

## **DECEMBER 2015 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2015

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Present:** Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, J. Bay, T. Max, and M. Veiz

Administration:

W. Durgin, R. Geer, and V. Fusco

Invited Guests:

R. Sarner

The December College Council meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prior to the start of the meeting, College Council and Cabinet members were provided a tour of the new high-tech classrooms located in Kunsela Hall (old Café Kunsela space.) The three new classrooms will be available beginning in the spring 2016 semester.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by G. Aney and seconded by Dr. Max to approve the minutes of the September 28 2015, meeting as presented. All were in favor.**

Chairman Hanson attended a conference recently that focused on board governance and advised one of the recommendations from the conference is to have the draft meeting minutes available to the Board in seven days. The Council would be asked to return any comments/suggestions they have pertaining to the minutes within the next seven days. The Council felt this was a good idea.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Hanson provided an update on the 2015 ACT (Association of Council Members and College Trustees) Conference held October 16-18, in Saratoga Springs. SUNY Board of Trustee Chairman, H. Carl McCall, attended the dinner Friday night and Chancellor Nancy Zimpher attended the breakfast on Saturday morning.

Chairman Hanson asked about a Performance Improvement Plan and Performance Based Funding, as these were topics of Chancellor Zimpher. Dr. Durgin advised these topics were the same and he would discuss further during his report.

One of the sessions focused on the importance of interactions between the College Council and Foundation Board. Chairman Hanson advised he will invite the SUNY Poly Foundation to a future Council meeting.

Additional highlights from the conference were the ACT scholarship presentation and Assemblywoman Woerner's session on the importance of internships to a college education. M. Veiz will work to coordinate a link between the Student Association and the Provost Office to put forward viable candidates for this worthy scholarship.

SUNY Poly was listed under the Colleges of Technology in the attendee list for the ACT Conference and Chairman Hanson brought this to the attention of Angela Henry, president of ACT, and Teare VanDenburgh, SUNY System administrator. He was assured this would be corrected going forward. Dr. Geer confirmed we should be listed with the Doctoral Granting Institutions.

On November 2, Chairman Hanson met with Dr. John Anderson, chair of the Middle States evaluation team, as part of his pre-visit to SUNY Poly. Dr. Anderson seemed very positive and genuinely interested in having a fair evaluation that is useful to SUNY Poly.

### **President and Senior Vice President & COO's Report**

Dr. Geer stated the Middle States pre-visit was very productive. During the full team visit, scheduled for February 21-24, 2016, meetings will be held in both Utica and Albany. Also, College Council members will receive an invitation for a reception to be held on Sunday, February 21 in Albany. A copy of the final self-study report will be sent to the Council prior to the visit.

The bottom floor of Donovan Hall will receive much needed renovations (20k sq. ft., including a 5k sq. ft. addition), as part of the CGAM (Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing) project. The project is currently in the design phase, with the full design being done by JMZ. Once design is complete, the project will go out to bid. We anticipate the project will be complete in spring 2017. The money for the project was awarded to SUNY Poly through the SUNY 2020 award in 2014.

SUNY Poly has also received funding through the REDC to create an Assisted Technology Laboratory in Donovan Hall. The project is in partnership with Sitrin Healthcare Center and was driven by their work with the Wounded Warrior Foundation to assist veterans, however, Dr. Geer noted the laboratory will also be available to any of their clientele.

The first floor of Nanofab East is being renovated to create a Health and Wellness Center, space for student services groups, and add some common areas for students. This is possible due to the relocation of EYP to the ZEN Building. Anticipate work to be done by the end of the spring semester.

The RFP for the dorms in Albany has been revised and will go back out for bid. A rebid was necessary, as we only received one initial bid and we are now requesting the residence halls be built right on site. The RFP is for a three phase proposal to total 500 beds over three years.

M. Veiz inquired about new dorms in Utica. Dr. Geer advised that M. Putnam, director of facilities, is working with SUCF (State University Construction Fund) on an update to our Master Plan. Conversations are also occurring with DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) to update the plan regarding housing. DASNY is the direct conduit for State funding. Enrollment is on our projected track and in three years we will be in better shape, as DASNY requires the campus to be at full capacity for a period of time in order to build a new dorm. Another option would be to work with a non-profit organization, such as our Foundation. Dr. Geer expects our plans to become more firm over the spring semester. Dr. Durgin added one difficulty is that we still owe money to NYS for our current dorms and we need to be able to assure capacity for a new dorm. Dr. Geer stated we have also been very vocal with our local legislators regarding the need for additional academic space.

### **Provost's Report**

Dr. Durgin provided an update to the Council on SUNY EXCELS Performance Improvement Plan, also known as Performance Based Funding. He advised there are five main components to the plan, they are access, completion, success, inquiry, and engagement. SUNY Poly plan was submitted in October. There were 37 indicators requested; Dr. Durgin shared a few with the Council.

The Middle States timeline was reviewed with the Council and Dr. Durgin noted the self-study document will be transmitted to the visiting team no later than January 8, 2016. There is a stellar team that will be conducting our review with their main focus being outcomes assessment. Dr. Durgin stated going forward, Middle States will move to a eight year review cycle.

The draft Strategic Plan is on the Provost's website and is open for comments until Friday, December 11. Dr. Durgin shared the six big ideas, the new buildings needed, and the new degrees that are proposed, as these are all pieces to the Strategic Plan. The Council really liked the suggestion of a performing arts center on the Utica site.

### **Student Association Report**

M. Veiz advised the Student Association has a surplus in funds and will work with the Foundation on best ways to aid student scholarships.

The students are organizing a Relay for Life event to be held on the Utica site in the spring semester. A kick-off will be held in January with the event to be held the first week of April.

M. Veiz updated the Council on the recent Red Cross blood drive, stating we got 22 whole bloods and 8 double reds, with diversity being increased by 10%. The next blood drives are scheduled for February 2 and April 13. M. Veiz is working to increase the numbers, so our students can receive scholarships through the Red Cross. Chairman Hanson will provide a contact regarding scholarships.

A Wi-Fi upgrade will be installed in the dorms over the holiday break and hardware will need to be installed in the dorm rooms. The Student Association has worked diligently to make sure students are aware of the upgrade and access to their dorms.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the SUNY Polytechnic Institute College Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m.

**At 6:01 p.m., Chairman Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.**