FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

College Council Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100 or

Virtual via TEAMS

April 9, 2025

Councilmembers present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Jim Durant, Paul Caroleo, Robert Sweeney, Jairo Orozco

Virtual Attendees: Ralia Polechronis, David Curry

Excused absences: Randi Shubin Dresner

College Administration: Robert Prezant, Laura Joseph, Greg O'Connor, Matt Colson, Rohan Howell, Chris Maio, Michael Nembhard, Kevin Jordan, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Amanda Cataldo, Lloyd Makarowitz, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00am. She asked if all had reviewed the minutes from the February 5 meeting and if any revisions were needed. As there were none, she requested a motion to accept the minutes. Councilmember Sweeney made a motion and Councilmember Caroleo seconded.

Motion carried.

Chair's Report: Chair Williams has attended several ACT meetings related to what is going on in education across the country and with SUNY. She informed that the ACT executive board has been discussing plans for the Conference in the fall. They hope to have experts cover topics that are of importance to members and students. Panels and moderated discussions will address legal issues and new curricular that are being initiated. Another proposed topic for discussion is artificial intelligence. Dr. Williams suggested that a student be on that panel, with input from the SUNY Student Assembly. Zulaika Rodriguez from SUNY Administration will share information about the conference, please send her any input you may have. New officers will be nominated this year, and Dr. Williams has reappointed the chair of the nominating committee, Kevin Law. Chair Williams encouraged members to attend the conference and meet the people who are up for nomination. It is an important time for SUNY and for council members to have a voice. She said that it would be beneficial for campus presidents to attend as well.

President's Report: Dr. Prezant shared news about the death of Theresa Santmann, an alumna and great supporter of the College. Theresa was a Foundation member, and her $1M gift led to the School of Health Sciences being named in her honor. Dr. Prezant informed that Ronald Jackson from CUNY Brooklyn College, has been hired as our new VP of Student Affairs. The provost search is near conclusion. Dr. Prezant spoke with Chair of the New York State Senate Higher Education Committee, Toby Ann Stavinsky, and they discussed FSC priorities and aviation needs. He met John and Mark Cronin, father and son owners of John's Crazy Socks when they visited the School of Business. John, a young man with Downs Syndrome, had this business idea which has been a huge success. During a LIRACHE meeting Long Island college presidents had conversation around challenges institutions are facing right now. As part of inauguration week, a leadership roundtable discussion was held with Chris Rosa, president and CEO of the Viscardi Center, Patrick O' Shaughnessy, president and CEO of Catholic Health,

Vanessa Baird Streeter, president and CEO of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, Laura Curran, political analyst and media contributor, and former Nassau County executive, and Kara Cannon, CEO of Enzo Biochem. They discussed their paths to leadership and offered perspectives and advice for the campus community. Long Island high school principals met on campus recently and to better connect, MarComm will now produce a newsletter for them twice a year. The College is assembling an Ombuds team of five individuals from across campus. They will be trained to help resolve employee issues and serve as a neutral third party to manage conflict and find fair solutions to problems. VP for Development and Alumni Engagement, Matt Colson, and the Alumni Office arranged for a small group of alumni to have dinner at the president's residence to gather feedback on how to better engage our alumni. Dr. Prezant and VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence, Kevin Jordan, met with leadership from the Urban League and hope to collaborate with them on some beneficial initiatives. Dr. Prezant has talked about joint programming with Catholic Health and Nassau Community College. He and Maria Conzatti, Chief Administrative Officer at Nassau Community College, talked about how to better partner in the health arena. Dr. Prezant would like to create advisory councils of CEOs from major corporations in the area, local legislators, and community leaders to brainstorm about what's needed in the region for the future. These groups would overlap with the College Council and provide opportunities to develop additional funding tracks.

Dr. Prezant shared that because of the many challenges that are coming out of Washington, 20 states have filed suit against the Federal Secretary of Education, The Department of Education and the President of the United States, to stop the dismantling of the Federal Department of Education. Visas are being revoked, employees have been let go, and research proposals have been shelved. (Including ten NSF grants that Farmingdale faculty have proposed.) Chancellor King led the Department of Education under the Obama administration, he has a personal interest in this. SUNY's approach is to not change anything as executive orders are not the law. SUNY will have one public front and we follow their guidance. Councilmember Polechronis offered to meet with President Prezant and campus council to discuss FSC's public front and position, so that students know we support them. She cautioned that we should be prepared for retaliation. Student representative on the Council, Jairo Orzoco, said that most of our undocumented students are falling silent and are hesitant to attend workshops we offer. Dr. Prezant said that having conversations out in the community about the impacts of these executive orders on education is one of the most important things that can be done. VP Jordan said we need to focus on the institution's mission during these turbulent times. VP Colson, suggested that there be a SUNY wide initiative to encourage youth to vote, as the mid-term elections are an opportunity to have a voice.

Provost Laura Joseph gave a presentation on Academic Affairs and what has been accomplished during her time as provost. Nine new academic programs have been introduced since 2018, four certificate programs have been introduced since 2020 and ten programs are currently in various stages of development. FSC currently has 35 micro credentials which can stack into degree programs or show proficiency of a particular skill set that industry partners are looking for. Dr. Joseph informed that Middle States Accreditation for the institution as a whole will be coming up in 2028-29. The steering committee from the last review has been maintained and will lead us through the process. FSC attained specialized accreditations in aviation, engineering, dental hygiene, nursing, med lab tech, visual communications, sports management and we recently received AACSB accreditation for the School of Business. In 2023, SUNY mandated general education program changes for competency in DEI and social

justice. In Fall 2026, framework and competencies will be in place for AI and information literacy as well as civil discourse. Dr. Joseph said that assessment infrastructure is in place for academic programs, general education, and functional areas and each year reports are prepared. The Office of Institution Research and Effectiveness has developed dashboards that clearly represent this data. In 2017 the Nexus Center was launched and applied learning became a requirement for graduation. After that the Office of Community and Civic Engagement and the FSC Food Pantry were established, and FSC received Carnegie Community Engagement classification. In addition, a long-awaited honors program was put in place and the collaborative online international learning (COIL) became available for our students to engage with students from all over the world. Transformational grants have helped to support advisement, the research aligned mentorship program (RAM), and co-curricular activities. The EMERGE program for first year and transfer year student experiences, and programs for completion and inter-institutional partnerships were created. Although there was only a 6% increase in fulltime faculty hiring from 2016 to 2024, opportunities to teach summer sessions and do scholarly work were increased. We were awarded a second PRODiG+ fellow to increase the number of excellent diverse faculty. Distance Learning increased from 40 online sections in 2015 to 516 online sections in 2025. Dr. Prezant recognized Laura for all of her great work and wished her well in her retirement.

Dr. Prezant said in the next five years he would like to grow graduate level programs as that correlates with growing scholarship and pursuing research. He asked Councilmembers to share thoughts on emerging career fields and what programming, degrees, certificates and micro credentials that make sense for the future. Dr. Williams said that Provost Joseph's presentation seemed to indicate we are on the right track so far. It was discussed that technology will be embedded in everything, including our traditional courses, but a balance is needed. Dr. Joseph remarked that we want to add cutting edge programs that will set us apart. A question arose about how FSC handles student use of AI for coursework. Dr. Joseph responded that it is the way of the future and we have not prohibited it. A taskforce has been put in place to develop guidelines. Faculty are finding ways to use AI as a tool to educate students and teach them how it can be used responsibly and ethically. Dr. Prezant said there are challenges that lie ahead and he would value the councilmembers input. Chair Williams said that the many meetings Dr. Prezant has had with constituents in the region for collaboration will benefit the College and help us move forward.

As there were no questions, Chair Williams asked for a motion to move to executive session. Councilmember Caroleo made a motion and Sweeney seconded.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved September 10, 2025