



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, December 6, 2011

(Please note: these minutes will be presented to the College Council for approval at their next meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 2012)

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Present were:

Council

B. Nesbitt (via teleconference)
A. Gaitan
M. Jargowsky
C. O'Beirne
D. Vazquez

Administration

C. Bishop
B. Jones
R. LaGatta
B. Martin
J. Nader
J. Smith
C. Vancko

Observers

T. Hamblin
B. Kaplan
B. Meckel
L. Osterhoudt

College Council minutes are now being recorded, instead of webcast, in accordance with a waiver to Executive Order #3, provided by the Office of Taxpayer Accountability. The recording and a copy of the (unapproved) minutes will be posted on the college website.

I. Call to Order: The regular meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Chairman Nesbitt.

II. Approval of Minutes: Carol O'Beirne moved to accept the minutes from the September 20, 2011 meeting. Alberto Gaitan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Nesbitt asked what is being done in terms of a replacement for Craig Wesley who retired. President Vancko noted that we are giving Rob Mazzei the opportunity to demonstrate his ability to manage Craig's responsibilities and will review the situation at the end of the spring semester to determine whether we need to fill the dean's position. Craig has moved to Seattle and is doing some work online for us.

III. President's Report: **President Vancko** introduced Regina LaGatta, Delhi's new Vice President for College Advancement who has been at Cobleskill for three years and will serve both campuses, and noted that Regina brings expertise and a great skill set. Regina stated that she has been very well received at Delhi and thinks the reason the campus alliance is working in the communications area is because of the leader that we have in President Vancko. She is looking forward to working with the Council.

Chairman Nesbitt said he hopes the sharing of services will benefit both campuses. President Vancko reported new titles for the shared services team: Bonnie Martin is Vice President for Operations; Carol Bishop is Vice President for Business and Finance; and Joel Smith is Vice President for College Relations. President Vancko met with Chancellor Zimpher last week for her annual review and reported that the Chancellor is very sensitive to the changing policies of the trustees regarding shared services and that the plan continues to evolve. The Chancellor assured President Vancko that she would support our initiatives in sharing services with Cobleskill. President Vancko is expected to submit a report in July

describing the impact of shared services and whether or not Cobleskill is ready for its own president. President Vancko will continue to do what she believes is the right thing to move both campuses ahead. In addition to shared administrators, we have made reassignments to make sure Delhi has the staffing it needs, e.g. Amy Brown, an outstanding employee, who has been the purchasing agent, is moving to Controller.

President Vancko thanked the Council for its endorsement of her leadership in its resolution to the Chancellor. Brian Hutzley has been named Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at SUNY and, along with Craig Wesley's retirement, we can already demonstrate significant savings in salaries and hope that more can be saved through purchasing and other shared services.

The Chancellor assured President Vancko that we will get the online Master's of Science in Nursing done, possibly in partnership with Empire State. We will have 565 students enrolled in the online BSN in the spring semester.

Trustee Eunice Lewin recently made her first visit to SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Delhi. She had a very good visit and a very good meeting with students at Delhi.

We recently adopted a new mission statement and are following up on suggestions from the College Senate on how to disseminate it. The statement reads: *"Because the student is the most important member of the SUNY Delhi community, the college is committed to student success through academic achievement, civic engagement and experiential learning."*

President Vancko hosted dinner for the executive board of the Student Senate this fall. She noted that it is very refreshing to sit with students and hear the positives and also what they would like to see changed.

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission is on campus this week for an accreditation visit, which they had postponed earlier this semester.

President Vancko is hopeful that we may have the final funding for the Subsurface Project which will help create 100 jobs and generate a \$40 million private investment.

Nominations for the two vacant College Council positions are progressing through the system and President Vancko hopes to have confirmation soon.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if the Chancellor acknowledged the Council's resolution. President Vancko said she did, but had no comments on it. Alberto Gaitan noted that initially President Vancko was the only person going to Cobleskill, now there are several administrators sharing leadership roles, and asked how long this would continue. President Vancko responded that she has to prepare a report for the Chancellor in July, after which the Chancellor will evaluate how the shared alliances initiative is working. President Vancko also noted that she is very protective of Delhi. Dr. Gaitan said she and the other cabinet members are doing a terrific job - it takes a lot of courage and sacrifice and in the end it should pay off. He feels strongly that we're going to be fine, but thinks sharing everything that is going on with Council members is important.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about a comment in Terry Hamblin's report from the Faculty Senate about community colleges not being impacted by the shared services initiative and whether Cobleskill and Delhi could be changed to community colleges. President Vancko responded that the counties could not afford to purchase those properties from the state and also community colleges are not allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees.

IV. President's Staff Reports: Dr. John Nader, Provost, highlighted half a dozen items that were included in his report and added a few more recent ones: the Resnick Library received a very good report during its triennial review and will move to a five year cycle in the future, in line with academic reviews.

The Merrills, who have assisted us in a number of ways, visited campus in October. During January break, Dr. Bret Meckel will take 8-10 students to South Africa for 23 days; they will be taking Delhi courses in collaboration with the University of Pretoria. President Vancko noted this is the first time we are sending a cohort of students with a faculty member to South Africa, although individual students have gone in the past and described it as an invaluable experience.

The Criminal Justice program at Schenectady County Community College has 23 students and we expect 36 in the spring semester. Faculty member Patricia DeAngelis has been meeting with the Albany law school regarding a 3+3 program. Our Veterinary Science Technology program recently completed an accreditation site visit by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). There were no major findings; we will receive the full report in a few months. Cobleskill has a robust fisheries program and we are working with them to provide tilapia to *Signatures*, our student run restaurant

Chairman Nesbitt asked if our dedication of rooms in the Resnick Library to specific subject areas puts us ahead of other libraries. Dr. Nader responded that yes it does and the review panel thinks we should do more. They also raved about the quality of our facilities and made some suggestions on how to improve information literacy for our students. Dr. Gaitan asked about online resources. Dr. Nader noted that the majority of the BSN is online and more and more things are moving in that direction. We have dropped subscriptions to some print publications and redirected funds to online resources.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, reported that we are in the last week of classes; next week is finals. Sixty students were involved in the O'Connor Hospital holiday parade last Saturday, and Marty Greenfield and Barbara drove a pickup truck with a steel band. The Veterinary Science club hosted a dog wash on campus that day also; assistant Professor John Reeher dressed as Santa. Our athletic teams did very well on the road and a young woman from Japan on our swim team is breaking records. Several student peer educators recently attended a Multicultural Student Leadership Conference in Oneonta. John Nader and Barbara Jones are working on the Student Opinion Survey (SOS) which will be administered in the spring semester; the SOS is an important way to get student feedback.

Carol Bishop, Vice President for Business and Finance, included information about billing and financial aid in her report, which she thought would be helpful. There have been several staff changes in her area and all vacancies have been filled. Carol has a really good team and they are all working hard to move forward, and starting to think about areas where we can use the Cobleskill alliance to create efficiencies, such as in purchasing. Chairman Nesbitt commented that the chart she provided was very interesting. Carol said we have a huge percentage of students who receive aid, as in the past.

Joel Smith, Vice President for College Relations, reported that he has been working on fundraising and permits for the Subsurface Project and has also been working with the 100th Anniversary Team. The Chancellor has indicated she wants to visit Delhi in May for the kickoff of our capital campaign. We have over \$600,000 in pledges during the silent phase of the campaign, over half of which will be dedicated to scholarships, our number one priority for the capital campaign. Joel also met with an alum who recently started the Second Chance scholarship program for students who did not come directly to college from high school and had to overcome a hardship. The scholarship rewards academic performance and requires a match, so Joel is working with Regina LaGatta and others to provide the opportunity for people to sponsor students with a \$2,500 donation.

Bonnie Martin, Vice President for Operations, said she wants to recognize her staff at Delhi; people have stepped up and taken on additional responsibilities so that things are running smoothly. Bonnie has been working to bring together teams from the two campuses in an effort to find efficiencies and savings. She has been offering a seven week program for supervisors and managers on the Delhi campus and the program has received very favorable reviews. Bonnie and her staff have been implementing New York State's Deficit Reduction Plan (DRP) for CSEA and PEF represented employees and will do the same for MCs starting tomorrow; employees represented by UUP are probably next. Under the guidelines of the DRP, employees' compensation is reduced in exchange for forced leave time.

Regina LaGatta, Vice President for College Development, said her staff is comparing systems to see where we can share services. Cobleskill has a young woman well versed in Banner who will come to Delhi to work with the Delhi team. Cobleskill has put together a scholarship committee, which was programmed by IT; the committee can review applicants online and note if a student receives a scholarship. Delhi's and Cobleskill's grant writers are working together.

V. Middle States Update – Lori Osterhoudt, co-chair of the Middle States Steering Committee, reported that the committee is almost finished with Chapter 4 and will finish Chapter 5 this week. The appendices were mailed to Dr. Russell Hotzler (our accreditation team chair) in November. The Steering Committee will have a marathon work session the week of December 20, and will host an open forum for the campus on January 18. The Steering Committee will then start planning the mid-April campus visit by the ten-member accreditation team. Chairman Nesbitt said he appreciated the committee using vacation time to work on the self-study and President Vancko noted she is appreciative of Lori Osterhoudt's and Bret Meckel's leadership.

VI. Faculty Senate Report - Terry Hamblin asked if the Council members had any questions about his report. Chairman Nesbitt asked about the possible tenure reforms that were discussed. Dr. Hamblin responded that the concern faculty raised was that as a result of being asked to do more, junior faculty might not be able to complete research projects and publish more, which is required for tenure at some colleges. In response to that concern, the Chancellor stated that she might push for reform in the tenure process if faculty were doing other things, such as teaching and serving on committees. The tenure process at Delhi is very different from the process at university centers. We are more of a teaching institution, not “publish or perish” like the university centers or even the comprehensive colleges. Faculty at those institutions are not being asked to teach more, due to past practice and/or collective bargaining agreements.

VII. David Vazquez, President of the Student Senate, reported that the Student Senate has been moving along swimmingly. This semester, he implemented a new system making it easier to track resolutions. David attended the SUNY Student Assembly meeting and learned we are in very good shape compared to other Colleges of Technology. The Student Assembly passed a resolution saying they would like to have input about other shared services in the future. The Student Senate might host another student activity fair in spring for the first time (usually held only in the fall semester). David noted that there have been student complaints about the lack of heat in the residence halls. The Director of Facilities attended a Student Senate meeting and encouraged students to report their complaints in writing so there is a paper trail and the complaints can be resolved. David has created an ad hoc committee – the Dance Committee – which is working on ways to make the Friday night jams safer. The committee will present its findings next semester. President Vancko noted that the college suspended dances because of poor behavior by a small number of participants at the first dance in the fall and commended David on his approach to resolve the situation.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if the heating challenge, first noted in the Student Senate minutes of October 19, affects all residence halls. David responded that most of the complaints are about the common room in Catskill. He doesn't think it's a huge problem and they are getting word to students that they need to file a written complaint so it can be taken care of. Bonne Martin noted that our heating plant staff is responsive when they are informed of a problem; they are able to do some things electronically and if necessary, they go to the residence hall in person to investigate and resolve the problem.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about students' concerns that there be more emergency blue light telephones. David noted that although most students carry cell phones, blue light phones have a role as a crime deterrent. Barbara Jones said the Personal Safety Committee has made recommendations about blue light phones and one was just added behind Farnsworth Hall.

David said that students have also heard feedback from other schools about their campus's smoking policies. Most schools are going from smoking everywhere to no smoking. What we do with the smoking gazebos seems to be unique and other schools liked the idea. Barbara Jones attended a debate class about smoking; 90% of the students were in favor of what we are doing as opposed to going smoke free.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about the students' request for more bicycle racks. Barbara Jones has been in contact with a welding professor to see if our students can create some, rather than purchasing them.

David said that the skateboard policy was brought up once during a Student Senate meeting; students who don't skateboard don't think the rule needs to change. They also don't want the rule changed because school property might get damaged. If anything, students said the rule might be changed to allow skateboards as a mode of transportation. Chairman Nesbitt noted the Council and college have concerns about liability issues. President Vancko said she was disturbed by the amount of severe property damage to concrete and benches we had before the skateboard ban was in effect and does not want to entertain a discussion of lifting the ban. David noted that for the most part, students respect the rule. Barbara Jones stated that University Police officers try to talk to students about the policy rather than be punitive, but they do deal with repeat offenders.

Chairman Nesbitt offered congratulations to Student Life for helping to rebuild the horse barn on the Cobleskill campus. Barbara Jones noted that students and staff have done a lot of community service this semester.

VIII. ACT Conference - Carol O'Beirne reported that a resolution was presented at the ACT conference stating that college councils were in opposition to shared presidencies. Following a controversial discussion, the resolution was eventually approved. There was a real concern that the group at the conference was voting on a resolution without being able to bring it back to their individual schools first. Carol and Kathy felt they were put in a difficult position and communicated with Chairman Nesbitt the need to revisit the discussion. Council members felt very badly that the presidents were being put into this position and there was a concern about how the campuses would function. There is still a concern and a lot of communication back and forth. The state senator in the Canton/Potsdam area has said she does not feel this is the way to go.

Chairman Nesbitt said he appreciates Carol and Kathy's input and thanked the Council for their input at the first meeting. The SUNY Delhi College Council resolution looked at our campus and its needs.

President Vancko said she is very lucky to be working with the people she works with. John Nader distributed the provost's monthly update yesterday, in which he thanked everyone for all their efforts on behalf of our students rather than reporting on activities and listing accomplishments, as he usually does. We really have a fine team on this campus that has it right about where our time and energy need to be focused – and that is on our students.

Chairman Nesbitt noted that the revised mission statement is outstanding and very focused. Every department within the organization can come up with a strategic plan to meet the mission; it is a great way to refocus ourselves. We have always been student focused and the mission statement capsulizes what we're all about.

President Vancko wished everyone happy holidays and safe travels.

IX. Adjournment: Chairman Nesbitt moved to adjourn the meeting; Alberto Gaitan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05.