr. Evan Rufrano

Representatives of the College

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III
Mr. Len Davis
Dr. Raj Devasagayam
Dr. Wayne Edwards
Dr. Barbara Hillery
Mr. William Kimmins

Mr. Michael Kinane
Ms. Claudia Marin Andrade
Ms. Mary Marquez Bell
Mr. Andrew Mattson
Ms. Mona Rankin (by phone)

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

- Dr. Mignone called the meeting to order at 10:42 am. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 7 meeting subject to a correction in Dr. Hillery's title. Dr. Mignone requested that Dr. Butts give his report.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. Butts thanked Dr. Mignone for his loyal and devoted service. He then went on to announce that he is currently in the twentieth year of his presidency and will be retiring within the next year. He is delighted to celebrate the accomplishments of the Cabinet, the faculty and staff, and to celebrate the new buildings. We are still growing and carry the largest enrollments in the history of the College. He is saddened because he wants to continue in the footsteps of men like John Maguire and Harris Wofford, both of whom recently passed away, who did great work for the school and rose to national prominence. He just attended a Foundation meeting, and there are great things planned for fundraising. He recently had an excellent meeting with a leader of commerce and industry who he thinks will be very helpful in moving our STEM building forward. He also had some conversations indicating that finally we may be able to build some faculty housing and possibly graduate student housing as well as expand our daycare center. Dr. Butts said that he is very proud of our students and remarked that Mr. Evan Rufrano, SGA President, has been a great student leader. We also have outstanding alumni throughout the country. It has been wonderful, but as of January 20, 2020, he will be going on study leave until June 2020 and then will return to the School of Arts and Sciences, hopefully in the area of American Studies. He would enjoy interacting with our first time to college students to help them with values clarification in the spirit of Old Westbury. Dr. Butts spoke about the various College administrators, faculty and Council members present, thanking them for their many contributions.
- Ms. Rankin explained the notification process regarding Dr. Butts' retirement, and requested that there not be any mention of this news in person or on social media until later in the day when he has notified all required constituencies.
- Dr. Mignone expressed his surprise at the announcement. He spoke of the huge positive impact Dr. Butts has had on the College, through his communication and leadership skills and as a visionary, as well as in his ability to choose excellent people for his team. The school is completely different than it was twenty years ago, and Dr. Mignone thanks Dr. Butts for having saved the College. He hopes that the next president will continue on Dr. Butts' path.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that the College Council has a great deal to say about the next President, as that is one of its roles. He said that the work will continue.

- Continuing his report, Dr. Butts mentioned that several Old Westbury students and faculty were recently honored by one of our new Foundation board members at North Hempstead Town Hall for their outstanding efforts leading to the College's first place finish in the sixth annual Up To Us Campus Competition last year. One of the students was SGA President and College Council member Mr. Evan Rufrano.
- Ms. Jamie Jones, Associate Director for the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement, was awarded both the "Multicultural Program Excellence Award" and the "Creative Program Excellence Award" from the Long Island Council of Student Personnel Administrators (LICSPA) for the College's LGBTQ+ Spirit Day awareness campaign.
- Men's basketball Head Coach Bernard Tomlin, won his 400th career game in December. He has led the team to two Skyline Conference Championships and also has taken Old Westbury to the NCAA twice.
- Last week, the College welcomed to the campus a 1987 graduate of SUNY Old Westbury, Mr. Mohandas Dewese, better known in the rap world as Kool Moe Dee. He and fellow alumnus Mr. Daryl Barksdale, both of the rap group Fearless Four, want to explore with us a project utilizing the campus television studios...our Media Innovation Center...to revive Kool Moe Dee's "Spitfire" talk show.
- Dr. Butts then asked Mr. Len Davis, Sr. Vice President, Division of Business & Finance and CFO to comment on the budget, particularly the UUP contract. Dr. Butts prefaced Mr. Davis' comments by stating that the Cabinet has had extensive discussions about the budget, and members are aware of the challenges we face. Dr. Butts thanks Mr. Davis for making sure we have some money set aside to meet these budget challenges. Mr. Davis mentioned that the UUP contract was deserving but costly...\$1.6 billion system-wide; approximately \$16.2 million for the College. Without additional funding the next three years will be difficult. SUNY is talking to the Division of the Budget, the Governor's Office and others, attempting to find some relief. There is a mechanism in place whereby SUNY will receive \$109 million, an accelerated payment, to help pay for the first year, but this is a onetime occurrence. There are hopes that this will be renewed annually, but it must be negotiated each year.
- Dr. Butts went on to mention that the Dream Act, that includes extending New York State financial aid programs to students who hold DACA status, is expected to be signed into law any day by Governor Cuomo. We applaud this as it helps to protect our students.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that we have received Excelsior Scholarship funds totaling \$750 thousand. Mr. Davis mentioned that we have between 300 and 330 students in the Excelsior Scholarship program. If all are qualified, this represents another \$1.2 million dollars for the campus.
- Dr. Butts then spoke about enrollment. We have the highest spring enrollment numbers in the history of the College. We are continuing to grow, but there are challenges ahead. Dr. Butts then asked Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services to comment. Ms. Marquez Bell said that for spring we met our enrollment target with 4,907 students. For the fall semester we were at approximately 5,100 students. The challenges are that next fall the demographics show the entire region to be down 3 percent in high school graduates. This includes Nassau, Suffolk, and New York City, as well as most of the counties upstate, with the exception of one. We are already recruiting and accepting students for fall 2019, and we are trying to convert a greater percentage of these applications. One thing that will help us increase our yield rate is a new relationship management software package called CRM, which will help make our operations more efficient and hopefully speed up our application processing.
- In terms of globalization and study abroad, more of our students are studying overseas. We have an excellent Public Health program in Bolivia led by Dr. Hartmann for which we had to cap the enrollment for the spring. There are several other new programs being worked on for the upcoming year. We signed a very general agreement with a university partner, Saurashtra University in Rajkot, India. We are hoping to collaborate with them. We are also looking into another partner in Paris that has recently become AACSB certified, to develop some type of academic collaboration and/or study abroad program.
- Dr. Mignone asked if we were preparing as an institution for the changes in population in the next fifteen to twenty years. While the state population and the graduation rate in high school may decrease, many jobs will disappear leaving people needing to be retrained for new careers.

- Ms. Marquez Bell said that yes we are preparing. Enrollment projections are not based simply on demographics. They are also based on what direction the College is going in terms of new program development. She agrees with Dr. Mignone that there are opportunities out there. Our MS in Data Analytics is one program that emerged as a potential feeder for stability and growth on the campus. When the Chancellor visited last fall Ms. Marquez Bell asked her where she envisioned much of the growth to be within the SUNY system. Her answer was that it would be in the STEM fields, and also in more online classes and programs. This is another avenue on which we are working. The Chancellor also emphasized that the campuses should develop new types of programs stressing micro-credentials and certificate programs that address the needs of the new population. These programs are of shorter duration but give people the opportunity to develop new skills. Ms. Cania Infante, Council Member, asked if the decrease in applications in the fall was a trend over the last few years. Ms. Marquez Bell replied that last year was the first year that they had decreased, although we met our enrollment goal. This is the second year that we are seeing this. Every year Enrollment staff throughout the SUNY system revise their projections based on new data, new academic program development and changes in whatever is happening in the market. We have slowed down the growth knowing that we can't continue to grow at a very high rate, at least not in the next year or two. Mr. Michael Kinane, Vice President of Communications added that the latest enrollment plan calls for next year's growth to be approximately one percent, with new student enrollment hopefully flat. Growth would come from graduate student enrollment and retention of students. Mr. Rufrano asked if there's any way that student government can help with getting more applicants to enroll. Ms. Marquez Bell said absolutely...potential students want to hear from our students...and she will talk to him about that. Mr. Kinane mentioned that students can be influencers by talking about Old Westbury on social media.
- Dr. Butts continued his report with the news that we have a new academic relationship with SUNY Downstate Medical Center. This includes three Memoranda of Understanding which will secure places for our graduates in Downstate's graduate physician assistant, physical therapy and nursing programs. At this time the agreements involve fewer than 25 students, however we expect that the success of the program will lead to higher numbers. Dr. Wayne Riley, President of Downstate is a friend, and has pledged, along with his staff, to make our affiliation work. The biggest hiring institution on Long Island is Northwell Health. The leading degree in health professions currently being sought is physician's assistant.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that during the next year he will continue to advocate for the renovation of the current science building and its expansion into new facilities. We've had promising conversations with leaders of commerce and industry. We want to make sure we have the facilities needed by students coming here to study in the health professions. Dr. Butts asked the Council to advocate for this as well.
- The campus library project is complete, and, when asked for his impression, Mr. Rufrano said, "It is wonderful."

III. New Business – Reports from College Representatives

- Dr. Butts asked Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs to report on Middle States. Dr. O'Sullivan said that there is a great deal of planning going on, with various committees meeting each week. The Middle States liaison will be here in April and we are working on the Design for Self-Study, all leading to the site visit in spring 2021.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that the Middle States Liaison would be visiting on either April 23 or April 30, and that we hope to have College Council members available to meet with him.
- Dr. O'Sullivan remarked that we would circulate drafts of any reports to the College Council for comment, similarly to the way it was done for the Strategic Plan.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that a number of big programs will be taking place on campus for Black History Month, and referred them to the flyer in their folders. He also mentioned that Honors Convocation will take place at 3:00 pm on Thursday, April 25; Student Research Day on Tuesday, April 16; and Commencement at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 18.
- Dr. Butts asked Dr. Wayne Edwards, Vice President for Institutional Advancement to report.

Dr. Edwards said that on Tuesday, May 7 we are having our Leadership Awards Dinner at Crest Hollow Country Club. Initially the plan was to celebrate Dr. Butts' twenty years at the College. After hearing this morning's retirement announcement they are even more determined to make this a great celebration. He asked that everyone save the date on their calendars.

- Dr. Butts asked Ms. Claudia Marin Andrade, Dean of Students to report. She said that we had a very successful orientation season with a 93 percent registration to actual attendance.
- We have reconvened the Transportation Advisory Board and it appears that our new TransLoc app has helped to mitigate many of the issues that arose in 2017. She will be giving a short report to the full faculty in March. Also, we will be advertising further how to communicate transportation issues moving forward so that they are funneled effectively and can be responded to immediately.
- The Advisory Committee on Campus Safety will reconvene and meet on February 11th in the University Police Conference Room.
- The SUNY Student Conduct Institute offered a mandatory basic eight hour type of training. It is mandatory for those involved in receiving a report or going through the conduct process, and also includes University Police. As of March 20 all of Student Affairs and University Police will have been trained. Student Affairs will also have a Part II training program on how to manage those reports that come to them on a day to day basis.
- Dean Andrade also said that she and Mr. Gareth "Shui" Shumack, Director of Residential Life, spent approximately forty-five hours revamping the Division's Assessment in order to be compliant and able to report annually to Middle States.
- Finally, Dean Andrade said that the 100 Days to Commencement Senior Toast would take place on February 7 during Common Hour.
- Dr. Butts then asked Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences to report. The Council on Public Health site visit went very well and we have received the preliminary report. We received the top score in almost all of the categories that we needed to meet. We will not have the final report until June, but we have high hopes that we will be approved for this accreditation. The academic department seeking this accreditation is our Department of Public Health which awards a BS in Health and Society. This accreditation will give national recognition that we offer a curriculum that satisfies the criteria for Public Health at the undergraduate level. Dr. O'Sullivan added that because of the potential growth in the health professions, the reason we do not have a BS degree in Public Health is because we are in a HEGIS code which allows us to offer degrees in Social Sciences, Arts and Sciences and Business, but a prior Provost at SUNY denied us the opportunity to change the BS in Health and Society to a BS in Public Health. Dr. O'Sullivan had a meeting with some of the members of the department recently and urged them and Dean Hillery to begin the process again so that we can pursue this. We will soon be visited by SUNY Provost Dr. Tod Laursen, and we will bring this subject up to him as well, as it provides us the opportunity to grow. Dr. Hillery added that if we get the accreditation we will be able to use the name Public Health. We have been developing articulation agreements with many of the community colleges that are now giving Associate Degrees in Public Health, and have been working on articulation agreements with Downstate and Stony Brook on their MPH programs.
- Dr. Hillery went on to say that the MS in Data Analytics is going to be crucial to all of the high tech industry that is coming in...everyone who uses big data. We expect our first class in fall 2019.
- Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean of the School of Business reported that the mission statement of the School of Business has had some change in wording and now reads: "The Mission of the School of Business is to provide access and support to empower our students with the knowledge, skills and values to think critically, communicate effectively, and act responsibly achieved through a committed faculty devoted to teaching with excellence and relevant scholarship."
- The School of Business Advisory Board has created, and is providing, a scholarship for an online pilot program called "Exploring Your Potential". Students were requested to apply and it was a competitive process. The idea is to build students' leadership skills and ready them for the job market. If this pilot program is successful, based on feedback from both students and faculty, it may become a four-credit course going forward. Dr. Devasagayam thanked those present who made this possible.

- Dr. Butts mentioned that the School of Business has historically been very strong, turning out alumni who are in high levels of government, finance, banking and marketing across the world.
- Dr. Butts then asked Mr. Andrew Mattson, Chair of the Faculty Senate for his report. Mr. Mattson said that the faculty was working very well with the Office of the President to move the Strategic Plan process forward. They are in the process of establishing the Strategic Plan Committee that's going through faculty governance, and they will be submitting the names of faculty members to the Office of the President so that the SPAAR (Strategic Planning, Assessment, Analysis and Review) Committee can begin monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Micro-credentials are on the table for discussion at the Faculty Senate meeting today. The School of Professional Studies is interested in moving this forward, and this is viewed as a way to bring people to Old Westbury in non-traditional ways. The faculty is trying to determine how to have serious standards with non-traditional credentials. Several proposals have been put forth, and they are hoping to have a trial period next year.
- Regarding the SUNY Consensual Relationship Policy, the Faculty Senate is working with Mr. William Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration, to provide feedback to SUNY. The University Faculty Senate at the SUNY level has asked our Senator to provide more feedback on the draft SUNY Consensual Relationship Policy so that the people who are debating the shape of the SUNY policy have our input. This also involves negotiations between SUNY and the union (UUP).
- Dr. Jacob Heller has been actively questioning the faculty regarding learning objectives and Middle States. The Faculty Senate is working with him to survey the faculty about the success of the current student evaluation software. He and Dr. Duncan Quarless have brought forward a new planning software called Ad Astra which is providing us with data on scheduling and course over and under-enrollment. There are many new tools that Academic Affairs is using to help faculty, deans and chairs to obtain the information they need to become more efficient and productive.
- Dr. O'Sullivan pointed out the brochure included in the meeting package highlighting new faculty hired in fall 2018. We have continued to hire faculty with better and better qualifications, significant research backgrounds and a commitment to teaching. The right faculty brings to campus both excellent teaching made more effective by excellent research, as well as an up-to-date curriculum.
- Dr. Mignone asked Dr. O'Sullivan to comment about the College's retention rate. Dr. O'Sullivan said that one of the measures is what percentage of students continue and return each fall. That percentage has been improving. Even though we have nearly doubled our freshman class over the last three years, our retention has held at nearly 80 percent. We have also significantly improved the six-year graduation rate. We are currently at close to 50 percent. If we include the students who leave Old Westbury and graduate from another four-year institution, we would be close to 60 percent. Mr. Kinane added that the six-year graduation rate, or cohort that graduated in May 1999, was approximately 25 percent.
- Dr. Mignone then mentioned that one of the big issues at SUNY, including at the university centers, is that the students are delayed graduating because of the lack of courses. Some students cannot attend full time because of a need to work, but others cannot graduate on time because of a lack of necessary course offerings. Dr. O'Sullivan said that at Old Westbury this problem is more prevalent with evening courses. The reason we are focusing now on implementing Ad Astra is that it will provide department chairs greater insight into the scheduling of classes. We are acutely aware of the bottlenecks we have in general education and the freshman program, and are persistent in trying to solve these. We also want to reduce the time to degree.
- Dr. Mignone mentioned how much the world is changing because of automation, and the potential loss of 20 million jobs. He asked, with Amazon and Google coming to New York, if we were doing anything in terms of the types of courses we could offer to meet the needs of potential employees of these companies. Dr. O'Sullivan pointed out that the MS in Data Analytics offers the kind of courses that will be needed. Mr. Kinane said that there are other jobs there as well, but it is not clear who at Amazon should be approached as to what courses are needed. We are

working on determining that. Dr. Butts mentioned that one of our Foundation Trustees said that they would explore any contacts they had at Amazon. Also, when Dr. Butts spoke at the Middle Market Association of Long Island he met with people from companies with gross assets that ranged from \$100 thousand to \$1 billion, and they were talking about the need they have for men and women with backgrounds ranging from micro-credentials to a high school diploma. Old Westbury aims to provide our students with skills while at the same time making them great citizens.

- Dr. Mignone expressed his surprise at Dr. Butts' news, and his gratitude for Dr. Butts' twenty years of extraordinary service to the College, SUNY, the state and our society. He said that Old Westbury is very different now than it was twenty years ago. It is an institution that is noticed, in a positive sense.
- Mr. Rufrano mentioned that the SGA reconstruction within the game room is set to open in mid-March. This includes new billiards tables, table tennis, foosball, gaming systems and a movie theater with a stage for potential presentations.
- Dr. Butts thanked Dr. Mignone for stepping in when Dr. Wadler passed away. He wants to make sure the work continues. Faculty and staff working together have made Old Westbury a better place.

IV. Open Meeting

- With no comments from the public, and there being no further business, following a round of applause for Dr. Butts the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President