

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE**  
**College Council Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100 or**  
**Virtual via TEAMS**  
**September 18, 2024**

Councilmembers present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Jim Durant, Paul Caroleo, Ralia Polechronis, Randi Shubin Dresner, Jairo Orozco

Councilmembers attending virtually: Robert Sweeney, David Curry

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

Guests: Amanda Cataldo, Brett Southard

Chair Williams thanked all for attending the meeting at an earlier time this morning. She called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17 and May 7 meetings. Councilmember Caroleo made a motion and councilmember Sweeney seconded.

**Motion carried.**

**Chairs Report:** Dr. Williams stated that she and other councilmembers attended Convocation on August 28 and were happy to hear more about our new president. She turned the meeting directly over to Dr. Prezant to share to make his report and take questions.

**President's Report:** Dr. Prezant said he appreciated councilmembers meeting earlier today so that he could welcome participants at Car Free Day. He added that in the past he was accustomed to holding such meetings earlier in the day, and wondered if the Council would be open to changing the meeting time.

Dr. Prezant said he received a very warm welcome from the Cabinet, faculty and staff. He would like to continue the trajectory of the many good things that are already happening at Farmingdale and will look to the Council for their insight and wisdom as the College moves forward. In addition, he has set up a presidential transition team comprised of faculty and staff from across campus to guide and inform him of what initiatives are most important to FSC. He reported that two important searches would launch soon, Provost and a Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dr. Prezant would like to grow external funding through donors, corporate development, and grants. He plans to increase grant activity by putting an incentive program in place for faculty to write proposals that would fund at least one student in their entirety.

He remarked that even with our strong enrollment, we will begin to recruit students by establishing a Visiting Scholars Program, which will put faculty and staff in K-12 classrooms, doing demonstrations and hands on activities that represent the applied learning that FSC offers. Dr. Prezant will work with Provost Joseph to develop more programs at the Masters level. They will be visiting academic departments on campus to learn about what kind of programs they would like to develop. He has

already started to meet with corporate partners and a variety of local businesses to build collaborations through public/private partnerships. These initiatives will generate enrollment and a positive reputation for FSC. Our recruitment efforts will need to look beyond Long Island and into the greater New York area, out of state, and internationally. Conversations have begun as to how we can accommodate additional residential students.

Chancellor King will be on campus to meet with students and some state legislators on September 19. He will visit the new Air Traffic Control Lab.

President Prezant introduced the new student representative on the College Council and SGA President, Jairo Orozco. Jairo is an Applied Psychology major and with a minor in Sport Management. He is our 2024-2025 Newman Civic Fellow, a Research Aligned Mentorship program scholar, and is involved with Research Experiences for Undergraduates. Dr. Williams added that she was pleased to welcome Jairo and expressed to him that his responsibility, commitment, voice, and vote are equal to the rest of the Council.

**Executive Reports: Provost Laura Joseph** reported that we received a \$3M Federal Government Department of Education Title V grant for Hispanic serving institutions. Our project, titled EMERGE, will focus on the creation of a first year/transfer year experience. It will expand our current course into a full year program. It will encompass onboarding, college readiness, and implementing first year learning communities and remedial type classes to help students advance in their curriculum. This is a five-year award. In addition, SUNY has awarded us another round of internship funding for \$647,000. This will support 250 internships for our students in 2024-2025.

Our second master's degree program, Nursing Administration, will launch in 2025. Undergraduate degrees in applied physics and public administration and are under development. A letter of intent for a third master's degree in regulatory affairs has been submitted. We hope to develop a degree completion program in radiology technology in partnership with Zwainger Persiri. On the horizon are a human services degree, hospitality management, surveying engineering technology, and a graduate degree in criminal justice, a MBA program with stackable certificates, and a construction management master's program. Thirteen microcredentials were developed this past year. Extension sites have been launched that allow students to complete their baccalaureate degrees at Nassau Community College and Suffolk County Community College. Through a SUNY grant, our ACE program allowed us to support 213 students from New York City schools. In partnership with Northwell Health Scholars program, six students from underprivileged school districts receive support with tuition, fees, books and transportation.

Provost Joseph said that State does not limit the amount of grants the College can receive and Dr. Prezant informed that grant funding from certain federal agencies offer indirect monies that are flexible and can be charged to supporting the work of the College.

**Dr. Kevin Jordan, VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** said that a successful Day of Belonging event was held in partnership with Constitution Day on September 17. His office received approval for a SUNY grant that will provide money to help build an interfaith council that will assist in healing

relationships between members of various religious beliefs. Dr. Jordan's office has had greater interaction with academic affairs in efforts to create a sense of community. Another Prodi-G+ fellow application will be submitted. Dr. Jordan is meeting weekly with the Committee on Planning and Resource Allocation to develop measurement tools to monitor our success in meeting Strategic Plan goals. The president's DEI Awards will go to one faculty member and one student on October 1.

Dr. Williams remarked that she attended a civic association meeting at which Madeline Quintyne, Commissioner of Town of Babylon Human Services, spoke highly of Farmingdale. Others in attendance also had connections to Farmingdale. Chair Williams stressed how important it is for College Council members to get out in the community, represent, and advocate for Farmingdale.

Dr. Prezant said that in these contentious times, there are many challenges in higher education and campus safety and disruptions are a concern. **Police Chief Dan Daugherty and Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Chris Maio** presented on our preparation for disruptions, campus safety, and our communication plan for getting information to campus. FSC had one planned protest on campus last year and the student group was very respectful. Chief Daugherty said that there was a high level of communication between the organizers, Student Activities, and University Police. One media person attended and there was a police presence. Students were able to exercise their First Amendment rights without any police involvement.

Farmingdale has a Student Rights and Assembly procedure in place. SUNY provided additional model policies around preparedness that we either integrated into our policies or adopted. UPD's frequent interaction with students, clubs, and organizations keeps the lines of communication open. University Police performs scenario based training exercises with the Cabinet, police de-escalation training, and participates in joint training with outside agencies. They also have access to the New York State Information Center and the Suffolk County Intel Unit if a potential disruption is suspected. Our communications office monitors social media regularly for any posts that might be indicative of a protest.

Ms. Maio said that her area has developed a comprehensive communications plan that complements our Emergency Management plan. Over 30 scenarios are addressed and RAVE text and email messages ready to send to the campus community on an immediate basis. The plan provides guidelines for responses to various situations and identifies the various audiences and the communication channels to be used. Priority tiers were established from 1 to 3, with Tier 3 being a major incident. Councilmembers would receive all RAVE alerts, and be informed whenever there is outreach to media.

Chief Daugherty said that should an incident occur, a debriefing would be held afterwards discuss successes and failures and initiate community healing. Student and employee safety concerns would be addressed via the Student Portal or at Town Hall meetings, and support resources would be shared. Chief Daugherty stressed that continued communications about civil discourse and FSC's core values and expectations are key. Outside groups must apply for a permit to gather on campus as specified in our Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech policy.

Chief Daugherty and other police chiefs regularly meet at the command level and SUNY campus departments support each other if necessary. VP Greg O'Connor added an active shooter training at the School of Business brought together the FBI, NYS Police, Suffolk County Police and Homeland

Security. University Police conducts overnight trainings in empty buildings and do roadshows at various buildings to train the campus on what to do during emergencies. Chair Williams reminded that our councilmembers are available to be called upon for their expertise in community matters and police relations. President Prezant said he feels confident that our police and communications office are well prepared to respond to potential protests or emergencies that might arise on campus.

**Rohan Howell, VP for Enrollment Management**, reported that FSC has a robust enrollment of 10,000 but we need to continue to place a strong emphasis on retention and tap into new markets for recruitment. Our retention efforts seem to be working as we had 375 more returning students this year than the previous year. We have used SUNY funds to expand access programs for students, and at Chancellor King's request, we enrolled 45 students in the Education Opportunity Program. Nassau Community College and Suffolk County Community College are experiencing declines and our transfer numbers are down. There have been closures of many private Colleges. The admissions team will be going out on the road to expanded areas and two Open Houses events will be held on campus this fall. One of our access programs, Advancing Completion through Engagement (ACE) will enroll 50 students from New York City.

**Michael Nembhard, Acting Dean of Students**, informed that the residence halls are filled with approximately 570 students (this number has grown from 412 in 2020/21). Michael attributes this to improvements in the dorms, increased programming and events, and promoting a sense of belonging on campus. First year residence hall students are enrolled in the first year experience program, a course that orients them to campus and educates them on how to use resources.

Currently there is a waiting list of 50 students and a mechanism in place, which prioritizes students in terms of distance. Mr. Nembhard said that we are now exploring ways to expand housing due to the increasing demand of students who want to live on/near campus. Public/private partnerships, off campus housing at hotels, and the possibility of erecting new dorms are possibilities. Dr. Prezant said that hotel use would be complicated due to transportation, liability and legal aspects.

**Executive VP and CFO, Greg O'Connor**, said the SUNY Construction Fund distributes \$650M across the SUNY system. We receive a large share of that support because of our successful academic programs and enrollment and because we are prepared to deliver projects. This requires a lot of stakeholder analysis, planning, and coordination. Our overarching Facilities Master Plan evaluates space needs for the next 10 years; it is broad and can be flexible according to changing needs of the College. The Plan feeds into an annual work plan and a monthly update from the Capital Planning office. Our Energy Master Plan resulted from a study of the entirety of our energy infrastructure and it proposes projects, which we will incorporate into our Master Plan projects. For example, a geothermal system was approved for the new Computer Science Building. The Roosevelt Hall renovation has had challenges due to issues with the management company, the workforce, and the supply chain. We expect completion of the project in August 2025. Other projects underway include walkways, renovation of Sinclair Hall to house Criminal Justice Studies, and the University Police Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will be an addition onto the existing police building and offer high tech equipment necessary for it to serve as a command center for Nassau and Suffolk counties and host trainings with

outside agencies. Future projects going to bid are renovations to Thompson Hall, Campus Commons, and the Laffin Hall Welcome Center. Renovations to Hicks and Cutler Halls are under consideration. Mr. O'Connor said our own facilities operations teams have completed projects such as the Air Traffic Control Lab, Lupton Hall architectural lab, Smart Energy House, and residence halls.

Mr. O'Connor said that the Farmingdale State Development Corporation and Dynamic Lacrosse are in local negotiations. SUNY Admin, the State Controller's Office, and the Attorney General are reviewing the land lease. If approved, this will be a source of unrestricted revenue for the Foundation.

President Prezant excused himself from the meeting at 11:00am and said that as far as future meeting times go he is fully open to times that work best for the group.

**VP for Development and Alumni Engagement, Matt Colson**, said the successful fundraising achievements over this past year are due to a more sophisticated fundraising operation that used over \$1M of less restrictive dollars to enhance the student experience (more than just offering transactional scholarships). Arranging celebrations such as ribbon cuttings and dedications make the Foundation more visible and shows the campus that people are generous. The alumni program, planned and estate giving, leadership giving, and major gifts have all grown by using intentional, emotional outreach and offering donors more ways to give support besides attending an event. He added that President Prezant is focused on corporate giving. Some emotional, meaningful gifts do exist; Strain Stars, Henry Schein, New Hour and the gift through alumnus and Assembly member Clyde Vanel. Mr. Colson agreed that we should engage more with the Route 110 business corridor and put their needs together with what we can deliver. He reported that quarter one has closed at \$1M and we are pacing where we should be for our \$3.5M goal.

Mr. Colson pointed out to the Council that the State-funded Excelsior Scholarship is not a great program for donors, as it must be a last dollar for tuition. That many times causes students to lose other scholarship gifts. He asked councilmembers to mention this while visiting with electeds who might be of influence.

The President's Gala on November 14 will honor Provost Laura Joseph. Mr. Colson thanked the Council for their continued support. Chair Williams said that all attendees especially enjoy meeting students at the event.

Councilmember Dresner informed that Island Harvest held their legislative breakfast the same day as FSC's last year. Some elected officials mentioned that they had not been invited to Farmingdale's event. Mr. Colson said that we are running reports by zip code to get demographics on alumni, which will give us insight to what districts should be included. Ms. Dresner said she would be happy to add comment with our event organizers.

**Council representative and SGA President, Jairo Orozco**, shared that several Cabinet members attended the SGA Swearing In Ceremony. He and SGA Senator, Mazen Capadi, attended the SUNY Student Assembly Leadership Conference and met with other student leaders. The Assembly President will be visiting FSC on October 4. Jairo is very excited to see student engagement is at an all-time high

at Farmingdale. Chair Williams reminded that student representatives on College Councils are welcome to attend the annual ACT Conference.

Chair Williams thanked Cabinet members for their reports and said she would appreciate their sharing reports and information on important issues with the Council via email for their reference. She revisited the topic of changing the 10:00am start time of College Council meetings. Earlier times could present traffic issues for members who travel further distances. Some members were open to earlier or later times. As some councilmembers had left the meeting, it was decided it best to make a decision with all councilmembers present by a majority vote.

Chair Williams asked councilmembers to review the ACT conference schedule. Dr. Nader will be a guest speaker. She reminded councilmembers that she would gladly share their suggestions for conference topics with the Executive Committee. At this year's meeting Dr. Williams requested a presentation on campus safety. She hopes that more council members attend future ACT Conferences.

As there was no other business, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

***Approved December 4, 2024***