



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Present were:

Council

B. Nesbitt
J. Abraham
P. Dopazo
W. Gladstone (via teleconference)
M. Jargowsky
K. Mario
C. O'Beirne
J. Sands

Administration

B. Hutzley
B. Jones
B. Martin
J. Nader
J. Smith
C. Vancko
C. Wesley

Observers

T. Hamblin
B. Kaplan

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 4:37 pm by Chairman Nesbitt.

II. Approval of Minutes: Jeff Abraham moved to accept the minutes from the December 7, 2010 meeting. Katherine Mario seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. President's Report: President Vancko stated she wished she had better news, and distributed copies of a Budget Update Memo which was sent to the campus community on February 10, 2011. President Vancko hosted a budget update for employees the following day. Usually about 15 people attend information sessions; over 100 attended the budget update. The President was grateful they were interested in an update; people are concerned about their jobs. President Vancko assured those in attendance that we would meet budget challenges in ways other than laying off full time employees.

President Vancko pointed out some highlights from the February 10 memo, and described the way the budget process works in New York State. First, the governor puts forth the executive budget, proposing arguments for what he thinks should be funded/not funded; next, the legislature works on his proposed budget; the final result is a series of compromises. Because there is a new governor this year and we have a difficult financial situation across the state, there is some belief that the executive voice will carry more weight to balance the budget in ways Governor Cuomo has suggested. What has been difficult for SUNY is that we got an additional 10% cut, and then, because he had spared us other cuts, the governor said SUNY would not need a tuition increase. We had anticipated being able to balance the cuts with a tuition increase. The question remains whether or not we will be able to secure a tuition increase. President Vancko would like to see a five year tuition plan in place. The Legislature has never been a strong supporter of increasing tuition. Typically, our cut represents 1% of the total cut, or \$1.1 million for the

next fiscal year. President Vancko noted that we took immediate steps to withstand an additional hit and her budget memo outlines our plan.

- CADI will cover about \$200,000 in expenses which the state is currently paying for.
- We are moving about \$100,000 in expenses to the DIFR.
- We will not replace most vacated faculty and staff positions, which will generate \$300,000 in savings.
- We will do the typical things that add up to lesser amounts and which we hope will bridge the gap: continue to be careful about travel expenses; not attend conferences; try for additional energy savings, although she is not sure how much further we can push that.
- We will also look at closing buildings or hallways for a period of time.
- We will limit print and mailing and eliminate expenses not related to our core mission; e.g., we will not renew our contract with the federal relations liaison, saving \$35,000.
- We will increase student fees to the extent possible, which will generate about \$200,000.
- We will review all curricula to streamline what we're offering students; e.g. in veterinary science we offer a number of wonderful value added courses, such as animal dentistry and radiography, but they not required for graduation. This will not go over well with faculty or students, but we are in difficult financial circumstances and we have to keep only the things we have to have, not the things it would be nice to have.
- We are continuing to pursue faculty/staff retirements.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if there are any academic programs that are not cutting it on a cash flow basis. President Vancko said absolutely, but we haven't talked about that a lot yet. John Nader noted we can't cut programs without losing people, and President Vancko has gone to the mat to save full-time jobs.

President Vancko noted that those items are on the expenses side. The other way to deal with cuts is to generate additional money. We have adopted a strategy called **smart growth**, which is achieved by: 1) maximizing the classes we offer on campus – if we have capacity for 40 students, then we need to have a full class; 2) generating revenue from additional new programs, e.g., the BBA in Criminal Justice at Schenectady County Community College, which is awaiting the governor's signature. We hope that program will generate 50 additional students. We plan on growing the online BSN program, which is a huge success story from the academic side to the revenue side. The program doesn't require a lot of infrastructure and we plan to have 450 nursing students in the fall, which makes us one of the big players. Suffolk County Community College has expressed an interest in partnering with us in culinary; they have wonderful facilities and 400 students in their associate degree program. John Nader is taking a team to visit Suffolk mid-March. Onondaga Community College is also on board, and we are trying to ramp up enrollments there, as well as at Monroe Community College. We are also exploring a potential partnership with Nassau Community College. Working with the community colleges has been a successful model for us. We are also exploring the possibility of offering a vet tech summer program to give new students hands-on experience, which would be a boost for them entering a rigorous program.

President Vancko said she is fortunate to work with a wonderful team, and the fact that we can manage these cuts without laying off faculty and staff is a real credit to the team. We don't want to operate like this year after year, but we will manage next year. So far, we have shielded employees from the pain, but this is a very lean budget. As an example, our state support will be about \$5 million; our electric bill alone is about \$2 million. Only 18% of our expenses are now supported by New York State.

Chancellor Zimpher is working hard to get a five year tuition plan on the table, and she has a good relationship with the executive branch. SUNY has been scheduling dinner meetings with legislators; President Vancko attended one with Senator LaValle, Chair of the Higher Education Committee. SUNY will have an advocacy plan; we will propose something to act on as a Council today.

Brian Hutzley noted that, to put it in perspective, over the last three and one-half years we have been cut \$6.5 million. We're doing quite a lot with very little and are in the top one-quarter compared to other campuses. Katherine Mario said the problem is they see that you have made it work with severe cuts. President Vancko noted that is why SUNY has presented the enrollment cap idea, with funding we received in fall 2009. We applied for and received an exemption, with the ability to grow.

The College Senate recommended that we adopt a common hour which will be implemented in the fall on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45pm. President Vancko met with a group of campus volunteers to plan what we want to accomplish. The current thinking is that one Thursday a month will be dedicated to department meetings. There is strong support for a general activity (guest speaker, discussion) which the whole campus can participate in. We are also talking about a theme for the year; the orientation theme is Go Green, which provides lots of interesting interpretations – green is the college color, it represents sustainability and we can build on this year's efforts in the Food for Thought series. This is a very exciting opportunity for the campus community.

We are engaged in a faculty and student exchange with the International Black Sea University (IBSU) in Tbilisi, Georgia. Nino Gloveli is a transfer student from IBSU and has told President Vancko that our courses are more rigorous than at IBSU. Dr. Sandra Johnson is participating in a faculty exchange, teaching graduate level course in world affairs at IBSU. Both of their visits will provide the opportunity for a continued exchange with IBSU.

Dennis and Yvonne Callas will be on campus for the dedication of The Dennis Callas Center for Teaching and Learning at 3 pm on Tuesday, April 19 on the third floor of the Resnick Library and Learning Center.

President Vancko is doing a lot of work for SUNY, including chairing the Vibrant Community Committee, spending a few hours each week on conference calls and follow up. The Chancellor will launch a report card for SUNY in April and wants the metrics lined up, e.g., how do we demonstrate student success, etc. The subcommittee is Citizen SUNY, outlining what SUNY contributes to the greater community: service learning, community service, value added to the community.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about Vancko Hall, which was referenced in the reports. President Vancko noted that Vancko Hall is our virtual building, for all online courses. She was approached several years ago with the naming request and finds it a little embarrassing, but she is also proud of it.

Jim Sands asked about the memo from Interim University Counsel Marti Anne Ellermann regarding a resolution recently passed by the Board of Trustees regarding the role of the College Council.

President Vancko reported that this arose from a lawsuit filed against Stony Brook for closing its Southampton campus. Stony Brook had purchased the campus from Southampton College to turn it into environmental center, but then Stony Brook's president felt he didn't have the resources necessary to move ahead with the plan. In concert with his College Council and cabinet, the president made the decision not to go forward with program offerings in the near future. Someone sued Stony Brook for not going forward, and the plaintiff prevailed. SUNY looked at its language about what college councils have the ability to do and how they could be protected legally. (*The memo and resolution are attached to these minutes.*) President Vancko noted that if we move ahead with any of the plans outlined in the resolution (e.g. construct or demolish a student residential facility), we will ask that the College Council sign off and we will notify the SUNY Board of Trustees. Plans that have already been enacted are grandfathered and do not require retroactive approval.

President Vancko noted that if we partner with Suffolk, we would need to follow this resolution because we would be offering a SUNY Delhi degree at a new place. At this point, we are just talking about offering a few courses there in the fall while we move process forward.

President Vancko reported that Myrna Jargowsky donated the entire remaining inventory from her children's clothing store in Ellenville. Several staff members volunteered their time to pick up the clothes, unload them, and sort them in preparation for a special sale on March 12 in Farrell Center. President Vancko noted that the items are wonderful – Myrna creates magic. All proceeds from the sale will support student scholarships. Myrna Jargowsky stated that donating the clothes was a bittersweet moment, but she was energized by the enthusiasm of people on the campus and proud to be part of this community. It's very special. Chairman Nesbitt said we're proud to have you.

Joel Smith distributed copies of a "Resolution In Support of a Five-Year Tuition Plan" based on a recommendation from ACT and asked for the Council's support. (*The resolution is attached to these minutes*).

Chairman Nesbitt asked when the last tuition increase was. Brian Hutzley responded: 2009, but we received none of it the first year, and only 10% the second year.

Jeff Abraham read from a resolution recently passed by the Student Senate, in support of a tuition increase and the repeal of Bundy Aid, among other items. (*SUNY Student Assembly Legislative Agenda 2011 is attached to these minutes*).

Katherine Mario questioned why the legislators are not promoting a tuition increase when there has been statewide endorsement for it, including from students. Joel Smith noted that the generic answer is that en masse students don't vote, parents vote.

President Vancko described Bundy Aid, which is money allocated to private education. When SUNY was created by Nelson Rockefeller in 1948, there was a concern by private institutions that the public institutions would get all the money, so a deal was struck, resulting in Bundy Aid. If we were to take the money away from the privates and direct it toward SUNY, our budget problems would be over.

President Vancko noted that community colleges are supposed to get one-third of their funding from the local community, one-third from the state and one-third from tuition. However, very few of them are getting one-third from their community. SUNY's number one priority is to restore funding to the teaching hospitals – downstate and upstate. They have big problems.

Myrna Jargowsky asked if there is a tuition increase, would the campus get it? Brian Hutzley said it is like a tax; we collect it and they decide what to give back to us.

Chairman Nesbitt said it would be good if we supported what ACT has proposed, since it fits in to everything Candace has talked about.

Katherine Mario stated that she liked the resolution, but didn't think it went far enough. She suggested a formalized plan of writing letters to the editor, calling legislators and asking other people to do that. President Vancko noted that Chancellor Zimpher is trying to figure out the best strategy; there will be next steps. Meanwhile, it would be good to endorse the resolution. Joel Smith said there will be an Op Ed piece by President Vancko and President Kleniewski from SUNY Oneonta in *The Daily Star*, calling on others for support. Carol O'Beirne suggested she would be happy to spearhead an effort in Margaretville, where students have been going into the community and doing good work. Katherine Mario suggested that village and county boards be asked to support it.

Chairman Nesbitt asked for a motion regarding the “Resolution in Support of a Five-Year Tuition Plan.” Carol O’Beirne made a motion to approve the Resolution; Katherine Mario seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. President’s Staff: John Nader, Provost, reported that there are a number of things going on. We have started to admit baccalaureate students directly to the architecture and construction design and build programs; the applications in architecture have taken off. Since Dominic Morales has assumed leadership of the Technology Division, that division and the Division of Applied Sciences and Recreation have been renamed The Division of Applied Sciences and Technology. There has been a slight redesign to the Wickham Commons in the Library, providing additional computers for student use.

In addition to our partnership with IBSU, a similar overture has been made to the International School of Business and Law in Lithuania and we hope to have exchanges there as well.

CADI has graciously offered to support two partial scholarships for students to spend four weeks in China participating in a college credit program this summer. Two students have already expressed interest

We are in the midst of making revisions to the general education program at the baccalaureate level, following up on some provided by the SUNY Trustees. The finished proposal will be forwarded to the College Senate for approval.

Provost Nader described a recent article in *The Daily Star* about our student success rates, which are measured in terms of transfer plus graduation plus persistence. We rank high among the university as a whole among baccalaureate programs, and in some programs at the associate level. Copies of *The Daily Star* article will be distributed at Accepted Student Days.

There is discussion of renaming the Nursing and Allied Health Department The School of Nursing.

We have been discussing ways of incentivizing more faculty to teach online in the summer.

John Nader presented the recommendations for new and renewed Advisory Council membership. Chairman Nesbitt asked if there were any questions about the recommendations. He was quite impressed with the new members; they are successful people, with good academic backgrounds as well. John Nader stated that faculty invite people who are good connections for the college and who can help provide our students with internships and jobs.

Walter Gladstone moved to accept the recommendations as proposed. Pat Dopazo seconded. The motion was passed.

Joel Smith, Director of College Advancement, distributed copies of *The Daily Star* article and said he hoped Council members would share it. There is some erroneous information being circulated about our graduation rates and we are working very hard to reinforce the success of our students, not only academically, but also what they do in communities. President Vancko recently prepared a brief brochure outlining SUNY Delhi’s contributions to the Delhi area, including a tremendous amount of data regarding what we buy, how much we spend, how our students benefit our communities. The brochure will be printed in a few weeks and mailed to supervisors and boards throughout the county. *The Daily Star* recently eliminated the position of the reporter who covered Delhi stories, so it will be a greater challenge to get our messages out to the community.

Katherine Mario suggested that it would be a good time to approach people about supporting SUNY Delhi after that brochure is mailed. Carol O'Beirne suggested that it be adjusted for other communities so people realize SUNY Delhi employees and students affect a broader area than the village of Delhi. Katherine Mario suggested it could say "SUNY Delhi's contribution to Delaware County."

Joel Smith reported that we are getting the 100th anniversary organized. Barb Jones, David Brower and Maureen McKenna are co-chairing the steering committee. We will be looking to everyone affiliated with the college – the College Council, the Foundation Board, advisory councils - for their financial support. We will go live with a formal announcement of the fundraising campaign sometime in 2012.

Bonnie Martin, Director of Administrative Services, reported that she has been working on a fledgling retiree organization with retired dean/professor Rosalie Higgins, with support from Joel Smith's office. They are trying to mobilize the organization to serve the college as advisors and donors and also to enrich their retirement.

Our capital construction dollars continue to flow, despite the budget. Bids have been opened for a beautiful new child care center which should be completed by spring/early summer 2012 on the Valley Campus.

President Vancko noted that the Chancellor would point out that the State Construction Fund has a five year rolling plan and that's why we got funding for the center.

Chairman Nesbitt commented that the fire inspection report is phenomenal.

Craig Wesley, Dean of Enrollment Services, distributed a graph showing enrollments over the last five years. We have experienced a 40% increase, which says a lot about the quality and strength of our programs. Craig reported that he has seen a significant change in our enrollment growth/goals since 2006. At that time, we just wanted to have enough bodies. Now we are at a smart growth point and are more focused on filling priority programs and seeking to find a better balance in our students (male/female, on campus/off site, nonresidential/residential). We know what we want our class to look like and are in the process of finalizing our plan for fall. This is a challenging time for SUNY and for SUNY Delhi, but we are well positioned, heading in the right direction.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, reported that housing deposits are up for freshmen. She has been working with Joel Smith and the College Foundation to market the new housing at Riverview to specific groups (culinary, athletes, transfer students). President Vancko noted that we are adding 50 beds in Phase II at Riverview. Chairman Nesbitt commented that he is impressed with the GPA numbers for students at Riverview.

We are approaching the first semester break on Friday. Both the women's and men's basketball teams are traveling to regional contests this weekend. Our men's track team just won the regional competition. We had a wonderful Winterfest last weekend with four days of activities and hundreds of students participating.

Barb Jones was approached by Glenn Nealis about a St. Patrick's Day parade in Delhi; several students have signed on to participate. Barb recently hosted a meeting about recreational intramural activities and what we can do to keep our students involved. Other schools are starting to work on ideas we've been doing for years. As difficult as it's been, we've been proactive.

Chairman Nesbitt commented that SUNY Oneonta is now interviewing community organizations on their radio station; that may be something to bring the community into our student body. Jeff Abraham said

that was a great idea; the college radio station is still in the formative stage and just went live in the last few weeks, but that is something they can work on. The channel is 107.5.

Brian Hutzley, Vice President for Business and Finance, reported that CADI has picked up \$50,000 of student scholarships. He reiterated that during the time when enrollment has increased by 40%, the state has cut our budget by 50%. We are stretched to our limit. The good news is that SUNY is looking at bigger things, probably for the first time, e.g., there is a big initiative for procurement – we will try to save money by buying together. Brian is working with Cobleskill and Oneonta on sharing a contract for things like elevator maintenance. Another big one for SUNY is IT transformation, promoting really big ideas that will save SUNY a lot of money. The only problem is we have already implemented a lot of those things. We are also looking at shared services in back office operations to see where money can be saved. A few years ago the idea of shared services went over like a lead balloon; now people are standing in line to work together; there are some good things happening.

Chairman Nesbitt asked what is happening to SUNY administration in terms of cuts? Brian noted that they've taken massive hits. Chairman Nesbitt said he appreciated the staff's efforts at efficiencies and economizing.

V. Middle States Update: Terry Hamblin said we are entering a new phase in the Middle States process. The working groups have finished their reports; many administrators and staff reviewed the reports for content and factual errors and have met with members of the steering committee. We are now working on how we go forward with the writing of the self-study. The steering committee will incorporate a thematic approach, one possibility being the building of Delhi and how we have grown since our last self-study. Dr. Russell Hotzler from NYC College of Technology will be our visiting team chair and the evaluation will be done fall 2012. Dr. Hotzler he will make a preliminary visit to campus one year from now. The steering committee plans to have a draft of the self-study completed by late spring/early summer, and then will meet with the cabinet again to flesh out design flaws and present to the campus in fall, and to the Council before the final version is sent to Middle States.

Chairman Nesbitt congratulated Terry Hamblin on his recent nomination to the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR); the pre-eminent organization for diplomatic historians. Terry was also nominated to serve on the Teaching Committee of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations for a three-year term beginning in January 2011. Terry noted that a lot of his colleagues are also doing good and interesting things; President Vancko gives a difficult budget report, and then you hear about all the positive things going on. Jim Sands stated that as the Council representative on the Middle States Steering Committee, he would like to say that Terry has done a wonderful job; this is a huge undertaking. Chairman Nesbitt thanked Jim Sands for his involvement and his comments.

VI. Jeff Abraham, Student Senate President, reported that shortly before the meeting, he saw a repost on FaceBook by Kim MacLeod from comments by a woman who enjoyed her visit to Delhi, noting how friendly everyone was and how everyone seemed to enjoy being here at Delhi. She was visiting campus with her daughter and said even if her daughter chooses not to come, she'd recommend Delhi.

Students are going to Albany to participate in advocacy for SUNY dollars in the state budget – SUNYpalooza. Provost Nader and Joel Smith will speak to the Student Senate, which has adopted a legislative agenda and will be fighting for those issues. The Student Senate is creating a new position for cultural affairs and community service and is planning more Senate funded programming.

Chairman Nesbitt asked Katherine Mario if she would like to comment on her role as liaison to ACT. Kathy said it has been interesting. They received similar resolutions, plus a list of actions that ACT would suggest to college councils to support their institutions as far as budget cuts. She noted there are

also things we can do as private citizens, e.g., visit with our legislators, contact the governor. She also suggested taking the search for support wider – to the board of supervisors and town councils. Given the information in the brochure, it will be easy to make the case that the communities need the college and we have a role to play to make that happen. Katherine asked if she should forward information she receives from ACT to the Council for everyone to act on it. Chairman Nesbitt said absolutely.

President Vancko noted that we could save money on College Council mailings if they were sent electronically. All members agreed; Barbara Kaplan will check with members not present.

Katherine Mario asked what happens to the students who do not meet the selectivity criteria for SUNY Delhi? President Vancko responded that SUNY wants to send them to community colleges for their first two years.

Terry Hamblin commented that since there was so much discussion about the budget, he would like to commend the president, provost and cabinet for getting out there to address faculty concerns faculty and taking the lead; faculty appreciate being kept in the know.

Walter Gladstone stated that he is very proud to be a part of SUNY Delhi. Chairman Nesbitt said we are proud to have Walter as a member of the Council.

VII. Adjournment: Chairman Nesbitt moved to adjourn the meeting; Walter Gladstone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.