

SUNY Delhi College Council Meeting – Hybrid

May 7, 2024

Minutes

In attendance: Jack Schoonmaker, Ray Pucci, Wayne Oliver, Jeanne Ellsworth, Tahirah Clark

Guests: Dr. Mary Bonderoff, Chelsea Mathieu, Shawn Brislin, Lou Reyes, Mark Sullivan, Alice Krause, David Brower, John Padovani, Michael Sullivan, Doug Holub, Alice Krause, Lisa Tessier (remote), Elizabeth DeFalco (remote), Ruth Ehrets (remote)

Part 1 – Call to Order/Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. Introduced new College Council member Tahirah Clark.

Part 2 – Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

Part 3 – Chair's Comments

On March 19th, Kathy Mario sent her resignation letter. The council unanimously motioned to approve her resignation.

Tahirah Clark's appointment letter was shared, with her addition to the council through June 30, 2028

Part 4 – Acting President's Comments

We began with introductions around the table for our newly appointed college council member, Tahirah Clark, who is a practicing attorney.

Since we last met, Middle States had a follow up visit with campus leaders. They recommended that SUNY Delhi is in compliance.

We have increased our engagement this spring semester with new events and pre-commencement ceremonies. Many award banquets are underway. Commencement is May 18th.

A mental health summit was recently hosted on campus, thanks to the incremental funding from SUNY.

Back in November, Chancellor King directed campuses to develop a financial sustainability plan. In March, we presented our plan to Chancellor King and his leadership team. We were the first college to get their plan approved. Campuses who do not have their plans approved will not receive the additional funding enacted through the state budget this spring. To add, the budget covers the UUP raises that were negotiated previously.

Enrollment is going strong. SUNY Delhi is trending very well in the tech sector. Scholarship monies were provided by the O'Connor Foundation for Delaware County students.

Leaders recently met with the Construction Fund to continue discussing and addressing waitlists for programs in high demand. With the increased college applications, 9 programs are closed out with the anticipation of 2 more programs closing soon. There are hundreds of students currently on a waitlist.

For retention, departments are working hard to increase registration numbers for next year. A one stop central shop is being planned.

Part 5 – Staff Reports Highlights

In Student Life, they are preparing for the fall semester while closing out this one. The athletics teams are competing very strongly. All sports have ended except outdoor track and field. They are going on to the regionals.

They are working on a new student orientation model, extending from a weekend to a weeklong program. A virtual orientation will go live in July, with an online course for students to complete over the summer. A basic needs survey will be disseminated this fall.

Our auxiliary, CADI, is wrapping up the year. 14 student employees (CADI) received scholarships.

Peer educators are providing many programs to support students with mental health. The free health vending machine has been very popular.

Residence life completed their 10-year capital plan. There is a desire to build a new residence hall. One hall will be taken offline to be renovated.

165 students, faculty and staff volunteers participated in the Community Service Day.

Campus activities held their annual concert last week.

Food insecurity funds will expand to cover food over the summer, again thanks to the incremental funds.

Microcredential interest and development is in progress, for credit and non-credit bearing programs. This will go through the existing curriculum committee structure. They are approved at SUNY with a quick turnaround.

We are launching a prior learning assessment working group. This will be instrumental for providing prospective students with credit for previous experiences.

Opportunities for apprenticeships are being explored. We are currently providing a groundskeeper apprenticeship, with 12 individuals per cohort.

The provost's office hosted a registration fair with the new food truck.

SUNY Delhi is one of 40 campuses to be approved for a PRODI-G fellow. We will be hiring a biology professor.

With the incremental funds, 10 students will be paid for internships this summer. The Handshake job platform, intended for college students, was launched this week. 10% of students have already signed up. It's a free service for students and employers. The Director is actively connecting with the Chamber and faculty members to encourage employers to participate. It is a widely used tool in higher education so many employers are aware of this platform.

We continue to work on a jointly registered (nursing) partnership with SUNY Oneonta.

At the end of this month, a universal design for learning summit will be hosted at the college.

The College Senate elected a new presider, Doug Holub, for next year. Two working groups are addressing guidelines for faculty searches and student course evaluations.

Members attended the University Faculty Senate meeting at Cornell University. There were numerous shout outs for great work at SUNY Delhi. 5 resolutions were passed at this meeting. These will now move to the local senate to vote on.

The enrollment forecast keeps getting raised because we are doing so well. SUNY is watching our numbers very closely. We are down a few student types (e.g., transfer) yet are confident we are going to hit our overall goal. We will have triples this year in campus housing should the numbers reach our goal.

Articulation agreements are up from last year, many from New York City and technical high schools.

The Student Senate had numerous club and fundraiser programs. The college players had their play this past weekend. Excitedly, a rep from SUNY Delhi will be part of the SUNY Student Assembly.

The inaugural Lavender Ceremony and Kente Celebration were well attended and received. There were keynote speakers, student speakers, and performances at both events. Anyone was welcome to attend. New stoles, cords, and tassels were shared with graduating students.

Engagement with the local community, such as Delaware Academy, to build community and understanding.

Since the approval of the financial sustainability plan, we continue to receive praise from SUNY Administration. We are tracking well to close our structural deficit by 2027/2028.

With the newly approved state budget, additional money will be allocated to SUNY Delhi.

Since the leadership report was written and shared, financial aid award letters are beginning to go out to prospective students. Thanks to Student Financial Services for their hard work. The department of education is sharing data with colleges.

There are 5 working groups through the Retention Council implementing academic and student success tactics from the strategic enrollment management plan. This process is organically improving collaboration across departments to foster and sustain student success.

The working groups are gathering lots of data including student facing surveys and peer programs, examining communications and ways to engage students outside of email, creating a glossary of terms, researching and recommending modifications for our academic advising structures, and reimagining the financial literacy programming offered on campus.

The SEM data team demoed several dashboard platforms and recently presented their recommendation to the president's cabinet. SUNY Delhi has Argos. Future action will be determined and shared with the council.

We are working to rebuild the starfish platform (early alert software).

There is a first gen working group, via the equity council, developing a website for first generation students and gathering stories from first gen faculty, staff, and alumni. This fall, we intend to begin new events to build community for this population

The print shop modified their print services and will be saving costs by outsourcing to Oneonta.

There was an alumni networking event recently hosted by Advancement.

Faculty have put together a student activity and research fair, occurring later this week. An alum will be the keynote speaker for the event.

There are many events planned this late spring through the summer.

At the April college foundation board meeting, they approved an additional spending allocation from 4% to 4.5% for scholarships in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Part 6 – Old Business

Keep strategic planning initiatives as old business, for future endorsement by the council.

Part 7 – New Business

A motion was made with no action to be taken for executive session at 5:45 pm.

Shawn Brislin presented SUNY Delhi's GLBA report, which regards information related to cyber security compliance.

The leadership team left after this report so that the college council could discuss the presidential search.

Motion was made and seconded by Jeanne Ellsworth to adjourn executive session with no action taken and return to open session at 6:28 pm. Motion carried.

Part 8 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Ray Pucci and seconded by Julia Rios to send an amended memo to SUNY Administration. Motion approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Wayne Oliver and seconded by Jeanne Ellsworth to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.