

- Dr. Butts further reported that the United Nations recently approved SUNY Old Westbury as an official member of the United Nations Academic Impact, a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the UN to further the principles of human rights, diversity, sustainability, peace and social justice through intellectual, socially responsible activities, programs and research.
- Vice President for Enrollment Services Mary Marquez Bell and Professors Zenaida Madurka and Fernando Nieto were part of a SUNY delegation, which visited Cuba recently. While there, a historic agreement was made with the Cuban Ministry of Higher Education that opens the door for academic and other collaborations between the two university and higher education systems. Ms. Marquez Bell commented that Old Westbury is the second SUNY campus to start the MOU process. She and Professor Madurka worked on one which was sent to the university in Cuba for modern languages collaborations there. Also, we have a number of faculty submitting grants for potential study abroad scholarship programs.
- The College has been honored with the prestigious Tree Campus USA ® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. We have committed to manage and plant trees which are provided to us.
- Dr. Butts announced that the SUNY Board of Trustees announced their selection of Dr. Kristina M. Johnson as the thirteenth Chancellor of SUNY starting in September, and went on to describe her background.
- The New York State budget for Old Westbury will be practically flat, making it more difficult to invest in new programs, ideas and innovations. The SUNY "Maintenance of Effort" provision, as it relates to SUNY's year-to-year funding was put in place, which provides some protection to the system as we move forward.
- As to capital funding, we expect to receive approximately \$4.3 million, which is \$1.7 million more than originally budgeted. Senior Vice President for Business and Finance and CFO Len Davis remarked that at a recent meeting with the SUNY Construction Fund there was a very good report on projects we have in progress and the potential for new projects with the additional funding. If all goes well and funding continues at that level the College will receive approximately \$10 million for the next five years to address capital projects. Dr. Butts stated that our major thrust is for a new science building.
- The Excelsior Scholarship program was also passed, which makes tuition free at SUNY and CUNY schools next year for students living in households with incomes of \$100,000 or less. We are counseling new students about the Excelsior Program whose funds they would receive after exhausting everything else available.
- Work on the Student Success Initiative is continuing among our faculty and staff. The bulk of the effort is taking place in concert with EAB, a consultant that has helped colleges and universities around the country marry their data with actions that improve the student experience at all levels of the College. The first area of focus will be around advising our students. Dean Barbara Hillery, co-Chair of the Student Success Initiative Committee, along with CIO Evan Kobolakis, commented that we are working right now on implementing the programming required to connect to the Banner system. We expect to start training advisors and have them work with the program over the summer so that we can go live by fall. The advising initiative will improve our ability to track students and to communicate with specific target groups, such as athletes and students at risk. Also, it will improve our ability to communicate between advisors. We have high expectations for improvements in our ability to reach out to students and to get them through school in a timely fashion. Provost O'Sullivan said that the major advantage of the program is that it is proactive rather than reactive with regard to students at risk.

- The Strategic Planning process for the next five years continues. The sixteen-member Strategic Planning Task Force has completed its review of the College's mission and vision statements, along with its drafting of potential goals and strategies for the College. The material has been provided to the leaders of the strategic planning process, Mr. Anthony Barbera, Dr. Kathleen Greenberg and Dr. Duncan Quarless, who, in turn, will be providing a copy of the current draft to the College Council. Dr. Butts asked that Council members review the draft, offer feedback and direct any questions to Mr. Barbera.
- Dr. Butts then went on to mention "Voices Against Violence: Race, Guns and Police" which had been scheduled to take place the following day. The gathering was to include nearly 30 leaders from community, civic and religious organizations who were to offer their thoughts before a tribunal of police commissioners and other community leaders. The event is now being postponed due to the fact Congressman Peter King has invited US Attorney General Jeff Sessions to speak at the D'Amato Courthouse in Islip. That gathering will likely include many of Long Island's civic leaders which would draw from our gathering. Also, a number of people who had been working closely with us are planning a protest at the courthouse. Dr. Butts believes it is important to discuss violence in all areas in which it manifests itself, and the problem should be addressed at the grassroots level. He, and many he knows, believes that resources should be directed towards education and other kinds of services rather than enforcement.
- Dr. Butts stressed the importance of the Council and its members' attendance at meetings.
- Dr. Butts asked for any reports from those in attendance.
- Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services said that the previous week we had probably the largest Open House attendance in the history of the College, and certainly the largest in the 18^{1/2} years that she has been here. There were approximately 500 students and a total attendance of over 1,300.
- Dr. Mignone asked about follow up after Open Houses, and Mr. Michael Kinane, Assistant to the President for Advancement, mentioned the multi-tiered communications plan in place for students from different cohorts and stages in the process. We are hoping that part of the new Strategic Plan will address the need to better support the communications plan. Right now a lot happens electronically, but we would like to expand the plan. Ms. Marquez Bell said that we are conducting a phone-a-thon campaign, as we do every spring, in which our student ambassadors call those who have been accepted to congratulate and welcome them, and answer any questions. Once that list has been finished we contact those who haven't yet responded. Dr. Mignone further asked if we had support from the Alumni Association re the phone-a-thon, to which Ms. Marquez Bell replied that we have not yet coordinated that with the Alumni Association. Mr. Kinane mentioned that the Alumni Association has re-formed itself into a new organization, and his area is talking to them about helping to reach out to alumni next fall in a fundraising capacity. Mr. Hohausser asked if there was any change in what was discovered a few years ago in terms of where accepted students attend if they don't choose Old Westbury. Ms. Marquez Bell said that things are about the same. Some choose to attend C.W. Post. The CUNY campuses are our biggest competitor, e.g., Queens College, but Stony Brook and Farmingdale are also competitors. Then again, some students choose to go to Nassau Community College or Queensborough Community College. Among the University Centers, Albany is becoming one of the top competitors for us. Current Old Westbury enrollment consists of approximately 4,300 undergraduates and 200 graduate students. SUNY schools are recruiting on Long Island and in New York City because of the size of the population, and Albany has become more aggressive because their strategic plan calls for a much faster increase than some of the other University Centers. Stony Brook is not looking to downsize, but is looking to be more selective, and their wait list is growing.

- With regard to the recent research agreement with Cuba, Dr. Mignone asked Ms. Marquez Bell about the possibility of student exchanges. Ms. Marquez Bell said that our current focus is to have our students go there to get more exposure to the Cuban culture since we are very close to being a Hispanic serving institution. It is more difficult to get students, and even faculty, to come here from Cuba.
- Mr. Kinane mentioned the Polo Match scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, at which Old Westbury alumnus, Rev. Joseph Garofalo, a member of the College Foundation and a good friend to the College for more than fifteen years, will receive a Learning and Leadership Award.
- Dr. Butts mentioned the upcoming spring events including, Honors Convocation to take place that afternoon, the President's Reception for Outstanding Students on May 4th and Commencement on May 21st at which New York City Public Advocate Letisha James will serve as speaker at both the 9:00 am and 3:00 pm ceremonies.

III. New Business

- Dr. Mignone put forth as new business revisions to the Code for Student Conduct and the Guide to Campus Living. Before proceeding he asked if there was a SUNY standard code for student conduct. Dr. Wayne Edwards, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer replied that there is a "best practices" standard for language used in the code, but campus codes are not "cookie cutter". While language is similar from campus to campus, each code is tailored to the needs and abilities of each campus. Dr. Mignone asked Dr. Edwards to read Resolution #1 and to explain the proposed changes to the Code for Student Conduct that led to this resolution.
- Dr. Edwards read the resolution to the Code, following which a motion to place the topic on the table was made and seconded. Dr. Mignone then asked for any comments or discussion. Mr. Brian Schwirzbin, Director, Office of Student Conduct, said that this round of revisions pertains primarily to layout and is similar to other colleges, especially the University at Albany, and also helps bring us up to best practices. It includes things that had been lacking as well as some definitions.
- Mr. Hohausser had questions and comments about the Sanctions Guide. Discussion took place about the severity of some of the sanctions, e.g., for the possession or use of marijuana, in light of the strong possibility of marijuana being decriminalized. Dr. Edwards said that if that happens we will revisit this, however, as it stands now, it is illegal. Mr. Schwirzbin pointed out the variations in sanctions for drug use or possession reflect the differences between marijuana and other drugs. Dr. Butts expressed that penalties for drug possession and use should remain severe, and believes that sanctions for alcohol possession and use on campus should also be severe. Ms. Mona Rankin, Chief of Staff, pointed out that an additional change to the Sanctions Guide allows for a verbal reprimand to any police officer who might be attending classes carrying a gun. Such an officer is informed that he/she must place his/her gun in possession of University Police before attending class. There needed to be an appropriate sanction, rather than suspension or expulsion, should such a police officer be stopped before turning his or her gun over to University Police.

A motion was made by Mr. Ihne to accept the Resolution as written. Before the vote, took place Mr. Hohausser sought to amend the wording in the Code to read in Section 3.2, 2nd sentence: "...term firearms, to include, *but not be limited to*, pellet guns..." Dr. Mignone asked the Council to make a motion to accept the Resolution with the amended wording. Ms. Adelson so moved, and the motion passed without dissent.

- Dr. Mignone asked Dr. Edwards to read Resolution #2 which pertains to a policy change revision to the Guide for Campus Living. A motion to discuss the resolution was made and seconded. Dr. Edwards asked Mr. Usama Shaikh, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, to explain the resolution. Mr. Shaikh explained that the policy change regarding overnight guests would no

longer take guests' gender into consideration. The policy change is being made in the interest of social justice and equity. Ms. Jeanette Adelson mentioned that this is something for which students had advocated, and they are happy to see this policy change which makes the campus more inclusive. Ms. Jeanette Adelson, SGA President made a motion to vote on the resolution which was approved by the Council without dissent.

- Dr. Butts asked for any reports from faculty, students or staff to be shared with the Council.
- Dr. Lauren Foxworth, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee reported that Dr. Kathie Greenberg asked her to reiterate that Strategic Planning is going very well. Those involved in the process are working on forming subcommittees to get timelines for those goals that Dr. Butts mentioned, and hope to have those timelines created by June 15th.
- Ms. Adelson reported that in April the SUNY Student Assembly, which oversees all of the Student Government Associations in the system, named SUNY Old Westbury as the best host of the SUNY Student Assembly Conferences. The SGA hosted and participated in one of the SUNY Student Assembly executive meetings in October. Last semester the SGA held a forum at which resolutions were developed, and they are currently meeting with the Administration and working on ways to collaborate and change policies such as the one voted on today. SGA elections took place recently with Ms. Christie Anyanwu elected as the new SGA President.
- Dr. Mignone asked for reports from the Deans.
Dr. Nancy Brown, Dean of the School of Education, replied that on Tuesday, Teach New York, which is a proposed policy going forward to the SUNY Board of Trustees, is being presented at Nassau Community College, and our School of Education is being highlighted as having partnerships. Dean Brown and one of the principals from Carle Place will be presenting on the partnership work being done with districts. We are being considered as the leader in the SUNY system regarding this. Dr. Brown thanked the School of Education faculty for all of their hard work, and mentioned that it was the special education faculty who started this partnership.
- Dr. Jishan Zhu, Interim Dean of the School of Business, reported that last week, for the first time, School of Business students participated in the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference at Suffolk Community College. He is very proud of this as usually the research conference is geared more to science or the humanities.
- Dr. Barbara Hillery, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, reported that Carmen Perez was here as keynote speaker at the School of Arts and Sciences' annual Undergraduate Research Day. Four to five hundred people participated in the day, with approximately fifty students presenting their research. Also, approximately twenty people from Old Westbury attended SUNY's Undergraduate Research Conference the previous Friday.
- Mr. Omar Estrada Torres, Dean of Students, did not have anything to report, but extended his thanks and appreciation to the Council members for their approval of the changes to the Code for Student Conduct.

IV. **Open Meeting**

With no further questions or comments put forth, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

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