

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, April 11, 2014

Location: Academic Building, Room 1100B

Attendance: Appointed Members of the College Council

Dr. Gary Wadler (Chair)

Dr. Debra Handel

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. Wayne Edwards

Mr. Michael Kinane

Ms. Mary Marquez Bell

Dr. Duncan Quarless

Mr. Anthony Barbera

Dr. Barbara Hillery

Dr. Julio Gonzalez

Mr. Rollie Buchanan

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Chairman Wadler opened the meeting and asked the Council to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2014 meeting. The minutes were approved without dissent.

II. President's Report on the College

Dr. Butts opened his report by introducing Dr. Wayne Edwards, who recently rejoined Old Westbury as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Edwards holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the CUNY Graduate School and University Center. He originally joined Old Westbury in 1998 as a member of the faculty in the American Studies Department and Media & Communications program, later becoming Dean of Students. He left Old Westbury in 2008 to become Dean of Students at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Nassau County Police Department

Dr. Butts reported that the College had again been approached by the Nassau County Police Department which was requesting a collaboration that would enable NCPD to locate its police academy on campus. Discussions are in the very early stages and no action can be taken unless there is a clear academic nexus for our campus. He noted that the current acting Commissioner for NCPD is Thomas Krumpster, an alumnus of Old Westbury.

College Enrollment

Dr. Butts noted that the local market is declining, which will make recruitment of students more difficult over the coming 5-7 years. Ms. Marquez Bell reiterated that enrollment growth is

essential for the success of the campus with a need to interest more local, upstate and out of state students. New recruitment efforts in New Jersey are beginning to show progress, with applications up approximately 18 percent this year over last. To date, freshman applications are behind last year's trajectory, graduate applications are up and both international and transfer student applications are flat – although it remains early in the cycle for transfer students.

In regards to international students, efforts have expanded to include South Korea and applications from students in India are beginning to increase. The roster of summer study abroad opportunities has expanded to include Denmark and Germany.

Ms. Marquez Bell also noted that the Spring Admissions Open House was successful, with more than 700 attendees present.

Branding Imitative

Dr. Butts noted that, as outlined in its strategic plan, the College continues to work on its branding research and new creative development. Mr. Kinane noted that the College's vendor, Creative Partners, is engaged in creative development following their research on campus. The intention is to have newly branded materials ready for the fall 2014 recruitment cycle.

Mr. Kinane also noted the new College website is nearing completion, with a launch expected in May.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Butts asked Dr. O'Sullivan to discuss efforts taking place in the Division of Academic Affairs. Dr. O'Sullivan listed a series of degree programs that are in development, including graduate degrees in Forensic Accounting and Entrepreneurship and undergraduate degrees in environment studies and public health.

He reported on meetings held by Dr. Butts with Suffolk Community College and Queensborough Community College to identify areas where collaboration and ease-of-transfer can be achieved. As a whole, SUNY is experiencing a decline in the number of transfer students applying to its campuses.

Discussion among the council members centered on the budget efficacy of the programs being planned, which Dr. O'Sullivan noted would not be in place until 2017 at the earliest. Further discussion centered on the possibility for jointly registered programs like the education program collaboration between Suffolk and St. Joseph's College. The break-even period for graduate programs was also reviewed, with Dr. O'Sullivan estimating such a break-even in the 3-5 year of any new program.

Budget Process and Outlook

Mr. Davis discussed the outcome of the budget process in Albany, noting that SUNY received "little help." Below is a list of pros and cons as outlined by Mr. Davis:

- | <u>Pros</u> | <u>Cons</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2.6 million was included for raises (although \$5.4 million was needed to make | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TAP credit was not re-approved (a \$200-\$300,000 loss to Old Westbury annually) |

- the campus whole.
- EOP funding was restored to its previous level.
- Rational Tuition Policy was extended for the 4th of 5 years allowed by law, meaning annual tuition for resident students will increase by \$300.
- New STEM scholarships have been created that will be available to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their classes.
- LI College Hospital continues to be a challenge, losing \$12 million monthly. Additionally, the property holds \$500 million in debt and is seeing sale price estimates of only \$250 million.
- System received a \$402 million capital/critical maintenance allowance – when traditionally \$500 million had been approved.

Discussion among Council Members focused on the poor attempts by SUNY to lobby leadership and the constantly increasing funds being allotted to K-12 education where enrollment is in decline.

Mr. Davis also discussed the new Financial Literacy educational program that is expected to roll out for students over the summer and fall. This online series of workshops and videos is being used SUNY-wide in an effort to better educate students about the ramifications of their financial decisions and the practices they should employ to enjoy a strong financial future.

Student Affairs

Dr. Edwards reported on a recent fire in one of the Woodlands Halls, where damage was limited to two rooms and no injuries were reported. He also announced the opening of the new Student Health Center, which is now located in the Campus Center.

Dr. Edwards recapped several recent events, including the Commencement Celebration and a dinner between the President and SGA leadership. Dr. Butts noted that, during that dinner, there was good conversation about the nature of current students and their concerns regarding some of the policies in place governing student and guest visitation. He acknowledged that some policies may need to be relaxed and said work on reviewing such potential would take place. He noted that the College Council would have to approve any such revisions.

Dr. Butts closed his report by urging the Council members to take part in as many end-of-year activities as possible, mentioning specifically Honors Convocation (April 24), the reception for outstanding students (May 1), and Commencement (May 18). He also announced that the Commencement speaker will be 1977 Business & Management graduate Donald Meltzer, President and CEO of Tensar Corporation.

III. New Business

Dr. Wadler asked the deans to report from their particular areas of responsibility:

- Dr. Gonzalez reported that the School of Education had received funding to allow for a pilot program with area high schools focused on students showing high needs in relation to autism spectrum disorders. He also noted that the School and its students were working their way together through the new edTPA review and certification processes

and that faculty were engaged in ongoing review of curricula in relation to common core requirements.

- Dr. Hillery announced that the 6th annual School of Arts and Sciences Research Day would be held on April 21.

Dr. Wadler next asked Dr. Quarless to report on any news or issues emanating from the faculty. Dr. Quarless discussed the ongoing efforts, in conjunction with academic affairs, in relation to the Seamless Transfer initiative of SUNY. He noted that the Faculty Senate would be taking up at its next meeting the approval of a report on the College's effort which would also be shared system-wide via the University Senate. He also noted that Old Westbury had been selected to serve as the lead on two roundtable panels at an upcoming symposium on the SUNY Campus Governance Process.

Dr. Wadler also asked Student Government President Nick Savva to report from the students' perspective. Mr. Savva discussed the positive outcomes of the Commencement Celebration series of events. He also noted that his term is slated to conclude on April 30 and that the SGA's President-Elect was Mr. Earl Thomason.

IV. 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