

SUNY Delhi College Council Meeting – Hybrid

December 5, 2023

Minutes

In attendance: Jack Schoonmaker (virtual), Wayne Oliver (virtual), Julia Rios, Kathy Mario, and Jeanne Ellesworth joined virtually at 5:00 pm.

Guests: Mary Bonderoff, Mark Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Lisa Tessier, Nazely Kurkjian, Alice Krause, Chelsea Mathieu, Louis Reyes, Shawn Brislin, John Padovani, Elizabeth DeFalco (virtual), Diane Hanna (virtual), Jason Fishner (virtual)

Not in attendance: Ray Pucci, David Brower

Part 1 – Call to Order/Introduction

The meeting started at 4:36 pm.

Part 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September meeting, and it was seconded.

Part 3 – Chair's Comments

Jack apologized for not being able to make the meeting in person. He shared that it's an exciting time for the college as the presidential search is underway. He asked Dr. Bonderoff to begin her comments.

Part 4 – Acting President's Comments

Dr. Bonderoff started her remarks with gratitude regarding SUNY's approval of the transformational funding and a majority of the incremental funding proposals.

Through the president's student advisory council, she with students several times to discuss a range of positive feedback and concerns. Food and parking continue to be frequently discussed. She appreciates CADI, who continue to modify their food offerings and address line issues.

Relatedly, save the date: CADI is working with Jerry Pelligrino to provide a feast for the seven fishes on December 22 and 23. Jerry will return in the spring for additional special events.

A newly established microcredential working group kicks off next week. Academic Affairs is also looking at prior learning assessment (PLA) to ensure that adults who have some work experience can get credit for that work.

The deficit reduction plan was a heavy lift. Thanks to Chelsea Mathieu and the Budget and Planning Committee for their work on this crucial plan. Many representatives across campus gathered exhaustive information and developed a plan to be at \$0 deficit by 2028.

The college has been able to save 27 positions in the last year, which amounts to \$1.4 million in savings. Attrition will continue to be part of the plan moving forward. Additionally, a one-time voluntary separation agreement was put forward. Thanks to CADI for their approval of financing the proposal. The paperwork is currently at SUNY Administration awaiting their approval.

Administration has been working hard on enrollments and the budget to get a clear picture of where we're at with our academic programs, what the potential is with growth, and more. We had a packed open house this past weekend. Applications to SUNY Delhi are up.

SUNY Delhi was designated as the community college for Delaware County. As such, SUNY is planning to send acceptance letters to all high school seniors in the county. Dr. Bonderoff and Michael Sullivan are also working with the O'Connor Foundation so that students realize that there are scholarships available for local students who choose to attend SUNY Delhi.

The President's office kicked off the Retention Council. Part of the college's enrollment plan as well as our fiscal sustainability plan is to increase retention. These groups will come up with actionable items and targeted retention efforts for various cohorts. The goal is to increase retention by 2% each year. We need to look at programs that are successful and scale those best practices across the entire school.

Erin Wagner has been serving as the ALO for Middle States. She has done an incredible job drafting the monitoring report that is due in January. Middle States will be back to visit campus at the end of February. Nazely will send a calendar invitation to the College Council.

The Provost's office continues to meet with APAC, the committee that reviews academic programs. This group looks at new opportunities for the college to consider. Thanks to Marketing, the online program digital marketing is yielding positive results so far.

We've been working diligently on the facilities master plan process. There is a strong need for space, particularly in the applied tech areas. Fortunately, SUNY has committed to hiring an architect. They are working on plans right now for possible renovations or a new building to support Mechatronics. We need some external funds to complement the Construction Fund's investment. She appreciates Shawn Brislin's lead on this project.

We hosted the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council meeting. After this, we initiated a Delaware County Regional Innovation Council. It was a great opportunity to make connections across industries to establish key partnerships for economic growth and prosperity. Having this Council will help connect students to internships as well.

Thrilled to meet with alumni across the country. The thread through all of their stories is what a great place SUNY Delhi was for them – whether or not they had a decent start or grades.

Wayne asked about the designation of SUNY Delhi as the county's community college. Dr. Bonderoff learned that other public colleges that offered two-year degrees were delivering acceptance letters to seniors for their local community college. She inquired about having SUNY Delhi included since the college also offers two-year degrees. SUNY System did a state-wide mailing. Admissions sent certificates to the seniors. There are scholarships available specifically for this population, so it makes sense. The community college model is open access. The challenge would be if they are trying to get into a more rigorous program, such as veterinary science and nursing. Some programs have higher parameters for acceptance. Additional memorandums of understanding with

Wayne also inquired about revenue growth. Chelsea explained that the plan covers a year over year basis, seek to realize 2% growth in overall enrollment. The plan includes retention and assumes a flat

tuition and fee structure. Within the residence halls, it does allow for some incremental increases within the rates.

Part 5 – Staff Reports Highlights

John Padovani shared that the college will administer a national survey on student engagement. It will help benchmark us nationally. The modules selected are civic engagement and academic advising. Eager to get some valuable data. It will start in February and last for five weeks.

There was a tremendous turnout at the local holiday parade. Many students, CADI, clubs and organizations, and Residence Life came to walk.

Part 6 – Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Part 7 – New Business

Chair Wayne Oliver provided an update on the presidential search. There is a deep pool of candidates. Tonight, at midnight, the applications close. By later in the week, they will know how many total applicants the search committee has. They need to review all the candidates' documents. Schedule-wise, within the next week, there will be a straw poll to score the candidates.

The search committee will meet on January 24th to identify 8-12 candidates. From there, they will narrow further down to 5 final candidates. Those candidates will come March 3 – 13th for campus interviews. The College Council intends to meet on the 15th of March. This is an independent meeting outside a regularly scheduled meeting.

At the close of that meeting, the College Council will decide on their final three candidates to recommend to Chancellor King. The Chancellor and his leadership team will interview the candidates. The final candidate will need to meet with the Board of Trustees.

Be reminded that confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Search committee members signed a confidentiality agreement.

Kathy thanked Wayne for taking on the chair role for the presidential search. Wayne said Zulaika and RPA have been doing a great job supporting the search.

Part 8 – Adjournment

Jack thanked everyone for their time and information and motioned to adjourn. Lisa Tessier shared a quick announcement that the STAR research day is happening this Thursday at 4 pm. Another research day will occur in the spring. Everyone then voted to adjourn.