

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, February 23, 2018
Location: Student Union, Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: **Members of the College Council**
Dr. Mario Mignone
Ms. Christie Anyanwu
Ms. Cania Infante

Representatives of the College

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III	Mr. Michael Kinane
Dr. Nancy Brown	Ms. Mary Marquez Bell
Mr. Lionel Chitty	Mr. Andrew Mattson
Mr. Len Davis	Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan
Dr. Raj Devasagayam	Ms. Mona Rankin
Dr. Wayne Edwards	Mr. Usama Shaikh
Mr. William Kimmins	

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

- Dr. Mignone, Designated Chair, opened the meeting at 10:42 am. He expressed his disappointment in the number of Council members in attendance, and said that he hoped that more if not all members would be at the next meeting, since without a quorum no official business can be conducted. It was agreed however, that even without a quorum minutes could be approved, and the members in attendance accepted the minutes of the September 29th and December 1st, 2017 meetings without dissent.

Dr. Mignone further stated that he was very impressed with the publishing activity of the faculty as detailed in the Faculty Achievements brochure included in the meeting package. He pointed out that in addition to publishing books, faculty members were publishing articles in very well known, respected journals in their fields. He congratulated Provost & Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan for attracting such faculty and stimulating this kind of scholarly endeavor, and also thanked Mr. Michael Kinane, Acting Vice President of Communications, and his staff for creating the brochure.

Dr. Butts asked Mr. Andrew Mattson, Chair pro tem of the Faculty Senate, to relay these comments to the Faculty Senate. Mr. Mattson assured the group that he would do so.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. Mignone then asked Dr. Butts for his report. Dr. Butts introduced Ms. Christie Anyanwu, SGA President and College Council member, and proceeded with his Report on the College. Dr. Butts spoke of a very successful recent trip to Cuba and thanked Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services, on her leadership in this regard. The College has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Matanzas which will allow us to have our students, some of whom have already been there, to travel there more regularly to study at Matanzas and be involved in a variety of community activities. It will also allow some University of Matanza students to come here, though initially obtaining visas may be difficult. Dr. Butts also thanked Dr. Zenaida Madurka of the Modern Languages department for her help in arranging this trip.

- Dr. Butts then asked Mr. Len Davis, Sr. Vice President for Business & Finance and Chief Financial Officer, to provide an update on the state budget process as it relates to the College. Mr. Davis remarked that there had been very little movement since the last update on the state budget. Because of the Maintenance of Effort provision, we have been guaranteed that we will not receive less state funding than last year even though we believe that what we received last year is insufficient and must be augmented with some of the College's reserves each year. At this point budget testimony from all of the state agencies is finished, and each of the houses is in the thirty day amendment period during which each house has to come up with its one house bill proposing whatever amendments to the executive budget they are seeking. "Horsetrading" follows next ... hopefully resulting in more advocacies which in turn hopefully will result in the state budget coming out in April. We expect a flat budget and have many unfunded mandates. In essence we are in the same position that we were in last year.
- Dr. Butts said that we have done very well despite our financial struggles, and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Davis for his oversight of the College's finances. Mr. Davis mentioned that we are anticipating a better year overall because of enrollment growth, but of course there are greater expectations as we grow.
- Dr. Butts expressed his gratitude for those involved in the Strategic Plan process, thanking Dr. Mignone, Mr. Ihne and Ms. Infante for their comments. We should be ready for its presentation shortly. The final draft plan is due to him for review in March with the final plan presented to the campus at a Town Hall meeting on April 12th.
- Over the next five years we expect to grow our campus enrollment to 5,400 students. Fall 2018 first-time-to-college applications are up, and we expect approximately 670 students in this category along with 880 transfer students. Ms. Marquez Bell said that applications are skyrocketing. Also helping with enrollment are our retention efforts. We had quite an increase in continuing/returning students during the last year. Dr. Mignone asked about the impact of the Excelsior Program on enrollment. Ms. Marquez Bell replied that the program is having an impact on all colleges in New York State...both public and private. There is a focus on the need for higher level skills and higher education and to obtain those with less debt. Private colleges have become competitive with SUNY's tuition, creating an interesting competitive environment in New York State. Mr. Davis mentioned that we have 246 recipients of the Excelsior Scholarship in excess of \$1 million.
- Dr. Butts asked Dr. O'Sullivan about some of the new undergraduate and graduate academic programs. Dr. O'Sullivan distributed a chart outlining these programs and their status, as well as a number of collaborative efforts with SUNY Downstate, as well as collaborative programs under discussion with Farmingdale State College and Westchester Community College.
- Dr. O'Sullivan asked Dr. Nancy Brown, Dean of the School of Education, to comment on the programs in discussion with Farmingdale State and Westchester Community College. Dr. Brown responded that two of the programs with Farmingdale will be Masters programs or ultimately five year programs. The undergraduate work will be done at Farmingdale or here...students will have a choice...but if they're in areas which we do not offer students will come here for a Masters and certification in teaching. The programs are an MAT in Technology Education and an MAT in Health Education. Farmingdale's portion of the MAT in Health Education has been approved, and we are working on our portion and will have it in the Provost's office by the end of the semester. The MAT in Speech/Language Pathology is a very complex program which requires both the approval of the Office of the Professions as well as teacher certification. To be a speech pathologist in New York State and work with children requires teaching certification. There is a need for speech and language therapists, especially in New York City, and especially bi-lingual pathologists. We have an excellent bilingual program and will combine all of this. Farmingdale has the HEGIS code for Health Science and we have the HEGIS code for Education. The state will need to decide how this will work, and complexities will be navigated at an upcoming Provost's meeting.

- Dean Brown will be meeting at Westchester Community College with Westchester's Chairs of Elementary Education and Special Education. The closest SUNY school for transfer is New Paltz which has a very different feel and does not specialize in urban education as we do. We will offer some of our classes there. They have an early childhood program which will feed into our program, and students will receive joint acceptance. We will teach some of our courses on their campus via adjuncts, and some will be taught here. Ultimately this will bring more students to our campus to obtain teaching certification.
- Dr. O'Sullivan asked Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean of the School of Business, to comment on the MS in Forensic Accounting program. Dean Devasagayam thanked everyone involved in supporting this program and pointed out in a handout he distributed that the program will be launched on March 8 at the Long Island Chapter of the *Association of Certified Fraud Examiners 2018 Young & New Professionals Meeting*. We already have inquiries concerning this program. Mr. Kinane mentioned that no one else locally offers this program.
- Dr. O'Sullivan reviewed the Student Success Center functions as detailed in a handout he distributed. Since approximately 80% of our student population are transfer students, he stressed the importance of the area of Transfer Student Services including transcript analysis, outreach to community colleges to build ongoing relationships, and the development and formal coordination of articulation agreements to make them come alive as a means for colleges to reach out to each other to solve problems. We received approximately \$135,000 from SUNY to help establish this office. Peer advisors will be selected from the Honors College and trained. The Student Completion area of the Student Success Center will utilize statistical data to track potential problems students may be experiencing. It will allow us to intervene proactively at an early point to assist the student and improve retention. We have improved our freshman retention significantly, but now must focus on sophomore retention. This spring we are conducting a pilot program regarding this. We will also be doing outreach to departments asking them to conduct various events to connect students with faculty. The Research Aligned Mentorship Program, run by Dr. Shalei Simms, is the result of a First in the World Grant on which we are collaborating with Farmingdale State. The program has been very productive and allows us to glean information from the interaction of the students with various mentors which we can apply to other areas of the College, particularly retention and advisement. Also part of the Student Success Center is General Tutoring. In addition to the Writing Center, the Math Learning Center, and individual department tutoring, we will have these services focusing on retention and on transfer students.
- Dr. Butts asked Mr. Davis about EAB (Education Advisory Board) and how technology is progressing on our campus. Mr. Davis said that technology is going to allow us to both accumulate and then use data so that students and advisors can receive an early alert as to where students may be at risk in certain classes, and then provide them with alternatives to help with course selection. Dr. Hillery and Mr. Evan Kobolakis, CIO, have been leading this effort. We are nearly at the point where we can start running a number of these campaigns because we have sufficient data to identify some of these students.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that we had received funds from SUNY to invest in certain campus projects. One of these is the Bottom Line College Success program for which we received \$32,000. Dr. Butts asked Ms. Marquez Bell to speak about this. Ms. Marquez Bell said this is part of the Student Success function. This program has coaches who work with students from their last year of high school, through the summer and then through their four years of college. The services they provide help us identify the challenges faced by first generation students from New York City. We started the program last year with a very small cohort and had a 90% retention rate. It shows that smaller cohorts help.
- We also have an online Master's degree in Accounting for which we received \$217,000 which we will use to hire faculty. We also received \$217,000 for Digital Teaching and Learning. Mr. Davis said that this is an integrated project in which we are hiring instructional designers to help put the

Masters in Accounting course online and to design other online courses in order to expand our course offerings. We received \$135,000 to invest in our Student Success Center.

- Dr. Butts remarked that our parking crisis has been alleviated for the most part, and we expect to have 150 new spaces by October. Dr. Mignone mentioned that at Stony Brook they have a garage which charges \$3.00 per hour, or \$17.00 per month, but there is no registration fee to park in parking fields. It is necessary for us to work with the State University Construction Fund on creating the parking field, and it may be necessary to remove some trees...so there are challenges to be dealt with.
- Dr. Butts went on to say that we are on track to complete the progress report to Middle States required by April 1st.
- Finally, Dr. Butts mentioned that this year Commencement will be held at the Nassau Coliseum. We will have only one ceremony at 9:00 am and students will be allowed to bring more than the customary four guests, though the actual number allowed has not yet been determined.
- Dr. Butts mentioned that we had a visit from Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie. He and Assemblyman Charles Lavine have made it possible for our campus to be considered for \$1.1 million to revive our TV studio in our Media and Communications area. Mr. Mattson said that the money is to move us forward in the twenty-first century towards multimedia production and emerging media. WTV, our TV studio is at the heart of it. Professor Jinn Wang has been hired to run the facility which has 4 or 5 faculty people and Ms. Julia Sorto, who was videotaping today's meeting. Old Westbury has made a serious commitment to ensure that we get the most efficient use of this funding. Mr. Mattson further expressed his satisfaction at seeing the collaboration between the faculty, staff and administration to make this happen. Ms. Mona Rankin, Chief of Staff, remarked that these funds are coming from SAM funding (state and municipal funding from the state), which is a reimbursable grant program. The process includes going through the Ways and Means Committee, which has taken place. It has now moved on to Budget. We have been advised that we should not announce this until it has gone through Budget, which could take another 2 – 2-1/2 months, but we can say that we are being considered. Mr. Mattson said that Speaker Heastie said, "it's not if, it is when", and that he also said that we've been "adopted"...that both he and Chuck Levine are interested in Old Westbury and our future. The students are very excited about these events.
- Dr. Butts went on to say that on Tuesday, February 27th at 2:30 pm in the Student Union Multipurpose Room we will have a listening and sharing session on preventing gun violence in our communities. We are entitling it "A Time for Action". Dr. Butts said he would make some introductory remarks and state his confidence in the University Police. He wants to hear from students, faculty and staff regarding this issue.
- Dr. Butts asked Mr. Usama Shaikh, Acting Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, to report on his area. Mr. Shaikh said he had been approached by Dr. John Graham, Associate Provost for Student Affairs and University Life at SUNY to join the Food Insecurity Task Force. Mr. Shaikh has accepted the position on this task force, and working with people in Academic Affairs, Old Westbury is about to launch our food pantry in March. Ms. Cris Notaro, Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, is Chairing this effort. We are working closely with Island Harvest as a partner, but we also plan to have a campus outreach so that our pantry can be self-sustaining.

In conjunction with Mr. Bill Kimmins, Assistant to the President for Administration in his role as Title IX Coordinator, Student Affairs has invested in EverFi software to help the College meet state and national compliance regulations regarding the education of faculty, staff and students in sexual violence prevention and education.

On Friday, March 9, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Student Union Multipurpose Room there will be a program entitled “Promoting Success in Higher Education for Students on the Autism Spectrum”. Dr. Stephen Shaw, an internationally renowned speaker and scholar, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Shaw was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum as a child, and he will talk about his journey as well as how colleges can impact the success of students on the autism spectrum. The program was made possible by funding from a grant through the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as support from the New York Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. The event is being coordinated by Ms. Stacey DeFelice, Director of the College’s Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD).

Finally, for the first time, students will be making housing selection on line via a new software program.

- Mr. Mattson remarked that generally the faculty is upbeat regarding the College’s growth and everything the Administration is doing and working together on a number of different levels. The faculty is concerned about growth, however, and some of the growing pains that go along with it. They continue to hear reports about parking, which is getting better, and transportation ... specifically the issue with the shuttle which is ongoing. Students and faculty are very concerned about being able to get to campus, and want to be sure that people are still aware of this transportation issue.

In relationship to growth...retention, persistence, time to degree are all very important and the faculty is very happy about the Student Success Center and the new software tools and technologies which make advising more efficient, but the heart of it is the classroom ... the students and professors, student faculty ratio, ratio of full time faculty to adjuncts, size of classes, and when enrollment grows quickly sometimes things such as course caps are changed suddenly and the faculty thinks as wonderful as some of these technological innovations are, the fall off after the first year has to do with the number of full time professors advising their majors. If we are going to grow we don’t just need new lines for new programs, we need to be aware of the ratio of students to faculty and full time to adjunct in the classroom.

Mr. Mattson went on to state that faculty governance is still unsure of its role in what used to be called the BPC, more recently referred to as the Resource Allocation Budget and Planning Committee, or even whether the committee still exists. Transparency in budget and planning is an issue that confuses faculty governance and is still on the table.

Ms. Rankin remarked that it is her understanding that there is a strong recommendation in the Strategic Plan that the committee be renamed and that people be reappointed and that the committee becomes very active in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

- Dr. Butts asked SGA President, Ms. Christie Anywanu, to report. She mentioned that the SGA has brought back late night programming to keep students on campus. There are programs every Thursday from 10 pm – 2:00 am. SGA week, March 26th – 30th, will promote the *Vote Mandatory* campaign to keep the student activities fee alive. There will be programs every day that week, including a de-stressor event, a social media promotion event, activities and games, etc. SGA Elections will be held on March 28 and 29 from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm. They will be preceded on March 13th by a “*Meet the Candidates*” gathering for candidates to introduce themselves at the SGA’s General Assembly meeting. The campaign will be from February 28 – March 27th. The Student Assembly Conference will take place April 6 – 8 in Syracuse. The duties of the SGA Executive Board’s Vice President of Programming position have been found to be too extensive to be manageable. The position is being replaced by a committee composed of representatives from each class, and tasks will be delegated.
- Dean Brown added several items to her report. The Department of Education has two policies that are open for public comment, that are very important to the School of Education here and throughout the state. The first policy involves opening up the accreditation process to a second

agency. The current agency, CAEP, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, does not align with our state goals, and we do not have a state agreement with them for good reason. There is a second agency that is made up of teacher educators that would be much better for us. We will be hosting the *Teacher Education Clinical Practice Open Forum* for public comment on March 7th. Representatives from the State Department of Education and SUNY will be attending, and discussions will take place regarding, "What does student teaching and classroom work look like ...what are partnerships?"

- Last year we sent nine of our Adolescent Teacher Education Graduate students to a regional conference of foreign language teachers in Saratoga. Two weeks ago they received a last minute invitation to present at the national conference. The word on the street was so great that, despite the late invitation and expectation of low turnout, between seventy-five and one hundred people attended to hear them speak. They were invited next to speak in Washington, DC to the Catholic University Association. Many people came up to Dr. Bustamante to inquire about the program that she is using. Dean Brown and Dr. Bustamante are very proud of our students.

IV. Open Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President