

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE**  
**College Council Virtual Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100**  
**and**  
**Virtual via Google Meets**  
**December 1, 2021**

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

Council members attending virtually: Randi Shubin Dresner, Kathleen Ferrell, David Curry, Kenneth Card, Paul Caroleo

Excused absence: Richard Redmond

College Administration: John Nader, Sunil Samuel, Greg O'Connor, Matthew Colson, Laura Joseph, Pete Grizzaffi, Carolyn Fedder

Virtual Guests: Orla LoPiccolo, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Dr. Williams confirmed that all were in receipt of the October 13 minutes and entertained a motion to approve them. The motion was moved by council member Paul Caroleo and seconded.

**Motion carried**

Chair's report

Dr. Williams congratulated VP of Development and Alumni Engagement, Matt Colson, and the Foundation team for doing a marvelous job on the President's Gala, especially under the circumstances with the pandemic. Attendees commented to her that it was wonderful to be together again and enjoy each other's presence. She thought it was a great fundraising event.

Chair Williams asked for a moment of silence to pay respect to Tony Mastroianni, past College Council chair, alum of FSC, and alumni association member who passed away in September. He was a great supporter of the College and always spoke fondly of FSC. He had a successful career as an active community leader and was one of only 12 county public administrators in New York State. Chair Williams added that she spoke with Tony's wife recently and conveyed that he will be greatly missed.

Chair Williams provided an update on the Executive Committee meetings with the Association of College Council Members and Trustees. She hoped that our council members reviewed the Strategic Planning Committee's updated report and provided comments as to what they would like included in the revision of the handbook. Next week a final draft will be submitted to the executive committee by Pat Brown. Many changes were suggested in the responsibilities of College Council members. Dr. Williams asked that members to pay special attention to the final draft of the plan which will impact things that have been routinely accepted over the years. Some proposed changes will require legislative action. Council member Kathleen Ferrell asked about the process for changes that need to be approved by the legislature. Dr. Williams answered that firstly, the draft will be submitted to the Chancellor for review. The second step would be to move the report to the trustees, who must deal with SUNYCUAD and alumni considerations, and may also be impacted by past legislation. There is no guarantee that a special session will be held to look at the changes, it could take some time for the plan to be reviewed. She added that simpler changes will be easier to approve. The plan suggests an increase in community

advisory committees and puts forward that college council members recommend and vote on community residents and advocates to Advisory Councils for both ad hoc committees for specific issues and standing committees. Budgets will need to be considered for increased expenses that will be required to do this. The handbook and bylaws have not been revised in a number of years and Chair Williams said is depending on council members to be thoughtful with the process and do what they feel is best for the council and the campus.

### President's Report

Dr. Nader reported that effective today, due to the uptick of COVID cases on LI, the state of emergency again declared by the Governor, and the increased numbers of cases among faculty and staff, we are instituting proof of vaccine or negative test result to attend indoor events and activities on campus. If necessary we have an A/B schedule prepared to put in place for spring. No guidance has been received from the university system or the state thus far.

Also in the spring semester, Dr. Nader hopes to have a SWOT analysis done by an outside entity to obtain an honest appraisal of our strengths and weaknesses and provide actionable steps to improve the institution. It is important to have views of students, faculty, staff, and others and use that data. Dr. Nader added that we are also looking for expertise in identifying branding opportunities, projecting our image, and determining what pillars and themes we can use to identify ourselves. They would also advise as to where we should advertise to raise our profile. Several proposals will be presented to the Cabinet next week.

Dr. Nader reported that conversation continues with Queens College for noncredit programming in the cannabis field, specifically production and management. There seems to be interest and we hope not to charge students. Feedback is being sought from the NYS Cannabis Management Board and hopefully some funding can be arranged. The industry is highly regulated with licensing requirements etc. and we are one of the leaders in establishing academic programming at this point.

FSC is restarting the conversation on the BAS building and has developed a revised two page summary on the project centering on computer science and information systems. Administration had a call with our strategic advisors and plans to meet with the higher education chairs and obtain letters of support from LI delegations. The proposal has been submitted to SUNY as part of the capital plan.

We are developing programs around the ARP funding from the federal government. A significant amount is to be used for campus mental health programming as it has become a nationwide crisis across college campuses. As this funding is one-time, it is difficult to hire staff. We are brainstorming programs that can be done with the staff and supports we have already have in place. VP for Enrollment and Student Engagement, Sunil Samuel has been working with Campus Mental Health and other areas to identify opportunities. Council member Randi Shubin Dresner suggested considering partnerships with appropriate nonprofit organizations that could provide services using the funds. She offered to make referrals for Suffolk and Nassau counties. Dr. Nader welcomed the idea and said he would follow up with her. Chair Williams added that she participated in a ZOOM call where the issue of student mental health was discussed. She learned that many of the outside support agencies are booked because of the circumstances at this time. VP Samuel responded that we are fortunate in getting students seen quickly do as the Dean of Students Office and Health and Wellness are well connected within the community. In the next couple of months the funding will be used for programs ranging from yoga to large level

conferences and series. Mr. Samuel wouldn't mind extending programming to the surrounding communities as well.

Dr. Nader stated that another area of growing concern and of great importance is technology security. Colleges have been hacked and subject to ransomware attacks. We have been successful in intercepting spam and spear phishing attempts and continue to protect ourselves automatically with backend systems. Employees are subject to mandatory training, and we have added staff to our IT department. VP and Chief Information and Security Officer, Pete Grizzaffi will make a report in 2022 on the challenges in identifying threats and vulnerabilities to our network.

Dr. Nader invited all to our holiday party (Holiday Hangout) which will be held outdoors this year on December 7.

We plan to go ahead with the winter commencement ceremonies as planned, in person, on December 19 and December 21. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test will be required and masking will be mandatory. Ms. Shubin Dresner asked if we looked into a larger off campus venue like Nassau Coliseum that could accommodate more people safely. Dr. Nader replied that we had checked into that option previously but there was a risk that if a more lucrative deal arose they might cancel. This may not be the case currently.

Dr. Nader asked VP Samuel to report on fall 2022 and the enrollment landscape beyond that. Mr. Samuel said our fall 2022 applications are up by 11% and that we have had double the number of inquiries from students living in New Jersey and Connecticut. This outlook is good because these students fill our beds in the residence halls. Over 300 recruitment events have been scheduled through December. Admissions counselors are getting back into the high schools, we are opening the campus to visitors, and our tours, Open Houses and guidance counselor event were successful. He added that after 2025 there will be a large down turn in eligible high school students to recruit. We need to put right things in place now to insure future enrollment numbers. Chair Williams said that she had recommended a recent FSC alum, Darrien Hunt, as a mentor speaker at a CAP program for Suffolk and Nassau counties. Darrien spoke about his involvement and experiences with Farmingdale and all were impressed by him. Chair Williams suggested that graduates accompany counselors at recruitment events and as FSC ambassadors at high schools. Council member Jim Durant added that a program he is involved in takes students across the country to visit historically black colleges. They have found what is most effective is having the student tour guides speak directly with prospective students about college life. Mr. Colson added that he will leverage alumni for ambassadorship and recruitment of students going forward. He and Mr. Samuel plan to have student video messages from current students or recent grads reach accepted students from their high schools. This will impact on both alumni engagement and enrollment. Dr. Nader added that upstate colleges and universities are recruiting aggressively on Long Island. Many out of state colleges have recruiters living on Long Island and competition for students is at a very high level. Chair Williams pointed out that our programs are right for the future.

Senior VP and Provost Joseph spoke about the new general education requirements that must be implemented by fall 2023. There is a campus committee working to come up with a plan which will be presented at the governance meeting in the spring. There are 10 knowledge and skill areas and SUNY campuses must meet a minimum of 7 of the categories. The first four, Communication, Diversity, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences are required. Humanities, Social Sciences, The Arts, US History, World history and World Languages are optional (minimum of three). To meet the Diversity, Equity,

Inclusion and Social Justice knowledge area, all incoming students would be required to complete a first year experience course to establish a baseline of knowledge. An additional designated course would need to be taken as part of their general education requirements. Students wishing to take a deeper delve may attain a digital badge. Eventually, we hope that our discipline based departments will build the principles into some of their core courses. Competency areas in critical thinking and information literacy are infused throughout the curriculum and captured in a library run program. Mr. Durant asked about coursework tied to history and civic engagement. Provost Joseph replied social justice component in which historical policies have addressed civic involvement. Current courses will be refreshed to meet that component. Many of our co-curriculum activities encourage students to become more civically and community engaged.

Council student representative, Jake Iaccino informed that students are concerned about the new corona virus variant and if the removal of in person classes will occur. He said that student government will be taking on a resolution regarding mental health services and is planning an inclusivity night. He added that the SGA intends to keep the campus moving forward.

As there were no other questions or comments Chair Williams called for a motion to adjourn. Jim Durant made the motion and it was seconded.

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

***Approved February 23, 2022***