

MAY 2010 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

P. Brennan (Chairman), G. Aney, P. Donovan, L. Enright, S. Lockwood,
and T. Max

Guests:

R. Mullick, J. Storch, A. Styno, E. Bankert, V. Fusco, K. Johnson, M.
Lyons, P. Perkins, B. Reichel, J. Swann, D. Tyksinski, and W. Yeigh

Chairman Patrick Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Brennan welcomed everyone to the meeting and Dr. Yeigh introduced Kyle Johnson, Associate Provost for Information and Learning Resources; Joe Storch, SUNY counsel; Rosemary Mullick, Faculty Assembly Chair; and Allen Styno, Alumni Association Chair.

Congratulations to L. Enright for being the recipient of this year's Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Max and seconded by Mrs. Lockwood to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009, College Council meeting as presented. All were in favor.

Student Handbook

The College Council was mailed a hard copy of the proposed Student Code of Personal Conduct prior to today's meeting. Provost Bankert and M. Lyons have been working diligently to put together this revised student-centered code, which has not received a major rewrite since 2002.

Prior to being presented to the College Council, a draft code was reviewed and vetted by many internal departments, including student affairs, campus and residential life, registrar, and university police.

The council had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed document.

A motion was made by Mr. Donovan and seconded by G. Aney to approve the Student Code of Personal Conduct as presented with the following three amendments. All were in favor.

Amendment 1 – Article IV: Student Rights, Section 7 (shall be changed to):

To seek advice from up to two advisor(s) or advocate(s) of their choice providing at least one is a member of the SUNYIT faculty or staff.

Amendment 2 – Article VI: Proscribed Conduct, B: Conduct Rules and Regulations, Section 3 (shall be changed to):

Acts of bullying, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion and/or other conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person (including oneself).

Amendment 3 – Article VII: Judicial Procedures: Violations of the SUNYIT Student Code of Personal Conduct, E: Judicial Proceeding, Section 10 (shall be changed to):

Advisor/Advocate: The accused student has the right to have up to two advisor(s) or advocate(s) of their choice who may assist, support or counsel providing at least one advisor/advocate is a member of the SUNYIT faculty or staff. The advisor/advocate shall not speak on behalf of the student, question witnesses, or present information before the panel. If a student does not have an advisor or advocate, the student may select one from a trained pool of faculty/staff members who have agreed to serve in the role.

As per Amendment 3, Dr. Yeigh is charging Provost Bankert with creating a pool of trained faculty and staff who are willing to be an advisor/advocate.

Chairman Brennan thanked J. Storch, M. Lyons, and Provost Bankert for their commitment in completing this handbook.

President's Report

Dr. Yeigh advised that SUNYIT is facing a \$2.5 million budget gap for fiscal year 2010-2011, which begins on July 1. This substantial cut is to our overall operating budget of \$22 million. He admitted it is difficult to make such cuts without layoffs to faculty or staff, especially since 75% of our budget is tied to salaries.

A budget advisory group, consisting of cabinet members, student association, faculty assembly, and staff, was created last year to look at ways to alleviate these cuts. The group met and broke out into subcommittees to look closer at what options are available:

1. Budget Reduction Strategies – Committee will review current budget and propose how to meet permanent reductions now and beyond. W. Yeigh explained that we cannot cut by 20% across the board as energy costs and current contracts are not negotiated.
2. New Business Initiative – Committee will focus on how to grow out of these budget challenges with revenue generating ideas. The group discussed several opportunities but realize it was take up to two years to realize any profits from new initiatives.
3. Construction of Oriskany Hall – Committee recommended moving forward with construction of the new dormitory. They felt this is not the time to curtail construction as we are looking to grow.

A voluntary separation and early retirement incentive was offered during the month of April. We had several individuals interested and anticipate a savings of approximately \$500k from this opportunity as positions will not be filled.

W. Yeigh pointed out that he has lessened the administrative overhead by reducing the number of vice presidents from four to two.

We have recently eliminated the four school structure, including the deans' positions, and have reallocated to a seven unit structure. There will be a cost savings of between \$400 - \$480k. The newly developed units are 1.Business; 2.Engineering Technology, 3.Computer Information Sciences, 4.Nursing & Health Professions, 5.Social and Behavioral Sciences, 6.Engineering, Science, and Math, and 7.Communications and Humanities.

Beyond the several budget reduction strategies already put into place, we still have a \$1 million budget shortfall for FY 2010-2011. W. Yeigh pointed out that we are already spread thin and may need to look at programs that are not profit generating.

Chairman Brennan congratulated W. Yeigh and the leadership team on the current progress made to alleviate the budget gap. He inquired on the status of the engineering degree programs. W. Yeigh advised that our first engineering program, electrical and computer engineering, has been approved by SUNY Board of Trustees and the State Education Department and we anticipate Governor Patterson's signature very soon.

A motion was made by Dr. Max and seconded by Mr. Donovan to accept Dr. Yeigh's report as presented. All were in favor.

Vice President's Report

Mr. Reichel gave an update on the construction projects advising that all projects are on target. He anticipates turnover of the Student Center in fall 2010, turnover of the field house in March 2011, and turnover of Oriskany Residence Hall in June 2011.

The facilities master plan update has been awarded to JMZ Architects; however, this project is on hold due to the budget situation.

Mr. Reichel stated that we will begin renovations to the Campus Center and Adirondack Hall once we have the current projects up and running.

A motion was made by Dr. Max and seconded by Mr. Aney to accept Mr. Reichel's report as presented. All were in favor.

Provost Report

Provost Bankert advised that we have received final approval for our Biology program. We will start accepting students in fall 2011.

Civil Engineering Technology (CET) is now a four-year degree program.

Our Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner (DNP) proposal is receiving some revision and will then be sent to SUNY System for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Aney and seconded by Dr. Max to accept Provost Bankert's report as presented. All were in favor.

Executive Session

Chairman Brennan requested a motion to convene Executive Session. Mr. Aney made the motion, Dr. Max seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Chairman Brennan requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Max and seconded by Ms. Enright to adjourn the May 13, 2010 meeting of the SUNYIT College Council. The vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.