

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2020

College Council members present: Patricia Hill Williams, Kenneth Card, James Durant, Robert Sweeney, Paul Caroleo, David Curry, Kathleen Ferrell, Jahad Hoyte

Excused absence: Richard Redmond, Randi Shubin Dresner

College Administration: John Nader, Pat Calabria, Kevin Jordan, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Kathy Coley, Orla LoPiccolo, Lloyd Makarowitz, Allison Puff, Davinder Kaur, Maya Bentz, David Phye

Chair Williams convened the meeting at 10:00am. She shared that Merryl Tisch, Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees, would be visiting campus today and thanked all for attending the meeting. Chair Williams entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Durant it was seconded.

MOTION PASSED.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Williams said winter commencement was our largest yet and a great success.

She stated that she attended the Chancellor's presentation at the State of the System address where she had the opportunity to advocate for the College and was proud to see our Nexus Center exhibit on display.

She also attended the ribbon cutting in the Greenley Hall library and commented that the renovation of the third floor is a beautiful, quiet, and calm space for our students.

Dr. Williams thanked Dr. Nader for being present at the National Coalition of 100 Black Woman Candlelight Ball and scholarship reception and said it was a nice opportunity for members of the community to meet the president of FSC.

President's Report:

President Nader informed that FSC received Carnegie Foundation community engagement classification thanks to the work led by Prof. Allison Puff and the committee, it was a demanding process and only 359 Colleges and Universities in the U.S. have this designation.

He also reported that FSC has received Tree USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation. We have a tree plan and a tree advisory committee, and thanks goes to Kathy Coley for her efforts on this. Only 385 campuses have this designation nationally.

Dr. Nader said spring enrollment data shows that we are up 85 in headcount, but the SUNY wide trends are not good, and we anticipate a dip in enrollment in the fall.

He informed that a proposed capital budget includes a 2 to 1 match program where the state and SUNY would match money that institutions could bring to a project which we will consider for the building for applied sciences.

Dr. Nader added that space constraints related to the Lupton Hall project will be a challenge. We are working on a phased approach with SUNY construction fund and may need to obtain trailers.

Dr. Jordan, VP for Student Affairs, implemented a commuter student survey and focus groups have been formed with student government to act on the feedback that was received.

Dr. Nader said that there have been few details shared by the governor and SUNY about our part in being a hub for the Offshore Wind Training Institute. There is funding allocated by NYSEERDA for this. He shared that the Tortora-Sillcox Foundation had provided aid to 24 students last semester and that 11 of them are on the deans' or president's list. The entire group had an average GPA 3.22. The foundation supports 300 students nationally.

Distance Learning

Dr. Nader said we have expanded distance learning by adding many online and hybrid courses and sections and have incentivized course development.

Davinder Kaur, Director of Distance Learning, reported that online learning is the fastest growing segment in higher education due to increased internet availability, flexible options, and just in time learning.

She informed that the Chancellor's message stressed efforts to embrace non-traditional learners and offer students micro-credentials, stackable credentials, and licensures before they complete their online programs. She added that employers and industries also are seeking these skills in their future workers. SUNY's future plans for growth include capturing older learners, working students, and caregivers. SUNY Online is piloted for Fall 2020 and will be available to students across the nation. The target for 2023 is to increase online enrollments by 20,000 students.

Ms. Kaur said these programs are less expensive to offer and have no physical space restrictions. FSC online programs and course sections have increased by 72% from 2014-15 to 2018-19. An online RN to BS completion program in Nursing and Dental Hygiene BS online are now offered.

She also stated that FSC faculty is incentivized to develop new courses in online or hybrid capacity by using SUNY grants, which the College plans to continue. In 2019, 124 new courses were offered, and the College retains co-ownership of them through a work for hire agreement, which means the same course doesn't have to be developed repeatedly so that they are all unique.

She added that innovations in technology allow for more engagement with instructors and between students. Online tutoring services are offered and a dedicated help desk is available 24/7. Faculty support and training is ongoing and no cost resources, software and technologies, such as lecture captions and read speaker for the visually impaired, are available.

Ms. Kaur said to become part of the SUNY Online platform, offer our programs nationally and get full support and marketing, we need to be a SUNY+ campus. A three-part engagement process will involve all areas of the campus.

She remarked that future plans include a student satisfaction survey based on their online course experience, development of a fully online Artificial Intelligence degree program, and a self-assessment for students prior to taking an online degree program through Open SUNY.

Ms. Kaur demonstrated a fully online nursing course. Dr. Makarowitz pointed out that there are some issues with the captioning and Ms. Bentz responded that due to the expense captions are manually edited in conjunction with disability services and that the Accessibility Committee is working on this.

Mr. Curry questioned if a SUNY online platform will allow students to take courses at other SUNY institutions to which Ms. Kaur responded yes.

Ms. Ferrell questioned the hiring of additional faculty to teach online and Dr. Nader replied that revenue from online courses allow for this.

Mr. Durant questioned how this will affect having students on campus and Dr. Nader said that most of our students take both online and in person classes and that hybrid classes are offered partially on campus.

Dr. Card questioned freshman success in completing online coursework and the preparation of high school students. Ms. Kaur answered that retention issues are usually based on the lack of support

services and engagement with faculty. Dr. Nader added that an orientation for students who have no online course experience can improve retention.

Mr. Hoyte, SGA president, commented that he is taking three online courses and he has constant contact with his professors. There are occasional technology issues, but overall students have provided positive feedback on online courses.

Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

Prof. Allison Puff, Visual Communications, informed that this is an elective designation that is awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the advancement of teaching. She added that only 9 of 64 SUNY institutions have this classification and we are the only SUNY on LI to possess this national recognition. The self-study process took a year and it took 6 months to write the 85-page application. She said that much work was done to collect and analyze data and our community partners were surveyed as well. Prof. Puff remarked that this recognition will help FSC attain grant funding, opportunities for fundraising and applied learning placements, and give us a more well-rounded reputation within the Long Island community. We will need to apply again in ten years and areas need to be addressed to maintain the designation. Continued support and resources will be necessary, including more efficient means of data collection, budgeting and tracking funding that is spent to increase community engagement, and tracking the involvement of student affairs. Processing changes to promotion and tenure and giving awards to faculty and students related to community engagement are necessary and indication that partnerships with the community are reciprocal is key. Dr. Nader added that it is extraordinary for a 90%+ commuter campus to receive the designation. Prof. Puff and Dr. Nader noted that changes were made to our mission, strategic plan and employment ads to include civic engagement.

SUNY Trustee Chair, Dr. Merryl Tisch, stopped by the meeting to extend a very brief greeting to all in attendance.

Conversation deferred back to the decline in SUNY enrollments which is due to demographics in New York State and the Northeast. Community colleges have had declines due to the decrease in high school populations, and competition has increased among institutions. We are looking towards adult learners, signed a joint admissions agreement with NCC and are working on a draft with SCCC. Chair Williams asked if our enrollment is steady because we keep pace with the needs of the surrounding community and Dr. Nader answered that our location and program mix are factors.

Ms. Ferrell remarked that Stony Brook also predicts a decreased enrollment but then a swing back up in 2025. All agreed that enrollment has been wave-like over time. Mr. Calabria, VP for Enrollment, said that the additional online courses and new programs should mitigate the decline for FSC. Data shows that seven of our new programs accounted for 80% of our growth. Ms. Ferrell said that staying current, as with the offshore wind initiative, is essential.

New Business

As President of ACT, Dr. Williams held a board meeting and the importance of College Councils to advocate with legislators for their campuses and for SUNY's budget was stressed. To get more information faster from the governor's office she suggested again that we invite the governor's regional representative to a College Council meeting so that they can inform us on what is going on and see what we're doing. It will be an opportunity to be strengthen efforts for advocacy and ask what is needed from council members.

On February 15, Dr. Williams will attend the African American and Latino Legislative weekend that will honor Senator Montgomery, who is retiring, and legislators who are fraternity brothers. It is an opportunity see and be seen by legislators.

She asked that council members try to attend events held on campus. Mr. Hoyte says students are happy to see support of council members and there are many events planned for Black History Month.

Chair Williams entertained a motion for adjournment. A motion was made by Mr. Durant and seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved, April 8, 2020

Please note:

All campus events are canceled or postponed through April 30, 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak.

May Commencement is postponed and options for rescheduling are being considered.