

## **JULY 2010 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

P. Donovan, S. Lockwood, J. Murad (via conference call), D. Robinson (via conference call), and T. Max

Guests:

J. Desulme, R. Mullick, A. Styno, E. Bankert (via conference call), V. Fusco, K. Johnson, P. Perkins, B. Reichel, J. Swann, D. Tyksinski, and W. Yeigh

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

Dr. Yeigh welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he asked Dr. Max to call this meeting as he has the longest duration on the Council.

### **Election of Vice Chair**

Due to the recent departure of Chairman Brennan, SUNY System has recommended the Council elect a Vice Chair until a new chairman is appointed by the Governor.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lockwood to nominate Dr. Max as Vice Chair and seconded by Mr. Donovan. All were in favor.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lockwood and seconded by Mr. Donovan to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010, College Council meeting as presented. The motion passed with Mr. Robinson abstaining.*

### **Business Program**

Mr. Peter Karl, SUNYIT accounting professor and AACSB chair, asked Vice Chair Max if he could join the meeting and provide a brief update on the future of the business program. Vice Chair Max agreed.

Mr. Karl distributed a Draft Resolution (he drafted) Regarding the Future of the Business Program to all attendees. The resolution highlighted several concerns of Mr. Karl and he briefly discussed each:

- The Business Program has suffered a significant amount of cuts including to its infrastructure.
- Graduates and students are relying on the continuation of the recently achieved AACSB accreditation.

- The draft resolution acknowledges the notification of the loss of the School of Business Dean, but alleges they [the business faculty] were not notified of the additional cuts that have occurred.
- The draft resolution points out that in Dr. Yeigh's recent blog post there is no mention of the Business Program in his vision for SUNYIT.
- The College Council may not have been fully apprised of the major restructuring that resulted in the demise of the School of Business.

Mr. Karl requested the Council to look at two options. Option A, a restoration of the bare minimum funding needed to maintain its AACSB Accreditation (but did not share what it was); the determination of the amount of funding to be made by an independent third party, the AACSB accreditation team.

Option B recommends the Business Program be severed or "float" from SUNYIT based on (1) it would merge with another AACSB accredited institutions, (2) there would remain a physical presence of the Business Program at the SUNYIT campus by either renting or purchasing the necessary realty, (3) approval of a variety of issues by the Business faculty, and (4) any state funding associated with the Business Program would be transferred to the acquiring institution.

The draft resolution includes Exhibit C which is an e-mail communication from Dr. Yeigh to two faculty members of the Business Program agreeing to allow them to pursue the "float" option. Dr. Yeigh pointed out he did not endorse the proposal to move or say that he doesn't value the business program, but only decided to allow faculty to explore this option.

Mr. Robinson stated he realizes the December meeting was focused on our current budget shortfall, but is concerned that the Council was not made aware of the decision to eliminate the deans.

Mr. Robinson also advised he realizes his role as a College Council member, but feels governance oversight by only the Chancellor is not sufficient. He doesn't know what the direction of SUNYIT is and believes the Council should be made aware and have the ability to voice an opinion. He expressed concern with decision making being in the hands of President and Chancellor only.

Dr. Yeigh pointed out that the Budget Working Group (made up of faculty, staff, and students) recommended the academic redesign at its December 17, 2009 meeting. The Council discussed the redesign at its next meeting held on May 13, 2010. The Council was also invited to the State of the Campus, held in January, which mentioned the academic redesign as one of the budget reduction strategies. The recommendation to eliminate the deans' positions was made by the Provost to the President in March after an extensive consultation with the deans and faculty/staff.

Dr. Yeigh advised he is aware of concerns that some faculty members feel we are dismantling the Business Program. The campus is faced with a \$2.5 million shortfall and cuts are being made campus-wide.

The Council inquired as to the funding amount necessary to keep the accreditation. Mr. Karl said he would look into that.

Dr. Yeigh noted he has received feedback from some Business Program faculty, as well as the UUP president, that they do not want to move the program to another institution.

Mr. Karl closed by advising that he would like to make sure the institution pursue either option A or B on his draft resolution as he doesn't want to be a diluted school.

Vice Chair Max thanked Mr. Karl for his update on the future of the Business Program and noted that the Council made no action.

**Adjournment:**

***Mr. Robinson left the conference call at this time, and therefore, the meeting was officially adjourned as there was no longer a quorum present.***

The following minutes are for informational purpose only.

**Vice President's Report**

Mr. Reichel gave an update on the construction projects advising that all projects are either on target or ahead of schedule.

We have four projects that are currently on hold due to the State budget situation. They are the upgrades to the athletic fields, build-out of the surge space, renovations to campus center, and our facilities master plan update.

The FSMC ground lease is currently in the Attorney General's Office. They have 90 days to review.

SUNYIT has been approached by the Development Authority of the North Country regarding an award they recently received through Federal stimulus funding for Broadband Projects within rural NY. They are looking to build connections on one of their existing networks, which includes placement of a site on the SUNYIT campus. This project will provide for expanded band width on campus. Approval of the easement is expected at the June SUNY Board of Trustees meeting.

**Provost Report**

A memo was distributed from Provost Bankert with her recommendation of programs to deactivate. She advised that these recommendations came after a critical review of all of the academic programs. She looked at enrollment numbers, sustainability, and quality of programs.

The graduate programs to be deactivated are MS in Applied Sociology (effective fall 2010), and MS in Advanced Technology (effective spring 2011). These programs are being discontinued due to low enrollment.

The undergraduate programs Provost Bankert is recommending for deactivation are Industrial Engineering Technology (effective fall 2010), Criminal Justice (effective spring 2011), Health Services Management (effective spring 2011), and Finance (effective spring 2011). She explained that these deactivations are due to variety of reasons.

Dr. Yeigh advised that we are not randomly deactivating programs. The decisions are based on two outlying factors. Is the program mission critical and are we able to sustain the program?

Faculty, administration, staff, and students spend several months last year working on the SUNYIT mission and vision, and it important that programs are able to align with the mission of the institution. Dr. Yeigh stated that as a small institution without a rapidly increasing enrollment, we have to be careful how we invest our resources. We need to put our resources on what areas are booming. According to Senator Kristen Gillibrand at a recent education conference, the areas of greatest growth are nanotechnology, information science and engineering, and ecology (healthcare). Dr. Yeigh added that we will also continue to emphasize general education as this forms the base to all degree programs.

Provost Bankert advised that the department chairs are currently working with faculty to make sure there is a sufficient program of study offered for all students who are in one of the programs being deactivated. We are in the process of mailing letters to all of these students as well.

Dr. Yeigh advised that he has not acted on the Provost's recommendation yet as he is planning to share this memo at a campus wide meeting this week. If there is no overwhelming reason not to accept, then he will approve following the campus wide meeting.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Yeigh explained the budget news is actually worse than our initial \$2.5 million anticipated shortfall. He stated that a 2% tuition increase was passed by the SUNY Board of Trustees and therefore worked into our 2010-11 budget. However, it appears that it will not be a part of the State budget. Therefore, our budget shortfall will be increased by a 2% tuition increase amount.

We have been working diligently to minimize the effects of the \$2.5 shortfall and have already made reductions in discretionary spending, froze faculty and staff slots, offered a SUNYIT early retirement incentive, and moved forward with the academic redesign.

After the cuts we have already made, we are still looking at a \$1 million shortfall. We will continue to trim expenses wherever we can, and to address whatever shortfall remains we will borrow from the College Association and College Foundation. It is important that the entire campus community realizes that there is no extra money to be distributed.

Dr. Yeigh stated he recently met with a governance leadership team, including representatives of the cabinet, faculty assembly, staff assembly, and planning and budgeting. The group discussed what the main principles and criteria are that could help determine where to make cuts. The group agreed that there are three principles which should be followed, they are:

1. Do no harm. Do not put the institution in worse shape.

2. Look at mission criticality.
3. Look at retention and quality of programs.

Dr. Yeigh distributed a spreadsheet which displayed the academic unit breakdown. The handout showed enrollment, projected state support, faculty distribution, faculty salary, financial condition with program, financial condition without program, and current deposits for each academic program. He highlighted the programs that are being deactivated. All handouts are posted on the SUNYIT Budget Working Group website.

Dr. Yeigh stated that SUNY is built on a subsidy model. He explained that if true cost is \$1 – it's made up of tuition, subsidy, and other things. He pointed out that subsidy is decreasing, we have no control over increasing tuition, and we are only funded for 1811 FTE. SUNYIT is responsible for making up the difference created by these shortfalls.

Dr. Yeigh stated he doesn't want to downplay the importance of AACSB accreditation and pointed out that we have several other programs that are also accredited. However, we can't withdraw support from all of our other programs just to support AACSB. Reductions need to occur in all areas in order to alleviate this shortfall.

The meeting concluded at 5:45 p.m.