

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE**  
**College Council Virtual Meeting - In person Quintyne Hall room 100**  
**or**  
**Virtual via TEAMS**  
**April 13, 2022**

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

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

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

Excused absences: Pete Grizzaffi

Virtual Guests: Orla LoPiccolo, Lloyd Makarowitz, Brett Southard, Tanya Maura

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05am. She asked all to observe a moment of silence in memory of Delores Y. Quintyne. Chair Williams entertained a motion to accept and approve the minutes from February 23 and the special meeting on March 25. Council member Caroleo made the motion to accept and council member Ferrell seconded.

**Motion carried.**

**Chairs Report:** Dr. Williams reminded all about the ACT Conference taking place October 14-16 in Verona, NY. At the executive meeting held earlier this week, revisions to the Bylaws booklet were discussed. She noted that in the most recent correspondence, members we asked to participate in a poll, share their opinions on the ACT Bylaws, and review the revisions made by the Strategic Planning Committee. All remarks were included in a report sent to SUNY for government relations and legal to review. As there were no corrections recommended, the changes will now move forward, including revisions regarding community engagement and advisory committees. A printed copy of the document will be sent to members ahead of the conference. Council member Ferrell said that she appreciated the executive committee's work on getting the guidelines updated.

Dr. Williams informed that Chancellor Stanley was invited to open the ACT conference on Friday, October 14. Several panels will be presenting on topics that council members expressed interest in. On Saturday, there will be a Campus Construction panel led by Bob Haelen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities and General Manager for the SUNY Construction Fund. One of our council members has inquired about the possibility of SUNY expanding its facilities for Aviation programs. There will also be panels on enrollment and retention, Mental Health, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Research and Economic Development, international recruitment and study abroad post COVID-19. Chair Williams thanked council member Card for serving on the Scholarship Committee again this year. On Sunday, a session on Small Business Development by Sonia Smith will be held and Zulaika Rodriguez will discuss presidential searches. Angela Wright will discuss federal and state legislation and shared governance will be covered.

Chair Williams pointed out that council members were invited to the Trustees' meeting focused on the search committee for a new Chancellor. The names of the committee members are available on the SUNY website.

Dr. Williams reported that she met the President of SUNY Old Westbury, Timothy Sams. They spoke about resources, community engagement and the scholarship process. She said that the 100 Black Women Scholarship has been initiated for Old Westbury students (Farmingdale, SCCC and NCC already have the scholarship). Our VP for Development and Communications, Matt Colson added that he is meeting with Old Westbury's new VP to connect on how they can advance scholarship programs.

**President's Report:** Dr. Nader spoke about the updated "Go" folder. After a period of almost three years, the campus community should be refreshed on how to help students who may be facing emergency issues and how to handle difficult situations on campus. The folder assists in identifying those who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Expanded Mental Health and Wellness programming will be available to students. Student Affairs, Campus Mental Health and University Police will hold meetings with various campus groups about challenges that may be posed and the importance of awareness, communication, and connection in ensuring campus safety.

Dr. Nader reported that the land lease legislation for Dynamic Lacrosse has been drafted and the state budget has been adopted. We hope to get it acted on in this session. Letters of support from surrounding municipalities and the Long Island Association have been submitted and we have sponsorship in each house of the legislature. Nothing more can be done until we have authorization to lease out the state property. The legislation would allow us to take next steps. Any agreement would be subject to labor law and competitive bidding requirements. The partner entity would take the responsibility and financial risk to develop the site.

**Enrollment:** VP for Enrollment and Student Engagement, Sunil Samuel, reported a slight dip in applications and admitted students for the fall. There has been an increase students who have made deposits. Over 350 students attended Admitted Student Day and there has been a 60% increase in students who have visited the campus over last year. Other good news is that we have seen an increase in applications from the University in the High School (seniors who have taken Farmingdale coursework within their high school earning college credit). Provost Joseph informed that we received national accreditation for the UHS program because of how well we monitor it. Our faculty visits the high schools and work with their teachers to provide necessary resources. Dr. Williams asked for council to be provided with a list of the local high schools that are in the program so they can advocate with the school administrators. Student council member, Mr. Iaccino remarked that he took Farmingdale credits in high school. Council member Card commented that in the East Meadow School District offers several Farmingdale courses, and that parents find them attractive for college selection. They are also beneficial because the per-credit cost is low and the courses are taken during the school day.

**Honors Program/First Year Experience:** Provost Joseph said that Farmingdale is moving forward with launching the Honors Program in fall 2022. The program is unique as we are a technology college with a rigorous academic program. The enriched experience which will attract high achieving students. The program is limited to 20 students per year (5 per school). Participating students will receive a \$1000 scholarship annually and be involved in special seminar courses, research experiences, and conferences. They will be required to attend some events and take three core courses, earn nine activity points, and maintain a 3.3 GPA. In developing the honors program and the freshman seminar careful consideration was paid as to not cause students to opt out because of additional obligations, especially since many of

our students work. The committee is reviewing 50 applications for admission to the program. The scholarships will be funded through the Foundation and offered in addition to other scholarships and financial aid that students are likely to receive. VP Colson added that the fundraising lift for the honors program will be nearly \$3 million dollars in total.

Provost Joseph informed that the First Year Experience proposal will be brought to Governance on April 19. She said research shows that students who participate in this type of coursework tend to stay in their academic programs and their retention rate is higher. All incoming freshman will be required to take a one credit course (not transfer students) starting in fall 2023. This will provide a firm foundation for students to succeed. They will receive information regarding study skills, time management, and services that are available. It will also cover Farmingdale's requirement around diversity equity and inclusion, which aligns with the SUNY's mandated General Education Program. Dr. Nader remarked that adding additional requirements to curricula is a challenge because there is a limit on the number of credits we can require. Council member Dresner asked if we could mention the food pantry as part of the campus services module.

**Budget Overview:** Dr. Nader reported that SUNY fared well in the recently adopted New York State budget. In a financial update on the College's budget, Executive VP and CFO, Greg O'Connor reviewed the impact of COVID on expenses and revenue. The refunds made to students, added expenses for overtime and PPE, the cost of transitioning to distance learning, as well as the shutting down of residence halls, holding tuition flat, and a 5% percent cut on the state budget during that period resulted in planning for a reduced cash reserve and having to put spending restraints in place. The shutdown of professional development, research, travel, and events and a hiring freeze was necessary.

The federal government provided the CARES Relief Act which distributed \$3M in funds to our students and \$3M to the institution. HERF II funds provided an additional \$3M to students and \$9.5M in institutional funds some of which was used to recover the refunds made. ARP, the third round of HERF funding, provided \$11M to students and \$11M to the institution. We were mandated to spend \$600,000 on student mental health programming. Federal support and our spending constraints allowed for a projected cash reserve of \$54 million for the current fiscal year, which is extremely healthy. We scored a 2.2 on our fiscal financial health at the end of the fiscal year 2021 – in the highest performing range. Mr. O'Connor credited our financial team and the entire institution for the great work that was done.

This year's budget process will be a data driven, participatory process, with department chairs and senior leadership developing budgets. The digital process will help to maintain data integrity and monitor status from month to month. Departments' budgets will be reinstated and purchasing has been revised for spending allocations.

Mr. O'Connor added that there is \$250M in capital improvements in the making and much promise for strategic partnerships going forward. The projects will result in relocations, inconveniences and space issues that will go on for some time. The changes will be transformative to some parts of the campus.

Ms. Dresner inquired as to the status of the Middle States Commission self-study. Provost Joseph answered that FSC has received full accreditation and that there were no recommendations made. She boasted that Middle States wants to use our report as a model for a workshop on how to develop a successful study. Our next review will be in eight years. Ms. Dresner commented that as having taken part in the process, kudos and congratulations to all who worked so hard on the report. Chair Williams added that anyone who has ever served on the committee understands that tremendous amount of

work involved in the process. Provost Joseph plans to keep the committee active by acting on recommendations we made to ourselves and monitoring the new standards as they come through.

Dr. Nader called attention to the two commencement ceremonies, one for the COVID classes and the other for the spring 22 graduates. He added that Rushi Koda, class of 2009, will be our commencement speaker. He is a notable Indian-American actor who has a great story that will hopefully resonate with our graduates.

As there was no other business or comments Chair Williams entertained a motion for adjournment. Council member Sweeney made the motion which was seconded by council member Durant.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

***Approved October 5, 2022***