

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE  
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING  
February 13, 2019**

Council Members present: Patricia Hill Williams, Robert Sweeney, Randi Shubin Dresner, Paul Caroleo, Kathleen Ferrell, David Curry, James Durant, Messiah Gaymon

Excused absence: Kenneth Card, Richard Redmond

College Administration: John Nader, Patrick Calabria, Tom Corti, Laura Joseph, Nancy Connors, Kevin Jordan

Guests: Lloyd Makarowitz, Orla LoPiccolo, Kathy Coley, Carolyn Fedder, David Phyfe

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:35am. She requested a motion for approval of the December 5 minutes. David Curry moved to approve and it was seconded by Messiah Gaymon.

**Motion carried**

**Chairpersons Report:** Dr. Williams welcomed Dr. Kevin Jordan, who has recently been appointed to fulfill the position of Chief Diversity Officer. President Nader adds that Dr. Jordan was Director of our EOP Program and we are fortunate to have him working with us. Dr. Jordan shared how he was influenced by his family's advocacy for inclusion and diversity. His father started the first anti-poverty Head Start Program in Suffolk County. Introductions of the Council and those attending followed.

Dr. Williams remarked on how we had the largest winter commencement to date. She noted that our valedictorian, Tunisia Solomon is a dynamic scholar, musician, track star and is extremely community minded. She is a past recipient of the Coalition of 100 Black Women Long Island Chapter scholarship.

Chair Williams attended the LIA breakfast at which Chancellor Johnson was the keynote speaker. Among her remarks, the Chancellor highlighted her vision to add 1000 diverse faculty to SUNY in the next ten years. She also mentioned the success of Farmingdale's new Master's Program, and referenced the Broadhollow Science Park and our upcoming Centennial Commencement.

Dr. Williams will be attending the Black and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, which is an opportunity to promote the College and discuss the diversity of Farmingdale's college community.

Dr. Williams said that the Centennial Commencement kick-off party on February 11 was well attended, especially by students, who seemed to enjoy the food and the giveaways.

**President's report:** The 100<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on May 21 at 7:00pm, with Chancellor Johnson as keynote speaker and fireworks at the conclusion. 100 days before, a series of celebratory events will take place; some will be combined with regular activities. Involvement of alumni milestones classes, descendants of the original class, and features about the college's history and distinguished individuals are planned.

Dr. Williams mentioned a chance meeting Neil deGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. She reminded him of a previous invitation that we had extended to him as commencement speaker that he was unable to attend, and hoped that he might be available to do in the future.

Provost Joseph reported on Middle States reaccreditation. The steering committee is formalizing working groups that will gather information to support compliance of the standards. Randi will serve as the Council member on the steering committee. A self-study design is being developed and a campus visit with our middle states liaison, Dr. Haq is scheduled for May 2. College Council members are asked to attend that day. This is a 2 ½ year process. Dr. Nader added that it is a good opportunity for us to learn about ourselves.

The target date for the new website is fall 2019. It is a large project and over 80 meetings are scheduled among campus groups for input. Vice President Calabria's primary objective is to recruit students and the home page is more external. The new website is designed so that after logging in, messages will be tailored to the user, student, staff, etc. There will be dashboard notifications which will cut down on email fatigue. A campus map with wayfinding and a smart search feature will be added. Contributor training and accessibility compliance is required and much of the work has been done in house, mainly by a hire who is a FSC graduate. Dr. Nader stated that the website is more user friendly and appealing. Its less cluttered design communicates better, which should help people on and off campus find their way to events.

The enrollment report indicates a decrease in our applications, which are also declining across most SUNY campuses. This is due to a lower number of high school graduates. We are among the least in decline, and it could be in part that some students are not applying because our standards have increased. Our acceptances and deposits are up and we are getting quality applications. Master's program and the 5 new programs for the fall have attracted over 300 applicants, indicating academic affairs has done a good job in identifying programs that build on our strengths and have value to students. We expect to meet our enrollment targets for fall 2019.

A joint admissions agreement with Nassau Community College could yield about 8 programs where students identify Farmingdale as their completion school. We are exploring teaching one of the continuing bachelor's programs on site at NCC.

We have completed an agreement with SCCC so that their Nursing students can complete their bachelor's degree at Farmingdale. We are discussing joint admissions with them as well.

There have been some campus closings across the Northeast, so we are watching enrollment trends carefully. Dr. Nader reported that a Chronicle of Higher Ed reporter interviewed him regarding colleges with dramatic increases in graduation rates.

Dr. Nader mentioned Dr. Erwin Cabrera secured a National Science Foundation Award of \$300,000 to be used to take recent graduates at Stony Brook in STEM fields from underrepresented groups and mentor them for teaching opportunities here so as to grow our own faculty.

Provost Joseph said we are seeking Carnegie Classification designation related to our requirement for applied learning through internships, community service and service learning activities. A working group is in place and Associate Provost, Allison Puff, is writing the application. An engagement forum aimed to strengthen relationships with our business and community partners is planned. Dr. Nader said that this is a selective designation and much work needs to be put forth to show commitment and engagement.

Dr. Nader reported that advocating continues for the BASS building. Senator Brooks is committed to this project. Anytime there is an opportunity to discuss this FSC with legislatures we should stress that students from their districts would benefit from a new academic building and accommodate our growth. VP Calabria added that an additional 1000 students could be accommodated if we get a new building. Letters will be going out to legislators and the more voices the better.

Dr. Williams asked for the document outlining the impact of students, alumni, and staff by districts. The data will be helpful when the Council advocates for the College with legislators. VP Calabria will email the list to all Council members.

President Nader shared that the Laffin Hall first floor is being considered for conversion into a welcome center. The space is underused now. Architect Richard McElhiney presented a robust plan which is scalable and we can implement parts of it with our own funds. The women's softball field is near completion and upgrades to the outside of Nold Hall were done as well.

Lupton Hall renovations must be done in phases because of its size and the scope of the work. Dr. Nader met with Broadhollow Bioscience Park board about what we can do in conjunction with them for use of Building 1. STEM field programs might be a possibility in the way of conference, labs, office space. The Board, which represents the College, SUNY Research Foundation, and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, is receptive, and we will continue to update on this. Kathleen Ferrell inquired how quickly BHBP could be used, and we have no idea. There will be a feasibility study done and some renovation and sub division are probably necessary. REDC funds have been awarded for HVAC work in Building 1. Ms. Ferrell asked if getting to the building will be an issue, which is something we need to consider. Lloyd Makarowitz said a transportation mechanism would be needed from BHBP park and rest of campus, perhaps a shuttle loop. BHBP is not funded by the state budget, but is on state property. Their income comes from rent from Building 2 and cash reserves from a separation agreement. There will be costs for us to go into the building. Bob Sweeney helped write legislation that that allows us to do many things in relation to BHBP.

**Other:** Randi Shubin Dresner and Island Harvest created a small farm of raised beds on some land set aside on FSC campus (Healthy Harvest Farm at Farmingdale State College). The lot adjoins president's field and is fenced and irrigated. All produce will be donated to those who are food insecure in the community. There will be a ribbon cutting. The horticulture department is part of the Adcock committee. Faculty, students and staff are needed to volunteer to till the garden. Island Harvest has forty gardens throughout Long Island.

Kathleen Ferrell attended a LGBTQ center at Stony Brook and asked if we have such a place. Messiah Gaymon replied that we have dedicated safe spaces around campus and there are club and organizations that cater to that demographic. We also bring in keynote speakers to address groups.

Orla LoPiccolo mentions a faculty member who is interested in urban farming and building raised beds, she will share his contact information with Ms. Shubin Dresner.

Messiah Gaymon gave a SGA update, pointing out the adoption of new bylaws and a new budget process for this semester. Clubs and organizations are separated into categories, and have a budget allocation, and a representative from SGA legislature to oversee it. Off campus trips must be presented to the financial committee for approval to improve efficiency and benefit the student population at large. A new major programming agency, commuter student association, spirit squad, and sports new clubs are among the changes. Funding for subsidized programs such as the tutoring centers visiting writers program have been cut to fund more weekly activities for students. Transfer student services and late night study sessions will continue to be supported. The operational budget was reduced by 4% and have activities and events will have more impact on the campus at large and adhere to the SGA mission. Chair Williams thanked Messiah for his comprehensive report and states the importance of process and procedure.

Lloyd Makarowitz inquired as to whether the college can absorb the additional costs of the tutoring centers, and Dr. Nader said that we probably can.

Dr. Williams asked all to check the dates to remember and to attend whatever events possible. She requested a motion to adjourn. James Durant made a motion for adjournment and it was seconded by Paul Caroleo.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

***Approved 4/17/19***

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Thursday, April 11, Aviation Hall of Fame Induction – 6:00pm Aviation Flight Center Hanger

Wednesday, April 17, 10:00am -College Council Meeting- Aviation Center Arrow classroom - room 20

Tuesday, April 23, 11:00am -Fountain Fest- Earth Day – Ralph Bunche Plaza

Tuesday, April 23, 1:00pm – The Healthy Harvest Farm at FSC Ribbon Cutting (near Small Business Development Center Conference Center)