



State University of New York at Fredonia
College Council Meeting Minutes
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. May 18, 2022
University Village Conference Room

President's Cabinet Members Present: President Kolison, David Starrett, Tracy Stenger, Naomi Baldwin, Maria Carroll, Mike Metzger

Absent: Vicki T. Sapp, Betty Gossett, Jevon Hunter

College Council Members Present: Frank Pagano, Cynthia Ahlstrom, Stephen Keefe, JoAnn Niebel, Richard Alexander, Ilene Thompson

Absent: Russ Diethrick, Joe Johnson, AJ Dolce

Guests: Matt Sullivan, IT, Mary Beth Sievens, Chair of University Senate

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of March 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Alexander made a motion to approve the March minutes, and Mr. Keefe seconded. The minutes were approved.

Report from Student Association

The report was distributed in person at the meeting, and Ms. Thompson gave her report to the group.

Vince Gugino met with President Kolison to discuss the SA budget. There is a 6% decrease in last year's budget because of student enrollment, resulting in a slight increase in the SA fees, which were recently approved by SUNY. The approval letter will be forthcoming from the Office of the President.

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Student enrollment, participation, and club engagement is on the decline. SA is working with a group to discuss ways to increase engagement through events on campus, and SA leadership will be implementing their recommendations this summer.

The SA Game Room will officially open on Aug 24 at noon. Email invitations will be sent soon.

University Senate Report

Dr. Sievens, Chair of the University Senate, offered her updates including a summary of activities and accomplishments from the academic year.

The fall semester is promising for an official approval of additional new programs.

The senate also completed a review of the Division of Finance and Administration under the leadership of Mr. Mike Metzger. The review revealed that in the context of struggling with budget constraints, the Division has accomplished its core mission and is already working on the recommendations for improvements from the committee.

New officers are coming in for the next AY. Dr. Sievens will be stepping down as chair, and Dr. Bruce Simon will be fulfilling the role for 2022-23.

There was a question about policy development. Dr. Sievens clarified that senate has varying levels of roles in policy development. The curriculum is the primary area of policy and development that the senate oversees. Other policies discussed at senate are ways for the faculty to offer ideas and advice on changes at the institution.

A question was raised about whether the resolution about racism in American history caused any pushback, and Dr. Sievens clarified that there was not.

Report from the President's Office

President Kolison offered his updates. Commencement has not been offered in person since 2020, and President Kolison confirmed that this Saturday, we are continuing as planned with a full, traditional Commencement ceremony.

A total of around 840 students will be graduating, both undergraduate and graduate students. There is also a larger number of faculty attending the ceremony than in the past.

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The speakers are US Attorney for the District of WNY, class of 1988, Trini Ross (morning), and NYS Senator George Borrello (afternoon).

We will also be recognizing some of our highest awards and SUNY student awards during the Commencement Awards Luncheon.

The President summarized the Bicentennial Fund that was established in October of 2020. Within a short amount of time, it has generated a lot of attention. The theme is access, affordability, and persistence to align with our recruitment and retention goals.

The SUNY Chancellor search is active. Fredonia has a student representative on the search. This is a very high honor for this student and a wonderful recognition of Fredonia at the SUNY level.

The SUNY Provost search is suspended until the Chancellor is appointed.

President Kolison ended his report by offering a message of thanks to all the individuals involved in keeping our campus operational, open, and safe during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Many other institutions were not able to accomplish this - this is a tremendous achievement for Fredonia. We also played an important role in the community by offering vaccination opportunities that might not have been accessible otherwise.

The work that we are doing together and the commitment by cabinet members has had tremendous impacts. President Kolison anticipates that the next budget presentation will show the results of all the efforts of the VPs and Cabinet members. The future for Fredonia is very bright and President Kolison has faith in the Cabinet members.

Chairman Pagano offered positive remarks about President Kolison's leadership and the achievements he has made despite the challenging time he came into his position.

Mr. Keefe offered some follow-up remarks on the efforts of the university to keep the campus safe.

Report from the Division of Academic Affairs

Provost Starrett offered his updates. The dean searches have been ongoing. Both are wrapping up and he will be able to offer an update when the council meets next.

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There were 11 faculty searches ongoing. Several have been filled with very well-qualified individuals who will be key in building some of the new programs we have in the works.

Provost Starrett discussed some of the context of enrollment challenges, including the demographic changes and population decline that we knew were coming. We are in that time period, and we are in a good position in this context - the enrollment is stabilizing.

He continued by offering some of the highlights of the achievements of this year's graduating class.

Enrollment strategies are continuing to be implemented including out of state and international efforts. We are seeing an increase in graduate student enrollment. Retention strategies are also underway. We will be starting a new summer bridge program and have been focusing more effort on retaining unregistered students between semesters.

We discussed some of the variables impacting enrollment and how the numbers are tracking. Around 95% of our students come from NYS and 50% are coming from the WNY region. Because of the population decline, this proportion of NYS and WNY numbers will be changing. The context of these challenges was discussed - nationwide, university/college enrollment has decreased dramatically.

President Kolison asked the College Council to please attend the special presentation this afternoon on how universities can work to mitigate the impacts of this reality.

Updates on JCC were offered - the program will start this fall. Students are inquiring, the courses are ready for enrollment, and there is a Fredonia contact on JCC's campus to engage students. We discussed briefly what factors might influence the first cohort of this group and what the course offerings looked like.

Academic Affairs is also working on transfer articulation updates and expansions and engaging with 2-year institutions in the region.

Efforts are underway to make sure that Fredonia has an Academic Master Plan. This helps establish the institution's academic identity - this is key to the larger strategic plan and physical space planning. We are working with the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) to help us put the Academic Master Plan into place. Some possible new directions for academic plans include Health Sciences and Professions, Communication Disorders, and Mental Health Counseling.

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Report from the Division of University Advancement

We moved on to the report for the VP of University Advancement, and the members reviewed the report that had been submitted with no additional questions or comments.

Report from the Division of Student Affairs

Dr. Stenger offered her reports from the Division of Student Affairs. Fredonia has achieved gold recognition for a military friendly school - this is a tremendous achievement.

For Fall 2022, we will have 22 Resident Advisors, and the division is working on searching for 3 new positions.

Rapid tests kits have been available thanks to a large grant from the county. This has been very helpful for students to be able to access a test when they need to.

Dr. Stenger reviewed some of the accomplishments among the athletics teams and the indicators of excellence among the athletes: These students show a very high retention rate and are among the highest achieving students academically.

Report from the Division of Finance and Administration

Mr. Metzger offered his updates, starting with the positive experience he had during the Divisional Review process and some of his take-aways.

The impacts from the newly approved NYS budget were discussed: We do not yet know what proportions of the amounts will be distributed or available directly to campus. However, we estimate that there will be around \$1 Million offered to Fredonia to cover the TAP gap. Other funds will assist with operational expenses, faculty recruitment, childcare, and capital funding. We usually have around \$13 Million allocated from NYS, and these amounts will be in addition to this.

It was noted that these new funds are specific, so the usage of them will be restricted to very specific purposes. SUNY will likely allocate these funds based on individual campuses putting proposals forward.

The capital investments were reviewed - Lanford, Houghton Hall, the Maytum/Reed Plaza, and Reed Library are still underway.

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Jewett Hall renovation plans (\$42M) is in the design phase and anticipated to be completed over the next 5 years.

There is a proposal in development for Reed Library learning spaces - this is around \$10M.

Alumni House - this is now state property and is at the entrance to our campus. This location is very strategic, and we will continue discussions about how to use this building.

The Lanford House interior renovations are scheduled to be completed by the Fall 2022 semester. The exterior will be completed after that.

The Presidential Inauguration save the date notice will be going out early this summer. The induction ceremony will be on September 9 (Friday). There will also be other events the same week including the dedication of Houghton Hall, a keynote speaker, and gala and fundraising dinner.

Next Meeting Dates

Chairman Pagano reminded the council members of the 2022-2023 dates for College Council meetings. These will be posted on the calendar and the website.

President Kolison offered some remarks about how Fredonia is remaining attractive to students. We are still seeing a high number of applications to Fredonia. We want to continue working on converting those applications to enrollees.

Chairman Pagano called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, and a motion was made by Mr. Keefe at 11:39 and seconded by Ms. Niebel.