

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE**  
**College Council Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100**  
**or**  
**Virtual via TEAMS**  
**April 17, 2024**

Councilmembers present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Jim Durant, Robert Sweeney, Paul Caroleo, Ralia Polechronis, David Curry

Excused absences: Randi Shubin Dresner, Destini Buchanan

College Administration: John Nader, Laura Joseph, Matt Colson, Rohan Howell, Chris Maio, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Sarah Gross, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:01am. She entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7 meeting. Councilmember Durant made a motion and councilmember Sweeney seconded.

**Motion carried.**

**Chairs Report:** Dr. Williams said she has attended many interesting campus events this semester. She participated on a women's career success panel for the NAACP student chapter in March and attended a Women's History Month event organized by DEI and the Nexus Center with the theme of women in leadership who advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion. Provost Joseph was a panelist. Chair Williams very much enjoyed the 50 year alumni class reunion, which was a weekend long event. She added that many alumni are proud of being Farmingdale graduates. Dr. Williams encouraged councilmembers to try and attend more campus events because students, faculty and staff have told her it gives them a sense that their efforts are worthwhile and appreciated.

Chair Williams reported that the Presidential Search Committee has been moving forward with their work and that updates can be found on the website.

**President's Report:** Dr. Nader said that Open House had near record attendance. In addition our alumni, philanthropy, and student engagement events have shown strong attendance.

Provost Laura Joseph shared that we are pursuing a Master's degree program in Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance in the Bioscience area and there is a proposal pending for a Public Administration degree. She informed that there are many honor society events and pinning ceremonies coming up as well as graduation on May 16. Councilmembers are most welcome to attend these.

VP for Development and Alumni Engagement, Matt Colson, said that SUNY reported that FSC is the highest fundraising college in the tech sector at \$3.5M. Alumni, student activities and academic programming all increased their involvement in fundraising. An \$85,000 charitable

scholarship has been closed with Northwell. The agreement allows for them to advertise on one side of our Route 110 sign. Northwell will also be starting a Community Scholars Program with us. The Dream US scholarship continues to grow. The June 3 golf outing will be hosted by Foundation member Vinny Naab and there are many sponsorship packages available to show support. Mr. Colson stated that we are at 100% giving by the College Council, Foundation members, Cabinet, Deans and the alumni board. This is very beneficial in conversations with donors who ask about leadership support.

VP for Enrollment Management, Rohan Howell, said that his Admissions team is working hard to convert applications. Deposits remain flat which may be a result of FAFSA not getting financial aid packages out for students. We have extended our deposit deadline to June 1.

Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, Chris Maio, remarked that she likes to think that increased social media outreach used to promote events has helped with attendance and engagement across the campus community. They have also stepped up advertising - at malls, on buses and with increased exposure on News12. Aerial advertising on the beaches from the Rockaways to the Hamptons will take place this summer. Many of the pages on our website have been updated and improved.

Dr. Nader said that there may be a ground breaking ceremony for the computer science building in the late spring or early summer. He also announced that Provost Joseph will be retiring at the end of the fall semester after 40 years of service to the College. All thanked Dr. Joseph for her commitment to the institution.

Chair Williams brought up the Presidential Search and the fact that during the finalists' virtual interviews they all were looking to hear from a student. Unfortunately, the student representative was not available to attend all of the meetings. It was shared that a full group of students would be meeting with each of the candidates when they come to campus for in person visits. Councilmember Polechronis asked for an update on the status of the search. Dr. Williams responded that all of the procedures set forth by the State University of New York were followed and that opportunity was made for faculty, staff, students and constituents to give input to the search firm on what they are looking for in a president. About ninety applications were received in total. The search committee conducted preliminary screenings and determined the top nine candidates for first round virtual interviews. After that, five were selected for the in person interviews. A campus tour and dinner with College Council and Foundation members will take place on day one. The second day will be a full day of confidential meetings between the candidates and various groups on campus, all participants have signed NDAs. A survey link will be provided to all campus participants on each candidate so that feedback can be given to the search committee. Once the search committee has reviewed that information, they will have a final meeting to select three finalists to bring to the full College Council. Zulaika Rodriguez will set up the meeting and present a summary of each candidate. Chair Williams encouraged councilmembers to take part in as many dinners as possible to get to know the candidates and voice opinions before jointly making

recommendations to Chancellor King. She added that the presidential search is one of the most important responsibilities that the College Council has.

As there was no other business Chair Williams entertained a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Caroleo moved for adjournment and Councilmember Polechronis seconded.

**Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

***Approved September 18, 2024***