

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE**  
**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 7, 2015**

College Council Members Present: Dr. Patricia Hill Williams, Chair; Mr. Paul Caroleo; Ms. Kathleen Ferrell; Mr. Ernesto Mattace, Ms. Aesha Curtis.

College Administration, Staff and Guests: Dr. Hubert Keen; VP George LaRosa; Mr. Pat Calabria; Dr. Tom Corti; Dr. Veronica Henry; Dr. Henry Sikorski; Dr. Laura Joseph; Dr. Richard Vogel; Dr. Lorraine Greenwald; Ms. Angela Jasur; Claire Lisi, David Phye.

Excused: Ms. Randi Shubin Dresner; Dr. Kenneth Card; Mr. David Curry, Mr. Robert Stricoff.

After a brief discussion, Dr. Williams asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015 and August 27, 2015 as written. **MOTION CARRIED**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

**Presidential Search:** - Dr. Williams presented an overview of the Presidential Search process, beginning with the hiring of a search consultant, Academic Search. Dr. Williams confirmed the two consultants who will be with the Committee throughout the process to be Dr. Jessica Kozloff and Dr. Tom Fitch. Dr. Kozloff attended the first official Search Committee meeting on September 16 at which the Chancellor, via teleconference, gave the Committee its charge. Both the Position Ad and Leadership Profile have been approved by SUNY and the job posting will begin to be advertised as early as the end of next week. Dr. Williams announced that all documents related to the search process that can be made public will be posted on the Presidential Search page on the college's website. Dr. Tom Fitch visited the campus on October 6<sup>th</sup> and met with the Cabinet, Deans, Search Committee and representatives from CSEA clerical and Physical Plant staffs, Athletics, Aviation, International Education Programs, and Student Affairs. In addition, Dr. Fitch conducted an Open Forum for the campus to attend and have their voices heard and offer their vision for the next president. Dr. Williams said it is important to have as broad a representation as possible throughout the process. Dr. Fitch met with Dr. Williams and President Keen and indicated he believes the campus is right on time with the search and should be able to conclude the process with an appointment at the end of March, 2016. Dr. Williams reminded the College Council members that while the Search Committee will be working to sift through resumes and applications, and interviewing prospective candidates to bring to campus for interviews and Open Forums and recommend finalists to the Council it is up to the College Council members to recommend 3 finalists to the Chancellor. These finalists may not be ranked; however, the Council may send the names up with an indication of their strengths and weaknesses. The final decision for recommendation to the Board of Trustees is ultimately up to the Chancellor.

Dr. Williams thanked the College Council members for their input on the selection of the search firm and for their commitment to the process, especially to Kenneth Card, Kathleen Ferrell, and Randi Shubin Dresner for agreeing to serve on the Committee as representatives of the Council.

Dr. Williams also thanked Ms. Ferrell and Ms. Dresner for attending the recent LIA Event at which the Chancellor was the keynote speaker.

**ACT Conference:** - Dr. Williams announced that she will attend the ACT Conference in Saratoga Springs next weekend and will participate in a panel discussion about Council collaborations with College Foundations. Dr. Williams encouraged the Council members to support the financial endeavors of the College Foundation whenever possible.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Keen welcomed the newest member of the College Council, Ms. Aesha Curtis, who is not only a Farmingdale student, but a Search Committee member representing students, President of the Student Government Association and a part-time staff member in the college's Office of Sponsored Programs.

Dr. Keen announced that due to Dr. Lucia Cepriano stepping down and returning to faculty, he has appointed Dr. Laura Joseph to the position of Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Keen said that Dr. Joseph is well qualified and highly regarded by the campus. Dr. Joseph has brought on two staff members to assist her with administrative support for Academic Affairs - Dr. Michael Goodstone, Department Chairperson for the Department of Psychology as Acting Associate Provost, and Professor Allison Puff from the Department of Visual Communications & Design and Associate Dean of the School of Business, as Acting Assistant Provost.

On a sad note, but in the context of campus safety, Dr. Keen reported on the death of a student. The student, who transferred from Westchester Community College and on campus just about 3 weeks decided to walk with his roommate over to the 7-11 which is located on the other side of Melville Road near the strip mall. The student was hit by a car and killed as he crossed Melville Road. Dr. Keen reminded everyone that the campus is located near two very busy highways. We had been successful in obtaining crossing lights and crosswalks down on Route 110 which is a state road, but Melville Road is a Town of Babylon Road. Pat Calabria has been in touch with the highway department in the Town of Babylon and now Dr. Keen reported that he and Patricia Williams will meet with Town of Babylon Supervisor Richard Schaeffer to discuss ways to improve the safety of Melville Road in the vicinity of the campus.

**Enrollment:** - Patrick Calabria reported on our very robust enrollment which is up over 3%. He explained it is due to a number of factors including our relevant academic programs, there seems to be a good 'buzz' about us in the high school guidance community, students and parents see our new buildings and a lot of positive things going on. One of our many strengths continues to be the pipeline we get from Nassau and Suffolk community colleges which is in line with the Chancellor's seamless transfer initiative.

**Parking:** - Dr. Keen explained that with increased enrollment comes increased need for parking and for the first two weeks of classes we struggled with the lack of parking spaces. We have about 250 new spots to be opened once the new parking lot on the grounds of the former child care center is completed, which is slated for later in November. What we have done in the interim is to put down gravel in some of the grass fields which added about 200 additional parking spaces. Mr. LaRosa explained that it takes several weeks into the new semester for students to adjust their arrival time once they realize what time they actually need to be on campus and when they need to leave, as parking opens up when class times break. A discussion ensued about the feasibility of having tiered parking installed and Mr. LaRosa explained that tiered parking is expensive and Farmingdale does not charge a parking fee other than a sticker fee and we take pride in that. He mentioned that additional parking may be part of the south side road improvement project. President Keen has called a meeting of the SUNY Construction Fund and this topic will surely be on the agenda for discussion and planning.

**Alcohol Policy Update:** - Dr. Keen asked Dr. Tom Corti to report on the Alcohol Policy, after a full year of experience. He reported a positive impact and called it a return to normalcy. Students 21 and over can now drink alcohol in the privacy of their own rooms. Residence Life issues stickers for ID's to those over 21. There have been almost no medical transports for alcohol intoxication, and there are alcohol education programs in place. In answer to Dr. Williams question about how the RA's are doing their due diligence, Angela Jasur, Director of Residence Life, explained that there are always two RA's on duty in Dewey and Orchard Halls on Thursday nights, their busiest nights. Resident Assistants responding to noise complaints will also check for fire safety code violations or underage drinking, drinking games, etc. For the most part the students seem to be acting like adults and do not want the privilege taken away.

There have been no sexual assaults related to alcohol reported and acts of vandalism have actually decreased. There has been only one event held on campus, the Fall Gala, sponsored by Student Government, at which alcohol was served in the Campus Center Ballroom. There is another event scheduled for this fall and Dr. Corti will sign off on the approval to serve alcohol. Serving is handled by Aramark and all servers have been trained.

**System Initiatives:** - The Chancellor has adopted a new agenda: the Performance Improvement Plan (SUNY Excels) which is a plan to fulfill the initiatives the Chancellor has put in place under the topics of Access, Completion, Success, Inquiry, and Engagement. While the Board had adopted this plan in January, we were not given the format to develop the plan until the end of June. The initial end of September due date has been extended to October 21 and our plan is to make a draft of the plan, which is extremely detailed in terms of data, available to the campus community prior to submission.

The Chancellor wants all campuses to increase their completion rates (4 year graduation rates) and the federal 6 year graduation rates. Ms. Ferrell asked if we find it problematic, due to our increased enrollment, to offer the students all of the courses necessary for them to complete graduation on time. Dr. Joseph said that has not been an issue and when a student may be off track and has an isolated course that may not be offered in their final semester of completion the deans and the chairs work together to offer the required course on an independent study basis so the student can meet the requirements on time.

Dr. Keen mentioned that as a result of the budget passed last spring there was a fund of money assembled called the Performance Investment Fund wherein campuses were invited to develop a plan to compete for some of the money. Farmingdale's Plan deals with a number of initiatives: tutoring, a student mentoring program, academic advisement, and to introduce more innovative teaching methods and we feel confident we have an excellent chance of receiving a portion of the funds for these initiatives.

The president announced that the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted a new Policy on Diversity, and we will report to you in more detail on the plan as well as the implementation of it at the next College Council meeting on November 18. Dr. Henry stated that the Diversity Equity Inclusion policy was adopted on September 9<sup>th</sup> wherein a student can declare or identify their gender identity and sexual orientation and also inclusive of first generation students. Kathleen Ferrell clarified that this policy extends to faculty and staff also. Ms. Curtis asked what steps will be taken to make available gender appropriate bathrooms in buildings on campus. Dr. Keen explained that in newly constructed buildings there are bathrooms designated for males, females, and a private bathroom for either, as in the campus center. We are trying to address this issue in the older buildings and Mr. LaRosa said that as long as concerns are brought to our attention we will try our best to make accommodations where possible.

**Budget Advocacy:** - Dr. Keen pointed out that the college is now in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of legislation which provided for annual \$300 tuition increases. And during these previous years and 5<sup>th</sup> year budget there have been very little additional state dollars added to the budget. The \$300 tuition increases has helped us to grow in the ways we have been growing in terms of operating. Mr. LaRosa explained that we receive all of the \$300 tuition money, which is part of the operating budget. We are at the end of that and the Chancellor and her staff are getting together an advocacy campaign and we will call on you to help us with our campaign as you did last spring. Dr. Keen said that we make the rounds speaking with the legislators including with Senator LaValle who is Chair of the Higher Education, in addition to Senators Venditto and Flanagan.

We have been funded for the planning stage of a new academic building which we desperately need for faculty offices, laboratory space, and classroom space. We have moved to increase our class offerings on Fridays to relieve the pressure on the other days. We need the construction funds for the building and that has not yet been allocated and we are hopeful that it will be put into this next capital budget which we hope will be a 5 year budget.

**Tobacco/Smoke Free Campus:** Ms. Ferrell shared that Stony Brook has announced it will be totally smoke/tobacco free as of January 2016, and asked what plans Farmingdale has to do the same. Dr. Williams noted that the Council members reviewed and approved a Campus Plan to move toward a smoke free campus in 2014, however, the challenge remains with the enforcement process. We may need to rely on students and staff (peer pressure) to assist with enforcement once the campus moves to totally smoke/tobacco free. It was also suggested that the Health and Safety Committee revisit the plan and consider an update. Mr. LaRosa suggested that perhaps Marvin Fischer, Chair of the Health & Safety Committee at Farmingdale can contact the chair of the task force at Stony Brook to learn of their policy and plans for enforcement.

Dr. Keen shared the good news of our First in the World Grant which is a total of almost 3 million dollars, written by Dr. Beverly Kahn who is very good at getting these grants from the department of Education. We have other grant proposals pending as well.

**Announcements/Important Dates:**

- *ACT Conference, Saratoga Springs: October 16-18. Dr. Williams will serve on a panel concerning College Council collaborations with College Foundations.*
- *Native American Symposium Friday, October 23.*
- *70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations: Saturday, October 24.*
- *Business Hall of Fame Gala: November 19<sup>th</sup>. Henry Schein, Inc. is the honoree. Invitations will be sent out soon.*

There being no other business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Claire Lisi*

Next College Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00a.m., President's Boardroom.

*Approved 11/18/15*

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