

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
College Council Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100
Or Virtual via TEAMS
April 8, 2026

Councilmembers present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Paul Caroleo, James Durant, Michelle Torres

College Administration: Robert Prezant, Sean Lane, Greg O'Connor, Ron Jackson
Kim Nyoni, Carolyn Fedder

Virtual Attendees: Robert Sweeney, Chris Maio

Excused absences: David Curry, Randi Shubin Dresner, Ralia Polechronis, Rohan Howell

Guests: Phillip Culver, Dylan Gafarian, Amanda Cataldo, Lloyd Makarowitz, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. She asked if all had reviewed the minutes from the February 11 meeting and if any corrections were needed. As there were none, she requested a motion to accept the minutes. Councilmember Caroleo made a motion and Councilmember Durant seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report: Chair Williams deferred her report until later in the meeting.

President's Report: President Prezant introduced Phillip Culver, our new Chief Diversity Officer, whose vision for the office is to focus on programing, compliance with Title VI, XII, and IX mandates, and training and development to support DEI as a skill and mindset. Mr. Culver stated that he is grateful that Farmingdale State remains focused on DEI despite the current political landscape. President announced that Dr. Lloyd Makarowitz, Physics Department Chair and Presiding Officer of the Faculty, will be retiring after 47 years of service to the College. The search for a Sponsored Programs and Research Director continues and a search will begin soon for a Chief Officer for Institutional Research and Effectiveness. The search for a LIEOC Director is in its final round interviews. President Prezant visited the EOC Brentwood site. They are in need of a larger more permanent site. The EOC had its 60th Anniversary Celebration here on campus last week.

The College continues to grow new partnerships and deepen existing ones. FSC staff recently met with Stonybrook University's Abel Brown, Director of the Center for Integrated Electric Energy Systems, and Michael Kinch, Chief Innovation Officer, to focus on energy and engineering programs. The LI Wine and Food Classic will again be held at FSC on September 19. There will be more collaboration with the organizers and the event will be dual branded - Tasting LI Events and FSC. Work and internship opportunities will be available to about 30 students. Brookhaven National Laboratories hosted a Farmingdale State College Day, as there

are 108 FSC alums employed there. Physics and Engineering faculty from FSC took a tour and were reunited with their past students. Dr. Prezant visited Curtiss Wright, Target Rock, a supplier of highly-engineered, critical-service valves. About 40 of our alum are working there. Adventureland will unveil a new ride – the Ram. We are collaborating on a Farmingdale Day with them. A team of FSC faculty and staff toured Estee Lauder’s Research and Development labs. There are students are doing internships and there and we have some alum as employees.

President Prezant met with the Committee for Planning and Resource Allocation about FSC’s Strategic Plan – Eight for ’28. He hopes to begin work on a new strategic plan in 2027. There will be fewer goals which will align with major initiatives for the institution. Goals to be considered are enrollment, finances, and dormitories. A Town Hall will be held in Fall 2026 and details will be worked out the next year. The new plan will be launched to align with our Middle States reaccreditation process.

The Student Leadership Council, a group of 10 exceptional students selected by the president, are working on a One-stop App for cell phones and an Undergraduate Research Journal. They have met with IT, Student Affairs, and academic leadership to pursue these initiatives.

A number of grant proposals were submitted last year and are still under review. Most have gone to the NSF but they’re also at NYPA and FIPSE. The Trump administration is once again pushing for education and research cuts and has proposed that the education department budget be cut by \$2.3 billion. His plan calls for the elimination of FIPSE and TRIO, cuts to work study programs, and reductions to National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Energy Department’s Office of Science. These kinds of cuts will harm students and research, and take the U.S. out of competition in the STEM world.

Looking at SUNY’s Fundraising Survey Report (p. 3-5) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, FSC’s numbers are increasing. Donations rose by 40% - \$3.4M in total. The SUNY Financial Fact Book shows enrollment numbers are going up overall with over 12,000 applications. With a 56% acceptance rate, by comparison, we are a competitive school. Looking forward financially, the expected budget will be flat, tuition is again frozen, and we expect that unionized salaries will go up, as well as other expenses. It is important that we continue to look for other monies.

With the anticipated decline in the number of high school students on Long Island, we need to extend our radius for recruitment. Currently our residence halls are filled and we are looking at the possibility of using hotels and Five Towns College for students on our wait list. Longer term, we need to consider putting dormitories up on campus. One model estimate shows that it would cost \$80M to erect a 400-bed building. We are looking for a public/private partnership, where companies would invest the money and then get rent and the College would receive the tuition. In preliminary meetings, two companies have shown interest so far. This would involve leasing out property which will require legislation. There is a parcel across from campus on Melville Road, that could possibly be developed as mixed used with retail stores, and housing for faculty and students. Dr. Prezant said that during his time at Montclair University they extended their radius and put up more dorms. Their enrollment grew from 12,000 to 22,000 students. Overall, it was a positive, successful experience.

The newly created Community Advisory Board met and approved its chair, Madeline Quintyne. Farmingdale currently has programs that align well with the work that these board members do. For example, Criminal Justice's partnership with Sheriff Errol Toulon's office. Community board member, Vanessa Baird-Streeter of the Health and Welfare Council of LI, was honored at the AFL-CIO Annual Reception.

President Prezant called attention to the LIA's Farmingdale State College Economic Impact Report for 2020-2025 boasting almost \$1 billion and 10,000 jobs brought to the region.

Coming up, is the SUNY University Faculty Senate will hold their Plenary here next week. The Office for Institutional Advancement will start a campaign focused on building the Farmingdale Fund on Giving Day, Tuesday, April 15. (Dr. Prezant will match gifts in support of student research, and Murray Pasternack will match every dollar given to the Alumni Programs Fund.) The effort will be run internally this year and then plans are to grow it more broadly next year. On April 16, Old Westbury will be honoring Dr. Williams as a Distinguished Alumna at its Own Your Future Gala at Bethpage Heritage Club.

President Prezant reported despite that MarComm's outstanding efforts, Rambo was defeated by Brockport's Ellsworth Eagle during SUNY's Mascot Madness.

Chairs Report: Chair Williams thanked Dr. Prezant for his report and the information provided to the College Council. She said the councilmembers need these details to carry out their roles to help Dr. Prezant move forward with the plans he has for the campus. She reminded that it is the Council's responsibility to talk with legislators in the Assembly and the Senate and reinforce what is needed in the next legislative session and in the NYS budget. Farmingdale is well known to the Chancellor and the Governor and councilmembers are counted on to advocate for all of SUNY during these challenging times. In addition, councilmembers should express to the ACT executive board what topics they want covered and who they want to hear from on panels at the next ACT conference in November.

Extended Learning: Dylan Gafarian, Acting Dean of Extended and Experiential Learning, gave an overview of extended learning opportunities at FSC that range from pre-college programs to professional and continuing education, and interinstitutional partnerships.

- The University in the High School at Farmingdale currently offers 99 college courses to over 7,000 high school students. This will be enhanced and expanded into summer programming with six, two-week programs that will bring students here for a campus experience in hopes of recruiting them when they choose a college.
- Professional and continuing education programs will be based on credentialing, delivering opportunities for professional advancement, professional development, and corporate training. Adobe Design, ASQ Lean Six Sigma, Certified Personal Training, Creative Problem-Solving, and Certified Nursing Assistant are currently offered. Foundations of Creative Leadership, Green Professional Training and Project Management Certificates will be available in June of 2026. We can move swiftly on developing these certifications as they don't need approval from NYSED. Many more programs are in the pipeline including AI Communication, Human Resources

Management and hospitality. Hiring good instructors is essential for the success of this initiative.

- The Institute for Lifelong Learning will offer lectures, workshops, and social events. These experiential opportunities will be offered to perspective students, alumni, employees, and neurodivergent adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Our inter-institutional partnership with Nassau Community College allows students to complete a FSC bachelor's degree onsite at NCC or online after they earn an associate's degree. In addition to the Applied Psychology degree, we will expand the partnership to include Business Management, Criminal Justice, and Health Promotion and Wellness degrees.
- Our Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program will expand partnerships with more external labs and institutions.

Commencement Update: Commencement will take place on May 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Student representatives will carry each school's flag. College Council student representative, Michelle Torres, will carry the college flag. Graduating seniors will sing the National Anthem and the alma mater. The Farmingdale high school brass ensemble will perform. Undergraduates will wear green gowns, graduate students will have black gowns with their master's hoods, and the 50th anniversary alum will wear gold. The College Council will be provided new "trustee" gowns. Monica Martinez and Assemblymember Kwani O'Pharrow will be in attendance. Graduates will be seated before the ceremony and the name reading scanner has been adjusted to move the ceremony more quickly. Students will be ushered to their seats after receiving their diplomas to keep them from exiting the stadium. They received written communication that they are expected to stay until the end of the ceremony. A special surprise will occur once all degrees are conferred. The earlier start time early should also help to keep people from exiting.

Other: Executive VP for Administration, Greg O'Connor, said that Roosevelt Hall should be completed sometime this summer. A punch list was reviewed, areas were identified for close-out, and mechanical systems will be commissioned next month. The Multipurpose room will hold up to 1000 people lecture style. The Little Theatre will get lighting and audio upgrades. The building will hold opportunities for being a venue for seminars, events, and entertainment for a charge, bringing a source of revenue for the College. The lacrosse project developer will be here next week for a presentation and Q & A.

Dr. Williams called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Caroleo made a motion and Councilmember Durant seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Fedder

Approved September 9, 2026