



*(Please note: these minutes were approved
by the College Council on December 8, 2015)*

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. Present were:

| <u>Council</u> | <u>Administration</u> | <u>Observers</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| N. Deming | C. Vancko | B. Kaplan |
| H. Adams | C. Bishop | J. Redinger |
| A. Cucci | B. Jones | J. Yando |
| M. Fisher | B. Martin | |
| J. Ghaleb | J. Nader | |
| C. O'Beirne | J. Smith | |
| W. Oliver | | |
| J. Sutaris | | |

College Council minutes are 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. **Chair Nancy Deming** called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes: Jhilmil Ghaleb** moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015. **Anthony Cucci** seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- III. **President's Report – President Vancko** provided the following updates:
 - SUNY Delhi was the only SUNY, and one of only five colleges in New York State, to be named as a Great College to Work For in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* most recent survey.
 - The college received a ranking of 28th – the highest ever – in the *U.S. News & World Report's* list of Best Regional Colleges in the North.
 - SUNY's Student Opinion Survey was administered in spring 2015. 850 students responded. President Vancko provided some highlights from the survey:
 - SUNY Delhi ranked in the top five in SUNY in nine categories, including: academic advising; quality of instruction, involvement in community service or service learning activities as part of a course or academic program; opportunities for community service; engaged in research or other creative project under the guidance of a faculty member; and availability of courses in your major.
 - SUNY Delhi ranked first among the Colleges of Technology in 16 categories.
 - 86.6% said the college met or exceeded their expectations.
 - 63.2% rated the quality of education very high or high.
 - 73.8% said they were very satisfied or satisfied with SUNY Delhi.
 - 74% strongly agreed or agreed that the college is a good value.
 - The college did not score high in 12 categories, including campus climate, which will be addressed; responses regarding openness to differences are concerning.
 - Culinary student Katie Eurich won the 2015 American Culinary Federation's title of Student Chef of the Year in July.
 - Culinary student Mark Garcia won the Ment'or Young Chef Competition in Chicago on September 17, competing against three professional chefs.

- Welding graduates achieved a 100% pass rate on the NYS DOT exam (the NYS pass rate averages 25-30%).
- 96% of nursing students passed the NCLEX exam.
- Veterinary Science graduates achieved an 88% pass rate on the licensure exam (the national average is 73%).
- Three of the proposals submitted to SUNY for performance improvement funding will advance to Round 2: a Bachelor of Technology in Facilities Management; an Academic Explorations Program to increase access and completion for underrepresented, underprepared and low-income students; and a PV farm on the Valley Campus which would provide Delaware County Electric Co-Op customers with a green energy source (originally submitted as a SUNY 2020 proposal).
- A joint marketing proposal from the Colleges of Technology also advanced to Round 2.
- John Nader is completing SUNY's required Performance Improvement Plan report, due October 21, which has to be completed in order for SUNY Delhi to be eligible for funding.
- President Vancko welcomed 58 new employees at her opening meeting (53 on site, 5 online) and hosted a dinner for new employees at her home on September 14.
- Fall enrollment is 3,497.
 - Number is down a total of 166 students from last year, down 177 on campus (there was a slight increase in online enrollment).
 - The environment is challenging due to several factors, including a declining high school pool, and both comprehensive and community colleges recruiting students from the same pool.
 - We increased our admission standards in liberal arts programs and knew that would have an impact, but we hope that retention will improve as a result of higher standards.
 - Enrollment will be a primary focus for the cabinet retreat October 7-9.
- The campus was saddened by the death of a new student 10 days into the semester.
- The Merrills will visit campus October 1-8; they provided \$346,800 in scholarship support for 2015-2016, a \$76,700 increase over last year.
- The O'Connor Center for Community Engagement received a \$30,000 grant from The O'Connor Foundation for 2016.
- The third annual community barbecue attracted the largest turnout to date of community residents and students. **President Vancko** thanked **Nancy Deming** and **Katherine Mario** for participating and **Barbara Jones** for organizing the event and continuing to grow it.

Wayne Oliver asked if the GPA of incoming students had an impact on lower enrollment. **President Vancko** said yes, the higher minimum standards affected enrollment numbers. **Bonnie Martin** noted that we accepted 650 fewer students than last year.

Wayne Oliver asked if College Council members could be notified about the death of a student; **President Vancko** said yes; **Joel Smith** will add Council members to the distribution list related to such issues. **President Vancko** noted that details about the student's death are not available out of respect for the family. **Barbara Jones** will attend calling hours on Friday with other staff and students.

President Vancko saw Carol Brock who was on campus today donating books; Carol Brock has been a strong supporter of the college.

IV. Chair's Comments: **Chair Deming** noted that 85 applications have been received for the presidential search and the search firm has received approximately 25 additional nominations. The committee is excited about the diversity of applicants and will get down to hard work starting October 7; it's going to be an exciting fall. **Wayne Oliver** asked about password requirements. Chair Deming said that information will be sent to committee members.

Barbara Jones noted that the bright yellow SUNY Delhi bags she distributed to Council members contain a Student Handbook and Planner, the campus phone directory, Student Life post-it notes and a University Police magnet. She pointed out that the Student Code of Conduct which Council approved in the spring had to be changed recently due to a mandate from the governor. Students have been notified of the changes.

V. Old Business:

Joseph Sutaris asked what the basic takeaways from the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) are. **John Nader** said that much of the work was completed as part of President Vancko's evaluation. The PIP has three main parts: 1) a description of the linkage between the campus's strategic plan and SUNY Excels and the Power of SUNY; 2) a more substantive section in which the college lays out ambitious yet attainable goals aligning with SUNY Excels, which is broken down into five categories: Access, Success, Completion, Engagement, Inquiry; and 3) a concluding section which includes aspirations. **Joseph Sutaris** asked if SUNY's role is to monitor the submissions; **John Nader** said yes, although we don't know which group at SUNY will be looking at them.

Joseph Sutaris asked if we have a master plan for cyber security related to the high needs program grants. **John Nader** said no, the proposal was submitted as a partnership. We did receive funding for equipment and hired a new faculty member who has a cyber security background, but we were not funded for staffing for that program.

Wayne Oliver noted that although the budgeting remained flat at the state level, we hired eight new full time positions and asked if the tuition increase covers that. **President Vancko** responded that the tuition increase is used to cover the TAP gap (\$1,000,000 for SUNY Delhi this year) and raises. (SUNY agreed that if the legislature would support a predictable tuition increase over several years, the campuses would cover the amount of tuition not covered by TAP.)

President Vancko noted that we have a \$3 million deficit for operations which will have to be covered through reserves. Although the deficit is manageable for this year, we cannot sustain that over time and need to increase enrollment to cover operating costs.

Wayne Oliver asked how summer business was at **Sherwoods Inn**. **Joel Smith** responded that the late start hurt us; we didn't get the permit from the village until May. We are already working on a business plan and different options for next year, including the possibility of renting a few units on a monthly basis. **President Vancko** noted that **David Brower** had said it would take three to five years to become viable. **Wayne Oliver** said he has spoken to people who stayed at Sherwoods and were very impressed.

Wayne Oliver noted that CADI had a 10% increase in assets. **Barbara Jones** said CADI had a very good year. Council members had questions about the relationship between CADI and the college; **President Vancko** said we will add that to a future Council agenda.

Nancy Deming asked if we have to obtain permission from the village every year to operate Sherwoods. **Joel Smith** responded no, only if we expand the number of units.

Anthony Cucci reported that he is hoping to host the January executive meeting of the student assembly in Delhi in January.

Jennifer Redinger is going to her first faculty senate plenary meeting in October in Buffalo. She plans to attend the special session on diversity and inclusion.

VI. New Business:

President Vancko introduced physical plant director Dave Loveland who joined College Council to provide a tour of renovated spaces in Farnsworth, Farrell and Alumni. The tour ended in the Kennedy Lounge with refreshments prepared by Hospitality faculty and students.

VII. Adjournment: **Joseph Sutaris** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Carol O'Beirne** seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.