

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
Virtual Meeting via Google Meets
April 8, 2020

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

Excused absence: Richard Redmond

College Administration: John Nader, Kevin Jordan, Erica Chase, Laura Joseph, Patrick Calabria, Greg O'Connor, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Kathy Coley, Lloyd Makarowitz, Orla LoPiccolo, Pete Grizzaffi, Brett Southard, Jeff Borah

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05am. She confirmed that all members were in receipt of the draft minutes from the February 5 meeting and entertained a motion to approve them. Mr. Caroleo made the motion and Ms. Shubin Dresner seconded it.

Motion approved.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Williams thanked all for attending this virtual meeting, held remotely due to the coronavirus outbreak. She expressed appreciation of the efforts Dr. Nader has made in keeping the council informed of the actions the College has taken in response to the health crisis. She pointed out that the cabinet members and the emergency management team have worked hard to keep the campus community safe and provide academic continuity and support for our students.

Dr. Williams shared that the Executive Committee of ACT met remotely to discuss issues related to the 2020 ACT Conference, and that a decision was made to cancel the annual conference in October. She also reported that campuses would not be assessed dues this year and that ACT scholarships will not be awarded. She indicated that a memo would go out to campus presidents and council members to this effect.

Dr. Williams added that the ACT Executive Committee plans to review the by-laws pertaining to the cancellation of the annual meeting and the election of officers. There are plans for a virtual gathering in lieu of the annual meeting.

President's Report:

Coronavirus Update

Dr. Nader reported that due to the coronavirus, we canceled classes before spring break and directed only essential employees to be on campus. The residence halls are now down to 26 students. Resident students had a 60-hour window to pick up and pack their belongings. In two weeks' time faculty have converted 96% of face-to-face classes to online delivery. The College has purchased laptops and IT has been delivering them to students in need so that they can begin the spring semester via remote instruction.

Dr. Nader said that refunds or credits will be issued to students' accounts for room and board and meal plans. VP for Administration and Finance, Greg O'Connor, reported that refunds/credits will be given to students for many fees, excluding the technology fee and health fee. The total impact will be \$3.2

million. Students not returning to Farmingdale will get a cash refund. Guidance from SUNY is expected regarding timing and financial aid impact on reimbursing students.

Ms. Ferrell asked about the need to fulfill a contract with Aramark, and Mr. O'Connor responded that we have fulfilled the minimum required and have no liability to them, but there will be a reduction in the commission that we receive for over and above.

Mr. Durant questioned if international students can remain in the residence halls indefinitely to which Dr. Nader responded that typically, students do not stay past the academic year and we do not anticipate having students in the dorms over the summer. Dr. Nader added that the custodial staff has done a great job with a plan for decontamination of buildings.

Provost Laura Joseph said that Academic Affairs has transitioned to remote education using a variety of methods. She added that Health Science programs have been a challenge, and that licensure and clinical hours can be met for nursing students but not for Medical Laboratory Science or Dental Hygiene students. We are waiting for guidance from the SED and accrediting bodies related to those programs. In addition, the flight program mandates students to have flight hours, guidance from the FCC is forthcoming. Dr. Joseph informed that we will offer a pass/fail option, but students must be aware of certain limitations. A guidance document will be rolled out.

Chair Williams asked if Jahad Hoyte, council student representative, had any questions, and he asked as to what date international students were required to depart campus. Dr. Nader replied that there is no specific date, but we do not want to house students over the summer. The College will work with those who they cannot return to their nation of origin due to travel restrictions.

Dr. Nader said that the emergency management team has been meeting daily to anticipate what issues are ahead and has implemented many plans already. He informed that all campus events are canceled through April 30. May commencement may occur in late August or September, another option to have four ceremonies (by school) in December, is under consideration.

Dr. Nader thanked the Foundation for establishing a Student Emergency Fund and said that all donations are greatly appreciated.

Other Business

Dr. Nader informed that the Annual Academic Assessment Report is posted on the web site. Carolyn Fedder will provide the link to council members. This report is important to the reaccreditation process. Dr. Joseph added that all functional areas have input in this comprehensive document, which includes divisional goals and institutional goals. Dr. Williams thanked council member Shubin Dresner for serving on the Middle States steering committee. Ms. Dresner stated that she was honored to be a part and the team was very dedicated and did a great job.

Mr. Durant asked how the faculty have responded to online instruction. Dr. Joseph said that a survey went out from IT for feedback and suggestions and we are waiting for the results. Dr. Makarowitz commented that there are challenges, and is not optimal, but the faculty is managing to get information to students. Prof. LoPiccolo added that her department meets weekly to brainstorm and share ideas and it seems to be working. Mr. Hoyte said it is harder for students to receive instruction online but IT and the faculty have offered support.

Dr. Nader said Institutional Advancement has been working diligently to get out communications and continue recruitment and enrollment efforts. VP for Advancement and Enrollment Management, Patrick Calabria, reported that a Spring Virtual Open House and Accepted Students Days are planned. The enrollment numbers for the fall are even with last year but are uncertain.

Dr. Nader said that we have assisted the community in sending PPE to Northwell system, ponchos to LI Community Hospital and we will share our athletics facilities with SUNY Old Westbury, as they are set up as a temporary U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hospital.

Ms. Shubin Dresner asked if there would be money for reimbursements to the campuses and Dr. Nader replied that there is a stimulus package and that SUNY system will be coordinating efforts to track system wide expenses. There may be an opportunity for the campus to receive some funds, Mr. O'Connor said that as of last week we have spent \$800,000 in staff time, equipment etc. Ms. Ferrell, asked about resources necessary for summer sessions. We expect the first summer sessions will be online, Dr. Joseph we need to identify resources necessary, not all courses can be offered in this format. Ms. Ferrell asked for a special summer meeting for an update.

Mr. Durant commended Dr. Nader and the staff, faculty, and student government on the campus' response to the pandemic, especially in the safety procedures that have been maintained and the services that have been provided. He requested that the College Council be supplied with business cards and email addresses.

Ms. Shubin Dresner congratulated Dr. Nader on the efforts made by the College to do whatever it could for students.

Dr. Williams recognized all those on campuses in the front lines that set up safe procedures and a meaningful education for students. She thanked Dr. Nader, Ms. Fedder and all the essentials who have not dealt with campus issues but with personal responsibilities as well.

Chair Williams suggested that Council members use the cabinet's reports as food for thought in advocating for SUNY and Farmingdale in the times ahead. Through her interactions as ACT president, she has heard about problems that campuses are facing. She said that council members can help to find solutions and advocate for future academic and budget needs.

She stated that she looks forward to more communication from the College and SUNY on what council members can do to assist.

With no other business to discuss, Chair Williams entertained a motion for adjournment.

Jim Durant made the motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Fedder

Approved September 30, 2020