

## College Council Meeting

December 9, 2025

### Unapproved Minutes

**In Attendance:** Ray Pucci, Brady Morris, Wayne Oliver, Jeanne Elsworth, Christopher Dragotakes, Jack Schoonmaker, Seth Blocker.

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

**Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

Welcome to Christopher Dragotakes, our newest College Council member. Introductions for members in the room.

#### **Approval of Minutes.**

Questions raised during the meeting are to be referenced in the minutes.

Motion by Wayne Oliver, seconded by Jeanne Elsworth. Approved.

#### **Chair's Comments:**

Love coming up in the snow to Delhi for the December meeting. Welcome Chris to the College Council.

#### **President's Comments, Dr. Mary Bonderoff**

The Applied Technology Building for Mechatronics was announced on December 4, 2025, with support from Governor Hochul, Chancellor King, SUNY Construction Fund, and Empire State Development.

Design team meetings are underway, with the project on track for an anticipated 2030 completion; the building will replace North Hall, and UPD will relocate to Thurston Hall.

The college continues to expand alumni engagement, including Advocacy Day in Washington, DC; alumni events in DC (co-hosted with SUNY Oneonta), Pittsburgh, Nashville, and New York City, in preparation for a comprehensive campaign launching in the spring.

Collaboration with Constellation is supporting campaign planning and readiness.

Planning is underway for the Academic Momentum initiative, focused on improving student retention and timely completion, informed by NISS data.

A taskforce has been established, with an accelerated timeline to support implementation for the Fall 2026 cohort (draft to leadership December 15, campus feedback December 19, campus rollout January 12, 2026).

Progress continues on the fiscal sustainability plan through ongoing coordination with SUNY, with acknowledgment that difficult decisions remain necessary to maintain momentum.

An alumni event in Kingston highlighted the *Seneca Chief* Erie Canal Bicentennial Voyage, including recognition of a Delhi alum involved in the project.

**Dr. David Brower**

We are continuing with our student success & retention by way of Academic Momentum (AcMo) efforts. Five of us attended a regional planning summit at SUNY Albany on December 8th. It was extremely helpful & important to discuss ideas with others.

The implementation plan has been drafted and will be submitted to campus leadership by December 15<sup>th</sup> and then sent to SUNY for their review and feedback.

We have a robust group of seven people for the planning team: Dr. Monica Liddle, who is faculty member, Dr. Shai Butler, Chelsea Mathieu & Nazely Kurkjian. In addition, Nikki Hoffman, Anna Cordaro, Lynn Decker and myself are involved at the planning team level.

At the Mechatronics reception, new transfer partnerships were announced with Dutchess Community College and SUNY Oneonta, supporting inbound and outbound transfer pathways in mechatronics, electrical technology, and supply chain/business.

Continuing the practice of Academic Portfolio Optimization, which involves a comprehensive review of all academic programs. Last year, each program was scored using a rubric. This semester, faculty and leadership have reviewed the results, making difficult decisions where necessary and identifying opportunities to grow and enhance enrollment in other areas.

Jeanne asked what criteria were used in the rubric and what we were trying to determine? One element focused on a close review of the data, including enrollment trends over the past five years and projected workforce demand—specifically, the types of jobs expected in the marketplace. We also considered mission fit, which is more subjective, asking whether a program aligns with and supports what we want to offer at Delhi. Additional factors included external funding opportunities, cost, and overall sustainability.

This was intentionally a high-level, initial review, with the goal of identifying programs that appeared to be at greater risk. From there, we focused first on those programs to explore potential paths forward—whether that meant sunsetting a program, redefining it, or identifying ways to bolster enrollment where possible.

These discussions were open and constructive. As a result, we are bringing forward two programs for deactivation: Park & Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Recreation. Both programs have experienced sustained low enrollment for more than five years. Our intent is to guide students with related interests toward other, comparable programs.

Wayne asked whether the root cause of enrollment changes was demographic shifts or marketing challenges. Would we find a reason if we looked back far enough?

Changes reflect demographic shifts and evolving student interests. Enrollment and demand ebb and flow across programs depending on marketplace trends—for example, Hospitality was once fully enrolled, while Applied Technologies is now showing higher demand.

Wayne appreciated the time taken, being thorough and the analysis and how it all ties together, the mission and how it impacts.

We have had some successful program renaming efforts that improved program clarity and enrollment outcomes. Discussion also included the consolidation of Teacher Education Transfer programs into a single program with defined transfer pathways to partner institutions. The same was done with accounting, which was previously Accounting: Information Systems Auditing. It didn't change the curriculum, just made it more relevant to students. This is a helpful degree as it sets students up well to move into a master's program so they could sit for a CPA. Enrollment in this area has also started to increase again (double digits).

Further review and follow-up discussions are planned for the Environmental Studies and Sustainability programs to explore strategies to increase enrollment. We met with Dr. Tessier and had a good conversation that gave us some critical insights into what we should or shouldn't be doing and expand interest in those areas.

The Academic Program Assessment Committee (APAC) is reviewing opportunities to maximize enrollment in online programs, many of which are currently completion degrees offered only in the third and fourth years. To expand access to non-traditional students, these programs will now be offered as direct-entry, allowing students to start online in their first semester. Programs launching in Fall include Human Resource Management, Healthcare Management, and Business Management, with Hospitality Management under review due to lab requirements.

Jack asked if students would be able to do these completely online? Direct-entry students will be able to complete the entire program online. The initiative is primarily targeted at adult learners, military-affiliated students, and those entering the workforce after high school, while still accommodating community college transfer students. It won't preclude students who have completed associate degrees at community colleges from finishing out their program online.

Wayne noted the potential of the direct-entry initiative. Mary added that students had previously requested direct-entry enrollment but were unable to do so due to credit restrictions, highlighting the value of offering this option. Online Criminal Justice enrollment has increased over the past year.

Wayne noted concerns regarding PDFs (PDG Triage, under Callas Center) and the ongoing work in this area. David explained that compliance requirements are increasing, as the federal government mandates Title II accessibility compliance by April 2026. A working group is providing training and resources to help faculty and staff make all public-facing documents, including PDFs, accessible. PDF links may still be included, but all must meet accessibility standards.

**Dr. Shai Butler.**

Great successes in the athletic department. Several teams have advanced to NCAA competition, including the golf team, which will join in May. The men's soccer team won the conference championship and participated in the NCAA tournament. Cross Country had a strong performance, with Amanda Intrieri becoming the first female Bronco to qualify for the NCAA Cross Country Championships.

CADI welcomed Diane Williams as the Interim Executive Administrator, who hit the ground running, has been a great partner, and is very responsive to concerns raised by students on campus.

Sodexo continues to collaborate with Student Senate, addressing concerns and supporting students through food pantry donations, meals over breaks for remaining students, and a new coupon dining program for students experiencing food insecurity as no cost to them, and no questions asked.

Counseling services are reviewing practices to ensure effective support. Mental health transports have increased this year, consistent with trends across higher education. Data will be compiled and reported in the spring. The next campus Mental Health Summit (March 31<sup>st</sup>), in partnership with Trauma Informed Care at the University at Buffalo, will provide presentations on supporting students experiencing mental health challenges or crises.

**Greek Life and Leadership Development:** Fraternity and sorority members continue leadership development and community service. New Member Education programs are ongoing. Recruitment is underway for a coordinator position focused on Greek Life and broader student leadership development.

Health services in partnership with CVS successfully vaccinated 49 individuals. Our Peer education programs continues to engage students across campus.

Housing & Residence Life are continuing the implementation of Housing Cloud software to improve coordination of room selection and other housing functions for Fall 2026.

The O'Connor Center for Community Engagement is conducting a search for an Assistant Director, a position key to supporting veteran students and town/gown relations. In the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement, Kali Barnhart was promoted to Director of Student Activities and is expanding the orientation program into a comprehensive first-year experience aligned with Academic Momentum. Larry Mannolini has assumed new duties overseeing campus events while retaining operational responsibilities, supporting third-party events and community partnerships. In September, the college hosted a successful, well attended community BBQ on the village square. Several students attended **the** SUNY Oneonta Volunteer Conference, and a blood drive was successfully held on campus.

The Delhi Vote initiative was recognized as the recipient of the 2025 SUNY Outstanding Student Affairs Program at the annual CSPA conference. Jeanne noted that his has been a successful program for some time.

Compliance efforts in Student Rights and Responsibilities continue to be strong.

Veteran students and advisor Kari Haugeto hosted a well-attended 250th anniversary military celebration, with participation from Chelsea Mathieu (Air Force) and Dr. Odo Butler (Navy).

Wayne inquired about CADI's role amid shifts to Sodexo. Mary confirmed CADI will continue to oversee the contract with Sodexo, which will manage all food services, including employees, with benefits maintained for staff transitioning to Sodexo. Completion of this transition is expected in the upcoming semester.

CADI is partnering with the college on the Amazon Lockers initiative to expand package delivery options for students. Certain functions remain under CADI oversight, consistent with standard campus operations.

Seth inquired about student feedback regarding Sodexo. While it has been a challenging semester, Sodexo has been responsive and has implemented changes. Some early decisions were made without consultation, but these are being addressed. Retail services will be reduced (removal will take time), and beginning Fall 2026, meal access will revert to swipe-based meals in Farrell and all-you-can-eat service at both locations, aligning with campus needs.

Wayne asked about student participation in sexual harassment and Title IX training. To date, approximately 1,150 returning students and 890 new students have completed the process, out of a total enrollment of 3,100+. This is an ongoing effort with continued outreach. Title VI and Title IX training is required for all students and employees.

**Louis Reyes**

Campus engagement, presentations and collaborations continue in the academic and co-curricular spaces.

Björn Davis, Christina Wood, and Kate Medina presented in Dr. Efren Gonzalez's Veterinary Science DEI course. Sessions on Belonging and Inclusion were provided to the Men's Basketball team, with interest from other teams.

Partnerships with Finance & Administration and Residence Life explored offerings of Compassionate Communications and Conflict Resolution workshops.

Björn Davis and Louis hosted a restorative justice circle, resulting in positive student programming.

The Racial Justice Equity Institute (REJI) programming webinars "Everyday Equity Playbook", "Building Community, Capacity and Collective Impact through Shared Equity Leadership" were offered on campus.

Along with two other SUNY colleagues, A proposal to present at the NADOHE annual conference on the SUNY Chief Diversity Officer Leadership Institute was submitted but not accepted.

Attended the 2025 NYS DEIA Workforce Symposium in Albany. Keynote speaker was Dr. Sunita Sah and we attended several workshops and concluded with the leadership awards.

Served on the search committee for the Director of Institutional Research

Hello Beauty vending machine averaged 29 weekly transactions, outperforming other campuses. Students cited convenience and access to personal care items.

EOP & C-PASS Friendsgiving hosted 150 participants; and we contributed to the Veterans Day celebration.

International global programming saw one of our students host two great workshops, "Beats without Borders (Spotify playlist that students can be download and add their music to it), and "Passport to the Seven Wonders" (allowing student to experience global cultures without leaving campus.)

The MOSAIC programs are in transition. Christina Hunt-Wood, recently left, and the DEI office also sees Bjorn Davis leaving. Kate Medina is formalizing student consultations, event management, and faculty DEI workshops.

MOSAIC supported Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month (Conches & Hot Chocolate), student programming, Men of Distinction, Rest in Resistance, and LGBTQIA2S+ initiatives.

Kate Medina & Sanum Shafi, are serving as the new Co-Chairs for the Equity Council.

November saw a successful food and clothing drive for Regalia on campus and the local Delhi food pantry.

Our Soup, Bread and belonging will continue in the spring, where local community members bring in a dish to share with the campus.

Wayne inquired about “Conchas,” which are sweet breads/pastries shaped like a shell.

**Chelsea Mathieu**

Year-to-date financials show a stable trajectory, starting at \$18.5M and currently at \$18.3M, with some improvement since the prior report. Performance is consistent with last year, reflecting similar revenue and spending patterns. Current trends indicate the College is on track to achieve a surplus across all funds by year-end, in line with the fiscal stability plan.

Student support operations remain strong. One Stop, Financial Aid, and International Services have improved outreach, streamlined processes, and strengthened compliance. This semester, the team focused on assisting students with balances over \$1,000, helping them address their individual needs to support spring semester enrollment.

CIS continues major security, efficiency, and technology upgrades, including compliance with SUNY's new security policy, the launch of the Accounts Claiming Tool, and the “Blaze Bot” chatbot, currently live for Student Financial Services and planned for expansion to Admissions, Registrar, and other areas.

Human Resources reports high completion rates for mandatory training, progress on new hires, expanded cross-training, and improvements to internal audits.

Operationally, we have had some key projects including the self-service system upgrades, completed ahead of schedule, and process automation initiatives in Purchasing.

Capital Projects on schedule include the Evenden Tower science labs, South Hall improvements, fiber infrastructure, and developments at the Lower Valley campus.

President Bonderoff noted that the 6th floor science labs in Evenden Tower are nearly finished and available for viewing, but start on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor to see the before & after!

Wayne inquired about the cash balance versus projected surplus.

Chelsea clarified that the cash balance reflects actual funds on hand (\$18.3M, down from \$18.5M at the start of the year due to timing of payroll and tech support). The College projects a year-end surplus across all funds, which will increase the cash balance.

Wayne noted that over 380 students still owe more than \$1,000 was a concern.

Chelsea reported that the number recently fell below 300, thanks to the efforts of One Stop and Financial Aid. While multiple factors affect student balances, FAFSA completion rates are among the highest in the SUNY system, reflecting strong outreach and support

Wayne asked if outstanding balances are related to federal or shutdown issues. It was noted that FAFSA completion rates are the highest in the SUNY system, reflecting strong outreach by One Stop and Financial Aid. Student balances result from a variety of factors, including gaps between loans and actual balances. Difficult to say if it's any one thing.

Scholarships remain a key component of the College's comprehensive campaign, aimed at reducing student financial stress, closing gaps, and supporting retention.

Wayne enquired about the plans for a new 100-bed dormitory.

We have been consulting with DASNY and the SUNY Construction Fund. Fall occupancy was not feasible this year. A consultant will assess campus housing needs, with the goal of exploring mixed-use options. Long-term considerations include housing for veterans, non-traditional students, families, and potential temporary employee housing. Demand exists, and beds could be fully utilized if available.

#### **Michael Sullivan**

North Hall/Mechatronics announcement event was well attended by faculty, students, business leaders, and elected officials. Chancellor King attended the StAR exhibition, welcomed students, and engaged with their displays. Thanks to John Padovani for supporting the event. The Chancellor's office also made a significant contribution to the campus food pantry, highlighting continued attention to food insecurity.

We also had an educational program on the Seneca Chief canal boat and the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal, which was presented by the Hudson River Maritime Museum, with alumnus Walt Manalio ('62) as a key contributor.

As of December 8th, the campus website is 94% compliant for Title II/ADA accessibility with efforts continuing towards 100% compliance.

SUNY Advocacy Day in DC. President Bonderoff and other college leaders met with the New York Congressional delegation. Keynote remarks were delivered by the Director of the NIH, Minority Leader Thune, Representative Jeffries, and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer. Outreach efforts this semester have strengthened SUNY's visibility and influence.

President Bonderoff and John have increased the outreach to our elected officials this semester, but the activities in DC really made an impact and you can see the impact the SUNY System is having.

Homecoming/Alumni Weekend September 26–28 events drew 362 registered participants (312 families, 50 alumni) with additional engagement at the Automotive Car Show, Women's Softball Alumni Game, and Harvest Festival. Next Homecoming Weekend is scheduled for September 25–27, 2026.

Successful alumni gatherings were held in Albany, Alexandria, Kingston, Nashville, New York City, and Pittsburgh, with President Bonderoff actively meeting alumni during college travel.

The College received a \$50,000 spendable, non-endowed gift from CADI/Sodexo to support retention and completion efforts. The funds are used to assist students with balances of \$500–\$1,000, enabling them to complete their degree or re-register for spring classes. Launched this fall, just under 30 awards totaling approximately \$11,000 were issued, benefiting students with an average GPA near 3.0. Wayne noted the importance of growing this flexible gift.

The College received a \$120,000 in-kind gift from Midea to support the HVAC program, including a complete lab refit with new equipment. Faculty contributions were recognized for facilitating this support.

Michael highlighted ongoing efforts to develop additional naming and major gifts to support programs and students.

Wayne asked about the motivation for the \$120,000 in-kind gift from Midea.

Michael clarified that while there is no hiring guarantee, Midea values the quality of our graduates and wants visibility for their brand.

Jack asked about maintenance. The equipment is for educational use, with a five-year agreement and a review for potential renewal.

This is also real budget savings, its \$120,000 in brand new equipment that we don't have to purchase.

Other major gifts outreach efforts are listed in the leadership report.

Our faculty, staff & retiree fall campaign raised just under \$80,000, an increase over last year.

The Fall appeal is underway. Planning continues for the College's first Comprehensive Day of Giving in spring, with the date to be confirmed. A Campaign Director position has been posted, funded through the College Foundation, to assist in elevating charitable giving.

John Padovani is participating in professional development focused on major gift and philanthropic strategy development.

A planned legislative open forum in November was postponed due to the federal government shutdown. A fall legislative newsletter highlighting campus achievements was distributed to local officials, with plans to continue this biannually.

Wayne asked about the Mike Stein effort. This is the campaign planning that Mary mentioned with Constellation Advancement. The effort is testing the case for support with alumni and industry partners. Feedback will be received in December, with the public launch scheduled for the new year.

Marketing & Communications is expanding press releases, web content, and social media presence to highlight faculty and student impact. Top stories include Professor Jack Tessier named SUNY Sustainability Fellow, the NY SWIMS grant's community impact, and partnership with NAVAC Global supporting HVAC equipment and training.

Partnering with Admission for marketing and to drive applications up.

Marketing continues to support alumni outreach and engagement efforts. The department also completed the annual SUNY report, "Learning by Doing," highlighting applied education programs.

Beginning in 2026, the news release/media section of the website will be redesigned with a blog-style layout, photo-friendly stories, inventory of press releases, and shareable links.

## **Other reports**

### **John Padovani**

Michael covered everything for our area.

### **Brady Morris**

Senate is thriving, with strong student participation. Three to four clubs have resurfaced or are newly formed this semester, with two more in development for spring.

Seven students attended the SUNY Student Assembly in November, where they passed several resolutions and discussed shared governance and food insecurity. The experience encouraged participants to pursue e-board or other campus leadership roles.

CADI/Sodexo Partnership continues successfully, with students increasingly engaging in constructive dialogue to request changes rather than expressing frustration.

The recent CSLE open house was well received. Incoming students expressed interest in forming and joining new clubs, indicating a bright future for campus organizations.

### **Nazely Kurkjian**

Positive Growth: Applications, deposits, and schedules are trending upward. Compared to last year:

Spring 2026: +70 applications, +37 deposits

Fall 2026: +380 applications, +117 deposits

Growth is strong relative to peer institutions in the technology sector.

As of December 5, all applications—including freshmen and transfer—are up for spring, and efforts continue to increase Fall 2026 transfer enrollment.

### **Dr. Douglas Holub**

College Senate passed several resolutions, including on student dining. Peter Brusoe is actively collaborating with CADI/Sodexo and Senate to address student concerns.

Recruitment of new senators remains challenging. The November election left multiple seats unfilled.

At the University Faculty Senate Plenary in October, Chancellor King praised SUNY Delhi for its financial leadership.

### **Old Business**

Tahirah and Jack attended the ACT Conference in Albany in September. Tahirah participated in the Friday roundtable discussion on council membership challenges.

Council membership challenges highlighted ongoing difficulties recruiting new members and maintaining functional councils, a concern echoed across ACT and the SUNY System. Jeanne noted this issue has persisted for at least two years.

Council members also emphasized the need for consistent orientation for new members. ACT plans to make this a priority and develop a program that could be system-wide and potentially integrated into the annual conference.

Saturday's panels were highly educational, providing valuable information. Plans are being considered for next year's conference to possibly return to Albany or SUNY Administration, with panels held on-site for easier access.

President Bonderoff stated we did forward a number of potential additions and she spoke to Will Schwartz, and they will connect on pending appointments. Christopher was approved, which we are happy about, but that took over a year. Mary reminded Will that Jack has been interim chair for six years!

Wayne asked where the bottleneck was and Christopher noted that delays persist across state government.

Michael noted strong communication with SUNY Government Relations has improved since Mary attended the Advocacy Days two years ago.

Advocacy day this year was a whole lot better. Because of the snowstorm, a small delegation effectively represented tech, comprehensive, and university centers, highlighting sector achievements.

### **New Business**

2026 Advisory Councils membership: 19 new members & 65 renewals.

Motion to accept the membership with a correction to add an omitted heading made by Seth Blocker and seconded by Wayne Oliver. Motion approved.

The naming of SUNY Delhi's HVAC lab as the "Midea HVAC Technology Classroom" has been reviewed and approved by the College Foundation.

Motion made by Wayne Oliver and Seconded by Seth Blocker

Resolution: In recognition of the generosity of Midea America Corp to SUNY Delhi and the College Foundation, and in accordance with the SUNY Naming Opportunities Policy and Procedure, the College Council endorses the naming of the HVAC lab as the "Midea HVAC Technology Classroom."

Motion approved.

**Next college council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.**

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeanne Ellsworth and seconded by Wayne Oliver to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Motion approved.

A full recording of the **December 2025 College Council meeting** is available [here](#).