

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, April 5, 2019
Location: Student Union, Multipurpose Room C

Attendance: **Appointed Members of the College Council**
Ms. Melissa Archbold Dr. Mario Mignone
The Honorable William Hohausser Mr. Evan Rufrano (Student Rep.)

Representatives of the College

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

I. Welcome and Meeting Opening

- Dr. Mignone called the meeting to order at 10:38 am. The minutes of the meeting of February 1st were approved without dissent. Dr. Mignone asked Dr. Butts to give his report.

II. President's Report on the College

- Dr. Butts began his report by stating that the College was recently named as one of the fifty most diverse campuses in the country.
- Dr. Jacqueline Emery, Assistant Professor in the English Department and Dr. Lorenz Neuwirth of the Psychology Department have received awards for their outstanding work. We celebrate them and our top notch faculty which we struggle to maintain due to the high cost of living on the north shore of Long Island.
- Dr. Butts asked Mr. Len Davis, Senior Vice President, Division of Business & Finance and CFO, to say a few words about the budget.
- Mr. Davis said that the enacted budget is considered by SUNY System Administration to be a fair budget, however the campuses do not share this feeling. It still has the maintenance of effort provision and rational tuition, wherein we have the authority to increase tuition \$200 per year for the undergraduate residents. Also included this year is the Dream Act, which has been in the budget for the last five or six years but finally reached passage. One of the positives is that SUNY was able to work with the Division of Budget to get an acceleration of \$109.5 million which will help cover some of the costs brought about by the new UUP agreement. This is a "one-shot" action for the time being, even though there are continued discussions to try to make this an ongoing action. It does help with cash flow.
- The most disappointing part of the budget is the capital plan. We have many projects in the pipeline...things we want to do. First and foremost is the Natural Sciences building which has a price tag of approximately \$130 million. This was not included in the capital plan allocation. There was a reduction in all of the colleges' and universities' capital plan allocations this year. Last year the legislature added money back to the plan for the colleges, but this year they did not. SUNY received about half of what was allocated for last year. Dr. Mignone asked how much SUNY was asking for. Mr. Davis replied that they were asking for \$800 million and received \$550 million which was the same amount as last year, however this capital allocation is broken up between critical maintenance items and a lump sum allocation of approximately \$396 million. The state kept this at \$396 million. Whereas last year they distributed some of these funds to the colleges, they did not do that this year. Negotiations and advocacy for capital plan money is still going on until June. There was a proposed \$250 million increase, but it did not succeed.

- Dr. Butts then went on to talk about enrollment. Our applications are down by approximately 10 percent. All colleges are competing for students. We think that part of what makes us strong is our diversity, our mission and commitment to social justice and our continued emphasis on STEM. We have a new program with Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn for Physician's Assistants, Physical Therapists and Nurses. We hope that these programs will attract students, and while we are doing an excellent job with the antiquated facilities we have, we need more upgraded, expanded and new facilities to train these students.
- Dr. Butts asked Ms. Mary Marquez Bell, Vice President for Enrollment Services for her input. Ms. Bell said that the prior evening we had 158 accepted freshmen on campus for an Accepted Student Reception. The total count was just over 500. Today we expect fifty high school guidance counselors to arrive for an information session, and later in April we have our Spring Open House.
- Dr. Butts said that we are projecting a little less than 2 percent growth next year, but should not be discouraged as "growth is growth". This may simply be a down cycle for everyone, but Enrollment Services will continue to do all that it can.
- With regard to Capital Projects, we have already passed the first stage of the STEM Center, which is the design phase that cost us \$2.8 million. We are already vested in it, and although \$2.8 million is a long way from \$130 million, step by step we will have our STEM Center.
- We will be completely renovating the Duane Jones Recital Hall, which we hope to have completed by summer 2020. This is a very important part of the campus, as the recital hall is used frequently for both educational purposes and social gatherings.
- Dr. Butts then asked Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, to report. Dr. O'Sullivan said that we are on target with respect to preparations for Middle States. We will be submitting our Self-Study Design report shortly, and are preparing for the upcoming meeting with Dr. Sean McKittrick of Middle States. Dr. Butts mentioned that we have always done well with Middle States and we will continue to do so. One thing Middle States always looks at is the library. He was in the library this morning and it is a beautiful space, highly equipped with technology.
- Faculty is doing an excellent job. We are able to attract faculty, but due to the high cost of living in this area we have difficulty retaining them. One Computer Science faculty member, hired in September 2018 is moving on to a larger institution where he will receive more funds for research.
- Council member, Mr. William Hohausser asked whether we replace departing full time faculty with full time or adjunct faculty. Dr. O'Sullivan responded that the replacement would be with full time faculty.
- Mr. Andrew Mattson, Faculty Senate Chair, remarked that we have been moving towards visiting lines and full time lecturer lines as opposed to full time tenure track positions. We want to be mindful of the mix of lines that we hire, sometimes out of necessity, as this does have consequences. We should be aware that the balance of adjuncts, visiting lines, lecturers, with their expectations, and tenure track lines changes the character of the College.
- Dr. Butts remarked that this issue highlights our need for continued fundraising in both the public and private sectors. He then asked Dr. Wayne Edwards, Vice President for Institutional Advancement to talk about some upcoming events. Dr. Edwards said that on Tuesday, May 7 we will have our Leadership Awards Dinner at the Crest Hollow Country Club, and hoped to see everyone there. This is a celebration not only of Dr. Butts' twenty years of service to the College but also to acknowledge Distinguished Professor Dr. Laura Anker, and two of our Foundation trustees, Mr. Ravi Bhooplapur and Mr. Lionel Chitty. A few other events are being prepared for fall, but it is a bit early to discuss them. Dr. Butts said that events such as this may provide funds to incentivize new faculty.
- Dr. Butts went on to mention a few other important dates including Student Research Day on April 16, which will include activities and presentations throughout the day, Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 25 at 3:00 pm, and Commencement at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 18 at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

- Dr. Butts also mentioned that Mr. Evan Rufrano, SGA President, who was present at today's meeting, received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, which garnered applause from all in attendance.
- Dr. Edwards added to his report that a Scholarship Donors Reception would be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 pm, in the Student Union Multipurpose Room to give students an opportunity to thank donors who provide important scholarship dollars.
- Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean of the School of Business, began his report with the School of Business mission statement and said that all was moving well and thanked his colleagues for their support. The School of Business is on track for AACSB certification. The School of Business, for the second year in a row, unanimously approved their strategic plan, which looks forward for the next five years. Dr. Devasagayam thanked Dr. O'Sullivan for his support in providing resources most of the time. The next visit from our AACSB mentor, Dean David Martin of Western Connecticut State University, is scheduled for May 10. Dr. Martin will be meeting several stakeholders in the School of Business including alumni, advisory board members and Dr. Butts.
- Dr. Mignone remarked on Dr. Butts' leadership throughout the last twenty years. Dr. Mignone recalled the poor condition of the College before Dr. Butts came onboard. Dr. Mignone was not on the Council at the time, but he was on Long Island and followed the events at Old Westbury. There was, at that time, even talk about closing the College. At this critical moment for Old Westbury the College needed someone of Dr. Butts' ability and stature to take control and move forward. While statistics regarding changes at the College during the last twenty years are important, what is most important is the image that the College now has. The next president will be fortunate to come to an institution that has been led by someone with Dr. Butts' strong leadership and ability.

III. New Business

- Dr. Mignone called for a motion and second to consider a proposed change in the College's Code for Student Conduct that had been emailed to the Council in advance of the meeting. Mr. Usama Shaikh, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer, explained that in reviewing the code, it was determined that some of the language in the code narrowed the focus to only residential students. The proposed change would broaden that narrow perspective to include all of our students. Mr. Hohausser asked whether the Code for Student Conduct, College Policies and Residence Hall Regulations were made available to all students. Mr. Shaikh assured him that this content is shared with students at orientation and all documents are available on the College website. Please note: although five Council members were expected at the meeting to form a quorum, early that morning Council member Mr. Scott Reich sent word that due to a family emergency he was unable to attend the meeting. He did convey that, barring new issues regarding the proposed change raised at the meeting, he approved the change. He also offered his proxy to Mr. Hohausser. The Council voted unanimously to accept the change and the resolution to that effect was signed by Dr. Mignone.
- Dr. Mignone then moved on to the subject of the Presidential Search Committee, and distributed a flyer containing relevant items from the *SUNY Guide to Presidential Searches at State-Operated Institutions*. He remarked that it is a long process, and legal authority to nominate presidents lies with the College Council which sends the recommendation to the Board of Trustees. He has been in touch with the SUNY Vice Chancellor involved in presidential searches. Dr. Mignone will be sending the specific and lengthy guidelines to Council members. He also pointed out that it is extremely important that the faculty members of the search committee be elected before the end of the semester to insure that faculty is on campus during the election process.
- Mr. Mattson pointed out that according to the guidelines, the College Council Chair is to contact appropriate campus and community groups for suggestions of people to serve as non-faculty members. Based on input from these groups the Council decides on who will serve as the other members of the selection committee. Mr. Mattson went on to stress the importance of making the SUNY guidelines available to the rest of the Council members and following the guidelines as protocol for the selection process.

- Dr. Butts pointed out that the student member could be suggested by the SGA, the Alumni Association could suggest someone from that group, the Foundation could put forth a name from among its members and the Provost could choose an academic dean to serve.
- Ms. Mona Rankin, Chief of Staff, pointed out that there are two positions needed to support, but not serve, on the search committee. Those positions include the manager of the RFP to select the search firm. Dr. Mignone is aware that Mr. Len Davis is filling that role. The support staff person to assist the search committee with logistics and administrative needs is Ms. Lillian Colella, a staff associate in Human Resources who handles searches on behalf of the College. This position is not the professional or support staff member position that is to serve on the committee.
- Dr. Mignone said that we must rely on the good judgment of the institution and these various groups in creating the search committee.
- Mr. Mattson pointed out that, as Faculty Senate Chair, he would, that day, upon approval by the Faculty Senate, email the Faculty Senate's nomination and election process to Dr. Mignone to share with the College Council and Chancellor's representative for their approval of the process insofar as it adheres to the ethical standards of the SUNY guidelines. The nomination process is an open process. The question remains as to the logistics of the actual voting, i.e., whether the voting should be by faculty or by faculty senators. That will be decided today.
- Dr. Butts remarked that everyone wants to see the process handled expeditiously while maintaining the integrity of the process.
- The incumbent or retired SUNY President from another campus or a member of the Chancellor's senior staff designated by the Chancellor is another position to serve on the search committee.
- Dr. Mignone requested that Mr. Mattson tell the faculty about the high level of confidentiality and length of the process. We will have a search firm assisting with the search and doing most of the work, especially at the beginning. He hopes that the College and SUNY will choose a firm that has a good history, and mentioned that Stony Brook has used a very good firm.
- Mr. Mattson suggested that Dr. Mignone either make a presentation to the Faculty Senate or provide a document detailing the requirements for serving on the search committee. Dr. Mignone suggested that the President of the Faculty Senate be one of the six faculty chosen for the committee as he would be a good liaison.
- Dr. Butts remarked that he cannot be part of the selection process, but believes that Dr. Mignone and the Council, the faculty, administration, and all involved in the search process will conduct the process with the utmost of integrity.

IV. Open Meeting

- With no comments from the public, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Submitted by:

Irene Cotton
Administrative Assistant to the President