



March 2025 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

RoAnn Destito-Chair, William Thickstun, Keith Levatino, Mitchell Ford, Nikki Hinman, Amela Hrustic, Adam McLain – Shared Governance, and John Pertell – SGU Representative

Administration:

Wole Soboyejo – President, Wayne Westervelt, Andrew Russell, Dan Sargent, Andrea LaGatta, Jennifer Adams, Michele Kilburn, and Mark Montgomery

Guests: Brittany Morawiec, Kathie Artigiani

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Destito convened the Public Meeting at 4:03 p.m. and welcomed all participants to the College Council meeting.

Chair Destito announced that she would delay the vote on the 09/17/2024 draft meeting minutes, which were listed first on the agenda, in order to move up the Shared Governance/Faculty Representative Update report, as Dr. Adam McLain had time constraints on his attendance and needed to leave the meeting early. Chair Destito asked Dr. McLain to make his update report first.

Shared Governance/Faculty Representative Update:

Dr. McLain reported that the faculty had passed the updated faculty/staff handbook, which was an important step for compliance both with Middle States accreditation standards and from a legal perspective. Dr. McLain further reported that the Faculty Senate by-laws would be next to be updated and approved.

Dr. McLain informed the group that the search for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences was moving ahead well with a strong pool of applicants and that the search was on track to be completed on schedule.

Dr. McLain announced that he would be seeking a second term as the Chair of the Faculty Senate, which is a two-year term of service.

Michele Kilburn, Vice President/Chief Human Resources Officer, asked Dr. McLain if he would provide the HR Office with a copy of the newly approved handbook, which Dr. McLain said he would provide



her with directly. Chair Destito expressed her appreciation for the work that went into updating the handbook and that led to the accomplishment of the updated version being approved.

Approval of 9/17/24 College Council Meeting Minutes: 4:09 p.m.

A motion was made by William Thickstun and seconded by Nikki Hinman to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as presented. Approval was unanimous.

President's Report:

President Soboyejo provided updates on activities of each of the four colleges supporting the fulfillment of their missions.

Dr. Soboyejo reported that in the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS), the Interactive Media and Game Development (IMGD) program represented SUNY Poly at events across the state, and he informed the group of upcoming activities of three COAS faculty members:

- **Dr. Ana Jofre** would be presenting at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in the spring semester;
- **Dr. Adam McLain** would be travelling to Madagascar in the summer to collect specimens for a lemur biodiversity study; and
- **Dr. Darlayne Addabbo** was co-organizing a Women in Noncommunicative Theory workshop at the Banff International Research Station that would take place later in March.

In the College of Business, Dr. Soboyejo reported that in February a team of students had participated in Lockheed Martins "Ethics in Engineering Case Competition, and he announced that the Mohawk Valley Regional NY Business Plan Competition would be held at SUNY Poly again on April 4th.

The College of Engineering (COE) was going through some structural reorganizing under the leadership of the Dean of COE, Dr. Abdullah Eroglu. Also, two members of the COE faculty had received significant grants to advance research in the areas of climate change (Dr. Ahmed Abdelaal) and wireless communications (Dr. Arjun Singh).

The College of Health Sciences would be observing the 50th anniversary of its Nursing program and would hold a press of conference to announce the establishment of a School of Nursing on March 24th. The White Coat Ceremony was held on January 10th for Nursing students to celebrate the completion of their classroom work and the initiation of the clinical phase of their studies. Dr. Soboyejo also announced that the Family Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Education graduate programs had been recognized both on RegisteredNursing.org and in the Healthcare Management Degree Guide.

Dr. Soboyejo provided updates on progress being made in regard to each of the four pillars of the University's strategic plan, "Elevating Impact." The President noted the objective of ensuring that all outdoor athletic fields were safe and met requirements for outdoor competition. Chair Destito asked if



this included addressing water drainage issues. President Soboyejo confirmed that this was one of the aspects of those fields that was being addressed, as well as keeping the turf field at a desired level of soundness for competition.

Dr. Soboyejo asked Provost Russell to speak in regard to faculty searches that were underway. Dr. Russell reported that NY state institutions like SUNY Poly attract high quality candidates because the State's values and mission reflects their own values. As a result, SUNY Poly continues to be able to hire excellent, enthusiastic faculty members.

The President asked Chief of Staff/VP for External Relations, Wayne Westervelt, to update the group on the ongoing enrollment marketing campaign. Wayne reported that the Marketing and Communications team was working closely and productively with the Admissions Office on this campaign. Accepted students were being targeted to support their making a commitment to attend SUNY Poly and make their deposits. Wayne also reported on the planned release of an RFP for updating the University's website.

Dr. Soboyejo informed the group of successful progress being made by interdisciplinary teams in regard to a number of grant initiatives, which demonstrates the value of bringing people from different areas of interest/expertise together to address common goals. These grant initiatives included grants under the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

Dr. Soboyejo reported on the development of the Multicultural Center in the Library, which was meant to be a safe space and a point of focus on campus for multicultural activities, and as such represented a key campus asset. VP for Student Affairs, Jennifer Adams, reported that the support of campus leadership was critical in keeping the development of that space and the programming intended for it moving forward. She also reported that expansion of multicultural space and programming into the Student Center was being discussed. This would allow a larger space for a greater variety of programming, and it would not present a potential noise problem as it would in the library.

Dr. Soboyejo asked VP of Institutional Advancement, Andrea LaGatta, to update the group the Poly Pantry food lockers initiative. Andrea reported that the Director of the Food Bank of Central NY, who is an alumna of SUNY Poly, was a key partner in this initiative, which provided food lockers on the first floor of Kunsela Hall as an extension of the University's food pantry program. The lockers would allow students to have 24/7 access to free, healthy food items as a way of further addressing food insecurity among our students.

Andrea also reported to the group on contributions made in support of the development of a Business Center on campus. Jasminka Husic, a SUNY Poly Foundation Board member and alumna who currently works at NYSTEC in Rome, NY, helped secure a contribution from that firm of \$500,000 over five years toward the development of the Business Center. The aim is to have that Center open and operating by the start of the fall 2025 semester. Andrea also updated the group on the fundraising target for this year's Day of Giving of reaching or exceeding \$250,000.



Dr. Soboyejo reported on the “Trifecta Vision” for SUNY Poly that focuses on three areas through partnerships and collaborations with industry and community connections. The three areas that form this trifecta are: 1) Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cyber, and Quantum; 2) Business and Advanced Manufacturing; and 3) Health Science and Biomedical research/innovation.

The President reported on defense appropriations requests for fiscal year 2206 that SUNY Poly is pursuing with a potential total funding of \$85 million in five different areas of research. These include broadening foundational models for AI, development of direct sensing capabilities for uncrewed systems, and advanced development of Asymmetric Tactical Situation Awareness.

Wayne Westervelt informed the group that the featured speakers for the May 10th Commencement ceremonies would be Dr. Guru Madhavan, the Norman R. Augustine Senior Scholar and Senior Director of Programs for the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, for the 10am College of Engineering ceremony; and Dr. Maria Kontaridis, Executive Director of the Masonic Medical Research Institute, for the 2pm ceremony.

Middle States/Reaccreditation Update:

Dr. Russell reported that the Middle States Review Team visit to campus was coming up, on March 16-19. He reviewed the structure of how the visit would be organized and the guidance received from SUNY representatives in regard to the visit. The College Council would be represented during a slated meeting with the Middle States Review Team by Keith Levatino, William Thickstun, and Adam McLain. Andy said he would provide links to the College Council members for the documents they should be familiar with in regard to the reaccreditation visit, particularly the Self-Study document the University had developed for this visit.

Enrollment Update:

Provost Russell reviewed the most current enrollment reports for the fall 2025 semester and noted areas of steady growth toward goals. There were no questions from the College Council members, and Chair Destito thanked him for his presentations.

Training Dates for College Council:

Chair Destito informed the group that she had been in contact with Zulaika Rodriguez, the SUNY liaison to ACT, in regard to training of College Council members. The SUNY Chancellor wants College Council members to understand their roles. Trainings could be provided during College Council meetings, possibly in a hybrid format, rather than in-person only. VP/Chief Human Resources Officer, Michele Kilburn said she would contact SUNY system to get a list of the different trainings identified for College Councils and on the basis of that list would prepare a training schedule to go over with Chair Destito. Once they have an agreed-upon schedule, Michele will see that it is communicated to the College Council members.



Code of Conduct Changes:

VP for Student Affairs, Jennifer Adams, and guests Brittany Morawiec (Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life and Community) and Kathie Artigiani (Title IX Coordinator), led an initial review of the proposed changes to the language of the SUNY Poly Student Code of Conduct. Jennifer stated that it would be preferable to have the College Council members be comfortable with the vote on those proposed changes by being able to compare those changes to the current language in the Code of Conduct. Jennifer informed the group that the proposed changes to that language came from the SUNY legal team in the Office of the General Counsel.

Keith Levatino asked how students were identified for membership in the hearing board described in the Code of Conduct. Brittany Morawiec answered that she puts out a call to students to see who is interested in this service, and members are vetted/identified from among that pool of interested students. Those selected students then receive training for their roles on the hearing board.

Chris Giruzzi and Nikki Hinman questioned the numbers and make-up of the membership of the hearing board. Student involvement should include more than just one student representative on that board.

Mitchell Ford stated that he had never been provided with an opportunity to review the Code of Conduct and would need to be able to consider the proposed language changes within the context of that document before being comfortable voting on the proposed language changes.

Chair Destito asked if the group would like to delay the vote until a later date, in order to allow time for more materials/information to be provided to them for their review. Jennifer Adams stated that she would be happy to schedule a special review session with College Council members to review the original Code of Conduct document and the proposed language changes for it as a preparation for a vote. Chair Destito asked that Dan Sargent send these documents to the College Council members and that a review session be scheduled for their review. Chair Destito also stated that the vote on the proposed changes would be moved to the next regularly scheduled College Council meeting in April.

Student Government Representative Update:

John Pertell, the newly elected SGU representative to the College Council, reported that special elections had been completed by the SGU, which included five reelected senators, one new senator, and himself as the new representative to the College Council. Chair Destito asked that John provide her with an updates list of the names and titles of the entire membership of the SGU.

John also reported on the installation of the new food lockers that expand the service of food pantry resources for students at SUNY Poly, and also noted the installation of a wellness vending machine on campus to continue to expand positive, healthy choices for students.



John gave the group an update on esports at SUNY Poly. The Wildcats finished in the top three in three competitions, and in the top eight in three other competitions. Plans for the spring for esports included exploring coaching options, and FragFest March 21 – 23. John also provided updates on other athletic teams' performance and current standings, including the men's basketball team's ascending to the Empire 8 Championship.

John also updated the group on student clubs on campus and their activities supported by the Club Funding Board. This included the creation of 10 new clubs and over 60 club events during the spring semester. Club spotlights in John's report focused on the Design & Develop Club, which has over 80 members, and the Wildcat Fluid Power Club, which was started in the fall 2023 semester and emphasized cross-discipline development of projects.

Executive Session:

Chair Destito asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was made by Mitchell Ford, and was seconded by Keith Levatino. The group voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:04 p.m.

After discussion was completed, Chair Destito asked for a motion to leave executive session. The motion was made by Keith Levatino, and was seconded by William Thickstun. The vote to approve was unanimous and the College Council left executive session at 6:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Chair Destito requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by William Thickstun and was seconded by Keith Levatino. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Sargent