

University Council Minutes

October 13, 2023, 9:30am

*Three publicly noticed locations were used:

4 Park Ave. New York, NY 10016

2875 Union Road, Suite 34, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

2 Union Ave, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Presiding Meeting: John Maggiore, Chair and President Lisa Vollendorf

Members Present: John Maggiore, Roberta Reardon, Donna Luh, Patricia Salkin

Administrative Staff: Rebecca Flinker, Julie Majak

- I. Formal Meeting Call to Order 9:33am
- II. Review and approval of August 25, 2023 minutes will wait until December meeting – with two members out, we did not have a quorum
- III. Report of the University President – Dr. Lisa Vollendorf
 - a. Dr. Vollendorf thanked the members of university council for participating and indicated that many college councils are in our position of having few members and a difficult time getting a quorum.
 - b. We have landed on an appropriate way to respond, in our community, and express horror over the devastating news in the middle east while recognizing positions of our constituents. There will be a community conversation next Wednesday at 1pm, led by faculty. Rebecca will forward the invitation to this council, though they are not required to attend.
 - c. Empire is in a strong fiscal and enrollment position.
 - d. Cabinet is reviewing strategic plan funding proposals and investing \$1m to drive initiatives forward.
 - e. Search updates
 - i. CIO (elevated to VP position) finalists coming in the next 10 days
 - ii. CDO, Xiomara Giordano will begin November 1, 2023 and is bringing a depth of lived experience and understanding of our students/employees diverse backgrounds
 - iii. We will introduce new executives in our next meeting
 - f. Nathan Gonyea is stepping down as Provost once we have someone to replace him. We are hoping that someone can fill that position by late spring 2024.
 - g. We interviewed and are making an offer to a Deputy Chief of Staff. They will build out statewide strategy and grow Empire’s public/external profile.
 - h. We are strengthening Empire’s academic portfolio
 - i. 13 additional full-time faculty approved for this year
 - ii. MS in cyber security, MPA, and Teaching English as a Second Language launched
 - iii. Moving forward to create fully bilingual undergraduate program in business
- IV. Report of the Senate Chair – Thalia MacMillan
 - a. See attached
- V. Report of the Student Government President – Em Wasserman
 - a. See attached

- VI. Budget Update – Julieta Majak
- a. A PowerPoint presentation was shared via TEAMS (and is recorded in the video)
 - b. Julie echoed appreciation for working at an institution in such a good position.
 - c. Reduced expenditures in “other than personal service” OTPS, a delay in UUP negotiated increases (due to contract negotiation) and increased tuition revenue reversed our original projection of a \$6.5 deficit to a surplus of \$2.4M
 - d. We also have a surplus in cash reserves – approximately \$39M (\$9.2 is restricted to be invested in specific initiatives)
 - e. Revenue Offset is tuition revenue, fee revenue, and state support.
 - f. General IFR is various feeds generated by the campus.
 - g. Sutra is Summer Tuition (international education tuition).
 - h. Looking forward, we have projected a balanced budget (projected surplus of \$87,076)
 - i. PSR – mostly full-time employees
 - ii. TS – mostly part time faculty
 - iii. Retro raises to be paid out
 - i. Additional State support - \$2.1M (added to legacy, ongoing support)
 - j. Incremental Fund support - \$1.4M (ongoing for specific initiatives: food insecurity, mental health, supporting students with disabilities, internship opportunities)
 - k. Transformational Fund support - \$1.1M (one time for specific initiatives: economic mobility, seamless transfer, increasing operational efficiency, student supports for targeted underserved populations)
 - l. President has allocated \$1M from reserves in support of Strategic Plan (excluded from 2023-2024 forecast)
 - m. Assumed vacancy savings (\$2M) – struggling against competitive salaries and fully remote opportunities at other institutions
 - n. Understanding of Priorities (Strategic Plan) helped restructure staffing and put people where their skills are most needed and can be best utilized.

VII. Confirm date/time for next meeting – ~~Wednesday, December 6th at 1pm~~ Since this meeting, the date and time of the next meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, December 8, 2023 at 1pm

VIII. Notice of Upcoming Events

December 9, 2023	Winter Commencement, Albany
May 3, 2024	Spring Commencement, Albany
May 9, 2024	Spring Commencement, Rochester
May 17, 2024	Spring Commencement, Manhattan/HVASLS

- a. Adjournment of Meeting – 10:11am