



**COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, September 20, 2011**

*(Please note: these minutes will be presented to the College Council
for approval at their next meeting, Tuesday, December 6, 2011)*

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Present were:

Council

B. Nesbitt
A. Gaitan
W. Gladstone
M. Jargowsky
K. Mario
C. O'Beirne
D. Vazquez

Administration

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

Observers

T. Hamblin
B. Kaplan
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 4:51 pm by Chairman Nesbitt.

II. Introductions: Council members, cabinet members and observers introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Minutes: Walter Gladstone moved to accept the minutes from the April 26, 2011 meeting. Myrna Jargowsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

IV. President's Report: President Vancko reported that she is the SUNY experiment for shared presidencies and that it is going well; she is inheriting a fine cabinet at Cobleskill. The Delhi cabinet will go to Cobleskill on Friday for a campus tour, the Cobleskill cabinet comes to Delhi on September 30, and the cabinets will hold a combined retreat October 5-6-7. With Brian Hutzley's move to SUNY (which will conduct a national search for the position), President Vancko has reassigned his responsibilities and has named Carol Bishop Interim Chief Financial Officer; she is glad to have Carol in that role. President Vancko has temporarily assigned Business and Community Services to Joel Smith, and IT and the Print Shop to Bonnie Martin. We are all here for our students and want to put as much money for students and academic programs as possible.

Enrollment is up 124 students from last fall, with 425 students enrolled in the BSN online program. We are offering a baccalaureate course in culinary at Suffolk for the first time. The five year tuition plan brings some stability for planning, both by families and the college; the net for us is about \$600,000. We have been cut much, much more than that over the past several years. Tuition was \$4,950 and is now \$5,250; still a good value. Craig Wesley is retiring at the end of the calendar year; he will do some consulting in enrollment services at Cobleskill.

Sadly, a student died of natural causes from a medical condition on the first day of classes.

We hosted the first visit from our Middle States chair, Dr. Russell Hotzler, president of the New York City College of Technology, with dinner at President Vancko's home on Sunday, and several meetings yesterday. Dr. Hotzler has a good knowledge of SUNY and offered some excellent insights as to how to fine tune our Self-Study in preparation for our site visit in April. Dr. Hotzler noted that he doesn't think we should bring Cobleskill into our self-study; it would be a missed opportunity to have the whole visit steered in that direction. He suggested that we provide a one page update on the status of the experiment instead. We recently updated our mission statement/institutional goals/organizational values, incorporating a change recommended by the College Senate, which approved the new document.

We have instituted a Common Hour on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45. Lori Osterhoudt, Chair of the Common Hour Programming Committee, noted that the Committee is managing topics for the month; we had a very successful September program with the Student Activity Fair last Thursday. The October program will feature Curt Ellis, who was very involved in *King Corn*, with guest lectures and a viewing of the film on Thursday, October 20. Lori invited Council members to participate.

President Vancko reported that we have installed a photovoltaic pilot project at the Electrical Technologies Center, which will be used as a teaching tool and generate about 23% of the energy needed to operate the ETC. A special ceremony dedicating the photovoltaic project is scheduled for 1 pm on October 4. Council members are welcome to attend.

We have leased two sculptures using private funds which were recently installed by the artists with the help of students and our grounds crew.

Students designed and installed several smoking gazebos with three more in design. Smoking on campus is now limited to parking lots and gazebos. Kudos to our students for their good work.

SUNY Delhi made *U.S. News and World Report's* list of Top 50 Colleges in the North and was listed as one of the top five universities in the nation for students pursuing graduate degrees; 75% of our students pursue graduate degrees within a year of graduation.

President Vancko reported that we are in discussion with the PGA over a monetary settlement and have received good help from SUNY counsel.

With Cindy Lockrow, Democratic Party Chair for Delaware County, we are looking at two College Council vacancies. Joseph Sutaris has agreed to serve and his name will be submitted, replacing Huemac Garcia. We had a second nomination, but that person was also nominated by SUNY Oneonta, so we are still looking for someone to replace James Sands.

V. President's Staff Reports: **Dr. John Nader, Provost,** noted that the Academic Programs and Services report highlights many things which our faculty and academic staff are doing. Along with other cabinet members, Dr. Nader prepared a Strategic Plan Status Report which he is happy to share with Council members.

President Vancko announced that she has formally named John as Chief Operating Officer when she is not on campus and thanked Dr. Nader for his service.

Joel Smith, Director of College Advancement, reported that we received good news last week for the subsurface project, following the meeting with representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission arranged by Senator Gillibrand. The committee endorsed our request for \$250,000 and is forwarding it to the Department of State for funding. President Vancko noted that completion of the subsurface project would allow Friesland Campina and Ultra Dairy to expand production, creating 70 well-paying jobs and a \$40 million capital investment. Joel reported that we have commitments totaling

\$385,000 in the “silent” phase of fundraising for our 100th anniversary. Kudos to Maureen McKenna. The primary goal of fundraising is scholarship endowments for our students.

Bonnie Martin, Director of Administrative Services, reported that we hired a cost-neutral Energy Manager by taking an engineer out of the heating plant to focus on energy saving measures; he started in May and has already found about \$75,000 in savings. Bonnie is excited that this position will pay big dividends going forward. Bonnie is working with Rosalie Higgins and Maureen McKenna and our retirees’ organization, providing them with volunteer opportunities; over 50 retirees came to the summer event.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about calling 911 for emergencies on campus; Barbara Jones noted that we encourage everyone to call University Police by calling 4700; if they dial 911, the call goes through dispatch and is somewhat delayed.

Carol Bishop, Interim Chief Financial Officer, noted that at 21.8%, we fall within the acceptable limit of the SUNY cash reserve policy. Historically, out of cash reserves, the cabinet reviews requests for one time needs for equipment or a project for their areas. The cabinet reviewed the one time needs requests today and approved \$185,000. President Vancko noted that one of the expenditures will be for a pool cover, recommended by the new Energy Manager, which will pay for itself in energy savings in two and one half years.

Chairman Nesbitt noted that he appreciated Carol’s summary report, and also appreciates Carol stepping into Brian Hutzley’s shoes.

Barbara Jones, Vice President for Student Life, provided copies of the student handbook to each Council member, along with the new Student Life brochure and a “Go Green” hand towel. Barbara noted that we brought in 1,100 new and transfer students and thanked Lori Osterhoudt, Director of Orientation, on a fine job. We opened 50 new beds at Riverview and started the semester with more than 110% occupancy in the residence halls. Over 1,000 guests have registered for Family Day this Saturday; the village also hosts Harvest Fest and it is one of the biggest economic days in the village. Barbara invited Council members to campus for Saturday’s events. Our students have done a lot of community service in flooded towns and will do more on Community Service Day on October 1. Barbara has also identified 10-12 students who have needs because of flooding.

Carol O’Beirne noted that she would get a call that SUNY Delhi students were coming to help and that it was a remarkable community building event, even with the tragedies. Governor Cuomo visited Margaretville several times and has made a commitment to the Catskills. Every day groups of volunteers are coming, with hundreds of volunteers on the weekends.

President Vancko noted that SUNY wants all campuses to start using the *Power of SUNY* logo on all print materials.

Chairman Nesbitt asked about Delhi Dollars; students can use Delhi Dollars at several local vendors and restaurants.

VI. Faculty Senate Report: Dr. Terry Hamblin attended a planning meeting in Albany last week where there was a lot of discussion about shared services. Senators across the system are concerned about how the alliances will impact their mission and SUNY’s mission. They are also skeptical about the consolidation of administrative services and where the savings will go. The executive board drafted a resolution they will present at the fall plenary meeting in Purchase, asking the Chancellor that any further consolidation of services be done with consultation of all constituencies. Another concern for senators is the review of academic programs and course offerings. Dr. Hamblin also noted that his colleagues at Cobleskill “think the world of President Vancko.”

VII. David Vazquez, President of the Student Senate, reported that the Student Senate has been doing well, and has instituted some Go Green procedures – all minutes and announcements are now delivered electronically. The Student Senate is working with CADI and the Student Programming Board to bring in kids from Margaretville on Sunday to watch the Chinese acrobats at no charge. There was a good turnout for the Student Activity Fair, helped by the Common Hour. David noted there are a lot of good things to come.

VIII. Middle States Update – Lori Osterhoudt, co-chair of the Steering Committee, reported that the draft Self-Study is out. Dr. Hotzler, our visiting team chair, emphasized with the committee that at the end of the day what really matters is what we do for students. He discussed logistical matters for the team visit in April and gave recommendations to the Steering Committee to tighten up the Self-Study. The Steering Committee will meet next week. Lori thanked Carol for joining the Committee; John Nader is now the cabinet liaison. The Committee will be looking for a student representative.

Chairman Nesbitt noted that he appreciated Lori stepping up to the co-chair position.

IX. ACT Conference - Kathy Mario reported that she is going to the ACT conference at the Otesaga on October 14 and 15 and asked Council members to let her know if they are interested in going. Barb Jones said that we submitted a student for the ACT award.

X. New Business

Proposed Changes to the Student Code of Conduct – Barbara Jones reviewed the recommendations that we have been advised by SUNY Council to implement, relating to the college’s responsibilities to investigate and respond to all instances of sexual violence. The proposed changes would make our language more specific; we already do nearly all of the things outlined in the proposed changes, but the federal government has issued instructions that we be more explicit due to concerns about how situations were handled by colleges outside of New York.

Dr. Gaitan made a motion to approve the proposed changes in the Student Code of Conduct. Walter Gladstone seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Barbara Jones thanked the Council and noted that the changes will be communicated to the student body.

Campus Alliances – Council members decided to wait until the December meeting to have a discussion about the alliance with Cobleskill, noting that something may come out of the ACT meeting in October, and there may be more information on which to base a discussion at that time.

XI. Adjournment: Kathy Mario moved to adjourn the meeting; Myrna Jargowsky seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.