

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, February 26, 2016
Location: Student Union Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: **Appointed Members of the College Council**
Dr. Gary Wadler, Chair
Ms. Melissa Archbold
Dr. Debra Handel
Ms. Antoinette Metoyer
Dr. Mario Mignone
Mr. Scott Reich

Representatives of the College

Mr. Len Davis
Mr. Omar Estrada Torres
Dr. Barbara Hillery
Mr. William Kimmins
Mr. Michael Kinane
Ms. Mary Marquez Bell
Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan
Ms. Mona Rankin
Mr. Usama Shaikh
Dr. Kathleen Velsor
Dr. Jason Zhu

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Dr. Wadler opened the meeting at 10:34 am. He informed the participants that Gov. Cuomo has mandated that College Council meetings be live streamed. We are working on live streaming capability, however until such time as that is in place we are videotaping the meeting and posting it on our website. Dr. Wadler mentioned that Dr. Butts was not feeling well and would be unable to attend today's meeting, but that Dr. O'Sullivan would present Dr. Butts' report. Dr. Wadler asked for approval of the minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting, which were approved without dissent. There being no old business, Dr. Wadler asked Dr. O'Sullivan to proceed.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. O'Sullivan mentioned that junior faculty member, Dr. Jasmine Mitchell, hired two years ago to teach in American Studies, has won a Woodrow Wilson national career enhancement fellowship which grants a stipend to aid a junior faculty member do research in order to work towards tenure.
- Dr. O'Sullivan then went on to discuss SUNY Excels, an accountability program introduced several years ago by the Chancellor. Our campus SUNY Excels program was approved in December by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees, and we will continue to refine it in the future. Topics considered in this program include Access; Completion; Success; Inquiry and Engagement. Access includes enrollment and its composition, the "Smart Scholars" program, diversity, etc. Completion includes graduation rate, the number of graduate degrees that we offer, retention, advising and time to degree. The latter has a direct correlation with the amount of debt burden incurred by students. Under the "Success" category, we have an Experiential Learning program, led by the Faculty Senate in conjunction with Academic Affairs. Experiential learning has been found to contribute to the employability of students. Inquiry essentially means research and there is a motivation from SUNY central to engage undergraduates in research. Under the final topic...Engagement...our Community Action Learning and Leadership program (CALL) embeds civic engagement in the curriculum of the First-year experience.
- Next Dr. O'Sullivan discussed the newly formed School of Professional Studies, a weekend program for non-traditional students which, hopefully beginning in September 2016, will offer individually designed curricula leading to a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree, which was registered in 1974-75 but rarely used. In talking with other schools it's been determined that there is a demand

for weekend baccalaureate programs. An example of the type of degree that could be offered is Entertainment and Sports Management. Staffing will consist of a combination of adjuncts, part-time faculty, and full-time faculty who wish to teach extra courses. The board of advisors consists of faculty members and the program will be run by a senior faculty member. We are also looking to offer this and other programs online.

- With regard to the new state budget, there's not much funding in it for the College. We are hoping there may be an extension which would allow SUNY 2020 to move forward and would allow a maximum \$300 increase in tuition.

Dr. O'Sullivan asked that Mr. Len Davis, CFO and Sr. Vice President, Division of Business and Finance comment:

- Mr. Davis remarked that the SUNY's state budget is virtually flat as far as direct taxes are concerned, with a modest increase of approximately 1.4% since last year.
- As for SUNY itself, the executive budget does include the maintenance of effort provision which had been scheduled to sunset this year but has been extended, wherein every year the state is supposed to allocate to SUNY an amount that is no less than the prior year as far as direct tax support. That is still in the executive budget this year. The budget also contains a provision for extending NYSUNY 2020 which will include the predictable tuition increase of \$300 per year. In addition to the maintenance of effort funding, the Performance Improvement Plan contains \$18 million in new funding set aside for the SUNY campuses. Thus far we have received \$500 thousand for our Digital Campus project which is part of SUNY Excels.
- As to Capital Planning funding, the SUNY system has \$200 million in critical maintenance funds, but its use is limited to the repair of existing facilities. There is no new money for new buildings which is of concern to us because we have projects which we want to get up and running, but for which we do not have the money yet. SUNY had asked for four times as much funding but didn't get it and only a few campuses received money for new buildings. As a campus our funds have been dwindling annually, and it's hindering our ability to maintain the campus as we want. This is why we're doing a lot of advocacy for capital planning and why we want to have the Council behind this as well. Our major project is the Natural Science building extension/renovation. We have a planning committee making scalable project recommendations and have had meetings at which local politicians, who seem to want to support us, have been present. Mr. Davis mentioned that Assistant to the President Michael Kinane had attended a number of these meetings, and asked him to comment.

Mr. Kinane said:

- The Natural Science building is 31 years old. A great deal of its infrastructure, lab space, etc. is out of date to the point of being antiquated, and space itself is limited. The study done through the Capital Planning office with members of the faculty and administration offered a number of options. All called for renovation of the building, but what's really needed is renovation and an extension. The largest would total approximately \$130 million which would enable us to build a more than 100,000 square foot addition to the current 60,000 square foot building and allow us to bring in the technology related disciplines in computer science, mathematics and possibly even digital arts to create a true STEM based structure. Initial funding for design and planning totals approximately \$27 million.
- The next best option, which the SUNY Construction Fund believes is more realistic, is an approximately \$80 million project that would basically double the size of the existing space...from 60,000 to 110,000 square feet. This would be limited to the sciences but would factor in room for growth...the first campus project to do this. One of the chief focuses going forward is to uncap the growth we see in Biological Sciences and Biochemistry and to determine how to ramp up growth in the technology fields to meet the demand that we know is there, but for which we have been limited by the lack of faculty and space. This would also include areas of media and communications related to the digital arts area...the fastest growing part of the program.
- We have had meetings with Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman Levine who are onboard and talking within their legislative bodies to gain support for us. The Senator will also be speaking to the Chancellor to advise her that this is a priority for him. Mr. Kinane reached out to the Council asking for their advocacy efforts as well, as there are still five or six weeks before the budget is passed on

April 1st. Right now we're asking for first year funding of \$27 million for planning and design of the big project. The secondary project would call for first year funding of \$15 million.

Dr. O'Sullivan and Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences commented that we have a new Psychology Department faculty member whose graduate work in Biology has led to research in cognitive neuroscience, and whose research with animals requires a lab. We've had to find space for him in the science building. We expect this portion of Psychology to grow and a minor in Neuropsychology has been developed and will overlap. This is yet another reason why we need at least a new building.

Mr. Davis, returning to the issue of the budget, commented:

- The Dream Act has been part of the executive budget for the last three years, but has never passed. It's in the budget again this year and would allow students with lawful immigration status to pay in-state tuition as well as receive financial aid.
- There is a minimum wage provision for state workers which would affect the College with respect to our student assistants and work study students. It would incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2021. We had the first increase on January 28th.
- There's a SUNY tuition credit which affects many of our students, and costs us over \$1 million per year. It makes up the difference between annual tuition and the amount of money provided by TAP. SUNY as a system is trying to get additional money, but it is a College expense.
- The SUNY Procurement Flex provision, which allows SUNY to make purchases without preapproval from OSC and the Attorney General, has "sunsetted", thus the purchasing process will take much longer. SUNY is advocating for this provision to be reinstated.
- There are approximately \$61 million system-wide in unfunded costs that the College didn't receive this year, including collective bargaining raises and the deficit reduction leave repayment.

Dr. O'Sullivan reported:

- Dr. Butts has appointed Dr. Wayne Edwards, Vice President for Student Affairs, to assume the additional role of Chief Diversity Officer. He will work with all offices across campus to implement best practices related to diversity, equity and inclusion, particularly having to do with the recruitment of faculty and staff and the retention of students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Mona Rankin, Chief of Staff mentioned:

- On Wednesday, March 2nd the College will be partnering with Brookhaven National Laboratory to present a program there as part of President Obama's initiative, "My Brother's Keeper". It is designed to engage and introduce 150 - 200 9th and 10th grade students from high schools on Long Island, in Manhattan and the boroughs, primarily young men of color, to the possibilities and opportunities in the STEM fields. Part 2 of the program will be held in April at the College. Ms. Rankin also noted that the addition to the science building is necessary if we are to compete in the STEM and STEAM fields.
- Given that the Council has been asked to advocate for the science building addition, Ms. Rankin moved on to the topic of the role and responsibilities of the College Council, pointing out that the Council's role is primarily advisory. She mentioned some of the areas in which Council members had been campus advocates and then turned to Mr. William Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration to further comment.
- Mr. Kimmins enumerated the powers and duties of the College Council, reiterating its advisory role and the fact that as New York State public officers Council members are obligated to avoid using their position on the Council to further any personal interests. Also, following a survey conducted by them, SUNY counsel advised that campus email accounts, business cards and ID cards are not and should not be disseminated to Council members.
- Ms. Rankin requested that prior to contacting legislators to advocate for the College, Council members advise the President's Office to ascertain that members have current information and are reaching out to the appropriate people.

Dr. O'Sullivan reported on Academic Affairs:

- The Middle States Periodic Review Report, a five year accreditation report, is due by June 1, 2016 and is currently being worked on by many groups across campus. The SUNY Excels document, mentioned earlier, will be appended to the report along with pieces of the Strategic Plan.
- This summer we will have a summer science program due to demand by students returning to the area from other schools looking to take science courses during the summer break. Dr. O'Sullivan went on to mention the fact that we have four summer school sessions to meet the requirements of faculty. Accounting and science summer schedules call for attendance more days per week than do some of the other disciplines. Dr. Handel mentioned the demand at Suffolk for nursing program prerequisite science courses, and Dr. Hillery mentioned that at Old Westbury, too, summer science courses are filled immediately by pre-med students and upstate students wanting to take science courses as practice before taking them at their home schools.

Mr. Len Davis, Sr. Vice President Div. of Business and Finance and CFO commented:

- Regarding the Capital Plan, in addition to the Natural Science Building renovation and expansion we have plans for renovation of the Recital Hall and determining its future use in better serving the campus community. A major parking study is to begin shortly to see if there are different ways in which campus parking areas could be reconfigured or expanded. We have other shovel ready projects including completion of the Campus Center roof replacement and the Ring Road project, however we don't have funds for these right now. We also want to complete the H and I wing renovations
- The Division of Budget wants SUNY to centralize capital funds and allocate them to campuses. SUNY has set aside a pool of money for campuses that need additional funds for capital projects and we will be applying for this funding.
- In the area of Information Technology, we have been notified of a \$500,000 award for use towards the digital campus project. We also will be upgrading the College portal and this summer will be converting to Office 365, which will give us many more features than Google email which we now use.
- As to student support services, we have established a Contact Center from where we are able to direct students' and parents' calls correctly. Right now we are dealing with inquiries for Information Technology, the Bursar's Office and Financial Aid, and hope to bring the Registrar's Office and Admissions into the fold in the next year or so.
- We now have e-deposits and e-refunds which enable students' admissions, acceptance and residential housing transactions to be done online.
- Financial Cancellations have been moving in the right direction for the last three semesters.
- The FLOW initiative (Financial Literacy Program at Old Westbury) has been enhanced by videos re money management, and information re FAFSA and debt and repayment strategies. Students have remarked that they consider the program very helpful.
- On April 26 we will be having a regional Minority and Women Business Enterprises conference with representation from all SUNY colleges in the area. Also present will be other agencies that do business with minorities, workshops, networking sessions, etc. The keynote speaker will be Comptroller DiNapoli.

Mr. Mike Kinane, Assistant to the President for Advancement reported:

- The College is embarking on a new marketing effort described as geo-fencing. Mr. Kinane noted that mobile advertisements are being served on the telecommunications networks within the boundaries of local colleges and universities to promote Old Westbury's transfer and graduate opportunities. Transfer ads are and will be directed at community college campuses while graduate ads will be focused at key four-year schools close by.
- The College will hold its 50th Anniversary gala on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the Crest Hollow Country Club. All council members are asked to save the date and urged to support the event, from which all proceeds after expenses will support student scholarships.

Mr. Usama Shaikh, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs reported in Dr. Edwards' absence:

- The Chief Diversity Officer is working with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on two projects which would be funded by a grant of upwards of \$10 thousand they are seeking. The grant is to support either diversity or campus issues. One of the focuses is on interoffice support, therefore they are working with Academic Affairs on this.
- This fall a faculty diversity program was started.
- He distributed a flyer detailing the very successful Faculty Engagement program which was started this past fall in concert with Academic Affairs. The goal is to bring faculty and staff members into the residence halls. There were 24 programs during the fall semester, and the reception by students has been very positive.
- The Division of Student Affairs is currently working on its internal strategic plan. Their goal is to complete it by summer 2017.
- Both our Men's and Women's basketball teams won the 2016 Skyline Conference championships this year.

III. New Business

Since there was no new business to be introduced, Dr. Wadler asked for reports from the SGA President, Faculty Senate Chair, and Deans.

Ms. Antoinette Metoyer, President of the SGA:

- Requested clarification of a letter received by students recently regarding the closing of the Academic Village residence halls.
- Reported that there was a very successful full house concert in the Maguire Theater featuring singer Elle Varner and students got to meet and talk with her following the concert.
- Election season has begun and the SGA is actively campaigning for elections including the student activity fee referendum. There are candidates for nearly every position and some positions are contested.
- The SGA is looking into hosting a carnival at the end of the semester.
- She participated in a conference call this week with other SUNY SGA Presidents primarily about SUNY 2020 and the proposed tuition increase, which they would like to have seen as a SUNY Board of Trustees issue rather than a state budget issue. If there have to be tuition increases the students would like to know where the money is going.

Dr. Kate Velsor, Faculty Senate President reported:

- The faculty is waiting for the Scantron® system to be up and running in the fall. This is an electronic assessment system enabling students to assess their professors during class. Faculty feels this is important to them to enable them to know that they are doing a good job of teaching. It also has other features including the ability to indicate faculty enrollment in a department, and is a great device.

Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dean, School of Arts & Sciences reported:

- The School of Arts & Sciences wants to recognize one of its undergraduates, Isaiah Jacobs, who just returned from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. There he participated in the Harvard Public Policy and Leadership 3 day conference for freshmen and sophomores, and was one of only 50 students chosen from 500 applicants.

Dr. Jason Zhu, Interim Dean of the School of Business reported

- The School of Business is currently working on two advanced certificate programs, one in Accounting and the other in Taxation. These two programs can be part of the efforts to satisfy the Chancellor's goal of having 150,000 "completes" by 2020.

Mr. Omar Estrada Torres, Dean of Students reported:

- The Black History Month program was very successful.
- This semester they had approximately 10 programs sponsored, and this month many programs had robust attendance. Yesterday they had their Keystone Program in which producer and director Stanley Nelson screened his film, "The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution" for an audience of approximately 250 faculty, staff and students. 100 remained for a question and answer session

which was broadcast over the campus radio station. The library will receive 2 copies of the documentary.

- The SGA has been actively campaigning for passage of the mandatory student activity fee.

IV. Open Meeting

There being no comments or questions from Council members or the public, Dr. Wadler adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President