

## **DECEMBER 2017 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, December 7, 2017

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Present:** Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, J. Corasanti, and D. Peterson

Administration:

W. Durgin, M. Frame, M. Lyons, B. Sammakia, and S. Shahedipour-Sandvik

Guests:

J. Martino and Z. Thomova

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

Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted with only four Council members in attendance, we do not have a quorum for an official meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*As there are not an adequate number of Council members present to constitute a quorum, the minutes of the September 21, 2017, meeting will be presented for approval at the February 2018 meeting.*

### **FIRST Robotics Competition**

Janice Martino, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Coordinator at SUNY Poly, joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming Central New York FIRST Robotics Regional Competition (FRC), which will be held on the Utica campus March 1-4, 2018.

FRC is an international high school technology design challenge with over 100 regional and district events, two world championships, and 3200 high school teams. The March tournament will be one of five regional events held in New York State. We anticipate approximately 1000 tier one students on campus for this four-day event, plus their mentors, coaches, and families.

J. Martino explained the competition field is the size of a basketball court and each match consists of two teams of three robots each. Teams are drawn randomly and then must work with their partners to determine which missions they can accomplish to earn more points than the opposing team.

Every FRC team from across the world is allotted exactly six weeks from the release date of the mission until their robot is complete. Robots are completely built from scratch and can be up to 125 pounds.

SUNY Poly sponsors a local team, they are Team #5030 The Second Mouse. Our team is open to any high school student within the region. The team meets on campus and receives mentoring

from SUNY faculty and students. Immediately following today's meeting, the team will provide a demonstration of one of their previously built robots and be available for any questions.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Sammakia started by acknowledging it has been about one year since he joined SUNY Poly as Interim President. At that time, SUNY Poly did not have a transparent budget on either the academic or the economic development sides. The leadership team has worked diligently to get a better understanding of the budget, including deficits, agreements and commitments, our spending rate, and revenue.

Over the past year, Dr. Sammakia has sought input from the campus community for suggestions on addressing the shortfall. Some action items implemented to date are a cut to our base spending, job reduction (40 employees mainly administration from Albany campus), created separate budgets for academics and economic development, hold open positions for 90-days, and stop hiring in departments that are not showing growth. Also, we are working closely to increase confidence with our stakeholders, including SUNY, The Research Foundation, and New York State and federal agencies.

Dr. Sammakia has met with Chancellor Johnson and she is committed to helping SUNY Poly determine how to best reorganize and restructure our academic and economic development activities.

The search for a new president will be placed on hold until detailed plans are developed with a timeline for implementing how to best move forward as a sustainable institution. Multiple scenarios for sustainable models will be looked at.

### **Chairman's Report**

Today is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and Chairman Hanson asked all attendees to please remember to keep all service members, retired and currently serving, in your thoughts.

Chairman Hanson recently joined the Rome Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. During recent discussions on a new strategic plan for the Hospital, he was pleased to hear SUNY Poly has been in discussion on potential efforts that would be beneficial to both entities.

### **Office of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik, interim dean of graduate studies, presented a presentation on the newly created Office of Graduate Studies, which was established in June 2017. She stated the primary purpose of the graduate studies office is to help define and support excellence in graduate education and its associated research and scholarly activities.

In regards to graduate education, the responsibility of the Graduate Office is to articulate a vision of excellence, provide quality control for all aspects of graduate education, serve as an advocate,

support graduate student services, and serve as an advocate for issues and constituencies critical to the success of the graduate programs.

Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik stated five of our colleges provide graduate offerings in masters and/or doctorate programs. Our current graduate student population is 243 full-time and 451 part-time students, noting we have a large number of on-line students.

A few of the primary functions of the Graduate Office will be to recruit outstanding new MS and PhD students, establish new graduate degree programs, increase engagement with graduate students and enhance transparency, and facilitate research collaborations between students and faculty.

### **Student Association Report**

D. Peterson highlighted the following events held on campus this semester:

- Wildcat Weekend held on September 29 through October 1.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Poly goes Pink event held on October 17.
- Fall Open House held on October 21.
- Casino night, held on November 14, was the biggest event of the semester with over 300 students participating.

The Student Association hosted it's second Red Cross Blood Drive of the semester on November 14. They had a great turnout resulting in 36 units collected. The 2018 blood drives are scheduled for February 6 and April 11.

Student sponsored club, Wildcat Media, is hoping to bring a radio and TV station back to the Utica campus.

A grand opening of the newly renovated and expanded Mario Café, located inside the Cayan Library, will take place in the beginning of the spring 2018 semester. Students are excited for this new dining option, which will focus on local, sustainable products.

### **Faculty Representative Report**

Dr. Thomova stated the Governance Council has established committees for each of the Chancellor Award categories. The committees are currently soliciting nominations from the campus and will put forth their recommendations to the president.

### **Adjournment**

**At 5:27 p.m., Chairman Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.**