

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
College Council Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100
or
Virtual via TEAMS
February 7, 2024

Councilmembers present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Jim Durant, Robert Sweeney, Destini Buchanan

Councilmembers attending virtually: Paul Caroleo, Randi Shubin Dresner, Ralia Polechronis, David Curry

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

Guests: Frank Rampello, Lloyd Makarowitz, Sarah Gross, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:10am. She entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2023 meeting. Councilmember Durant made a motion and councilmember Sweeney seconded.

Motion carried.

Chair's Report: Chair Williams thanked those who attended Commencement in support of our students. She mentioned a Newsday article that reported \$10M will be allocated to SUNY campuses to assist in internships. She said she was sure that Farmingdale has resources in place to obtain the funding and connections with businesses and corporations to engage.

President's Report: Rohan Howell, our new VP for Enrollment Management, was introduced and welcomed by President Nader. As we exceeded our enrollment target for the spring semester, Mr. Howell is in a good position to build on that success. He will likely make a report in our second meeting of the semester. Dr. Nader informed the Council on some organization changes. Also introduced was Michael Nembhard, who is serving as Interim Dean of Students, and will oversee Residence Life, Title IX, and student conduct issues. Frank Rampello will become the Student Advocate on campus and will give an overview of the new Student Concerns Reporting Portal today. Student Activities, Campus Recreation, Campus Mental Health, and the Health and Wellness center will temporarily be overseen by Executive VP and CFO Greg O'Connor. Dr. Nader explained that the College will undertake a search for a Student Affairs or Student Engagement vice president at a future date as this new Cabinet member would not be reporting to him due to his retirement.

In previous meetings the Council has expressed great interest in the ways in which the new Student Code of Conduct would be communicated to students. Also needed is improvement in how students and the campus as a whole can submit concerns in a central place. Many times individuals are unsure of how to report an issue or who they should contact. Some matters went unresolved because the responsible area was not contacted. Student Advocate, Frank Rampello, informed that The Student Concerns Reporting Portal offers a digital option that is now available to a wider audience and is easily accessible for sharing concerns with college officials. A broad range of issues such as academic dishonesty, Title IV

and Title IX, and non-academic violations can be reported electronically and discreetly as opposed to having an uncomfortable conversation with someone who might not be the appropriate person. The form will collect information which will be forwarded to campus stakeholders who can respond and resolve. A record will be created available for tracking and documentation purposes. Councilmember and SGA President, Destini Buchanan, said that she is happy that Mr. Rampello will be demonstrating the portal to students at their General Assembly. Mr. Rampello and Mr. Nembhard will be touring campus to demonstrate the Portal to students, faculty and staff. A QR code that links to the form will be posted around campus and placed on the MYFSC dashboard. This platform also fulfills Middle States requirement to have a mechanism by which the campus community can report concerns and complaints. Dr. Sarah Gross, Biology chair, said this is very helpful as faculty always questions who to reach out to about reporting different kinds of behaviors. Mr. Rampello said that some concerns can be submitted anonymously, but for emergent health and safety concerns we need as much information as possible to intervene and help. Councilmember Dresner inquired as to what the response time would be. Mr. Rampello responded that an automatic email receipt would be sent within a business day. Emergencies are to be reported to University Police - there is a link to UP on the form.

Dr. Nader shared that we received a gift of \$750,000 from Murray Pasternak and Judy Berkowitz to set a trading room in the School of Business. Of that amount \$500,000 will be managed and invested by students in internship courses. This will distinguish us from many other colleges and the timing aligns nicely with our final accreditation visit in March with AACSB.

Dr. Nader reminded the Council that FSC and Stony Brook University were granted \$10M to create an Offshore Wind Training Institute. The money has been distributed to a dozen campuses across SUNY. Farmingdale received multiple awards. Now, institutions will be monitored to see how they are progressing on their proposals.

Dr. Nader updated the Council on the possible development of the Melville Road and 110 site. There is continued conversation with Empire State Development and the SUNY Construction Fund about how the parcel might be developed in ways to help the College and the region. The Governor did put within her executive budget legislation that would permit development of a site here and at Stony Brook University. Multiple funding sources may be available that may bear on the project.

SUNY and the Executive Chamber have reached out regarding the shortage of air traffic controllers nationally and across the region. We submitted a proposal that would allow us to upgrade our simulator and expand the number of interested students to go through a FAA approved program that would accelerate their path to becoming air traffic controllers. We are waiting to hear back on the budget and two page summary we provided.

VP Greg O'Connor presented on capital construction projects that were completed in 2023 and upcoming construction projects for 2024. The Health and Wellness Center renovations, repairs to the facades of Gleeson and Laffin Halls, Knapp Hall first floor, and Dewey Hall renovations have been completed. Projects for ADA bathrooms in several buildings and the second phase of the Lupton Hall windows are ongoing. The Roosevelt Hall project is running about nine months behind due to significant issues with the contractor. Construction is upcoming for Sinclair Hall, the Laffin Welcome Center, the

University Police training center and renovation and walkway projects. In the design phase are the Campus Commons, Thompson Hall, Computer Science Building, Greenhouse, and the Knapp Hall roof and façade. Mr. O'Connor informed that our Facilities Master Plan was done about twelve years ago and we are now thinking the next ten years with a space audit being conducted. Large work in a building like Lupton Hall is difficult to plan as it needs to be done in phases because there is not enough funding to do it all at once. VP O'Connor explained that 100% funding of the project at once would be impossible since the SUNY Construction Fund has about \$550M to distribute to 30 campuses annually. Chair Williams commented that whenever she is at SUNY meetings she hears that Farmingdale knows how to use the money it asks for and gets the work done. She asked if it could be arranged for the Council to go on a tour of the finished projects. Dr. Nader replied that we may coordinate this along with Foundation board members.

Senior VP and Provost Laura Joseph gave an overview of the many things going on in the area of academics. Provost Joseph said that related to Chair Williams earlier comment about funding for internships, Farmingdale received over \$300,000 to support unpaid student internships. The money will be funneled through the Nexus Center for Applied Learning so that students can be paid for up to 250 hours and \$5000.

Dr. Joseph also reported that an upper level Artificial Intelligence program will be launched in fall 2024 and our Master's in Nursing Administration has a target date of fall 2025. We resubmitted a request for joint programs with Old Westbury for Health Education and Technology Education. Our current Facilities Management program will be revised to online and our horticulture bachelor's program will change to a BS. A master's program in Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs is in development and a Radiology Tech program in partnership with Zwanger and Persiri is being explored. Four new microcredentials were added this fall, one being Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Certified Instructor. (Forty-one of our faculty have completed it.) Four more micro credentials are under development. With a \$1.2M grant from the Office of People with Disabilities Office we launched a Direct Support credential this spring. With SUNY Transformational Funding and Heckscher Foundation support we are offering an Accelerate, Complete and Engage (ACE) program and inter-institutional partnerships with Nassau Community College and Suffolk County Community College for students to complete bachelor degree programs at their campuses.

Dr. Joseph said that SUNY awarded FSC one Prodigy+ Fellowship position in the area of Bioscience. This program was implemented to increase the number of excellent diverse faculty. It will pay 80% of their salary and provide funding for professional development opportunities.

Other Business: Chair Williams said that the Presidential Search is progressing and those appointed have been working diligently in performing their duties. Updates can be found on the Presidential Search webpage on the FSC website. She called attention to the dates to remember and reminded all about the Legislative Breakfast on February 9 which Chancellor King will attend.

Chair Williams asked if there were any other matters to be discussed. As there were none she called for adjournment at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved April 17, 2024