

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, April 15, 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. Cania Infante
Dr. Mario Mignone
Mr. Scott Reich

Representatives of the College
Dr. Nancy Brown
Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III
Mr. Lionel Chitty
Mr. Len Davis
Dr. Wayne Edwards
Mr. Omar Estrada Torres
Mr. William Kimmins
Mr. Michael Kinane
Ms. Mary Marquez Bell
Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan
Ms. Mona Rankin
Dr. Kathleen Velsor
Dr. Jason Zhu

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Dr. Wadler opened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and remarked upon his pride, and that of his colleagues, on the accomplishments of Old Westbury's students. He asked for approval of the minutes of the Feb. 26, 2016 meeting, which were approved without dissent. There being no old business, Dr. Wadler asked Dr. Butts to proceed.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. Butts spoke about Mr. Jawad Chaudhry and Ms. Sidrah Masood the College's two Chancellor Award for Student Excellence recipients, as well as those students who were honored at the English Honor Society's awards the prior evening. He noted that they were representative of the caliber of students at Old Westbury. He then went on to mention the passing of Old Westbury student Harry Wasserman. Dr. Butts asked Dr. Wayne Edwards, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer to comment on the memorial service for Mr. Wasserman held on campus on April 7. Dr. Edwards remarked that the service was a touching tribute and really showed how diverse our campus community is.
- Dr. Butts then introduced the topic of the new state budget. We have a \$12 million increase from SUNY. He then asked Mr. Len Davis, Sr. Vice President for Business and Finance and CFO to comment on all aspects of the budget including the capital budget.
- Mr. Davis said the budget session was disappointing in that many things didn't reach the final cut. In terms of real dollars the overall budget is reduced. In terms of expected funding, the annual NYSUNY 2020 increase in tuition is not in this year's budget; the maintenance of effort provision wherein the state will provide as many dollars each year as in the previous year is not in the budget. There is no money in the budget for contractual salary increases, nor is there money for excess TAP credit. All of these things amount to significant funds for us as well as the rest of the system. Presidents, Business Officers and the Chancellor will be meeting on Monday to discuss the situation.

Regarding capital funding, the only thing the state had been funding regularly outside of NYSUNY 2020, which consists of large capital projects that are grant funded, is critical maintenance for the educational facilities which has been approximately \$200 million for the last five years. This year there was an increase of \$60 million, but that won't be slated for the comprehensive colleges. Mr. Davis said that while the outlook isn't bright, we'll get through it.

Dr. Butts expressed his appreciation for the Chancellor's efforts to raise money for the State University, and remarked on Mr. Davis' exceptional work in managing our funds, however he is concerned about this budget.

- Dr. Butts asked Mr. William Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration, to comment on the efforts the College has made with regard to SUNY's Start-Up NY initiative.

Mr. Kimmins responded that the site we've chosen is a former Grumman property on Route 107 identified as homeland security. While there would exist a collaboration between the partner and Old Westbury, we would strictly be landlords and not be involved in programming.

- Dr. Butts mentioned an increase in fundraising activity, some of which is attributable to our 50th Anniversary celebration which will culminate in the gala taking place on May 10th at which 50 Old Westbury alumni will be honored. He asked Mr. Michael Kinane, Assistant to the President for Advancement, to comment on this upcoming event. Mr. Kinane thanked Dr. Judy Lloyd of the Chemistry and Physics Department who worked with department chairs and other members of the faculty to identify nominees who are doing wonderful things. The honorees are selling many tickets. Any money raised through ticket, advertising and sponsorship sales will go directly to providing scholarship funds, as our event expenses have been covered by the first two sponsorships and we are \$60 - \$70 thousand beyond that. We are looking to have at least 400-450 attendees.
- Regarding the Childcare Center legislation, wherein we are seeking to gain permission to lease property from the College to the Foundation, Mr. Kinane said that Assemblywoman Glick, who chairs the higher education committee in the Assembly, is much more supportive than she had been previously. SUNY had a very good meeting with her. We've reduced the footprint of the property we're seeking to lease. The issue remains that we are looking to have a childcare center that serves special needs children in addition to those with regular needs. We don't, however, have a partner, therefore we don't have a specific plan, and don't want to find a partner until we know we have the ability to implement this. In order to move this project forward, however, we will need to develop a draft plan to submit to the Assemblywoman's committee. Senator Marcellino is still onboard, and will submit his legislation as soon as the Assembly has given its approval. Mr. Kinane expects that this will be done by the end of this legislative term. Then the work of developing the lease, finding a partner, etc. will begin.

With reference to the Capital Plan, Mr. Kinane expressed his disappointment in the lack of funding for most of the SUNY colleges. The Capital Plan included almost \$1.5 billion for several of the SUNY University Centers, but the rest of the SUNY schools received \$260 million, which constitutes a \$60 million increase. Our capital request for approximately \$25 million for planning and development re the science building did not get funded. He would like to get advice from the State legislators on how to make this happen in the next budget cycle.

Mr. Reich asked if we had any prospective partners in mind with regard to the Childcare Center. Mr. Kinane said we do have a list of possible partners, but don't feel we should

approach anyone until we have approval of the land lease proposal.

- Dr. Butts mentioned that some of our efforts regarding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) were seen at the recent gathering at Brookhaven National Labs under the umbrella of “My Brothers’ Keeper”. It was very successful, and included 120 students from high schools on Long Island along with people from the Department of Energy. Students were introduced to the concept of the STEM field beyond high school and were very interested in what they experienced. The second part of the program will be held on campus on April 19, with again, approximately 120 student participants along with people from Brookhaven Labs and members of private industry. Dr. Butts remarked on the importance of STEM education and said that while we can, with our present budget, do some hiring in this area and provide some of the program support we need, we don’t know for how long this will be the case. Dr. Butts asked the College Council for their support in advocating to legislators for funding for this area.
- Dr. Butts went on to mention that applications are up and we are doing better than many of the other comprehensive colleges and asked Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services to comment.
- Ms. Marquez Bell stated that it was originally thought that students were just applying earlier than usual, but as she saw numbers at other colleges throughout the sector decrease, while ours remained flat in terms of increases in percentages of freshman and transfers, it seems to be a positive trend for us. We’re hoping the trend continues. Our acceptances of freshmen have significantly increased...partially due to improvements in processing that we’ve implemented, but hopefully it is also due to having more qualified students apply to Old Westbury. We’ll see how this will convert into enrollment yield. Last year for the Spring Open House we had 435 students pre-register. As of this morning we have 635 students pre-registered. In response to Dr. Wadler’s question as to what she attributes this to, Ms. Marquez Bell said that she believes this is due to economic uncertainty and students’ fears of being in debt incurred by student loans. She thinks there will be more commuters than ever before, even though we make efforts to have more residential students. Of course the new branding, social media messaging, and radio commercials have all helped.

Mr. Kinane mentioned that he hopes to get the time this summer to review data regarding the traffic we’ve seen to analyze our strengths and weaknesses in these areas.

Dr. Mignone asked about how we convert accepted applicants into attendees. Ms. Marquez Bell mentioned that the open house is conducted as a “fair” setting along with a detailed campus tour. The size of the group precludes having many activities in the classroom, but this year we have been having accepted students receptions in which smaller groups of accepted students are able to engage with the faculty at an informal reception during the week. We had approximately 150 accepted freshmen on campus about a month ago for that activity because we know that students want to make the connection to faculty.

Mr. Kinane added that he and Ms. Marquez Bell have been focusing the communication plan on those students who have been accepted in order to have them see the value in attending Old Westbury.

Dr. Mignone mentioned the value of having current students engage prospective students, and Ms. Marquez Bell said that we did that at the “My Brothers’ Keeper” event. The research being conducted by our undergraduate students, and even at the high school level by the STEP program, is of such high quality we had the workshops conducted by the students. Also, during the week of spring break our student ambassadors are calling all accepted students and welcoming them to the campus.

Mr. Reich suggested the possibility of using an outside agency to start the process of analyzing the data after which we could take over management of the process, and offered to make introductions to someone who could do this.

Ms. Archbold asked how we reach out to various ethnic groups. Mr. Kinane responded that we look at the demographics of the venues we are choosing. We look at the demographic mix of the radio stations' listenership and apply the resources based on the demographic mix that we think we best serve, and we make the effort to tie the message to the demographics. We do have a very limited budget...one-tenth of many of the private schools. However, as Ms. Marquez Bell pointed out, we are fortunate to be located in a very diverse area with a dense population.

- Dr. Butts mentioned the end of the year events including Honors Convocation, April 28th at 3:00 pm, the President's Reception for Outstanding Students on May 5th in the Student Union Rotunda, the 50th Anniversary Gala on May 10th, and Commencement on May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Mr. Michael Dowling, President and CEO of Northwell Health will be our Commencement speaker. More than 1,000 students are scheduled to graduate. As part of our 50th anniversary celebration we had an Old Westbury History Day at which Dr. O'Sullivan participated in the first half and Dr. Butts participated in the second half. Dr. Butts expressed his optimism for the future of the College and thanked Dr. Wadler and the Council for their support throughout the years.
 - Dr. Wadler called on the Deans for their reports:
Dr. Nancy Brown, Dean of the School of Education reported on some of the changes in her area. They have upgraded two of their programs to better meet the mission of the College to make our students more marketable and to be in compliance with federal and state accreditation policy. Students will no longer complete 100 hours in the classroom all at once. Instead they will be broken up into 4 segments tied to specific point classrooms. An example of this is that childhood education students taking math methods will all be in one elementary school working with specific teachers who have relationships with our faculty, so that we are no longer separate from the public schools, but are instead connected. Benefits to this method include exposure of the students to many different districts as well as exposure of the districts to Old Westbury, as well as helping us be more aware of compliance with what is happening in classrooms. It gives our students more experience and more opportunity to learn specific skills. Chancellor Zimpher believes that clinically rich models of teacher education is where the future is, and Dr. Brown agrees.
 - The Bethpage School district sent 42 junior and sophomore high school students to spend the day at Old Westbury because they are taking a pre-college course in child development through us. They met faculty and toured the campus and were very excited about Old Westbury.
 - There have been some changes in the Bi-lingual Ed program including an entrance exam at the beginning of the program to insure the language proficiency of prospective bi-lingual teachers. There is a fee involved in the test, but Dr. Brown is looking into sources of funding to assist students with this.
- Dr. Jishan Zhu, Interim Dean of the School of Business reported:
- The School of Business is continuing to refine and grow its graduate programs, and is focusing efforts to enhance student career services. This is key to the success of the School of Business, as the success of a professional school is measured by not only grades but also whether its students can find jobs. We are trying to compete with Adelphi, Hofstra and Post. We have an excellent program, but students will pay two or three

times more to attend those schools. We need more student resources to help students find employment.

- Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs reviewed the SUNY Old Westbury Degree Programs flyer that was included in the meeting package and pointed out the various programs that were the fastest growing. He also mentioned that some programs have been reactivated and some re-packaged, including some five year programs such as the BS/MS in Accounting and the BS/MS in Accounting/Taxation as well as five year programs in the School of Education.
- Ms. Marquez Bell mentioned that we are working with Xavier University in Aruba on an accelerated 7 year BS/MD program. The agreement is being finalized and Dean Hillery is working with the faculty to start mapping the curriculum for the program.
- Dr. Butts mentioned the significant progress we've made in focusing on under-represented communities. We offer great programs and students do not have to spend three times as much to receive a solid education.
- Dr. Wadler asked what we are doing to keep pace with the explosion in healthcare reform, i.e., opportunities such as nursing, or related fields.
Dr. O'Sullivan said that we are hiring very good faculty in biology and chemistry who are doing research. We have hired approximately four new faculty members in the area of Public Health in the last two years, and we're looking at a number of programs. We'd like to refine the pre-med program. There are two programs that we're looking at right now. It's still early and just being discussed, but one would involve tying in a BS with a Physician's Assistant program at NYIT. In 2017 we will be offering an MS in Healthcare Management. A nursing program is too much of an investment and one exists at Farmingdale.

Dr. Butts mentioned that we had tried to establish a nursing program and had a nursing school that was ready to relocate here, but we were unable to get SUNY approval for the program.

Dr. Wadler then asked Mr. Omar Estrada Torres, Dean of Students, to report:

- Dean Estrada Torres mentioned that outgoing SGA President Antoinette Metoyer was not at the meeting today as she was leading a group of 8 students, including incoming SGA members, to Saratoga Springs to a meeting of the SUNY Student Assembly.
- The new SGA Executive Board has been elected led by Jeanette Adelson a resident junior and Criminology major.
- There was overwhelming support for the student activity fee during the recent election cycle.
- We have a new honor society, Tau Sigma, as part of our student leadership offerings. It is an honor society for transfer students and we have more than 125 students inducted.
- On Monday evening, April 18th, 117 of our student athletes will be honored for their leadership both on and off the field.
- We are currently preparing for our first transfer student orientation which will kick off on May 13th.

Mr. Lionel Chitty, President of the Alumni Association reported:

- The Alumni Association continues to support the College through its mission. Some planned events have been postponed until fall. As of this date the association has purchased four tables at the upcoming gala, and the association continues to seek more participants. He sees many alumni and they are doing very well.
- Mr. Kinane mentioned that under Mr. Chitty's leadership the Alumni Association is much more active with current upperclassmen. Members are working with the students to do

programming for them, demonstrating what active alumni look like and giving students some tools that they can use after they graduate. Mr. Kinane went on to say that our annual solicitation to alumni this year is not about money, it's about giving, with the approach being fifty dollars for fifty years. It's about donor acquisition, not the amount of money they give. The campaign is going very well. The first donation was an anonymous donation from a graduate of the English Department who gave \$5,000 for scholarships. We had no record of this person giving and participating in the past. We have our annual networking reunion for alumni in a little less than two weeks where there will be a networking table seeking donations.

Dr. Wadler called on Dr. Kathleen Velsor, Chair of the Faculty Senate who reported:

- The Faculty Senate is redoing their bylaws...a difficult process.
- The faculty has acquired the Class Client® assessment program which will enable professors to see how students perceive them.
- The Faculty Senate has started an ad hoc committee to work with Mr. Kimmins on the Start-Up NY initiative, and the faculty members are generating some interesting ideas.

Dr. Butts commended Dr. Velsor as an outstanding leader of the Faculty Senate and thanked her for her cooperation as Chair.

- Dr. Butts expressed his deep appreciation to the College Council for their participation in the life of the College. He believes that we've made great strides, but there are still things to be done. Part of this means relying on the State of New York to increase its support of the SUNY system, and he believes that what happens to the entire State University benefits Old Westbury. He has great respect for the major universities in the system, and feels the community colleges do a great job, but believes that the comprehensive colleges are at the heart of the system.
- Dr. Wadler remarked on the amazing transformation at Old Westbury throughout the years in terms of quality, reputation, student population, and faculty. He looks forward to a very productive future.
- Mr. Davis mentioned that on April 26th state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli will be keynote speaker at the Minority and Women's Business and Disabled Service Veterans conference.

Dr. Wadler adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President