

## College Council Meeting, Virtual Format

February 10, 2026

### Approved Minutes

**In attendance:** Jack Schoonmaker, Wayne Oliver, Ray Pucci, Jeanne Elsworth, Christopher Dragotakes, Brady Miller, Tahirah Clark, Dr. Seth Blocker.

**Guests:** President Bonderoff, Dr. Brower, Dr. Butler, Chelsea Mathieu, Michael Sullivan, John Padovani, Ruth Ehrets, Louis Reyes, Shawn Brislin, Dr. Holub, Andrea Dibble.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm

**Approval of December 2025 Minutes.** Motion by Ray Pucci, seconded by Seth Blocker. Approved

**Chair's Comments:** Introductions were completed at the previous meeting. Brady Morris serves as the Student Senate representative.

Jack reported beginning a new position in October at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub. The Hub is a research and teaching farm operated as a non-profit organization, with all produce donated to local food banks and school districts. Jack noted opportunities to develop connections between the Farm Hub and SUNY Delhi.

#### **President's Comments.**

President Bonderoff welcomed members and thanked them for their participation via Zoom.

#### **Spring Semester and Academic Momentum Initiatives**

An update was provided on the start of the spring semester, which included Assessment Day and SPARK workshops. The Academic Momentum Plan was introduced to the campus community during the Spring Opening Meeting, including its scope and anticipated implementation.

As previously reported, a timeline was established to collect campus feedback by December 15, 2025. The plan was submitted to SUNY on December 19 for review and comment. Feedback was received during the second week of January, and minor revisions, primarily the addition of supporting data, were completed. The plan was subsequently shared with the campus and resubmitted in advance of the February deadline.

It was noted that SUNY Delhi is ahead of many peer institutions in this process. Working groups are actively engaged in advancing initiatives related to retention and completion.

Ongoing efforts are focused on reviewing the full student experience, including the first-year experience, orientation, and identification of potential academic barriers, to better support student success. Implementation of initial initiatives is anticipated for Fall 2026.

### **Fiscal Sustainability**

The College continues to closely monitor its financial position, with particular attention to rising utility costs. A hiring pause has been reinstated to support a positive year-end outcome.

A campus-wide update via Fireside Chat was scheduled for February 17 to provide transparency on fiscal performance. Regular communication with SUNY System Administration continues regarding financial monitoring.

### **Enrollment**

Trends remain strong, with spring enrollment exceeding the prior year and continued growth in online programs.

Applications have exceeded 8,000, with deposits trending higher. Ongoing enrollment growth in both on-campus and online programs remains a key component of the College's fiscal sustainability strategy.

### **Capital Planning**

Capital planning initiatives include the announcement of a new Mechatronics/Applied Technology Building. Initial design discussions are scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. It was noted that the project will involve new construction rather than the renovation of North Hall.

In response to increased enrollment, the College has explored opportunities to expand student housing. Preliminary discussions are underway regarding the potential acquisition of the Buena Vista property as a cost-effective alternative to new residence hall construction, which would require an estimated \$30 million investment which is a lot to commit to keep our financial sustainability, even if bonded, it would be a million dollars a year. This is definitely a great opportunity for us and will be keep you updated.

A comparison was noted by Seth about RIT who own the RIT Inn, located approximately 3.5 miles from the campus, which houses students while also operating as a working motel. This model provides housing options for non-traditional students and benefits both the campus and the surrounding community. It was noted that a similar approach could be valuable for the Buena Vista property, which is considered a needed housing resource.

President Bonderoff noted that, in the future (not this year), there may be opportunities to partner with students in the hospitality program to create experiential learning through joint, multi-purpose use of the Buena Vista property. Early conversations with SUNY and the Construction Fund have been positive, with support from Michael Sullivan and David Brower as we work through what this might look like.

Jack asked if this is tracking towards an actual purchase that SUNY would own it, or just an agreement with the current owners? It was clarified that any arrangement with the Buena Vista property would involve SUNY ownership, not a temporary agreement with the current owners.

### **Industry Partnerships and Workforce Development**

Industry partnerships include a recent collaboration with Midea, a global manufacturer of electrical appliances and HVAC systems, which resulted in a significant equipment donation to support the development of a commercial HVAC lab. Representatives visited campus, some coming from China, providing students with exposure to industry opportunities and supporting program development. Interest in the program continues to grow, with additional connections being established to further expand workforce pathways.

Community engagement efforts include participation in the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council, which has helped strengthen regional relationships. Meetings with Congressman Josh Riley, both in Washington and on campus, explored potential federal funding for the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) project. Support from the Congressman could help advance the project, creating additional workforce development opportunities beyond existing programs such as Mechatronics.

President Bonderoff was invited to participate on a regional Workforce Development Committee, primarily based in Broome County, & aims to engage the broader Southern Tier in workforce development initiatives. Opportunities under consideration include the Delaware County Electric Cooperative project, Mechatronics programs, and industry partnerships such as those with Midea.

SUNY Delhi was also involved in the SouthWorks project in Ithaca through the Achieve NYS Grant competition, receiving \$38 million in funding. Collaboration with USC Builds from Rochester is underway to support the project.

Discussions are ongoing with Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) to explore housing options for students participating in internships and co-op opportunities at the SouthWorks project. The goal is to provide students not only with internships, but with housing and work opportunities, creating a comprehensive experiential learning and employment package.

### **Community Engagement**

President Bonderoff was invited to join the Strategic Planning Committee for the Village and Town of Delhi, which are collaborating to develop a Strategic Plan. The kick off meeting was successful and will be a great opportunity for us to be more intentional in those relationships with both the town and village.

### **Advancement**

Consultants from Constellation are supporting a comprehensive fundraising campaign. An announcement regarding the addition of new advancement personnel is expected this week. Feedback from alumni, community members, and industry partners has been positive, and the College anticipates continued progress on the campaign.

## **Staff Reports Highlights**

## **College Leadership Team**

### **Dr. David Brower**

#### **Academic Momentum and Student Success Initiatives**

The College was the first to submit its Academic Momentum Plan, which is pending final SUNY approval. Eight working groups have been established to implement initiatives supporting SUNY's Academic Momentum metrics, aimed at increasing undergraduate completion rates and eliminating gaps for PELL-eligible students and other demographic groups.

The Academic Recovery working group is focusing on three key initiatives: developing a survey to evaluate departmental responses to early alerts, revising the academic probation program into an

Academic Recovery program to promote a more positive student experience, and evaluating implementation strategies for these changes.

Dr. Ben West, English faculty member, was selected as a SUNY Gateway Course Fellow and will collaborate with other SUNY institutions to enhance student success in gateway math and English courses. The College also received a \$15,000 award to support retooling gateway courses, incorporating strategies such as gamification and updated pedagogical approaches.

The Assessment Committee is embedding Academic Momentum initiatives into campus-wide assessment activities to evaluate effectiveness, retool strategies as needed, and scale successful practices.

### **Institutional Research**

Jeremy Hall joined as the new Director of Institutional Research, previously at ESF, and has begun work on federal and state reporting, including IPEDS, SIRUS, and census reporting.

### **Enrollment**

Enrollment for the current semester is trending positively, with several programs reaching capacity. The College is evaluating campus space to expand lab and instructional capacity as needed.

### **ASAP/ACE Programs**

The ASAP and ACE programs currently serve 150 students, providing financial support, academic advising, and tutorial services. President Bonderoff and Dr. Brower participated in a SUNY-hosted call to share the benefits of these programs with prospective campuses not yet part of ASAP/ACE.

### **Compliance and Training**

The College is developing training programs to meet Title II and ADA Web Accessibility Compliance requirements effective later this spring. The training will provide staff with knowledge to remediate non-compliant documents and websites and promote a culture of compliance across campus.

### **AI Academic Advisement Initiative**

Dr. Brower was asked to serve as co-lead of the AI initiative for academic advisement, focusing on identifying resources to document student interactions, track engagement, and support early interventions.

### **Dr. Shai Butler**

#### **Student Life, Athletics, and Campus Updates**

##### **Athletics**

Attendance at the NCAA convention in Washington, D.C., provided networking and educational opportunities with other Division III institutions and SUNYAC conference colleagues. Women's basketball achieved three wins for the season, marking the first victories since 2018 under Coach Jackson. Progress in the swim and dive programs under Coach Kolodziej was noted.

##### **Bronco Dining**

The team earned 3rd place in the People's Choice category at the Battle of the Chefs competition during the SASA Conference in January, with alumni participation by Kim Moody, Mike Stamets, and Trevon

Oliver. CADI student employees have transitioned to Sodexo staff, with system updates implemented for credit card processing and meal planning.

### **CADI Board**

The Board engaged Spellman Johnson to conduct a national search for the Executive Director position. The search process is underway.

### **Counseling and Health Services**

Staff attrition in Counseling impacted in-person appointments in the fall; telepsychiatry services were utilized. Counseling is now fully staffed, restoring in-person appointments. Health Services reported increased student appointments and continues to support campus medical needs. Additional health vending machines were installed, and the department is finalizing the Electronic Health Record contract in consultation with SUNY and Purchasing.

### **Mental Health Initiatives**

Planning continues for the third annual campus-wide Mental Health Summit, scheduled for March 31, 2026. College Council members are invited to attend.

### **Greek Life**

Hosted a Black and White Winter Banquet celebrating community achievements. Recruitment continues for a Fraternity & Sorority Life Coordinator to support spring programming.

### **Residence Life**

Residence Assistants (RA) training was completed in February with 50 participants; collective Fall GPA was 3.28, including six RAs with 4.0.

### **New Student Orientation**

January Bronco Ready Days welcomed 42 new students. Orientation enhancements are being implemented through the Academic Momentum Orientation Working Group.

### **O'Connor Center & Basic Needs**

Remained operational during winter break, providing food support. Spring semester began with a campus-wide Food Drive. A new Assistant Director of Community & Veteran Student Engagement/Coordinator of Basic Needs Services has been hired to start this spring.

### **Student Programming**

The Center for Student Leadership and Engagement (CSLE) and Student Programming Board (SPB) hosted over 85 events in fall 2025. Winterfest, hosted in partnership with CADI, included a roller rink and professional game show activities. Professional development sessions were conducted for Resident Assistants and student leaders, including DEI training in partnership with UUP Leadership.

### **Mail Services**

The Student Mail Room processed over 20,000 packages in fall 2025.

### **Student Rights and Conduct**

The office continues to emphasize an educational approach to conduct matters and is tracking incident

data to identify trends. Annual review of the Code of Conduct is scheduled for February–March to propose updates for the 2026–27 academic year.

### **University Police**

Officers continue community policing efforts and programming. Two new officers completed the Field Training Program in December, allowing them to operate as solo officers under supervision. The in-house program supports ongoing accreditation preparation.

### **Louis A. Reyes, Jr.**

#### **Student Engagement and Diversity Initiatives**

College representatives participated in multiple presentations to student groups, including Resident Assistants (RAs), which fostered collaboration and student-led event planning.

Presentations were delivered to Reboot students during Welcome Weekend using a “Real Talk” approach to motivate and connect with students.

All students received Title VI presentations, supplemented with ongoing trainings from the SUNY Conduct Institute to support Title VI compliance and awareness. There are many Title VI Coordinators that are learning on the job.

New students were given a guided tour of the Multi-Cultural Center and Mosaic to familiarize them with available resources.

Discussions were held with Student Government President Brady Morris regarding support for student clubs, leadership development, and engagement initiatives.

In collaboration with the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement (CSLE), programming was offered on self-advocacy and the history of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Racial Equity Justice Institute (REJI) webinar series continues, with the next session, “Advancing Shared Equity Leadership with the Support of Accountability Practices,” scheduled for March 4, 1:00–2:30 p.m. College Council members are invited to attend all webinars.

The President’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Ceremony is scheduled for March 10 to recognize individuals, groups, and community organizations contributing to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Applications have increased compared to previous years.

To support fiscally responsible programming, we are looking to take advantage of local opportunities’ that are low or no cost, and our students participated in the SUNY Oneonta Black History Month kickoff, featuring guest lecturer Pierce Freelon, with plans for ongoing collaborative programming.

### **Chelsea Mathieu**

#### **Fiscal and Student Support Update**

The College continues to make steady progress in strengthening its fiscal position. The year began with \$18.5 million in cash. To date, the College has generated \$33.3 million in revenue, with expenditures totaling \$27.5 million, resulting in a net positive cash flow of \$6 million and a current cash balance of approximately \$27.8 million. This is consistent with historical cash positions for this point in the year.

Updated projections forecast a surplus for the fiscal year, although margins remain tight. The College maintains a conservative fiscal posture, limiting spending and hiring to essential needs.

### **Student Support Initiatives**

Student support initiatives remain strong. Our new Scholarship Universe platform which launched in January, has shown significant student engagement and we have received positive feedback.

Over 700 students have submitted 6,107 internal scholarship applications, and more than \$547,000 has been awarded to date. Private scholarship activity has also increased, with more awards and funding distributed compared to prior years.

We have launched a new automatic payment plan for in active students with past-due balances. Out of the 898 who were contacted, more than 100 have enrolled in payment plans, and another 150 have paid in full, resulting in a 16% collection rate, and a 28% reduction in accounts needing referral to Collections or the Attorney General.

For Spring 2026, there are 2,902 active students enrolled, with nearly \$25 million billed. Approximately \$21 million has already been covered by payment plans or authorized aid, with outreach continues for the remaining balances.

Christopher enquired about the 28% reduction in accounts referred to collections. What is the history on this?

Chelsea noted that this represents a new initiative allowing inactive students with past-due balances to participate in payment plans or pay in full, preventing account referral to Collections or the Attorney General. The program has been highly successful, both in improving collection rates and supporting students in resolving outstanding balances. This is huge win all around.

### **Operational Improvements**

Financial Aid award letters were issued earlier than in prior years.

The AI Chatbot has been expanded to additional student-facing offices, including the Registrar's Office, Academic Advising, and Admissions.

One Stop services experienced high early-semester traffic for financial aid and billing.

### **Human Resources**

HR has delivered new trainings, completed required compliance reporting, and onboarded 20 new faculty and over 250 students since December.

A new Benefits Coordinator is scheduled to join the College in late February/early March.

### **Shawn Brislin**

#### **Facilities and Technology Update**

The Title II Committee continues preparing the campus for upcoming federal updates related to Title II and ADA Web Accessibility Compliance requirements, effective later this spring. Gabriella Vasta and Shawn are evaluating technology purchases for accessibility compliance. Gabriella is also coordinating with web designers to ensure the College website and associated PDFs meet accessibility standards.

We are in the planning phase for a full campus Wi-Fi replacement in academic and administrative buildings. Hard wiring and licensing have been procured, and the upgrade will proceed building by

building, with implementation expected to begin this semester and transition to the new system over the summer.

The sixth floor of Evenden Tower ADA project is operational for the spring semester, with labs and offices in use. Demolition on the fourth and fifth floors is nearly complete. Faculty and staff were relocated to surge spaces over winter break, and classes have been accommodated on the sixth floor, lower valley campus surge spaces and Farnsworth Hall. These floors are expected to be operational by Spring 2027.

A new well for the lower valley campus has been completed, fully commissioned, and turned over to campus operations. Plans to decommission the old well will commence shortly.

South Hall upgrades continue. The south end has received new siding and faux stone detailing, with exterior work and window installation scheduled for May after classes conclude. The south end lab (ground floor) has been completed with new windows, lighting, paint, electrical, and pneumatic hook-ups. The large CNC machine and other equipment was moved into this space and it is now an operational lab for Mechatronics. Additional work on the center machine lab will be completed by fall 2026.

Meetings with the Construction Fund and consultants are scheduled later this month to continue design discussions for the new Mechatronics/Applied Technology Building.

### **Michael Sullivan**

#### **Communications, Advancement, and Government Relations Update**

On December 4, the College hosted several high-profile events, including the Mechatronics announcement and the signing of degree completion agreements with SUNY Dutchess and SUNY Oneonta.

We also hosted our Student Achievement and Research Day (StAR). Which Chancellor King attend, met with student and delivered opening remarks. Alum keynote speaker Dina Carreras-Menzie '90, CEO of Mastery Rising,

Alum Walt Manalio '62 coordinated a presentation by the Buffalo Maritime Center, on the Bicentennial Voyage of the Erie Canal Boat *Seneca Chief* that was enjoyed by students, faculty, staff and local community members.

Efforts continue to raise campus awareness through the College newsroom, with multiple articles highlighting faculty achievements. A new newsroom format is near launch and will be shared with the College Council.

At the time of the report going out, we were at 100% compliance with our web and web issues related to Title II/AD. We are at 99.5% as of Monday this week. Training has been provided to faculty and staff, particularly those managing social media, to ensure continued adherence to accessibility standards.

Communications team continues to grow our audience through social media and they continue to partner with admissions to build out communications for the incoming classes, parents and prospective students & families.

Depending on how you engage with us on social media, you may see ads for graduate programs for enrollment purposes.

Social media engagement continues to grow, with Instagram followers increasing by 1,000 over the past six months, approaching 10,000 followers. Comparable institutions include Morrisville (6,800), Alfred (10,000), and Canton (5,000). Facebook and LinkedIn engagement, particularly among alumni, also remains strong.

College Advancement is continuing to work with Constellation on some of our campaign planning.

We had a number of regional events to close out the year, and we had just returned from a successful alumni event & time spent with elected officials in Washington DC before our December meeting. We continue to host in Albany and New York City where we have good attendance.

We had a successful year end appeal offering for an item which brought in about \$40,000.

Preparations are underway for the “First Day of Giving” campaign on April 1, targeting approximately 40,000 alumni and donors. Communications and athletics teams are coordinating challenge gifts and incentives to encourage participation and significant contributions.

The College received a new endowed scholarship, with ongoing work by John Padovani and alumni on annual and endowed giving. Stewardship reports for scholarship programs were completed and shared with donors, highlighting recipients and fiscal performance.

Government relations efforts remain active. In December, College representatives engaged with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels to pursue new opportunities

Recent campus visits included Medea on February 9, the Southern Tier Mechanical Contractors Association on February 10, and the Construction Management Advisory Council on February 11, fostering relationships with existing partners and potential new collaborators to advance College programs.

#### **Dr. Douglas Holub**

##### **Faculty Governance and University Faculty Senate Update**

The College continues to collaborate with administration to address faculty needs and requests. Current initiatives include the development of a new employee mentoring program and addressing campus safety concerns, including lighting at the Lower Campus and the trial of updated door locks. Faculty remain actively engaged in the University Faculty Senate (UFS). The winter plenary session was held in January. Key resolutions under consideration include amendments to policy regarding the display of Indigenous flags at appropriate locations and advocacy for enhanced DEI/SJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice) knowledge areas.

#### **Brady Miller**

##### **Student Senate Update**

The Student Senate continues to operate effectively. The next Student Assembly meeting is scheduled for April 10–12, 2026, with plans to send a large delegation due to increased student interest in Executive Board positions.

Following the resignation of the current Vice President, Sophia Barmen has been appointed as the new Vice President. Sophia has two years remaining at SUNY Delhi and could be in my seat next year!

The budget process for student organizations has commenced, with budget packets distributed to all clubs, including deadlines and submission guidance. Efforts are underway to support struggling clubs and to encourage broader student participation in extracurricular activities.

### **Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Jack wanted to say something before Wayne had to leave, and announced that Wayne will be retiring from College Council at the end of May. Wayne's twelve years of service were recognized, including his contributions in supporting and mentoring new Council members. Council members expressed appreciation for his dedication and leadership.

### **Code of Conduct Revisions: Hearing Boards**

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) completed a review of our Code and Title IX policy, and recommended revisions to the required number of conduct council/panel members.

Article 2, Section 3: Student Conduct Council Hearing Board:

*Previous Language:* To hear a case, the Council will have between three and five members.

*Proposed Language:* To hear a case, the Council will have three members.

Appendix 12, Title IX Addendum:

*Previous Language:* The hearing body will consist of panel of three to five (3-5) decision makers.

*Proposed Language:* The hearing body will consist of panel of three (3) decision makers

Jack inquired whether the revisions had been reviewed by Dr. Butler and staff. Dr. Butler confirmed that they had been reviewed.

A motion to approve the amended articles as submitted was made by Jeanne Ellsworth and seconded by Tahirah Clark. The motion was approved as presented.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Seth Blocker and seconded by Brady Miller to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44pm. Motion approved.

Next meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> (spring break is April 6-10, 2026).