

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday February 27, 2015

Location: Student Union Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: Appointed Members of the College Council

Dr. Gary Wadler, Chair	Mr. Frank Ilozue
Ms. Melissa Archbold	Dr. Mario Mignone
Dr. Debra Handel	Mr. Scott Reich
Mr. Edward Ihne	

Representatives of the College

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III	Mr. Michael Kinane
Ms. Mona Rankin	Mr. Ronald Welton
Mr. Len Davis	Dr. Julio Gonzalez
Dr. Wayne Edwards	Dr. Barbara Hillery
Mr. William Kimmins	Dr. Kate Velsor
Ms. Mary Marquez Bell	Mr. Usama Shaikh
	Mr. Lionel Chitty – Alumni Assn.

Invited Attendee

Mr. Brian Schwirzbin

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Dr. Wadler opened the meeting. Minutes of the December meeting had not been completed and will be presented at the next meeting of the Council.

II. President's Report on the College

The key issue covered by President Butts was the 2015-16 SUNY budget and its potential impact on Old Westbury. He noted that Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget proposal has many new twists for SUNY and the campus, including:

- A planned increase in overall funding to SUNY of only \$18 million; an increase provided only because of the move by SUNY to the creation of new "Performance Improvement Plans" for each campus. Under this increase these plans:
 - Will require 10 percent of annual direct State tax support to be held back from campuses until their completion.
 - Will serve as the basis for performance funding allocations in future years.
 - Shall include but not be limited to:
 - Improving access, completion, academic and post-graduation success, research, and community engagement,
 - Experiential learning as a requirement for graduation,

- Establishment of a Master Researchers program in partnership with the Research Foundation,
- Provide for financial incentives to presidents who provide proven leadership resulting in commercialization of research through START-UP NY.

Key also in the Governor's budget is the removal of approximately \$8 million in funds for contracted personnel increases.

Regarding Capital expenses, the Governor has proposed only \$219 million system-wide for critical maintenance, with a minimum of \$19 million of that expense set aside for Stony Brook University. Dr. Butts reported that a recent Cabinet meeting included a discussion of the impact of the Capital Plan budget on our campus where three potential versions were reviewed --versions A, B, and C – with C being the likely worst case. After seeing the Executive Budget proposal, Dr. Butts called the potential capital plan for Old Westbury version F, “as in failure,” for its failure to meet the College's ongoing needs. He did report that the Chancellor and SUNY's Government Relations team believe there is support in both the Assembly and Senate to increase capital spending, so he has hope for improvement.

Other priorities for SUNY in these budget discussions include:

- Reauthorization of the Rational Tuition policy through 2020, which would provide for annual, predictable increases in tuition.
- The creation of a SUNY Investment Fund to pay for the performance plan funding and to support the spread across the system of campus-developed programs that have records of success in supporting students. This fund:
 - Would also enable SUNY to attract “master innovators” to its faculty -- high-profile
 - Increase experiential learning opportunities for students
 - Expand EOP across the system

Moving on from issues related to the budget, Dr. Butts reported on a meeting earlier this week with the leadership of Nassau AHRC, the current operator of the College child care center. Discussions centered on the potential for a new center, which is the subject of ongoing discussion regarding land-lease legislation with the Foundation, and the ability to grow the child care center's enrollment, particularly from the College's population of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Dr. Butts also reported on the recent reception held to kick-off the College's 50th Anniversary program, which is being held under the theme “A Celebration of Educational Leadership and Empowerment.” A program of events for the spring was included in the packets for all members of the Council. He noted that more than 100 people gathered for the launch. Through this celebration, Dr. Butts said he hopes:

- To celebrate the great contributions the College has made to its students and to Long Island.
- To bring alumni and friends back to campus.
- To raise the College's visibility.
- To lay a foundation for the College's future success.

The reception also marked the launch of the College's new brand campaign and the debut of its new tagline – “Own Your Future.” Dr. Butts discussed why he liked the concept of “Own Your Future” and

the positive response received thus far of the key elements of the College's first campaign, which were included on banners in the meeting room.

Council members discussed the new tagline and campaign elements, noting their hope that the "Own Your Future" element would become more prevalent on future campaign materials.

Dr. Butts closed his report.

III. New Business

Dr. Wadler put forth as new business the College's revised Code for Student Conduct. He asked Dr. Edwards, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, to provide a summary. Dr. Edwards noted that the revised Code presented at the meeting included revisions and language mandated by SUNY to ensure coordination with the SUNY policy on sexual assault and domestic violence announced in December. Other revisions are minor changes in language to more properly reflect current nomenclature and processes. Dr. Edwards reminded the Council that a conference call had been scheduled for a week prior to the meeting to review questions and concerns that Council members might have. No issues arose from that call.

Following Dr. Edwards' presentation, Mr. Reich moved that the Council approve the revised Code for Student Conduct. Dr. Mignone seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote of the Council with no dissent.

Hearing no other new business from members of the Council, Dr. Wadler asked the Faculty Senate chair, alumni chair, student leadership and deans, to provide any report on their areas they might have.

Dr. Velsor of the Faculty Senate noted that the governance body was working with the College administration on a variety of issues, reporting on two in particular:

- New methods to solicit, receive and assess teacher evaluations, including the introduction of new technologies for the effort.
- Ongoing difficulties in hiring new faculty due to constraints in offered salaries juxtaposed against the cost of living locally.

Mr. Chitty reminded the Council that the chief objective of the Alumni Association is to re-engage alumni. Among the programs in development are:

- Defensive driving courses
- Meet & Greet networking mixers
- A New York City cruise
- Long Island Winery Tour

He also noted that the Association is working closely with the Office of Career Planning and Development on its career fair and mentoring programs.

Mr. Chitty also reported that he has been asked and approached by entrepreneurs during his networking efforts about how they might access the campus through the much-publicized Start-UP NY program. Mr. Kimmins responded that the College was not currently pursuing any opportunities

regarding Start-Up NY, noting that the College had reported to SUNY that it lacked space in its current facilities and had no vacant land available on its campus to support such efforts.

Mr. Ilozue, President of the Student Government Association, reported that the SGA 2015-16 elections would be conducted online using technologies new to the organization. He also noted that the SGA was investigating the potential for bringing artist Mila J to campus.

Mr. Shaikh of Student Affairs reported on the division-wide assessment program that is in place and the current review of that program and its results.

Dr. Gonzalez of the School of Education reported on the School's progress in improving passing rates among teacher candidates. The introduction of new exams last spring caused most schools of education to experience declines in pass rates, including Old Westbury. Fall 2014 test-takers from Old Westbury, however, showed marked improvement, passing at a rate of nearly 94%. He also reported on the creation of five-year bachelor's/master's programs, whose Letters of Intent will be forwarded to SUNY this semester. Lastly, the College's request for graduate degrees in literacy and special education continue to be reviewed by SUNY.

Dr. Hillery of the School of Arts and Sciences announced that six searches for new faculty were underway and two candidates (in Sociology and Public Health) had recently accepted employment offers. She also reported on the ongoing development of a new undergraduate program in Hispanic/Latin American Cultural Studies. Further, she discussed efforts across the school to engage more students in conferences and off-campus presentations. Lastly, she invited all Council members to attend the upcoming presentation by award-winning documentary filmmaker Dyanna Taylor.

IV. Open Meeting

Dr. Wadler opened the floor to questions and comments from the public.

Dr. Edwards, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, announced that the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities had been moved from the Division of Academic Affairs to the Division of Student Affairs.

Mr. Davis, Senior Vice President, Business and Finance, invited all Council members to attend the April 9th College Regional MWBE conference being organized by Old Westbury. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is scheduled to serve as keynote.

Hearing no further comment, Dr. Wadler closed the meeting.

Submitted by:



Michael Kinane

Assistant to the President for Advancement