



College Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Williams Center S204DE

Prepared by Dr. Naomi Baldwin, Interim Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant

President's Cabinet Members Present: President Kolison, Naomi Baldwin, Michael Kelly, Michel Kouadio, David Starrett, Tracy Stenger, Karen Rohr, Jeff Woodard

Absent: Vicki T. Sapp, Maria Carroll

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

Absent: Joe Johnson

Guests: Justin Rose, IT; Dr. Bruce Simon, Chair of University Senate; MJ Stafford

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion from AJ Dolce to approve the March 15, 2023 minutes, seconded by Richard Alexander. The March minutes were approved.

Report from the President of the Student Association

Presented by Ms. Ilene Thompson, President of Student Association

A written report was provided by Ms. Thompson. At their recent summit, SA discussed the SA duties, funding, and engaged in professional and leadership development sessions.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The student activity fee is now \$120 with a \$2 increase this year.

This is Ms. Thompson's last year as Student Association President, and she thanked the Council for the opportunity to meet with them.

Report from the President

Presented by Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., University President

President Kolison updated the Council on the reconfiguration of the stage for this upcoming Commencement. The chairs on the stage needed to be reduced due to safety reasons. An updated seating chart and processional party guide was distributed to the College Council members who have confirmed their participation this year.

President thanked the College Council for their support, time, and effort to engage with the campus through the meetings.

He offered a special thanks to Ilene Thompson for the outstanding preparation and service to the council. She will be graduating in the morning ceremony, and she discussed her future plans to spend time with family and to continue into a Master's program for Mental Health Counseling.

President continued with additional updates about the Commencement ceremonies to be held this Saturday. There will be 777 undergraduates, 101 graduate and advanced degree recipients, and they are from a total of 18 states and 9 countries.

President reviewed our two commencement speakers, who are both Fredonia alumni. He will be recognizing several outstanding student award winners during the ceremony as well.

He will also be recognizing some outstanding faculty and staff who have recently been awarded the SUNY-level Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. A new SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor will also be recognized at a SUNY ceremony this June. These

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

achievements of our faculty and staff will be formally recognized at the August 2023 All-Fredonia Faculty/Staff Conference Plenary.

After three years of a hiatus, Fredonia held the Years of Service and Retiree Recognition Luncheon, one of our largest gatherings of faculty staff this year.

Finally, President Kolison recognized the service of several students who recently helped with a clean-up initiative in the Village of Fredonia.

The Fredonia College Foundation has been instrumental in supporting our students, and President Kolison took a moment to review the level of support - about \$1.2M in just the last year, which is possible through the generosity of many donors. The Bicentennial Campaign has already raised \$200,000 that is now available in both merit and need-based awards, and these funds will help students with access and persistence in their educational goals.

Report from Finance and Administration

Presented by Mr. Michael Kelly, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Mr. Kelly presented the anticipated and actual budgets over the last 2022-23 year. As of mid-May, there is no unfunded shortfall. Mr. Kelly asked the College Council members to review the current year operations and note that there is a positive momentum as Fredonia heads into the next fiscal year. At this point in time, there is still some savings with a small amount of growth anticipated. Mr. Kelly clarified terminology about "revenue shortfall", which is related to more recent developments and actions taken to address some of the budget deficits.

President Kolison clarified: There are three main types of revenue - state support, tuition, and auxiliary revenues. Fredonia's largest challenge is in the revenue that is generated from tuition and room and board. Most of our expenditures are in salaries of personnel, and revenues have declined more rapidly than personnel savings can be realized. The revenue shortfall actions, therefore, reflect where the campus is trying to generate savings to help balance this.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

There is still work to be done to address the structural deficit, even though Fredonia is ending the year with a balanced budget.

The group discussed the use of Foundation aid to help recruit students and what other uses of Foundation funds could help address our budget challenges. For the most part, Foundation funds are restricted to specific uses and can only be allocated toward priorities the donors specify.

The President answered questions about what enrollment would result in a break-even operation. The group discussed admission staffing in regards to addressing the enrollment. SUNY Fredonia has invested significantly in the recruitment and admissions staffing and resources, and this is one of our top priority areas to support. There is also a state-wide challenge in the outward mobility of people from New York State, but even though the campus has structural issues with the state and the region, the work can still focus on strategies that are within SUNY Fredonia's control to move forward.

Mr. Kelly continued with his report with updates on programming offered by departments in the division as well as several updates regarding facilities and construction projects.

Of note is a recent energy efficiency award: Houghton Hall has been awarded the American Institute of Architects New York State Excelsior Merit Award.

The Maytum plaza project is nearing completion and should be reopened in August. Projects with LoGrasso, Mason, Gregory Hall, Jewett Hall are also underway.

President Kolison took a moment to clarify that the funding used for construction projects is a separate NYS construction fund and is not part of the budget that Mr. Kelly presented earlier. State University Construction Funds cannot be re-committed to the university expenses, for example. The commitment of the construction funds is a positive sign that it shows investment in our campus, the community, and the region.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Mr. Kelly ended his report with some updates about the University Police Department and answered questions about concerns regarding drug use in the local community.

Report from Academic Affairs

Presented by Dr. David Starrett, Executive Vice President and Provost

Dr. Starrett presented the most recent enrollment numbers for the upcoming semester. The free application week has resulted in some changes in the timing of students' commitment to university - they are applying to more universities and taking more time to make a final decision.

Members of the enrollment management team are working with Medaille students with the imminent closure of their campus. In addition to supporting a streamlined transfer of those students to Fredonia, Dr. Starrett's team is looking at other connections to support people impacted by the closure such as filling lecturer and faculty positions that are needed at SUNY Fredonia.

At this point in time, the enrollment management team is focusing on yield. All departments have increased efforts to maximize yield and connect intentionally with students who have not yet decided. Dr. Starrett talked through several other recruitment and yield events that SUNY Fredonia has hosted. He also offered some updates on the initiatives discussed at previous meetings such as Enrollment Management office relocations, the searches underway, and new hires of admissions counselors and yield maximizers.

There are several new programs in development and in the process of approval. They are focusing on programs that will attract students to our campus, including new populations such as non-traditional students. The programs also serve the state by providing education in high-need areas such as nursing and mental health counseling, which can help people decide to stay in New York for employment.

Members of the College Council asked about the program array, how Academic Affairs is assessing program health, and how graduate programs are advertised and publicized.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Dr. Starrett answered questions about graduate program prospects and will prepare more information specifically about graduate programs for a future meeting.

The JCC Bold program is continuing to develop - they are working on strengthening the processes and relationship. Dr. Starrett clarified some information about where the courses take place and how JCC and Fredonia are collaborating in other areas such as with international students.

SUNY has also provided some direct assistance to help with recruitment. Assistance includes consultations on SUNY Fredonia's strategies, sponsoring a free application week, and direct financial assistance to recruit out of state and expand text marketing efforts. The Good Neighbor award was discussed as compared to some scholarships offered to out of state students who are not officially part of the Good Neighbor Program. In terms of tuition, Fredonia can often offer a better tuition rate to some out of state students than they will find in their home states.

Provost Starrett updated the group about finalizing the dean searches. The Dean of the School of Business started in March; the Dean of the School of Music started this month (May), and by this summer, he will complete the search for the Dean of the College of Education, Health Sciences, and Human Services.

With all of these searches being successful, there will be no interim deans in place by this summer.

The next Strategic Plan has been approved and the implementation team will be working on the next steps. The Academic Master Plan is ongoing and is on track to be completed next year along with the finalizations of the Program Health Assessments, which will use data from this summer to continue through the next year.

Dr. Starrett completed his report and addressed several questions from the group. He clarified how faculty searches will work when a program is not fully established in context of the developing Mental Health Counseling and Nursing completion program. Because these programs are so high-demand, he is confident in the investment in the faculty hires for these programs.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The group discussed admissions standards and confirmed that admissions standards have not been lowered. In discussing any possible advantages of doing this for enrollment, Dr. Starrett noted that when institutions decide to change admissions standards, other types of support are needed to ensure students are prepared for university. He also confirmed that Fredonia is staying competitive with our peers in terms of our admissions standards.

Dr. Starrett offered information related to the enrollment yields and how athletic teams also support enrollment. Dr. Stenger added that the Athletics Department's role in recruitment is strong, that each team and coach has recruitment targets, and they work closely with the admissions team. Each coach has exceeded their goals for the coming year, and their efforts will continue into the summer.

Report from Student Affairs

Presented by Dr. Tracy Stenger - Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Stenger showed several photos of the student activities that have been going on including the signature end of year celebration with the student athletes, the FREDDYS. Among the awards are academic and community service awards. The athletics teams have also been working with Dunkirk and Fredonia High schools to sponsor games with high school students.

Mental health support efforts have continued with the investment of HEERF funds, and some of the plans that started last year, such as the FREDwell Lounge, are finally completed. De-stress programming is underway with final exams this week.

Dr. Stenger reviewed many other student celebrations among the student organizations and groups.

Residence Halls are working on an "Almost Home" marketing effort to showcase how residence halls can be made to feel like home.

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

To highlight some of the student athlete achievements, Dr. Stenger reviewed some of the awards given at the latest FREDDYS ceremony, such as the Team Academic Award (Women's Soccer with a combined 3.6 GPA), and the Blue Devil Cup (Women's Track and Field), which recognizes the team with the best combined student academics, athletics, and community service activities. As an example of how the athletics teams help support outreach and local community support, Dr. Stenger reported on the recent hosting of the Dunkirk/Fredonia high school games with students with intellectual disabilities, which was a very uplifting event that brought many high school students and community members to the campus.

Report from University Advancement

Presented by Ms. Karen Rohr Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Fredonia College Foundation

Ms. Rohr opened her report with a fundraising summary for the year (as of March 31). She noted that there is a trend nationwide in seeing donors increasingly offering restricted funds that will contribute to specific efforts and investments.

The Bicentennial Fund is doing well. A total of \$200,000 has been allocated for recruitment and retention for the 2023-2024 academic year. Fredlanthropy Day helped raise unrestricted funds and is a great event that engages departments, chairs, and deans with fundraising activities.

There is a new logo for the Bicentennial Campaign, and they will soon be launching the official website and a variety of other promotional items.

Marketing and Communications continues to work on raising the university's profile through digital marketing and by ensuring that website development and analytics help inform and support departments.

Alumni activities include board member and student ambassador assistance with admitted student yield events and programs such as the Writers at Work series, which highlights some of our most accomplished and recent graduates. The senior class gift

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

was a scholarship donation, and they will be able to continue contributions to get it to the endowment level. In terms of alumni events, there are a couple of alumni events coming up in New York City with the School of Music and in Buffalo among Healthcare Professionals. Ms. Rohr asked that the members of the College Council note the Homecoming dates of October 20-22, 2023.

Report from the University Senate

Presented by Dr. Bruce Simon, Chair of University Senate

Dr. Simon thanked the College Council members for the opportunity to continue engaging with them and the advocacy work. The UUP contract is still not completed with NYS, and the faculty/staff are also concerned about the enrollment and budget titles. Despite that, faculty and staff are still working hard to continue to contribute to solutions, with the focus on enhancing the learning and experience of the students. The faculty are noting that students are changing and that a lot of effort is going into supporting the students and understanding their needs.

There is a new SUNY general education curriculum, and this is one example of the work that the faculty have been doing over the past year. The strategic planning process and faculty involvement of assessing program health are other positive examples of the continued progress.

Planning and Budget co-chairs and Dr. Simon will continue working over the summer to put together advocacy work to continue helping with the NYS budget process. They are also working on updating their bylaws - this year will bring closure to many of their longer-term projects and updating materials and structures. They will be heading into the next year with plans for administrative reviews, ideas to assist with SUNY funding proposals efforts, follow-through on program health assessments, and contributions to institutional effectiveness. They are looking at ways to move forward from planning documents and do more to follow through and achieve results.

Remarks from Chair of College Council and College Council Members

State University of New York at Fredonia College Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Chairman Pagano thanked the administrators and College Council members for their reports and discussion.

He asked the members in the room to consider how facilities on campus might be more open to local students and community members. A few examples included hosting the local pickleball teams and considering open swim hours in the SUNY Fredonia natatorium. The group discussed a few additional examples, such as summer camps and summer sports activities and the feasibility of these. President Kolison discussed plans that will help with some of these considerations while increasing activities on the campus during the summers. He noted that since 2019, many summer activities have been suspended, and the Vice Presidents and many others are working on looking at the full 12-month planning of activities to look at the needs of the region and to leverage the campus to continue to move the institution forward.

Mr. Alexander offered an update on the SUNY Fredonia collaboration with the Village of Fredonia. The campus offered a letter of support of the recent decision of the Village of Fredonia comprehensive water student. The Local Economic Development board will also welcome the new School of Business Dean, Dr. Kaustav Misra.

Meeting Adjourned

Steve Keefe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Cynthia Ahlstrom, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 p.m.