

COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Present were:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>Observers</u>
B. Nesbitt	C. Vancko	T. Hamblin
P. Dopazo	B. Jones	B. Kaplan
H. Garcia	B. Martin	A. Rhodes
W. Gladstone	J. Nader	
M. Jargowsky	J. Smith	
C. O'Beirne	C. Wesley	
T. Oo		
J. Sands		
A. Weiss		

All College Council meetings are now being web cast, in compliance with Executive Order #3. College Council members, cabinet members and observers introduced themselves.

- I. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Chairman Nesbitt.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Walter Gladstone moved to accept the minutes from the February 9, 2010 meeting. Arnie Weiss seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
- III. **President's Report: President Vancko** noted we are in sprint season, from the middle of April to commencement. Last Tuesday, we awarded **H.E. Mikheil Saakashvili, President of the Republic of Georgia, an honorary doctorate**. It was a wonderful occasion, held at the SUNY Global Center in NYC. Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, two SUNY trustees, two SUNY presidents, representatives from several SUNY campuses and Columbia University, including one of President Saakashvili's professors, attended the ceremony; Chairman Carl Hayden awarded the degree. Five Delhi students served refreshments; Than Oo represented our student body. President Saakashvili is the first head of state to visit the SUNY Global Center. We are preparing a transcript of the brief ceremony. President Saakashvili is working hard to improve Democratic values in Georgia and he also values higher education.

Other good news – our **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** was featured in *Inside Higher Education*. SUNY Delhi was featured on a front page article about **energy savings** in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. We have worked with a PR firm on a trial basis to see if they could get us additional media placement. Congratulations and thanks to faculty, staff and students for creating \$1,000,000 in energy savings by being cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

President Vancko was in NYC for the **SUNY Strategic Plan** launch at the New York Academy of Sciences, which was very well done in a beautiful setting. She heard many comments on how much campus visitors enjoyed the Town Hall meeting at Delhi in January and how impressed they were by our campus. Chancellor Zimpher has laid out a strategic plan that focuses on six topics: SUNY and the Entrepreneurial Century; SUNY and the Seamless Education Pipeline; SUNY and a Healthier NY; SUNY and an Energy-Smart NY; SUNY and the Vibrant Community; SUNY and

the World. SUNY's Strategic Plan is the result of a lot of input and careful thought. Specifics are available on the SUNY website; www.suny.edu. As part of the process, we have developed our own Strategic Plan, which is on our website, linked off the President's page. President Vancko distributed copies of SUNY Delhi's Strategic Plan; she welcomes feedback. The Strategic Plan ties into the Middle States assessment process and will be incorporated into the final report.

Our goal for fall enrollment is a 2% increase on campus; 2% off campus. We hope to add 50 beds at **Riverview** to accommodate growth. The village planning board has expressed concern about students crossing Route 10 at places other than the designated pedestrian crosswalk. We explored options with DOT about what we can do. The board would like a second pedestrian crosswalk closer to the South Entrance; the board is not in favor of that. We have requested that DOT reduce the speed limit prior to the bottom of the hill. We agreed to: 1) educate students about the dangers of crossing other than at the designated crosswalk; 2) provide cover to current steps and request that flashing lights be installed at that crosswalk; 3) increase hours of transportation on the Bronco Bus. The village planning board meets tonight; if the board approves, we will complete Phase Two of Riverview.

We are proceeding with the application to receive **PGA accreditation**. This is the second phase of the process. Iona is the other NY college which has been approved to apply. Tom Phillion and Jim Lees have been terrific in the leadership of this task; Joel Smith will edit the application; President Vancko believes we will have a strong document to submit on June 15.

President Vancko thanked everyone who is working so hard on **Middle States**, with special thanks to Dr. Terry Hamblin and Angela Rhodes for their leadership.

There is nothing new to report on the **budget**. We have done better than projected this year; not using reserves as much as we had thought we would have to. This has been a campus wide effort. Spring **enrollment** was up 4% over the previous spring, which helps with tuition revenues.

President Vancko has been through **Farrell** – it's really fabulous; beautiful, functional. Project is on schedule, but because we do not have a state budget, there is no guarantee of payment for the work. Governor Paterson has ordered a halt to all construction for state projects, but Simmons has remained on the job so far. Farrell is about 80% complete, but the workers could walk off the job and we would have no recourse. Our campus does not have the authority to borrow money. The State Construction Fund was here and was awed by the caliber of work Dave Loveland, Joe Batchelder and Morgan McKee have done to oversee this huge project. This is the first time we took on a campus let for a project of this magnitude.

We have also been working on a campus **Master Plan** for the entire physical facility for the next ten years. We are the second SUNY school to go through this process. This is the first time our campus has had a facilities master plan; SUNY has been a big help.

President Vancko met with the state construction fund yesterday about the **child care center**; we go to bid in December, with completion expected spring 2012. This is a four million dollar project on the valley campus, where the farmhouse was. It will be a boon to our students and to the campus community; the new center will almost double our current capacity – they will be able to take 99 children. Next we will move University Police, probably to the lower level of Thurston.

President Vancko and Joel Smith met with staff members of Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and Congressman Murphy about our **federal appropriations request**. Our subsurface irrigation request for \$1.5 million for valley campus has been advanced by Congressman Murphy and endorsed by the Energy and Water appropriations committee. Mayor Bloomberg has promised to match dollar for dollar up to \$1 million. We also submitted a request for \$500,000 additional funding for the BSN; this request has also been advanced to an appropriations committee.

President Vancko completed an interview today for *Education Executive* magazine.

President Vancko is working with Joel Smith on plans to celebrate our **100th birthday** in 2013. Barb Jones and Dom Morales will co-chair the steering committee; there are now 12-14 members and we will add a student rep as the date gets closer. Committee will ask for birthday gifts, especially in student scholarship support.

Jim Sands asked if any staff have expressed interest in a **reduced contract**, as announced in *Delhi Today*. Bonnie Martin is in negotiations with a half dozen people; no one has signed on yet.

We will offer a **voluntary separation agreement** to all faculty and staff who have 20 years or more of service. The language of the agreement is being reviewed by SUNY Counsel. NYS allows us to offer voluntary leave with six months pay, while the employee is working on a special project. If an employee with many years of service and a high salary enrolls in this program, it could generate savings. As of this time, the State is not offering a retirement incentive.

IV. Middle States Update: Angela Rhodes distributed a brief outline of progress since our liaison's visit in February. Dr. Debra Klinman was impressed with the level of participation and communication. The Middle States Steering Committee needs to work on the timeline and how we will handle the complexity of our study. We resubmitted our self-study design on April 2 and anticipate approval by mid-May. We are offering staff development workshops on our progress and on the emphasis on assessment. Dr. Terry Hamblin added that we want to emphasize that the self-study will be tied to the Strategic Plan and that we have moved from the MOU and the President's Program of Work to the Strategic Plan. We also want to emphasize Middle States Characteristics of Excellence. Terry and Angela have been very pleased with our progress; everybody is doing a tremendous job. Terry believes all working groups will complete their research by the end of June.

V. President's Staff: Dr. John Nader, Provost, reported that we have a number of students in several programs (culinary, CADD, carpentry) who have gone to regional and national competitions; faculty have been excellent in getting students to compete. We have submitted to SUNY two announcements for new programs: a BBA in Information Systems Auditing and a BS in Veterinary Technology. We have also submitted full fledged proposals for a BT in Construction Technology, a BS in Criminal Justice at Schenectady County Community College, and a BBA in Business and Technology Management. We expect to expand our relationship with Tompkins Cortland Community College and Onondaga Community College; we may also offer classes at Monroe Community College. Dr. Vern Lindquist, our new dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will start on June 15; Dr. Lindquist comes from Sullivan Community College. Along with other faculty, Dr. Nader will offer an assessment workshop in May/June. We will soon submit a progress letter to the American Council for Construction Education for accreditation of our construction program. Chairman Nesbitt asked if Linda Weinberg's transition program for high school students could be expanded. Dr. Nader said we invited high school principals to campus to talk about online courses for high school students.

Joel Smith, Director of College Advancement, reported that there is a public hearing on Riverview tonight. The Alumni Advisory Board met on Saturday and confirmed their intention of providing a naming gift for a beautiful lounge on the 2nd floor of Farrell Hall, modeled after the Resnick Family Reading Room. Joel distributed brochures for Alumni Weekend. Lucinda Brydon is in her first year as Alumni Coordinator and has worked hard to develop new offerings. We will provide expanded Bronco Bus hours to Riverview until 10 pm, as a result of a student survey. Jim Sands asked if Maureen McKenna has had any positive results from her visits; Joel said she has asked each person to increase their gift to the annual fund. Maureen is helping us identify who has an affinity to the campus and in what areas they might want to help, hopefully leading to major gifts down the road.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, offered congratulations to Than Oo for receiving the Chancellor's Award. This is a busy time of year. Barb made visits to students in the village, encouraging them to stay safe and respect their neighbors.

Craig Wesley, Dean of Enrollment Services, reported that our growth targets (2% on campus and 2% off campus) would bring us to a total enrollment of 3,311. Our growth from 2007 to 2008 was 8%; from 2009 to 2010 was 10%; we are looking for 9% growth next year. Our part time enrollment will most likely grow, due to the BSN. Craig is confident that the transfer student population will come in where we need to be. Our applications for first time freshmen are lower. We are way ahead of our sector in terms of successes in NYC and the metropolitan area; Craig's staff is working hard to make sure students are paying deposits in a timely fashion. We are maintaining a selectivity level of 57% (accepted from applications). There are many reasons to believe we will meet, if not exceed, our target. Our challenge is not the net number, but how the students fit into program slots. Three years ago, we had a policy of waiving the deposit if a student didn't have the money; 80% of those for whom we waived the deposit did not come, even though we saved space for them, denying a spot to another student. We are no longer doing that, which encourages students to submit their \$50 deposit to reserve a spot in their program.

Chairman Nesbitt asked if we would want to lower selectivity if our numbers stay low. President Vancko responded that the problem is if you admit more students who are academically weak, they don't make it to graduation, and we have to run second year courses regardless of how many students move on. We have seen strong growth in Criminal Justice, Teacher Ed and Culinary programs. The lack of students in hotel/restaurant programs may be linked to the slow economy; parents might be steering students to programs where their job prospects are greater. Enrollment trends are cyclical; President Vancko is not particularly worried; she thinks our total numbers will be where we want them to be. President Vancko has asked Craig to focus on programs that are light in terms of maximum efficiency. Huemac Garcia asked if there were any trends in transfer students. Craig replied that transfers are program driven. Two years ago Rob Mazzei looked at programs at community colleges and identified ones that would feed into our programs; Rob has been working on articulation agreements with those colleges.

Bonnie Martin, Director of Administrative Services, reported that, in addition to construction projects, we recently opened a nice addition of teaching space at the Clark Field House. Farrell was an athletic facility as well as a student activity facility; the renovated Farrell will not provide the same teaching space; Bonnie invited the Council to go and look at it. We have begun construction on a culinary reading room in the Resnick Library; Carol Brock donated thousands of books; this will be our fourth special collections room. Renovations are starting in Smith Hall. A number of improvements are planned for the residence halls this summer. This is the recruiting season in Human Resources; we are recruiting on a smaller scale than in previous years. We have purchased software to make the job application process paperless.

VI. College Senate: Julee Miller, Presider, reported that the College Senate has been in a period of self-reflection – improving documentation and communications and strengthening committees. The Senate has revived the Technical Advisory Group. The Senate is working on a proposal for a common hour when the entire campus can get together. Dr. Terry Hamblin was reelected as University Faculty Senator.

VII. Faculty Senate: Dr. Terry Hamblin, University Faculty Senator, attended the University Faculty Senate plenary meeting at New Paltz over the weekend and distributed notes from that meeting. There was much discussion about the budget and the strategic plan, as well as the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. The Faculty Senate endorsed the Act, with some conditions; some members were concerned about the disproportional setting of tuition; they don't want to create a two-tier system.

VIII. Student Senate: Than Oo, Student Senate President, attended the Student Assembly over spring break; Chancellor Zimpher was there. Comparing SUNY Delhi with other student governments, Than was impressed with the amount of support our students get; he received several text messages from other students after he left, asking how to transfer to Delhi. The Student Senate is wrapping up the end of the year; students collected 200 pair of shoes in the Soles for Souls in Haiti fundraiser, which generated an article in *The Daily Star*. Student Senate officers have been elected for 2010-2011: President - Jeff Abraham; Vice President - Courtney Ketz; Secretary – Courtney Suttles; Treasurer - Bobby Jewett.

IX. Chairman Comments: Chairman Nesbitt applauded the Student Senate for going forward with supplemental gifting from student fees to help with important projects.

Chairman Nesbitt announced that **Arnie Weiss** is here for his last meeting. Arnie was appointed in 1997; Chairman Nesbitt got to know Arnie when they served on the Presidential Search Committee for President Vancko. Everything Arnie has done for the College Council has been done with passion and a lot of devotion to the campus. One great thing Arnie did was to help bring Jim Sands to the College Council. Arnie has been a strong proponent of our golf program and membership at the club. Chairman Nesbitt noted that Arnie's service is appreciated; we wish him well in the future and hope he stays a friend of the college. Governor Paterson has not yet named a Council member to fill Arnie's place.

Chairman Nesbitt said he hopes all who can will attend **commencement**. We will award Douglas Okun, who donated the conceptual design for Farrell, an **honorary doctorate** at commencement. Council members are invited to a luncheon honoring Doug Okun prior to commencement.

Chairman Nesbitt wished everyone a great summer.

X. Adjournment: Arnie Weiss moved to adjourn the meeting; Walter Gladstone seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.