

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
December 4, 2019

College Council members present: Patricia Hill Williams, Randi Shubin Dresner, Kenneth Card, James Durant, Robert Sweeney, Paul Caroleo, David Curry

Excused absence: Richard Redmond, Kathleen Ferrell, Jahad Hoyte

College Administration: John Nader, Laura Joseph, Pat Calabria, Greg O'Connor, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Kathy Coley, Orla LoPiccolo, David Phyfe

Chair Williams convened the meeting at 10:06am. Dr. Williams thanked all for attending. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Durant and seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Chairperson's Report:

President's Gala

Chair Williams commented that the Gala was well attended and that all honorees were excited about what is happening at Farmingdale. She added that Senator Brooks, who is an alum and a great advocate for the college, was one of the honorees.

Alumni Event

Chair Williams reported that she, along with other council members, enjoyed the premiere showing of *Cold Brook* on campus. Alum, Bill Fichtner, director and producer of the film, was present for the showing and took part in Q&A session afterwards. Dr. Williams remarked that his success story has made the FSC community proud.

Social Science Research Institute Event

Chair Williams also attended the screening of *Defining Moments: The Civil Rights Movement in North Hempstead*, which featured Dr. Hazel Dukes and other activists who worked to remove housing discrimination in Roslyn. Gene Burnett, one of the first African American police officers in Suffolk County, and other leaders involved in the desegregation of housing in Nassau and Suffolk counties also attended. Dr. Williams said that Farmingdale was ahead of the Newsday series on this topic. She made it a point to share that there is a NWACPU chapter on our campus to Dr. Dukes, who is president of the NAACP NYS Conference.

ACT Conference

Chair Williams, Dr. Card, and Ms. Ferrell attended the conference in Cooperstown. Dr. Williams reported that Dr. Merryll Tisch, new chair of the BOT, spoke about how appointed members should understand the expectations of their positions their cooperation is important in moving SUNY forward. Chair

Williams said there were presentations on Campus Construction and Sustainability; Student Life; search processes (24 Presidential searches are underway) and the role of college council members in them; and the Past, Present, and Future of College Council members. A report on SUNY Research projects and the work of SUNY graduate students, a tour of an Oneonta research program, and an advocacy workshop were also part of the agenda. The Chancellor spoke about her perspective on where SUNY is going.

Dr. Card informed that Dr. Williams accepted her nomination as President, Association of SUNY Council Members and Trustees. He referenced the Chancellor's initiative to hire 1000 diverse faculty in 10 years and said that Nassau County also struggles to attract teachers from diverse backgrounds. He added that as a Nassau County superintendent, he has been engaged in *Defining Moments* - 50 years later to explore the effects of housing discrimination on students in local school districts.

Dr. Card shared that many SUNY campuses do not have fully staffed College Councils, which he found concerning as they have a major responsibility in presidential searches. He said that he gained a better perspective of SUNY by attending the conference.

Chair Williams added that we are fortunate to have a full council and strong participation of administrators at our meetings. She indicated that the Governor has made some college council appointments. Two positions were to Old Westbury, one of whom is Theresa Regnante, CEO of United Way LI. Dr. Williams suggested that we consider inviting a governor's representative to a college council meeting in the future.

Chair Williams said that ACT executive officers are looking for ways to get more council members to attend events that they sponsor such as the breakfast at the Chancellor's State of the University. They have also requested the opportunity to be a member of the BOT, which requires legislative action.

President's Report:

Dr. Nader thanked Foundation and Alumni for offices for their work on the Presidents Gala and Kathy Coley and Institutional Advancement for coordinating the Fichtner event.

He reported that were 50 plus new hires system wide for diverse faculty under the prodigy award for the first semester. One of our two nominees was successful.

Website

Ru Jurow, Assistant Creative Director, shared that the new website will roll out at the start of the spring semester and will offer better accessibility and security. It involved the integrating 21 systems, and the training of 181 content contributors. A new homepage, news and media center, a robust search capability, and a calendar integrated with all campus events are featured. A tailored dashboard will enhance the user experience and messages appropriate to the user will alleviate email fatigue. Internal information and communications will be housed in Aries. Mr. Caroleo and Mr. Durant questioned who would be vetting the content and Mr. Calabria, Vice President for Enrollment, responded that Institutional Advancement will control top-level pages and trained content contributors will be responsible for departmental pages.

Dr. Barbara Christe, Dean of School of Engineering

Dr. Nader introduced Dr. Christie, a Clinical Engineer with a background in medical technology who is also an ABET commissioner. She spoke about accreditation and licensures. She said that our engineering programs were evaluated for ABET re-accreditation in October and are look to attain a six-year interval outcome.

Dr. Christie mentioned the International Energy and Sustainability Conference that FSC hosted which included a women in energy networking dinner, a student poster competition, and professional development for high school teachers. The second day of the conference attracted over 350 participants including researchers, industry leaders, students, and faculty.

Dr. Christie proudly reported that on the American Society of Engineering Education rankings listed FSC is number 4 on degrees granted and number 5 in engineering degrees granted to women. She added that many of our degrees have been awarded to underrepresented minorities and first generation students.

Dr. Christie explained that our STEM programs in engineering technology are responsible for implementing and delivering new technologies to the population.

Enrollment Update

Mr. Calabria said we had a drop in the number of applications for spring 2020, as did other SUNY institutions and privates, due to decline in populations. This has made for a rapidly changing and challenging environment in college enrollment. Dr. Nader said he charged the newly formed Enrollment Management Working Group to look at ways to keep our enrollment strong. New technologies, marketing data, outreach to families, high school principal events, growing visits to high schools to increase our visibility, and other strategies such as an enroll to complete initiative and targeting adult learners are underway. Mr. Calabria informed that our new programs and graduate programs are well enrolled.

Foundation

Dr. Nader reported that the search for a new Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement will be launched soon. An annual report was completed by the Foundation and board members were solicited for giving, which resulted in some new gifts. The new Rambler, an alumni newsletter, was distributed via email and in print. Scholarship sponsors now receive updates on their scholarship status along with a profile of recipient students. Dr. Nader added that Veronica Meinhard, Philanthropy Advisor, was consulted on fundraising raising issues. She visited campus and made suggestions for opportunities to move the Foundation forward.

Advocacy

An elevator speech and a list of bragging points were provided to the council to assist them in advocating for the College. Dr. Nader showed a power point on a Wall Street Journal article on the value of a college education, which compared institutions on student debt levels and first year earnings broken out by major or degree program. All 16 FSC programs evaluated showed that students' first year earnings exceeded their federal loan debt.

Other

Ms. Shubin Dresner stated that reappointments from Governor are much delayed and the paperwork is extensive.

Dr. Joseph, Provost, said that in the spring the Middles States draft will be shared with the college community for feedback.

Kathy Coley, Communications Director, mentioned one of our graduates selected the tree for Rockefeller Center.

There being no further business, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved, February 5, 2020

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, January 28 - Library Ribbon Cutting, 11:00am Greenley Hall 3rd floor

Wednesday, February 5 – College Council Meeting 10:00am Conklin 100

Wednesday, March 18 - STEM Diversity Summit 8:30am-1:30pm Roosevelt Hall

Thursday, April 2 – Aviation Hall of Fame 6pm Campus Center Ballroom A

Wednesday, April 15 - Multicultural Gala 4pm-7pm Campus Center Ballroom