

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Virtual Meeting via Google Meets

September 30, 2020

College Council members present: Patricia Hill Williams, Randi Shubin Dresner, James Durant, Robert Sweeney, David Curry, Kathleen Ferrell, Kenneth Card, Paul Caroleo, Natalie Rodgers

Excused absence: Richard Redmond, Laura Joseph

College Administration: John Nader, Kevin Jordan, Patrick Calabria, Greg O'Connor, Matthew Colson, Michael Goodstone, Carolyn Fedder

Guests: Jahad Hoyte, Orla LoPiccolo, Brett Southard

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00am and welcomed everyone back to the beginning of another academic year. She confirmed that all members were in receipt of both sets of minutes. She asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 8 meeting, Council member Sweeney made the motion and it was seconded. Chair Williams requested a motion for acceptance of the May 27 minutes, which was made by Council member Caroleo and seconded.

Motions carried.

Chair's report:

Chair Williams thanked Dr. Nader for his leadership during the pandemic and the FSC staff for their diligence in keeping the campus safe. She added that the College has received accolades for its practices and procedures put into place in response to COVID-19. She remarked that the student chapter of the NAACP at Farmingdale has assembled an excellent exhibit in the library, which she hoped would continue to be available for viewing and used to promote community engagement. She said that the new student representative on the council would be introduced today. Chair Williams informed that the first virtual Association of Council Members & College Trustees conference will take place on October 16. An invitation letter was sent to all members and an agenda has been set. Chancellor Malatras will be the keynote speaker and Trustee Chairman Tisch will introduce him. Attendance to this year's conference is expected to be higher than in the past due to the interest in the vision of the new Chancellor and his plans to move SUNY forward in this environment. His chief budget and legal staff should be on hand to answer questions. The second half of the conference will be a review of the ACT bylaws and the strategic planning committee will present and share the future direction for ACT. The meeting will be mainly informational, there will be no voting, and any amendments to the bylaws will be voted on in next year's conference. Dr. Williams encouraged all council members to register and participate. Chair Williams stated that she appreciates the regular information that comes from Farmingdale's leadership to the council members, as councils at other institutions are not as fortunate. She noted that the Middle States self-study document was shared with the council for their review.

President's Report:

Dr. Nader acknowledged Jahad Hoyte for his service as student representative on the council, his work as SGA President, and his willingness to assist in campus initiatives. He thanked him for being an excellent representative of the campus. On her last visit, BOT chair, Meryll Tisch, mentioned how highly she thinks of Jahad. He introduced Natalie Rodgers as the new student member of the College Council. He commented that the NAACP exhibit at Greenley Library, "The Black Experience: Resources for Farmingdale State College" was led by student Darrien Hunt and embraced by the library staff. The exhibit was featured in the

Campus Times. He added that the public art committee engaged students in a poster contest, "Safe By Design" focused on COVID safe practices. The Foundation provided scholarship money for the winning artwork, which has been posted around campus.

COVID Update Dr. Nader said that we have limited our campus footprint for the fall to no more than a few hundred students on campus in any class time block, only one third of our students have a campus presence. Half of our employees continue to work remotely, made possible by the work of IT department. Our plan for was conservative and over 2200 course sections were scheduled, largely remotely, thanks to Provost Joseph and IT. We are operating our campus shuttle, running to the LIRR and the aviation center with employee volunteers. Dr. Nader stated that strict standards for campus conduct have been put in place and we have had very few issues with compliance.

Testing Program Our robust testing program began with Enzo Biochem and now also includes SUNY mandated pooled surveillance testing. Vice President for Student Affairs, Kevin Jordan, reported that since September 19, over 700 tests have shown no positive results. Our 100 residential students test twice monthly. A new software program, Maxient, will be used to process student discipline in regards to testing quickly and efficiently. Health and Wellness, nursing students, and the Dean of Students have been successful in administering student testing. Dr. Jordan added that CSEA and UUP have agreements for mandated staff testing and employee testing will begin soon. Paul Caroleo questioned how the student and staff pool testing is structured. Dr. Nader responded that students are mandated to test if they have an on campus footprint and that we randomly select a percentage of students to test each week. The same will be done with employees who have an on campus presence. Testing can be on a voluntary basis as well. Our testing plan was approved by SUNY.

Academic Plans Spring 2021/ MSCHE Spring 2021 instruction will likely be a continuation of the fall. Associate Provost Michael Goodstone shared that modalities will range from fully on line to on campus instruction, including hybrid, remote, and synchronous learning. He added that advisement for spring 21 is underway and that registration will begin October 26. The Middle States self-study document was developed over the past two years with the input of many campus members. An Appendix will need to be written for changes that were made due to COVID. The virtual preliminary visit with Dr. Cote-Bonanno, chair of the external review team, is October 15. The full team will review the self-study report and meet with the campus April 18-21. The evidence inventory is still being compiled. Council member Shubin Dresner, who served on a steering committee, credited the committee for their extremely hard work and congratulated them on putting together the document. Dr. Nader said that the reaccreditation process occurs every eight years and the self-study is intense, especially in providing the documentation that shows satisfaction of seven middle states criteria. He added that it is also an opportunity to improve and make Farmingdale even better.

Enrollment Update VP Pat Calabria said we enrolled over 10,000 students this fall. Over 11,000 applications were received with a 3% increase in freshman applications, which is unusual in the environment. Admissions, transfer services, and marketing teams have worked to build enrollment using communications and virtual events for recruiting. Small in-person campus tours will be offered during the fall. Our strong enrollment contributes to the financial health of the campus. He added that there will be no athletics for the fall, but some teams will be able to practice under strict protocol to keep them engaged. Council member Durant questioned transfer numbers, and Mr. Calabria responded that there was a slight uptick despite the trend of decreased enrollment in NCC and SCCC and decreased high school populations.

Gala and Alumni Engagement Dr. Nader introduced Matt Colson, VP for Development and Alumni Engagement. He reported that the Foundation's Student Emergency Fund raised almost \$200,000 and that 67% of the donors had never donated before. This year's Annual Fund will use a data driven strategy to ask alum for support in a deliberate, customized mailing based on what they have given before. A planned giving program will be rolled out later this year, and faculty and staff will have new options for giving. A prospect list for establishing relationships with donors who can make larger gifts is also part of his plan. An Alumni Town Hall has been organized, which will give 100 alum direct access to the President and offer opportunities for Q & A's and conversation about the College. Mr. Colson reported that the President's Gala will be virtual - On Demand starting November 12, and boxed set will be mailed to attendees' homes, including wine glass, champagne, food and raffles. He said that many colleges are looking to their Foundation and Alumni Boards leadership to show donors that they too, are financially supporting their institution. Mr. Colson asks all to consider how they can help and give support to the College. Chair Williams welcomed Matt's energy and his ideas.

Dr. Nader commented that recent hires, Matt Colson, Pete Grizzafi, Chief Information Officer, and Jeff Levine, Director of Admissions have new ideas and we are fortunate for what they bring to FSC.

Financial Position VP for Administration and Finance, Greg O'Connor said that our goals are to protect employees' jobs and health, and provide academic continuity and support services to our students. The state tax shortfall has resulted in a 20% cut to our revenue and we did not receive a payment from the state for six months. Our fee revenues have also been reduced. (50% of students have had fee waivers and reductions.) With 500 less students in the dorms, revenue is lost there. Our debt on the residence halls has been restructured which has reduced our payment from \$1.5 million to \$70,000. A \$100,000 upfront fee payment was made to Aramark to improve food service. We have incurred increased costs for sanitizers, PPE, masks and other related supplies. CIO, Pete Grizzafi has led a million dollar upgrade in technology infrastructure including servers, hardware, and software to help students continue to learn. A potential for more refunds exists if we need to empty the residence halls and go fully remote. We continue to have good financial reserves, but we need allocation to spend against them. Strong compliance with the controls in place and reduced spending has allowed us to have money to support academic experiences. Dr. Nader said students are paying slightly less this year for tuition than last year. Mr. Durant asks about refunds for the previous spring semester. Mr. O'Connor responded that a refund schedule was followed and many credits were issued. A dedicated email to answer questions regarding fees and to resolve student account issues has been set up. Council member Ferrell asked if there was an increase in Excelsior applications. Mr. O'Connor responded that the future of Excelsior is uncertain, some students have lost it and new students may not have the opportunity to apply. We have tried to fill the gaps with scholarships and loans. Mr. Durant asked about follow up on his request for business cards and email addresses for council members.

Other Business Chair Williams remarked on the retirement of staff member Kathy Coley, and recognized her for her helpfulness and dedication to the College. She also mentioned the announcement of VP Calabria's upcoming retirement. Dr. Williams extended condolences on behalf of the council to the Foundation Board on the passing of Foundation member and alumna Joe Egan. She welcomed student member Natalie Rodgers and said that all look forward to her participation on the council. Dr. Nader announced that Carolyn Fedder has been promoted to Executive Assistant to the President.

Chair Williams entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Durant made the motion and it was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26am

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved 12/2/2020