

College Council Minutes

September 30, 2022

2 Union Ave Saratoga Springs, New York

Non present members attended via Microsoft Teams

Presiding Meeting: John Maggiore, Chair; President Lisa Vollendorf

Members Present: Albert Culler, Donna Luh, Sheila Poole, Patty Salkin

Members Virtual: Roberta Reardon, Mark Schroeder

Members Not Present: Arlene González-Sánchez

Administrative Staff: Tai Arnold, Danielle Heller, Thalia MacMillan, Sue McFadden, Leigh Yannuzzi,

Student Representatives: Elizabeth Maxwell

Call to Order 10:00 a.m. - Chairman John Maggiore

Quorum attained at 10:15 a.m. upon Patty Salkin's arrival.

John Maggiore made a motion to approve the minutes, Sheila Poole moved to accept, Patty Salkin seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

*An administrative note was made, that the Executive Order that governed open meetings laws has expired, so an in-person quorum must be had. Council Members that participated remotely can participate, but they do not count toward quorum, and they cannot vote.

Council Business

- I. Report from SUNY Empire Present Dr. Lisa Vollendorf on Institutional Updates
 - a. President Vollendorf introduced herself, said we are in an interesting time where we can take advantage of remote learning while other institutions are still playing catch-up.
 - b. Enrollments for Fall 2022 are flat compared to Fall 2021 enrollments. Enrollments went up in Fall 2020. Enrollments are higher than projected, which is good because the budget is projected as a \$6.9 million deficit. Our total College Budget is approximately \$120 Million.
 - c. Reserves: Healthy reserve of \$34 million. Will use those to come out flat going into the next Fiscal Year.
 - d. Introduced new Vice President for Administration and Finance / Chief Financial Officer: Julie Majak. Also serves as the Treasurer of the Foundation.
 - e. Announced that for the first time ever, SUNY Empire State has created a Student Health and Wellness Strategic Plan catering to holistic student needs.
 - f. Two big searches underway:
 - i. Provost and Vice President for Advancement (fundraising, alumni affairs, government affairs and community relations).

- g. Approved numerous new programs at SUNY Empire for the Fall 2022 semester, including: Advanced Certificate for Cyber Security; M.S. in Applied Behavioral Analysis; B.S. in Accounting; and B.S. in Criminal Justice.
 - h. Launched College wide strategic planning.
- II. Report of the Senate Chairwoman- Thalia MacMillan
- a. The SUNY Empire State College Senate has met several times since the last College Council meeting.
 - b. Governance Retreat in June to recharge and refocus for the new year.
 - c. Thalia was reelected as Chair and Dr. John Lawless was elected as Vice Chair.
 - d. Policies are continually reviewed in Senate; and they approved the new Student Conduct Policy.
- III. Report of the Student Government President – Elizabeth Maxwell
- a. The SGA wanted to make note that while the world continues to deal with COVID, the college takes into consideration multiple modalities for courses as it goes through the strategic planning process.
 - b. The SGA participated in various trainings over the summer, including ones for leadership, advocacy and governance.
 - c. Issues raised: 1. More access to food pantries, but also should be stocked with childcare items (diapers, sanitary products, etc.) to help quell food insecurity problems. 2. Childcare in general; whether it be hours childcare runs, or the requirements to get and keep childcare.
 - i. Commissioner Poole replied to Elizabeth touting the good childcare initiatives that are happening at OCFS. She said OCFS is working to lessen childcare deserts as well and offers her complete support to find solutions.
 - d. In response to the food pantry item, President Vollendorf said that development of food pantry sites in our locations is in the Basic Needs plan.
- IV. Report from the President Vollendorf – President Vollendorf
- a. President Vollendorf commends the SGA for growing in number but also scope.
 - b. Visited 14 out of 15 locations, with the 15th, Fort Drum coming in the next week.
 - i. Eye-opening for her to see the various locations, the difference in employee’s needs, and the recovery from the pandemic. Strategic Planning process is a way to try and help all these issues.
 - ii. SUNY Board of Trustees approved our request to be moved from a College status to University status. Spring 2023 will be the first class to graduate from “Empire State University”. Marketing emphasis going forward will be on the institution’s status as New York’s leading public online university.
 - iii. Presentation of Strategic Planning to the College Council
 - 1. Highlights of the Planning Process Presentation
 - a. Completion of stage one (strategic priorities) by March 2023.

- b. Graduate enrollments are increasing, students seek career advancement and students want more online rather than in person class.
 - c. Older and white students are in decline, while students of color, non-NY residents and Gen Z students are on the rise.
 - d. Retention increased from 70% to 77% in the last 5 years.
 - e. Equity gaps exist for students of color, men, Pell-eligible students.
 - f. National and regional declines in and across sectors in past 10 years, and now everyone is targeting adult learners, as well as multi-modal types of learning.
 - 2. Opportunities for improvement: Eliminate equity gaps; improve six-year graduation rates, lower debt load, and improve retention.
 - iv. Dr. Tai Arnold’s Presentation of the Student Conduct Policy to the College Council.
 - 1. As laws and statutes change, the 2016 version is out of date and needs update.
 - 2. Provides due process and affirms the right to free speech.
 - 3. Senate voted in June 2022 to approve the draft being considering today, with affirmative votes from the SGA.
 - 4. State law now includes that conduct policies are a role of the Council, and therefore, it is invalid without College Council approval.
 - v. Commissioner Poole points out that there is not much in the new policy to deal with racially motivated misconduct.
 - 1. Tai Arnold clarified that there are safeguards in the policy that may not be explicitly spelled out, and President Vollendorf said that as a branch of SUNY, there are some things we cannot explicitly state.
 - 2. Albert Culler notes that there are social aspects of class (i.e., Message boards, blog posts) not just social media (i.e., Facebook, Instagram) that we need to make sure are safeguarded for student conduct.
 - 3. Elizabeth Maxwell states that the SGA discussed the contents of the student conduct policy at length, and based on this collaborative effort, they voted in the affirmative for the policy.
 - vi. College Council Votes on the Student Conduct Policy
 - 1. Albert Culler makes the motion, Patty Salkin seconds. No discussion or opposition. The policy passes unanimously.
- V. John Maggiore notes that the college council must meet four times a year. He suggests we meet in December, to approve the minutes, but then have a more substantive meeting in January, and have that January meeting count as “Meeting 1” for 2023.
- VI. Upcoming events:

- a. Winter Commencement in Albany December 17, 2022. All CC members are invited to attend and participate.
 - b. New President Vollendorf's Inauguration March 23, 2023, at the Saratoga Hilton.
 - c. Multiple Spring Commencements in 2023.
 - d. ACT Conference- Will take place October 15 and 16th in Syracuse. Matt Berge, Class of 2021, also VP of the SGA, will be receiving the Excellence of Student Scholarship Award at ACT. One of only a handful of students in all of SUNY to get an award.
- VII. New Business:
- a. No new business
- VIII. Adjournment
- a. Donna Luh makes the motion. Albert seconds it.
 - b. Meeting is adjourned at 11:30am

Date of Next Meeting – December 27, 2022 at 2pm

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Barron