

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday December 12, 2014

Location: Student Union Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: Appointed Members of the College Council

Ms. Melissa Archbold

Dr. Debra Handel

Mr. William Hohausner

Mr. Frank Ilozue

Ms. Cania Infante

Dr. Mario Mignone

Mr. Scott Reich

Representatives of the College

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

Ms. Mona Rankin

Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan

Mr. Len Davis

Dr. Wayne Edwards

Mr. William Kimmins

Ms. Mary Marquez Bell

Mr. Michael Kinane

Mr. Anthony Barbera

Dr. Julio Gonzalez

Dr. Barbara Hillery

Dr. Kate Velsor

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Dr. Mignone opened the meeting at the request of Chairman Gary Wadler, who was unable to attend. Dr. Mignone introduced new Council member Cania Infante, who attended her first Council meeting.

Dr. Mignone asked the Council to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2014 meeting. The minutes were approved without dissent.

II. President's Report on the College

President Butts opened by announcing that the College, on Monday, learned that it had earned a place on the U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the seventh consecutive year. This honor has come again due to the work of the Community Action, Learning and Leadership program.

He followed by discussing the SUNY Excels effort being organized by SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. SUNY Excels is expected to result in a comprehensive set of metrics against which all SUNY campuses will be measured, with the potential for funding rewards and deductions depending on each campus' results. There are five key outcomes being monitored across the system:

1. Access – the ability to engage more students into the education system
2. Completion – the ability to move students towards the completion of their studies
3. Success -- How do students do after they leave?
4. Research -- How does a campus support and grow its research enterprise?

5. Engagement -- What is a campus doing to engage its local community in terms of economic development, creating applied learning opportunities for its students and more?

Dr. Butts noted that SUNY has said there will be an opportunity for our campus to work with SUNY on the outcomes against which Old Westbury will be judged so that the College will be monitored on outcomes appropriate to the mission and vision of our campus. SUNY's stated goal for SUNY Excels is continued, sustained growth, with each set of measures serving as evidence of local and system level performance.

Questions and discussion amongst the Council centered on the challenges students face regarding degree completion. Dr. Mignone discussed challenges seen at Stony Brook University, and the potential for future development of online degree programs, as well as the need for the College to continually engage at the K-12 level to create cohorts of interested, prepared students.

Dr. Butts reminded the Council of several efforts underway where Old Westbury is working with colleagues at other local colleges and universities.

- Suffolk County Community College – Seamless transfer
- Stony Brook – Collaboration on a grant-funded project to develop accounting and finance courses and programs.

He also reported on a meeting earlier in the week with SUNY Farmingdale leadership where several avenues of collaboration were discussed, including potential joint-degree opportunities, research efforts, and space needs.

Dr. Butts described the new, uniform sexual assault prevention and response policy for SUNY campuses that was announced last week by Governor Cuomo and Chancellor Zimpher. A summary of the policy was included in each Council member's materials for today's meeting.

Key points include:

- The creation of a Uniform Definition of Consent to be used by all campuses.
- Comprehensive Statewide Training for Campus Police and College Administrators.
- The Creation of a Sexual Violence Victim/Survivor Bill of Rights to be published widely by each campus.
- The completion of Uniform Campus Climate Assessments through which areas of strength and need can be determined.

Questions regarding terminology and wording within the policy were raised by Council members, with Dr. Butts noting that the campus has no leeway in the language, given its creation and approval by SUNY and the Office of the Governor.

Dr. Butts then asked other members of the senior management team to report regarding their respective areas of responsibility.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs O'Sullivan reported on:

- The creation of a new class schedule to begin in fall 2015, which will create an extra class period in the day and enable the load of courses to be more evenly distributed throughout the day and evening. The intent is to avoid where possible the offering of major-specific courses at the same level during common class periods, thereby enabling students to more easily schedule the classes they need to move towards degree completion.
- Letters of Intent have been approved and sent to SUNY for new graduate degree programs in: Forensic Accounting, Healthcare Management, Entrepreneurial Leadership – Small Business, and Social Science Research and Data Analytics.
- The change in name for the B.S. in Health and Society to a B.S. in Public Health degree remains stalled in Albany. Discussions on the matter continue, with the assistance of Council Member Handel.

Senior Vice President, Business & Finance Davis reported on:

- The recent completion of two key searches for the campus which have led in the past month to the introduction of a new Associate Vice President for Business Affairs and a new Chief Information Officer.
- Financial Literacy at Old Westbury (FLOW) – an educational program and campaign seeking to assist students in learning and understanding about their finances through a cadre of online workshops and videos. This is a multi-department effort crossing all divisions of the campus in an effort to increase students' understanding of the issues that can lead to debt, etc.
- Internal discussions amongst SUNY business officers has centered on what is likely to be a 2015-16 budget that is basically flat when compared year to year. The Governor will announce his Executive Budget proposal in January 2015.

Vice President for Enrollment Services Mary Marquez Bell reported on:

- The College has had two students earn the prestigious Gilman Award for Study Abroad.
- The initial phase of document imaging has gone live in support of the recruitment and admissions process. This now results in application documents coming to campus as electronic, rather than paper, files. Further phases of this technology will only occur should funds become available in the future.
- While early in the process, applications for fall 2015 admission are up in a year-over-year comparison. Transfer applications are down on a percentage basis, but the numbers at this time of the year are so small that any increase or decrease is negligible in terms of the real number of applications.
- Internationally, the College is exploring a collaboration in business programs with a university in Mexico, the potential for an online version of Old Westbury's First Year Experience seminar as an "early college high school" experience for students in India and China, and an initiative regarding entrepreneurship via the SUNY COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program with the University of Upper Austria.

When asked by Council Member Mignone the number of international students at Old Westbury, Ms. Marquez Bell reported that 60-70 were enrolled. She also noted that the next Open House program would be held in April.

Assistant to the President for Advancement Michael Kinane discussed the upcoming celebration of the College's 50th anniversary, which will kick off in February 2015 and run through November 2015. The anniversary planning committee is working on a series of lectures, symposia, cultural events, alumni gatherings and more to mark the history of Old Westbury.

Dr. Butts then asked for further questions from the Council members. Hearing none, he ended his report.

III. New Business

Dr. Mignone asked the Council members if they had any new business to be introduced. Hearing none he asked the deans, Faculty Senate chair and student leadership to provide any report they might have on their areas.

Mr. Barbera of the School of Business followed up on Provost O'Sullivan's announcement of the potential for new graduate degrees by noting that the Letters of Intent opened a two year window for the College to complete the creation of these degrees. He also expounded on the work with Stony Brook where Old Westbury faculty are working with colleagues there to create online accounting instruction opportunities to meet the high demand for professional instruction in this area. He also announced that four faculty searches are underway, but issues with the competitiveness of Old Westbury salary offerings versus area competitors are a significant challenge.

Dr. Hillery of the School of Arts and Sciences concurred with Mr. Barbera's point on the challenge of salary competitiveness in relation to many recent and current searches underway in Arts and Sciences. She also discussed ongoing work with SUNY Orange (Orange County Community College) to create an articulation agreement for Orange students to easily transfer into Old Westbury's Health and Society program, offered by the Department of Public Health.

Dr. Velsor of the Faculty Senate discussed the governance body's work, both on campus and as part of the larger SUNY Senate system, regarding ensuring fairness and transparency in the SUNY Excels process. The key, she noted, is to make sure Old Westbury is judged on indicators that relate closely to its mission, resources and capabilities rather than a "cookie cutter" approach that could be applied to all campuses. She also expressed pleasure about the ongoing collaboration between the Senate and the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee and the convergence that is taking place regarding the ideas/events being developed as part of that celebration.

Mr. Ilozue, President of the Student Government Association, reported on the SGA Forum that took place in November and the success of the Late Night Programming effort that continues. Two executive board vacancies are in need of filling and discussion of that process will take place at the SGA's soon-to-be-held retreat. He also noted that the 2015-16 election cycle has already been scheduled.

IV. Open Meeting

Dr. Mignone opened the floor to questions and comments from the public. Hearing none, the meeting was closed.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Kinane".

Michael Kinane
Assistant to the President for Advancement