

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
College Council Virtual Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100
or
Virtual via TEAMS
October 5, 2022

Council members present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Jim Durant, Robert Sweeney, Paul Caroleo, Jake Iaccino

Council members attending virtually: David Curry, Ralia Polechronis

College Administration: John Nader, Greg O'Connor, Kevin Jordan, Laura Joseph, Matt Colson, Pete Grizzaffi, Carolyn Fedder

Excused absences: Kenneth Card, Randi Shubin Dresner

Virtual Guests: Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Chair Williams thanked all for being here and entertained a motion to accept and approve the minutes from April 13. Council member Sweeney made the motion to accept and council member Durant seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairs Report: Chair Williams welcomed new member, Ralia Polechronis, and said all were happy to have her as part of the College Council. She said that activities continued on campus during the summer including Convocation. Most recently she and other council members attended the legislative breakfast. It was very informative and Dr. Nader did a great job reporting on the impressive things that FSC has been doing and what we intend on doing in the future. She added that when she goes out into the community she always hears positive comments. Dr. Williams shared that at the President's Circle Donor event, which was held at the Dr. Nader's residence, donors to the College had the opportunity to meet each other as well as some wonderful student scholarship recipients.

Serving as a representative to the United Nations for over twenty years, Dr. Williams attended several of the sessions that the General Assembly presented. One session of particular interest to her focused on the Role of Higher Educational Institutions in the "Transformation of Future Fit Education". She said that much of what they want to do to bring young people to the table is already being done at Farmingdale and we are on target for the future. She thanked Dr. Nader, cabinet members, faculty and staff for having the vision of where we need to go and how to get there. Dr. Williams reported that Council members participated in the Simpson Scarborough interview process that will help us understand current perceptions of Farmingdale and formulate unique branding that will make us distinctive in the marketplace. As with the Middle States reaccreditation discussions, Council members were very much on the same page with their views on campus matters.

Chair Williams and council member Durant will attend the ACT conference in Verona, NY. She will suggest that a future conference be held downstate, so that more of our members can attend. SUNY Board of Trustees chair, Merryl Tisch, will provide a welcome and Governor Hochul was asked to send a video message. She is very supportive of SUNY and she appoints college council members. There will be a business meeting on Saturday. Board members will stand for re-election except for first vice president,

Pat Brown who is retiring. There will be panels on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, Research and Innovation, and EOP. She mentioned that Farmingdale's ACT Scholarship recipient will be attending the conference with her family. Chair Williams will distribute the College Council Annual Report that was prepared to inform about accomplishments over the past year.

President's Report: Dr. Nader introduced new council member Ralia Polechronis. He added that Ms. Polechronis has visited the campus and her experience as an attorney and in a number of other fields make her a great asset to the Council.

Dr. Nader said that the Governor signed the land lease legislation that was discussed last spring. A development corporation has been created to protect the College and introductions have been made among interested partners.

Dr. Nader reported that over \$250M of construction projects are underway or scheduled on campus resulting in space constraints as multiple buildings will be closed at the same time.

The legislature and SUNY have appropriated significant sums of money for new faculty positions and enrollment initiatives. We have submitted our plans for both areas. We should be receiving \$2.1M for enrollment and expect that \$1.6M for new full-time faculty hiring maybe recurring. Other than the four University Centers, FSC got the largest appropriation in the system. The Trustees advocated strongly for campuses that have shown growth and advancement. Council member Caroleo inquired how many faculty positions would be added and Provost Joseph answered about 20.

The Honors program has launched with 20 students, five in each school. It has come to fruition as a result of the academic areas' hard work and gifts that were received.

Dr. Nader was proud to report that during the summer we received the Insight Into Diversity Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED). Dr. Kevin Jordan, VP for Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence said a deep dive into the data showed that we are doing a good job of supporting DEI. Now the challenge is to do over and above the bar. He added that we have been offering many programs and setting an example nationwide for other institutions.

Dr. Nader said that similarly, we are restructuring efforts to sustain our Carnegie Community Engagement designation. The Nexus Center will take on that function and a new Office of Community and Civic Outreach has been established. Provost Joseph said that one of the goals of his office is to track and monitor internships, events, community partnerships with nonprofit organizations, and civic engagement and service activities to show our progress towards meeting the qualifications for re-designation.

Simpson Scarborough has provided a brief executive summary on the internal survey. A longer document is forthcoming and will have insight as to on how we perceive ourselves internally. Then they will move on to external group interviews and have a full report in early January. We expect to gain feedback on how we should brand and promote ourselves going forward.

President Nader informed that policies for alternative work arrangements including remote work, occasional remote work, and other options for some areas were shared with our collective bargaining unit, UUP. It will be presented to the Farmingdale Executive Committee as well. The policies will enable us to serve the staff with flexibility and assist us with hiring as well. We have added positions in

Sustainability and Energy Management that will help us become greener and save us money. In addition, a Title IX Coordinator and Residence Life Director have been hired.

Dr. Nader updated the council on the advocacy for the new building for Computer Sciences and Information Systems. Three design meetings have been held so far with SUNY Construction Fund. We have applied for a \$30M grant to the Long Island Investment Fund for additional funds for the project. The estimated cost of the building is now \$75M.

Vice President Matt Colson reported on the advances the Foundation has made in regards to fundraising and alumni engagement. His goal is to grow a culture of philanthropy at FSC by way of the experiences students, faculty/ staff, alumni, and friends' have with the College. He added that we earned platinum transparency designation by showing exactly what we have and where the money is going. We want to outperform all other schools in the Tech sector, and as the fifth largest school in SUNY our fundraising needs to reflect that. In 2021-2022 \$3M was raised and our endowment is over \$10M. Scholarships continue to grow, and the faculty and staff campaign, gifts in kind, planned giving and alumni donors are being utilized to meet the College's mission. Mr. Colson was happy to share that the Foundation board and Cabinet have attained 100% giving which is very useful in demonstrating lead by example a culture of philanthropy here when approaching new donors and corporations. Mr. Colson said the branding study will help identify pillars and provide language to convey to the greater community how we are distinctive and what our core values are -- not just for enrollment purposes but also for compelling donors to give. He would like to continue growing unrestricted gifts to supplement the institutional budget. For example, the Foundation has shared in the cost of renovating a Radio Frequency Lab and a Biology Lab.

Dr. Nader mentioned that one of our librarians, April Earle, is a genealogist and local historian and has discovered that Ruland Road is named for an individual who was a prominent member of the Ku Klux Klan. She is in contact with the Town of Huntington to rename the road.

Chair Williams pointed out that in relation to our HEED designation and our new Community Engagement Office, Madeline Quintyne is the DEI Commissioner in the Town of Babylon, and Retha Hernandez, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for Suffolk County, are both very supportive of Farmingdale over the years and would be willing to help in any way.

Chair Williams asked as to if there was any other business. Mr. Iaccino, student representative on the council and SGA President, reported that the SGA is in good standing and that the atmosphere and activity on campus is much better than last year. He said the parking lots are full again. The SGA wants to make sure that every student has a positive experience on campus and there are a lot of good things are to come. Chair Williams said the president of FSC's student NAACP chapter participated in the Ujamma Festival in Wyandanch sponsored by the Town of Babylon.

Mr. Durant inquired about our fall enrollment numbers. Dr. Nader responded that we just exceeded our target and enrolled about 9600 students. Our transfer numbers were better than projected and the residence halls are filled. Dr. Nader said that the future of higher education is changing so we have to stay on our game in what we have to offer.

SUNY has hired a special assistant to the Chancellor specifically for enrollment. Mr. Caroleo asked how the hiring of 20 new full time faculty would affect adjunct positions, to which Dr. Nader replied it has been a strategic plan goal to increase the number of full-time faculty but this has not had a significant effect on adjuncts.

Dr. Williams reminded all that October 24 is UN Day. Many community members are attracted to Ralph Bunche Plaza on our campus which was named for the ambassador to the United Nations and displays flags of all the nations of our international students.

As there was no other business, Chair Williams entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sweeney made a motion which was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved December 7, 2022