

## **SEPTEMBER 2017 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2017

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

**Present:** Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, D. Burns, J. Corasanti, C. Giruzzi, N. Hinman and  
D. Peterson

Administration:

W. Durgin, M. Frame, M. Lyons, and B. Sammakia

Guests:

J. Castracane (via videoconference) and Z. Thomova

The September College Council meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by D. Burns and seconded by N. Hinman to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2017, meeting as presented. All were in favor.**

### **President's Report**

Dr. Sammakia stated that fiscal sustainability is still his main focus and he has been working through many budget challenges. The fiscal team has been able to cut \$14.8 million from the budget by reducing redundancy in administration and working with Empire State Development (ESD) and The Research Foundation (RF) to change the way we charge some programs.

Numerous meetings have occurred with SUNY, RF, ESD and NYS, and they are all committed to helping us close our budget. SUNY recently approved a \$25 million grant and ESD is working with Fuller Road Management Corporation (FRMC) on a \$38 million grant. We are hopeful that these two pieces will close the budget for this fiscal year. We are continuing to work closely with ESD to create a budget plan moving forward.

SUNY Poly will still need to be vigilant in our spending and be strategic in where we grow. Some initiatives we are discussing are if and/or how to restructure our undergraduate program in Albany and create self-paying graduate programs. Also, we are looking at our current student mix and developing initiatives to increase our international and out-of-state students.

In August, we welcomed the largest freshmen class in our universities history. We exceeded our target number, which was very aggressive. Dr. Sammakia thanked Provost Durgin and his team for their hard work in this achievement.

Dr. Sammakia has had several meetings with the new SUNY Chancellor, Dr. Kristina Johnson. She is very supportive of SUNY Poly and is working with us through this difficult period.

SUNY Poly was recently admitted into the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU.) Dr. Sammakia stated this organization has a very distinguished group of universities who are accepted to join and this is great for our reputation.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Hanson provided an update on the Association of Council Members and College Trustee (ACT) Conference, which he attended earlier this month. The following items were shared with the Council:

- The guest speakers for Friday evening's dinner were SUNY Board Chair, H. Carl McCall and SUNY Chancellor, Kristina Johnson.
- A presentation on the Excelsior Scholarship was provided on Saturday morning. The scholarship is available to eligible students after all other forms of financial aid and/or scholarships are accounted for. Recipients are required to complete 30 credits during each academic year.
- Chairman Hanson also attended a session related to College Council Responsibilities and Shared Governance. During this session, it was noted that the University Faculty Senate made a request to the Board of Regents that a faculty member be added to all College Councils, as a non-voting member. This does require a change to the NYS Education Law. Chairman Hanson has asked that a Faculty Representative Report be a new standing agenda item.
- The ACT Scholarships were awarded during lunch.
- On Sunday, Chairman Hanson participated in a Council Chair Roundtable, which was predominately focused on the need to have full College Council representation. SUNY Poly currently has 7 members out of a potential 10-member Council, which often creates difficulties attaining a quorum. Please send any suggestions for Council members to Chairman Hanson or L. Hartman.

Chairman Hanson thanked Interim President Sammakia for his continued support and commitment to SUNY Poly.

### **Provost's Report**

Dr. Durgin presented a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted various topics to the Council.

SUNY Poly has moved up 3-spots in the US News and World Report Ranking in the Regional Universities North, moving from #18 to #15. Other key rankings are #6 for Best Colleges for Veterans, #39 for Best Value Schools, #3 for Top Public Schools and #44 for Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs.

Dr. Durgin provided an enrollment update to the Council, noting current headcount is 2928; our target for fall 2017 was 2900, therefore, we are slightly above target. Also, full-time freshmen are 463, full-time transfers are 264 and full-time graduate students are 135.

The Council was updated on program accreditations/reaccreditations. Dr. Durgin noted that all of our engineering technology programs are accredited and nearly all of our engineering programs are accredited. The Mechanical Engineering (BS) and Nanoscale Engineering (BS) programs will have their accreditation site visit in October 2017.

The SUNY Performance Improvement Funding (PIF) program will be awarding \$52 million to SUNY campuses across NYS. We are thrilled to announce SUNY Poly will be receiving funding for 5 of the 9 proposals we submitted. They are:

- Joint Center for Creativity, Design and Venturing
- Extend High Impact Learning
- Green Building LEED Certification by Student Experiential Learning
- Technology Based Intervention for Health Care Delivery
- Interactive Media & Game Design for Central NY

### **Student Association Report**

The Student Association hosted their first Red Cross Blood Drive on September 19 and had a record turnout, resulting in 55 units collected.

D. Peterson stated the students are excited about the new cafe that will be opening soon in the Cayan Library.

### **Faculty Representative Report**

Governance Council co-chairs, Dr. Zora Thomova and Dr. Jim Castracane, reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation overview of SUNY Poly's governance structure.

Dr. Thomova explained our structure is based off of a federated governance structure, which includes an overlying body (Governance Council) and three subgroups, they are Utica Faculty Assembly, Utica Staff Assembly, and Albany's CNSE College Senate (includes faculty and staff.)

The Governance Council has five committees, each committee has representatives (faculty, staff, and students) from both the Utica and Albany Campuses, as well as co-chairs from each campus. The Utica Assemblies and Albany Senate also have a variety

of committees (outlined in presentation) with representatives from their respective campuses.

### **Adjournment**

**At 5:03 p.m., Chairman Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.**