

College Council Minutes for January 14, 2022

Via Microsoft Teams



PRESIDING MEETING

John Maggiore, chair

MEMBERS PRESENT

Donna Luh, Arlene González-Sánchez, Roberta Reardon,
Albert Culler, Mark Schroeder, Sheila Poole, Patty Salkin

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Nathan Gonyea, Janet Aiello-Cerio, Tiffany Williams, Leigh Yannuzzi

GUEST PRESENT

Lisa Vollendorf, incoming SUNY Empire State College president

REPORTS GIVEN BY

Ann Sconiers, Thalia MacMillan

CALL TO ORDER 3:03 P.M. — CHAIRMAN JOHN MAGGIORE

John Maggiore made a motion to approve the minutes, and Roberta Reardon moved to accept, Arlene González-Sánchez seconded.

I. COUNCIL BUSINESS

Report of the Senate Chairwoman — Thalia MacMillan

The SUNY Empire Senate has met three times since the last College Council meeting. During those meetings, we considered several policies, programs, and procedures.

Governance is continuing to examine a draft of the Student Conduct Policy. We hope to gather feedback from all constituents at the college.

The Senate is examining several Bylaw changes. Currently, the proposed changes of adding members to our policy committee and adding the Climate Committee as a potential standing committee to the Senate are being discussed with constituents.

The Senate charged a working group to review the Reading Period model that was utilized this past year. A thorough report with recommendations was submitted and accepted by the Senate.

II. REPORT OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ACTING PRESIDENT — ANN SCONIERS

Below are meetings that are mandatory which SGA leadership has attended.

- Weekly one-hour office hours (Executive Board)
- Weekly Advisor Meeting
- Common Council
- Executive Meetings
- Senate Meetings

Chair went over meetings and events SGA has participated in or held for September–January.

Chair reports a concern with the level of student engagement and reports that the SGA has compiled committees to respond to those concerns.

Committees that are forming:

- Student engagement and academics
- DEI
- Leadership Retreat Committee
- Bylaws and election committees

SGA would like to work with the Admissions Office to assist with recruitment and admission of new SUNY Empire students.

Upcoming Events:

- Jumpstart Sessions
- SUNY Empire Senate
- Virtual Leadership Retreat
- All Hands Meeting (SUNY Assembly Leadership as guests)
- Session with Celebrity Relationship Expert — Love McPherson
- SGA has also joined various CONNECTS meetings in attempts of getting student engagement

Council member Reardon congratulated the SGA on her use of a team retreat.

III. REPORT FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE — NATHAN GONYEA

Enrollment Update

Fall enrollments were down in most areas. Overall, we're down about 12%. Remember that fall 2020 was our best term yet. Spring 2022 is trending similarly, although the numbers are not final. Notable are enrollment numbers from the School of Nursing and Allied Health ... students are enrolling in more credits even though we're down in headcount.

Lead/Stealth Application Comparison: First half of year, we were trending negative, now trending positive. (Stealth applications are someone who have submitted an application w/o speaking to us first.) 2020 numbers are better than 2019. Conversion rates are going well.

Budget Update

Mid-year look at fiscal year 2021–2022: Federal stimulus funds will keep us at breakeven. Even though all expense areas are on budget, next year will be very challenging.

HEERF II and HEERF III Stimulus Institutional Funding — Total Allocation \$13.1 MM

Current Forecast for this FY 2021–2022

- Projected Revenue: Roughly \$74 Million
- Projected Expenses: Roughly \$74 Million

Current Forecast for this FY 2022-2023 (assumes flat enrollment and contractual raises)

- Projected Revenue: Roughly \$67 Million
- Projected Expenses: Roughly \$78 Million

State of the State — Highlights for SUNY Empire

- Part-time TAP and TAP for incarcerated individuals
- Prior Learning Assessment Across SUNY
- Equity — Equity grants, expanding opportunity programs, dept forgiveness programs
- Redesigning the 21st Century College System — Workforce credential sequences, improved course offerings for working adults, 4-year and community college collaboration
- SUNY Focus — Building bridges between education and work and teacher preparation

Council and Guest Discussion

John Maggiore — Initiatives will have a positive impact on enrollment. Aid for part-time TAP is significant.

Are peer institutions seeing enrollment declines?

UG — addictions, psychology, and business are doing well.

Roberta Reardon — Department of Labor (DOL) is moving into the NYS Workforce Development portfolio and is focusing on the idea of lifelong learning. SUNY Empire/DOL partnership is significant. Maria Figueroa, dean of the Harry Van Arsdale Jr. School of Labor Studies is an old friend and they've spent hours talking about how to "dig into it".

Ann Sconiers — Are there open positions for part-time employment for students beyond work study?

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Welcome to New SUNY Empire President — Lisa Vollendorf

Incoming President Lisa Vollendorf offered her thanks to the board for their hard work on the presidential search. Lisa has purchased a home, visited the area, and had lunch with John Maggiore in December 2021. Lisa and Nathan also met in person and are committed to working together to set the institution up for success in the coming years.

President Vollendorf reports that she was heartened by the Governor's State of the State address.

She plans to hit the ground running and wants to engage directly and aggressively with partners both local and regional, and with SUNYs. She says that the sky is the limit.

Council and Guest Discussion

Donna Luh — Offered words of congratulations.

Mark Shroeder — Offered congratulations to the Chairman and search committee. Mark stated that we need a fully engaged president. He asked, "what will SUNY Empire look like in 2025?"

Lisa Vollendorf responded that the Council has an incredible role to play in the next few transitional years. Her focus is to change purposefully to stabilize and elevate the college. In addition, she isn't looking at the shrinking population ... we're looking more broadly at serving more purpose.

Roberta Reardon — Commented that we need to reaching our students where they are.

Ann Sconiers — Congratulated the incoming president and reports that the Student Government Association is excited with the appointment of President Vollendorf.

Patricia Salkin — Reported that she's doing the micro credential program at SUNY Empire.

Date of Next Meeting — May 6, 2022, from 3 to 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Aiello-Cerio