

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
College Council Virtual Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100
or
Virtual via TEAMS
December 7, 2022

Council members present in person: Patricia Hill Williams, Paul Caroleo, Ralia Polechronis, Jake Iaccino

Council members attending virtually: David Curry, Kenneth Card, Robert Sweeney, Jim Durant

Excused absences: Randi Shubin Dresner

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

Guests: Sarah Gross, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Chair Williams thanked all for attending and entertained a motion to accept and approve the minutes from October 5. Council member Caroleo made the motion to accept and council member Card seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairs Report: Dr. Williams reported that she and council member Durant attended the ACT conference at Turning Stone in Verona. The conference addressed the role of higher education in providing a transformative education for students. It covered the expectations of what colleges need to do in the future. Dr. Williams heard the same message at the virtual U.N. conference she attended, which focused on transformative education in higher education globally. She added that Farmingdale is already doing much of what was discussed, and is on track for the future. Chair Williams thanked Dr. Card for serving on the ACT scholarship committee. FSC's scholarship recipient, a non-traditional student, attended the conference with her husband and received a standing ovation. Dr. Williams informed that she was re-elected as ACT president and is pleased that during her term the handbook has been reviewed, updated, and distributed to all councilmembers. Council member Durant said that the conference was well planned and informative, especially interesting to him was the presentation on Construction Fund processes. He commended FSC administration for the funding the College received for the new building for computer sciences and information technology systems. He was pleased to hear of the initiative to build college councils within the system. Dr. Williams reported that the ACT Executive Committee is in a good state with a new third vice president and Kevin Law continuing to serve on the Strategic Planning committee. She informed that the October 2023 Conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Albany and she hoped more of our college council members would be able to attend.

Dr. Williams attended the governor's announcement on November 29 about the Long Island Investment Fund (LIIF) award for the new building and said that those who represent Farmingdale are in a very proud position.

President's Report: Dr. Nader reminded that as reported in the fall, we received one of the largest funding amounts from SUNY for new faculty hiring and enrollment initiatives. Our enrollment plan has been approved. It will allow for the purchase of data software, personnel, recruitment and retention initiatives, and program development. He cautioned that this might be one time funding. Dr. Nader said that demographics for the Northeast and in the State of New York have shown a decline in the number of high school graduates and the share of those who immediately head to college. SUNY hired a new enrollment officer and initiated waiving application fees for the fall 2023 semester for a period of time. Approximately 900 students have been accepted due to the uptick in applications. In an effort to help institutions, SUNY will begin to automatically refer students that are not accepted to one institution to be offered acceptance to another for which they meet enrollment criteria. This will convert applications to yield and ensure that everyone who wants to be at a SUNY get an acceptance letter to some institution.

In the spring Dr. Nader hopes to bring a draft of the new Student Conduct Policy to the Council. It is currently being reviewed by SUNY counsel. VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence, Dr. Kevin Jordan, explained that a committee of Farmingdale community members, students, and external partners reviewed and updated this comprehensive policy which will be helpful to the institution.

Senior VP and Provost Laura Joseph was pleased to announce that BHBP will move forward with placing students at Estee Lauder in the spring semester. Six students from the Bioscience department will have a paid intern experience that will provide full laboratory exposure and hands on applied learning. In addition, academic credit will be earned. The Nexus Center and Biology department had a rigorous interview process to select the students. Dr. Sarah Gross, Biology chair, has also been in talks with EL for employment opportunities for recent graduates.

Executive VP and CFO, Greg O'Connor, said that the new building is in design and we hope for its completion in fall 2025 (a very ambitious timeframe). Its initial location has been changed slightly and complex energy and efficiency systems will likely affect timelines and costs. The LIIF has awarded \$30M and the SUNY construction fund will invest \$45M. Mr. O'Connor reported that Lupton Hall roof is done new window installation is in progress. Thompson Hall will receive a complete renovation and with construction expected to start in 2024. Sinclair Hall will be rehabilitated to house the Center for Criminal Justice with construction to begin in 2030. Knapp Hall is currently being renovated to house access and research funded programs. Laffin Hall first floor will be transformed into a welcome center with business offices and tour room. Two new greenhouses will be built for the Horticulture program starting 2023. An emergency response training facility will be added to the University Police building and the Campus Commons building will house administrative offices. Roosevelt Hall should be completed by summer 24. The exterior of Gleeson Hall is currently being repaired and the parking projects, the sewer

system, and fuel tank projects have been completed. Over 250 new trees have been planted across campus and 88 restrooms will be updated to be ADA compliant. The steam distribution tunnel, labs, and other infrastructure have been invested in. Mr. O'Connor said our five year plan will encompass more than \$500M of investment. A new Facilities Master Plan is being drafted. Dr. Williams referred back to the presentation at the ACT conference which explained how the SUNY Construction Fund projects future needs of campuses by age, enrollment growth etc. Dr. Nader added that the Construction Fund must have confidence in the campus' ability to pull together the enrollment and program development necessary to support these investments.

The CPRA (Committee for Planning and Resource Allocation) is refreshing the strategic plan and has presented revised goals and objectives to the Cabinet. Dr. Jordan is the liaison for the committee and said that the goals are based on Farmingdale's core values of student success, partnership and community engagement and an inclusive culture. Objectives and key performance indicators will be created and discussed at the Cabinet Retreat in January 2023. Dr. Nader indicated that they should be measurable and may be aspirational. Ultimately, a Town Hall meeting will be held to present the plan to the campus community. It will be circulated to the College Council as well.

Asst. VP for Student Engagement, Kevin Murphy, reported that many of our students have not experienced emotional and social development do to COVID restrictions. His office has worked with the SGA to offer a variety of events and programs that provide learning outcomes but also deliver opportunities for students to engage and bond. Barbeques, trips to sporting events, movies on the lawn, and a Hispanic heritage block party have been held. The *Meet and Eat* with Brian Blumgarten, was very well attended and additional well-known guests will be invited to campus. Mr. Murphy wants to build a community of belongingness. The new Residence Life Director has made improvements and added activities such as karaoke nights and a Thanksgiving dinner. Our new Campus Recreation Director is adding programs that engage all students. Council student representative and SGA President, Jake Iaccino said that he has been collaborating with the Dean of Students to make better experiences for our students. He looks forward to the many events planned for the spring semester.

Dr. Williams spoke with two representatives from SUNY Student Assembly at the ACT conference and they knew Mr. Iaccino. Mr. Iaccino said he plans to engage more with them in the future.

Dr. Nader remarked that we tripled some dormitory rooms in the fall semester and had less attrition than in previous years. He feels that increased enhancements to the building and improved recreational activities have had a part in this. Mr. Murphy added that the tripling allowed us to offer discounted rooms and helped to recruit more students to live on campus.

VP for Development and Communications, Matt Colson, said that Simpson Scarborough survey is complete. We will have a full report by the end of January 2023. He feels we are not talking about Farmingdale in its most contemporary state. By telling the FSC story with fresh wording,

identifying our core values, and using brand messaging we will merchandise ourselves better. Some of the council engaged in the survey as did prospective students and parents, faculty and staff, alumni, and the business community. We will learn about how we are perceived internally and externally and then determine what direction to move in to communicate our brand. We want to highlight our transformation. Perhaps change the negative of being a commuter school to being a campus that serves commuters well. Mr. Colson added that successful marketing will bring in more students and donors.

Other Business: Dr. Nader shared that as a result of the terrible accident in September when a student was struck on Route 110, the College has met with the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, and the Department of Transportation to improve safety at the Melville Road intersection. A plan that includes cutting back shrubbery, installing sidewalks and fencing, and reducing the speed limit has been proposed.

SUNY has appointed a new Chancellor, Dr. John King, who has called Dr. Nader and will be visiting campus soon.

Mr. Iaccino point out that the SGA has passed three resolutions this semester and they are currently working to get them implemented.

Dr. Nader informed that Winter commencement will be held on December 20. He thanked the council for everything they do throughout the year.

As there was no other business Chair Williams entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Caroleo made the motion which was seconded by council member David Curry.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved February 15, 2023