



*(Please note: these minutes will be presented to the College Council for approval at their next meeting on May 4, 2021)*

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Present were:

**Council:** J. Ellsworth, K. Mario, R. Pucci, J. Schoonmaker, W. Oliver, N. Tetteh

**Administration:** M. Laliberte, T. Aguirre, C. Bishop, K. Bucci, J. Padovani, R. Piurowski, D. Sohns, M. Sullivan

**Observers:** E. Frisbee, L. Tessier, G. Spielman

*College Council meetings are broadcast per a January 11, 2016, Amendment to the Public Officers Law Regarding Broadcasting of Open Meetings.*

**I. Chair Schoonmaker** called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes:** **Chair Schoonmaker** asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020.

**Wayne Oliver** moved to approve the minutes. **Kathy Mario** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Jack introduced the new college council members: Jeanne Ellsworth, Ray Pucci, Omar Siddiqi, and student NII Tetteh.**

**III. President's Report – President Laliberte** provided the following updates:

President Laliberte introduced new Leadership Team members to the college council Provost Dr. Thomas Jordan, Dr. Katie Bucci, and Robert Piurowski. What we have been focusing on is the COVID-19 pandemic and keep students safe and helping them to finish their degrees. The spring 2020 semester we had to send students home and they went to virtual learning. We had to bring students back in August 2020 to finish their labs and we accomplished it. The fall 2020 semester we brought students back for labs and they were pool tested. The spring 2021 semester every student will be pool tested and we will be testing every Monday and Tuesday. We will have 15 weeks of instruction and we are hoping we will not go on pause as long as faculty, staff, and students follow safe protocols. If you want to see what our COVID-19 numbers look like you can visit the SUNY dashboard because it is updated regularly. The Leadership Team will have to make a decision in the next few weeks regarding commencement. My feeling is we will have a virtual ceremony like we did last May. South Hall is now open to architecture students and have been removed from Farnsworth Hall. Then Farnsworth Hall can be under construction for a 30-40 million dollar renovation for our Veterinary Technician program. The renovation will take place 18 months up to a year. The other renovation will be Evenden Tower where the leaking roof and windows will be replaced. The faculty and staff who have been volunteering for pool testing have done a fantastic job. The employees who are working even one day a week are also tested every Monday afternoon. Hopefully we are seeing the light at the tunnel with vaccinations.

**Wayne Oliver:** Will there be vaccines for faculty and staff?

**President Laliberte:** The student health center is not certified to do vaccines for faculty and staff. They will be vaccinating students. We are also working with O'Connor Hospital to see if we can be a vaccination site.

**Wayne Oliver:** What about faculty who work directly with students in labs?

**President Laliberte:** They would have to find sites and make an appointment to get their vaccines.

**Katie Bucci:** Katie did a 15 minute presentation on what we are looking forward to the Middle States accreditation visit. She used a power point and she did a great job explaining what to expect in the future months to come.

**The approval of the Advisory Council members.** Wayne Oliver moved to approve the council. Jeanne Ellsworth seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Chair Schoonmaker** asked for a motion to approve the President's Report. **Kathy Mario** moved to approve the reports. **Wayne Oliver** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Chair Schoonmaker** asked for the approval of 48 renewals and the 12 new for the Advisory Council. **Wayne Oliver** moved to approve. **Kathy Mario** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **IV. College Leadership Team Reports:**

**Wayne Oliver:** Katie, How about the process?

**Chair Schoonmaker:** I have been attending all the middle states steering committee meetings. I am also on the standard 7 work group with John Padovani and George Spielman. We have met two times so far.

**George Spielman:** Katie Bucci and Monica Liddle joining our work groups and answer any questions we have to move forward.

**Jack Schoonmaker:** The standard 7 had to do with college council and now we have three new members which helps us to have a quorum.

**Thomas Jordan:** I have been the Provost for six months. I have been working with John Padovani, Ralph Perez Rogers, and David Brower to get our lab students down to the Bluestone restaurant and get the hands on experience. I hope to have that accomplished in two weeks. I have been working on a retention initiative that I created when I was a Lynchburg college. We need to make sure that we keep our students and help them be successful.

**Wayne Oliver:** How is the process going for the bachelor's degree in criminal justice?

**Robert Piurowski:** It will be an immediate admittance from the associate's degree to the bachelor degree.

**Thomas Jordan:** We are also working on a degree in applied sciences called golf and horticulture management. I have had some difficulty in getting the master's degree in criminal justice approved but we are working on getting it approved. The MSN in nursing has been improved to count work experience for credit which will help nursing students finish their degree sooner.

**Kathy Mario:** We have spoken before in past meeting about retention. I think your initiative is going to be very helpful and I can't wait to see the fine results moving forward.

**Thomas Jordan:** Even with COVID-19 the college at Lynchburg is having great percentages regarding retention.

**Robert Piurowski:** The admissions staff is working hard recruiting students but it is much harder with online instruction. The focus is to enroll students but retain them to stay for a 4 year degree. The year 19-20 we were flat in enrollment. The spring 2021 semester we are only down 4 ½ % in enrollment which is good. We are down in applications 80% in the five burroughs.

**Jeanne Ellsworth:** What are the five burroughs?

**Robert Piurowski:** 80% of our applications come from the New York City area.

**Wayne Oliver:** Are enrollment numbers down all over the state?

**Robert Piurowski:** We are in better shape in enrollment than other colleges especially community colleges.

**Wayne Oliver:** How are student loans impacting SUNY Delhi?

**Robert Piurowski:** You are right cost is a major factor in education today. The problem in Delaware County is that students don't want to pay and are going to the workforce right after graduation.

**Tomas Aguirre:** We need to promote the services that we provide here at SUNY Delhi compared to other colleges who don't have these services.

**Nii Tetteh:** I think the frustration on the student body is the procedures for COVID-19 precautions. I know that it is keeping everyone safe but it is creating frustration. The other frustration is that most students liked to eat at MacDonald Hall and now they are confined to Farrell Hall.

**Michael Sullivan:** We have used \$40,000 in emergency funds for student's needs. The needs are books, food, technology, and utility bills. There is a real need for many of our student's.

**Lisa Tessier:** Lisa reported to the College Council the resolutions for the fall 2020 and winter 2021 SUNY Plenary's.

**Fall Plenary October 2020 Resolutions:** Racial and Equity and Social Justice Curriculum, Joint Statement on the Search for SUNY Chancellor, Vote of no Confidence in Politically Appointed Members of SUNY Board of Trustees, Importance of Maintaining Effective Shared Governance Practices During Times of Crisis.

**Winter Plenary January 2021 Resolutions:** Shared Governance in these Times of Extraordinary Challenges, Board of Trustees Acknowledges that Black Lives Matter, University Faculty Senate Recognizes and Supports Black Lives Matter.

**Tomas Aguirre:** The health center has been busy working with pool testing and helping students who are quarantined. The athletics department has not had many practices but we are using coaches and staff with the pool testing and follow up on students. This semester we will be testing students on Mondays and Tuesdays. We have 27 students in isolation or quarantine. We are just working hard to keep everyone healthy and safe.

**Kathy Mario:** The Delhi community cannot complain about the students because every time I see a student they are wearing masks compared to community members who refuse to do so. They all should be commended. It shows that they are taking on the responsibility to be healthy and safe and help protect the community and their peers. Great job!

**Wayne Oliver:** Do we know when the vaccinations will be available?

**Tomas Aguirre:** Karen Gabriel the Director of Health Services has the order in but we are awaiting when the process will begin.

**President Laliberte:** We had to submit an application. The application has been signed and sent.

**Michael Sullivan:** The alumni engagement has been virtual and my team is working on various ways to make sure we have contact with our alumni and donors. The major loss was the student phonathon but we are looking into another program that students can engage with alumni and donors for scholarships. We also received a \$250,000 gift from the closing of the Roscoe Nursing Home. The endowment will go to nursing students who want to focus on geriatric care.

**Wayne Oliver:** What about the Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade?

**Michael Sullivan:** We don't know when we will be able to participate in the parade again. Right now there is no travel and we can only spend money on critical needs with justification.

**Elizabeth Frisbee:** The faculty senate will work on the resolutions from the past two plenary's. We have also been working on the bylaws. We were also involved in a consultation process on shared governance and we are looking forward to moving ahead with their recommendations.

**Carol Bishop:** We have been working on the spring 2021 budget. The expenses are for critical needs and there has to be a justification. There has been a hiring freeze across the state and can only replace positions if someone leaves or retires. There has been a major cost with COVID-19 supplies. Human Resources is testing employees every Monday afternoon through the 2021 semester. In December 2020 the athletic bubble collapsed due to the heavy snow storm but we had volunteers help shovel it off and we were able to inflate it again.

**Kathy Mario:** What about the students with excelsior scholarships?

**Carol Bishop:** They are allowing these students to be a step out. We are also awaiting the Governor's budget approval. There is going to be a second round of cares money for students if the budget is passed.

**John Padovani:** There are times that students have bills left over from the semester in the amount of \$200 to \$1000 and we have created a Residence Life scholarship that can cover the expense. We have a strict COVID-19 policy that students need to follow and if they don't follow they need to meet with Lacey Williams in the Student Rights and Responsibilities office. Last semester we had one student that was not compliant and they need to be removed from campus. The student leaders had put in 12,000 hours of community service which is impressive. We will also have

Student's involved in the Delhi Bicentennial. Barnes and Noble, including the café is only open to campus members and not the outside community.

**Dawn Sohns:** We must realize how important social media is for our current students and recruiting. Digital and social media is our priority because that is where we market our programs and students. The print shop has reduced printing and those employees are learning new skills and helping other departments across campus. The biggest project was updating the academic pages on the web. We have sent the updates to the Deans and once approved we will bring them live on the web. I am hoping we can launch them in one week.

**Nii Tetteh:** I don't have much to report because our first meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The major concern is to talk about a pass or fail system instead of grades. This week is also Resident Assistant appreciation week.

**V. Old Business: We need to reach out to the Governor's office regarding our pending approval of College Council Members. Chair Schoonmaker and Kathy Mario will work with Michael Sullivan.**

**VI. New Business: None**

**VII. Chair's Comments:** Welcome to our new college council members. We are so glad to have you. It was nice meeting you all.

**VIII. Adjournment: Chair Schoonmaker** asked for a motion to adjourn. **Wayne Oliver** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Kathy Mario** seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.