



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, April 26, 2011

*(Please note: these minutes will be presented to the College Council
for approval at their next meeting, in fall 2011)*

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. Present were:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>Observers</u>
B. Nesbitt (via teleconference)	B. Hutzley	T. Hamblin
J. Abraham	B. Jones	B. Kaplan
W. Gladstone	B. Martin	
M. Jargowsky	J. Nader	
K. Mario	J. Smith	
C. O'Beirne	C. Vancko	
J. Sands	C. Wesley	

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 4:35 pm by Chairman Nesbitt.

II. Approval of Minutes: Walter Gladstone moved to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2011 meeting. James Sands seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. Introductions and Announcement: Council members and attendees introduced themselves. President Vancko announced that this is Jim Sands' last meeting and thanked him for his outstanding service to the college. He has been actively involved in the college community and a great contributor on many levels, having served on search committees and the Middle States Steering Committee. Chairman Nesbitt thanked Jim Sands for all his time and noted that he will not be forgotten. Jim thanked everyone and said he has enjoyed every minute of it.

(Provost Nader had to leave the meeting early, so President Vancko deferred the opening report to him.)

IV. President's Staff: Dr. John Nader, Provost, reported that we have several new faculty members who have become enormous assets to the college in a short time, including Alissa Burger, Ben McGraw and Victor Sommo; we have been fortunate to recruit and retain good faculty in difficult economic times. Dr. Nader reviewed highlights of his submitted report and commented on some additional things, including: 1) outreach is underway with Suffolk County Community College to offer a BBA in Culinary Arts there - they have 400 culinary students, with a café and restaurant on the premises. We are awaiting approval from Middle States to partner with them in the fall. 2) we are awaiting the governor's signature to offer Criminal Justice at Schenectady County Community College; 50 students are ready to enter that program in the fall; 3) we have received approval to offer a degree in Integrated Energy Systems, building on the photovoltaic program; 4) alumna Theresa Molloy, VP at the New York Stock Exchange

Euro Next, made presentations to students on Thursday, one on resume writing, interview skills, and what to expect in the job market; she will also be hosting students next week at the NYSE; 5) working with faculty to improve outcomes assessment and will offer sessions during staff development workshops in May and June; 6) we believe we will have 450 BSN students next fall.

V. President's Report: President Vancko reported that there were many last minute deals in the budget; the bad news is that the comprehensive and technology colleges were totally left out. Community colleges had their base aid restored and hospitals had some funding restored. We did not get funding restored nor did we get a tuition plan. There is a significant effort underway to get a five year tuition plan, which is good for students and families, as well as for campuses to plan on a modest increase on an annual basis. The UB 2020 issue has surfaced again; the good news is the legislature is paying attention to things that UB is asking for, which provide more flexible language; the bad news is, they are only for UB; changes ought to be implemented SUNY wide. There are a number of scenarios that determine what the budget cut will cost us next year. The hospitals got partial restoration of their funding but are still short \$18 million; SUNY is deciding whether to spread that shortfall across all campuses. Another option is to let the hospitals deal with the shortfall on their own. The presidents of the comprehensive colleges and colleges of technology sent the chancellor a letter indicating their strong preference that the hospitals solve their own financial problems, especially in light of the fact that we have been dealt a severe financial blow. If SUNY does not spread out the hospital problem, our cut is \$600,000; if they spread it, then our cut is more like \$1.2 million; we have to wait and see how SUNY responds. SUNY is trying to get as many sponsors as possible in the senate and assembly for a five year tuition plan; Jim Seward is a co-sponsor.

Brian Hutzley noted that our cut could end up somewhere in between those two figures; there will be negotiations. We are getting a disproportionate share of cuts because of our higher enrollment, even though we didn't get more funding for it.

Chairman Nesbitt asked why the community colleges had their base aid restored when they have more resources. President Vancko responded that it boils down to the access issue with the legislature, which believes that hikes in tuition lower access. The TAP ceiling is at \$5,000, so if tuition goes higher than that, legislators feel there are students who won't be able to afford to attend SUNY. There are more students enrolled in community colleges than at state operated campuses.

President Vancko reported that she has been very busy with SUNY issues. She is co-chairing the SUNY Vibrant Community Team, which will be part of the SUNY Report Card that the chancellor is launching on May 17. President Vancko is also co-chair of the Resource Allocation Team, making recommendations to SUNY on how to allocate diminishing resources. President Vancko traveled to Albany for a meeting with SUNY about the Master's of Science in Nursing and received a polite but firm response - come back in a year. Since Empire already has graduate degree granting authority, SUNY wants Empire State to launch their MSN and then partner with us to deliver the degree online. Our healthy BSN enrollment provides a strong argument for offering MSN. We'll have the conversation again after Empire gets its MSN launched.

President Vancko, John Nader and Joel Smith met with Kevin McLaughlin from the Empire State Development Corporation about the subsurface proposal. Although we never thought state funding could be available for this project Mr. McLaughlin thinks he can be helpful if we: 1) get the village to sign off on the project; 2) get the two industries which want increased capacity to sign off, guaranteeing they would pledge funding for new jobs; 3) get the DEC on board.

President Vancko, John Nader and Joel Smith also met with Michael Brower, our federal relations contact, about federal funding for the subsurface project and also about offering our BSN online to the military. With his unique credentials (retired naval air force whose brother taught at West Point), he thinks he can help us with the military-nursing connection quickly. He also notified us about a federal

training grant for Chinese chefs to visit the U.S. for a five day training program in June to learn American cooking; the grant is due Thursday and faculty and staff are working on it.

We are co-hosting an economic development summit on May 25 at SUNY Oneonta. The local chambers of commerce are also involved. President Vancko was concerned about drawing a large enough audience in Delhi, and since the chancellor is speaking at a technology conference in Oneonta that morning, she approached President Kleniewski about holding the event at SUNY Oneonta, which has been fabulous in helping to plan the event. College council members will receive an invitation to the lunch program.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Child Care Center is set for May 26; council members will receive invitations to that also.

The campus is excited and interested in renovations planned for Sanford Hall, starting summer 2012. The project started as a facelift to install energy efficient windows and grew to a building rehab, which the State Construction Fund approved and is supporting at a cost of \$15,200,000. There will be lots of wonderful, open student spaces, a 100 seat forum, state-of-the-art labs, and offices for our new School of Nursing. The Business Program will also be located there. We are very excited that SUNY is supportive of this project, which will transform that whole area of campus.

Planning is underway for our 100th anniversary celebration; President Vancko invited Theresa Molloy to be one of the co-chairs for the celebration; Theresa agreed and suggested that we ask a representative from each decade to be in charge of special outreach to that group; we are working on her good idea.

Acting on a recommendation from the College Senate that the campus have a common hour, 12:30 – 1:45 pm on Thursdays, President Vancko has been working with a committee which has determined that the first Thursday will be devoted to department meetings and the third Thursday to campus wide programs. A programming committee will now start working on six programs for next year, with the theme of “Go Green,” which is environmentally friendly, incorporates the fine work of the Food for Thought Committee, and is one of Delhi’s colors.

On Friday we received a copy of the PGA decision. Although in our last conference call, which included SUNY Counsel, the PGA had agreed to ask its Board of Directors to allow us to resubmit our proposal, we have been notified that we cannot even do that. President Vancko will meet with John Nader, Tom Phillion and Joel Smith on Friday to decide our next steps; President Vancko is meeting with SUNY Counsel on Monday. We have a few options. We could ignore the PGA response, or we could ask the NYS Attorney General to file suit on our behalf. SUNY Counsel is only allowed to provide advice and to move on student and personnel issues; they can’t sue without permission from the AG. We have documented over \$300,000 in expenses and would like to recoup some of those costs. If the PGA had planned to not give us accreditation after our first submission, why did they put us through additional proposals? One of the reasons they denied us was based on our rural location, which has never changed. We are not the only college that has been through this; Central Missouri State was told they would be granted accreditation if they did certain things, so they spent 1.7 million dollars on improvements; the PGA then denied their application. CMS has filed suit to recoup expenses. One good result of this process is that we have a very strong PGM program.

President Vancko announced that the College Council will robe for commencement in the conference room at the Clark Field House. Please let Barbara Kaplan know if you will participate.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if we had approached the Watershed about funding for the subsurface project, since it is a very green proposal. President Vancko said they are aware of it and will support us; the issue is they only make low interest loans, they do not award financial grants. The Village of Delhi is not interested in borrowing money for the project.

Chairman Nesbitt said the PGA may already have more schools than they need; President Vancko responded that is a factor. In fact they suspended applications for a period of time because they have more students coming out of university programs than can find jobs as golf professionals.

VI. Faculty Senate Report: Dr. Terry Hamblin reported that the focus of the meeting in Fredonia was on budget issues; they passed a series of resolutions in support of UB 2020, not as is, but that the proposal be expanded from UB 2020 to the entire SUNY system. They also passed a resolution in favor of the rational tuition plan.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if there is a feeling among faculty in NYS that their feelings or opinions are not being included in the downsizing that's been going on because of budget cuts, and about which programs need trimming or elimination.

Dr. Hamblin responded yes, that was alluded to in his report. In comparison to other schools in the technology sector, we are doing much better. Faculty feel they are not getting a seat at the table for the discussion about which programs are under consideration for deactivation. Some faculty were informed during the summer that they have been retrenched; this was brought up to the chancellor as well. The issue of shared governance is being worked through in the Strategic Plan –not just at individual campuses, but at the SUNY administration level as well.

President's Staff (continued): **Jeff Abraham, President of the Student Senate**, reported on the results of yesterday's election. New Student Senate officers are: President – David Vazquez; Vice President – Marissa Kubinyak; Secretary – Catherine McGeary; and Treasurer – Kevorn Willet. Jeff has confidence in the new executive board. Budgets have been submitted; the finance committee met and the budget will go to students this week. The Student Senate banquet will be in Farrell Commons next week. Events are planned with donations going to the Japan Relief Fund. Jeff attended the student assembly conference and met the chancellor who had wonderful things to say about President Vancko. The student assembly recently elected a new president, Kaitlyn Beachner, who will be great. The Student Assembly supports a lot of things the Faculty Senate does and has teamed up with UUP on a few issues.

Chairman Nesbitt thanked Jeff for his input on the Council and wished him success this summer when he starts working on events and marketing at a winery in the Finger Lakes. Chairman Nesbitt asked if the challenges of van access for students have been resolved. Brian Hutzley responded no, but we will work on that this summer. Chairman Nesbitt asked about the bandwidth problem that was raised by a student; Jeff responded that was definitely an individual's problem. The student was surprised with the information provided by Jon Brennan at a Student Senate meeting, presenting charts describing how everything works.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if we allow pets in the Riverview Townhouses. Barb Jones responded, only very small caged animals.

Brian Hutzley noted that our students were very involved in SUNY Palooza. Jeff Abraham said the student senate rented a bus and 50 students went to Albany.

Brian Hutzley, Vice President for Business and Finance, suggested that when you put the state support in perspective you can see how drastically our funding has been cut over the past 10 years. Ten years ago we were receiving \$8 million in state support out of a \$14 million budget. When you adjust this \$8 million for both inflation and current enrollment, it would be the equivalent of \$16.8 million. We are now receiving about \$6 million out of a \$30 million budget. We are working every angle to supplement the decline in state support by investing in new programs, exploring growth opportunities, cutting spending, and working with SUNY Oneonta on shared savings opportunities. We are doing really well, considering the situation. The bad news is part of the burden falls on the students in the form of new fees and fee increases. CADI is working hard to manage food costs, but they are going up. The state is paying less and students are paying more. President Vancko noted that on a positive note, several years ago CADI

had \$26,000 in the bank and SUNY was threatening to take over CADI due to deficits of more than \$300,000 two years in a row. Now CADI is healthy and helping the college.

President Vancko also noted that many faculty lines are being left vacant or being filled with adjuncts, if at all; personnel costs are the only way you can make up the drastic cuts in state support.

Craig Wesley, Dean of Enrollment Services, reported that we are on track to meet our enrollment goals for fall. Although we are up only 1% over last year in applications, the other COTS are down 9%. Enrollment deposits for fall are up 9%. Our continued focus is on transfer students and recruitment of baccalaureate students. 429 students have attended our three Accepted Student Days, during which accepted students are given the opportunity to visit campus, speak with an advisor in their program and receive a list of recommended courses. Six more ASDs are planned. Open House, primarily for high school juniors, is scheduled for May 14.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if the slow down in growth is due to demographics or because students are going to community colleges?

Craig replied both. Applications from the city are down; community colleges are picking up a lot of students. When the economy weakens, students tend to stay closer to home. We don't yet know if the number of students attending college has changed.

President Vancko emphasized that we don't want to enroll additional freshmen; we want our growth in transfer students entering baccalaureate programs, in off site programs and online. We are then able to generate tuition in way that doesn't cost us a lot of money.

Chairman Nesbitt asked what number we expect for the freshman class. Craig responded 950 to 975. President Vancko noted our freshman class is about 31 to 32% of our total enrollment; it used to be 60 to 65%. She would like to push that even a little farther.

Bonnie Martin, Director of Administrative Services, reported that we are offering a local retirement incentive which we hope will generate savings; we generated long term savings of about \$400,000 for the seven people who did it last year; their positions are left vacant or we hire replacements at lower salaries.

President Vancko thanked Bonnie for the exceptional job she has done working on retirement incentives; private consultations with each interested employee take an enormous amount of time.

Bonnie reported that we have been trying to figure out how to better manage energy, including the possibility of creating an energy management position. A current staff member has stepped forward to fill that role, so we will be able to experiment with someone devoting their time to the position at no additional cost to the college. Bonnie is confident we will come up with ways to save energy and money. Bonnie has been working with Rosalie Higgins, retired dean of Business and Hospitality, to start a group of SUNY Delhi retirees; Bonnie hopes this will benefit both retirees and the college, especially heading toward our 100th anniversary.

Joel Smith, Director of College Advancement, has been notified by the O'Connor Foundation that it will continue its annual support for our nursing program at the \$20,000 level and will increase its contributions to the O'Connor Foundation Endowment for two-year technical programs to \$30,000. Joel has been working with a private foundation and an individual who is interested in a new scholarship program for Delaware and Otsego County students. The golf course opened late, due to weather, but is now off and running. Joel invited Council members to attend Alumni Weekend, the first weekend in June. There is a program Friday evening to recognize alumni award recipients, including a new award recognizing faculty and staff who make exceptional contributions to the college; John Ford is the first

recipient. We are also honoring the veterinary science technology program for its 50th anniversary; our program was the first in the nation and continues to be recognized as the best.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, reported that we are doing our best to keep our focus on students and our mission, amid budget cuts. We will be awarding two scholarships next week, from funding generated by the staff, plus awarding memorial scholarships in memory of two students who passed away. Two hundred students helped clean up campus and the Village last week in honor of Earth Day. The Relay for Life is this weekend; we are hosting a regional track meet on Friday and Saturday, and the Victory in Praise choral group is offering a concert tonight. On Thursday evening, Barbara, along with the mayor and a village trustee, will visit off campus residents, to remind them of their responsibilities as citizens of this community. Our housing numbers look strong; we are working hard to fill the beds at Riverview. We are up about 10-12% for freshmen, and more than that for returning students requesting housing. This summer, laundry renovations will be done in Murphy and O'Connor Halls and a door project is in the works for the residence halls.

President Vancko noted that we have been trying to incrementally prohibit smoking on campus, starting with no smoking in buildings and within 15 feet of each entrance. Our construction students took the suggestion of building gazebos and designed several styles which will provide protected areas for employees, students and campus visitors to smoke. Students have begun site preparations and have done an excellent job with signage to market their projects. The smoking gazebos and parking lots will be the only smoking areas on campus. It was a challenge to find a way for employees who smoke to have a cigarette break, since they would not have time to go to their cars, smoke a cigarette and return to work during their break; many CADI employees do not get a break at all. The designated smoking gazebos presented a workable solution. Jared Yando and Floyd Vogt deserve a tremendous amount of credit; we saved a lot of money. Kathy Mario suggested that we might be able to sell gazebos to other campuses.

Chairman Nesbitt asked which Council members would be participating in commencement: Chairman Nesbitt, Walter Gladstone, Myrna Jargowsky, Katherine Mario and Carol O'Beirne. President Vancko announced that we will award faculty and staff recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence their medals at commencement. In the past we have not received the medals from SUNY in time to do that, but it is appropriate to honor their lifetime achievement during commencement.

Chairman Nesbitt thanked everyone for attending meetings this past year and noted that it's wonderful so many Council members will be at commencement.

President Vancko thanked Jeff Abraham for his terrific leadership and thanks to Jim Sands who has been a fabulous council member.

VIII. Adjournment: Walter Gladstone moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeff seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.