



*(Please note: these minutes will be presented to the College Council for approval at their next meeting on December 10, 2019)*

The College Council of SUNY Delhi met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Present were:

**Council:** H. Adams, M. Fisher, K. Mario, J. Schoonmaker, S. Ruiz

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

**Observers:** P. Hanks, D. Krzyston, G. Spielman

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

- I.** President Laliberte called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. President Laliberte wanted to know who could be elected for the Chair vacancy. Michelle Fisher elected Kathy Mario. Kathy Mario declined. The next member to be elected was Jack Schoonmaker. Jack Schoonmaker accepted the Chair position. George Spielman will reach out to the Governor's office to find out how we get the approval for Jack to take on the chair responsibility.

**Chair Schoonmaker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the Chair vacancy. Michelle Fisher moved to approve the appointment. Kathy Mario seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

- II. Approval of Minutes:** Chair Schoonmaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2019. Hank Adams moved to approve the minutes. Michelle Fisher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

We had a great year ending the semester in May 2019 with a record number graduating. The ceremony was held outside and despite rainy conditions it ended up being a celebratory day for SUNY Delhi parents and students. We only had two high heel casualties. The focus this summer has been on the construction of the Bluestone restaurant. The current status the restaurant is not open to the public. We are still waiting for the full board of Health approval. The construction will be completed by this weekend. The final walk through is scheduled for this Friday. Next Tuesday we should be receiving the certificate of occupancy. It was very challenging process but we are very excited to have a living culinary laboratory for our students. We will also be hosting Oktoberfest there in October and the tickets are all sold out. We also have a couple other projects that are in process. South Hall and Thurston Hall. The Architecture labs will be moving out of Farnsworth Hall and the Architecture Faculty will be moving into Thurston Hall. The move will allow Farnsworth Hall to receive the cage washing system and continue the updating of the facilities for Veterinary Science. You may have noticed when entering the campus there is no longer a SUNY Delhi sign. Last semester I met with Provost and Dawn about the redesign of our entrance signs. We wanted a large sign and lighting where students could enjoy taking photos. There is going to be a bluestone patio and benches. Jared Yando, Sarah Poole, Blaze Cordero worked with students designing the sign. The horticulture department helped by removing the plants and planting them on other parts of the campus. We will be purchasing plants to replace the ones we took out in the Spring of 2020. There will also be a matching sign at the other entrance. We have a great opportunity to partner with businesses. The one company wants to partner with our Applied Technologies and also Architecture regarding building smart houses. The other business is strong in Culinary and Hospitality to help our students grow in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and be ahead of other students in the industry. We are up in new students but our returning student numbers are down. We are heading in the right direction when it comes to retention by using a program called Starfish. Starfish is an early warning system but can also give kudos to a student who is working hard and trying their best academically. The goal also is to keep our students here at SUNY Delhi for 4-years. We are also working on raising money for the athletic turf field. We were very thankful to Sportfield Specialities who donated team shelters.

**Kathy Mario:** Do you think the NCAA has affected enrollment in a negative way?

**President Laliberte:** No, it has helped with recruitment. The NCAA also helps our students stay here at SUNY Delhi for 4 years to complete their academic and athletic careers.

**Kathy Mario:** Why did the students leave and not return?

**President Laliberte:** We found this to be a very strange situation. It had not happened before. These students didn't have any holds on their accounts and we found out they never registered for classes for the next semester. We had faculty members calling students to find out why they never registered. We will be concentrating on looking at students who have not registered for their classes and speak to them before they leave campus.

**Wayne Oliver:** I am not understanding the correlation of being 2.3% up in occupancy and yet overall down 4.5%?

**John Padovani:** The overall difference is being up in new students but down in returning students.

**President Laliberte:** What you need to keep in mind is that the increase in new students is our online numbers. Last year we had a dip in our Nursing online but Dean Susan Deane worked very hard to get the numbers increased and they did a fantastic job. new student enrollment is also online students.

**Wayne Oliver:** Should we be concerned about the numbers?

**President Laliberte:** We are still over 100% occupancy and we have less students living in triple rooms. Tomorrow we have a meeting to focus on our Residence Hall Master Plan.

**Wayne Oliver:** Do we have a policy that first year students need to live on campus or can they live off campus? re

**John Padovani:** We are a residential campus. The first- year student does live on campus. There are commuters, those over the age of 21, and those who are married do live off campus.

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

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

**David Krzyston:** I am the Faculty Senate Presider and I am going into my 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The end of May 2019 we finished our bylaws. There were a few complaints but we keep on working on them and making adjustments that benefit the campus community and our students. Morgan McKee stepped down as the Associate Provider and we elected Donald Conklin to fill that vacant seat. The fall Plenary will be in October 2019 in Albany, New York and Elizabeth Frisbee will be attending that Plenary and she will report at the College Council meeting in December. S

**John Padovani:** The student Code of Conduct has not been updated in a long time. Lacey Williams the Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities worked on this over the summer months. The changes always need to be reviewed by the College Council so I had George send this to you ahead of time to see if any member had any comments. There were no comments from the College Council members. SUNY Delhi no longer meets with students who receive alcohol violations. They are required to take an online course that goes through several modules and they are being educated on how to be more responsible. The other aspect was the wording that is used in the Code of Conduct needed to be changed. Since many of our students work for CADI we wanted to make sure they were included in there as well. We also received direction from SUNY legal that we had to use gender neutral language throughout the document. Smoking is an ever battle because now we have hookahs and e-cigarettes.

Recreational vehicles used to be described by bullet points but now it states all recreational vehicles.

**Chair Schoonmaker:** It was a good morning read.

**Wayne Oliver:** Is the Code of Conduct online and easily accessible?

**John Padovani:** The document is online but we also use it for Welcome Weekend and hold several different sessions so that students are aware of what is in the Code of Conduct.

**Tomás Aguirre:** We are going to use the data from the previous year to complete more outreach and programming.

**Sebastian Ruiz:** It has come up in Student Senate are hookahs banned on campus?

**John Padovani:** No, they are not banned from campus they just need to follow the smoking policy. They need to smoke in parking lots or at the smoking gazebos.

**John Padovani:** We are working very diligently to get the Bluestone restaurant open. The Barnes and Noble café that serves Starbucks products is very busy and selling lots of product. During welcome weekend, we had many students involved in Bronco gives back. Bronco gives back was community service.

**Kelli Ligeikis:** I appreciate Dawn and the Beautification Committee for planting the burning bushes in front of the smoking gazebo by my office window. We are up in 67 new students but we are down 143 returning students. Enrollment and Marketing has been working very hard and they are doing an excellent job at trying to enroll students in our programs at SUNY Delhi. President Laliberte mentioned before regarding Starfish and we are going to rely on that system to help our students be more successful in their courses. I am very proud to have 27 people on my Advising Task force in order for professional development on how to advise students and get through their degree on schedule. We are currently working on the following degrees.....

AAS and AOS Electrical Construction Utility Management  
BS in Sustainability  
BBA Technology Management  
BARCH  
AS Engineering Science  
BS Applied Communications

SUNY Delhi also surpassed its previous standing in multiple categories in the 2020 Best Colleges rankings by the U.S. News & World Report, released September 9, 2019. #15 in Best Regional Colleges, #13 in Best Value Schools in the North Region, #9 in Top Public Schools, #7 in Best Colleges for Veterans, and #4 ranking on the list for Best Undergraduate Teaching. This is a great accomplishment.

The school of Nursing has been nationally recognized for the years 2019 through 2023 and we can be a mentor to other colleges.

We have hired a new Applied Learning Coordinator and her name is Kim Muller and she was the former Mayor of Oneonta, New York.

**Dawn Sohns:** We are very pleased to see the engagement that we are seeing off the social media platforms. Nick George and Rikka Olson are our photographers on campus and they are doing an amazing job getting the right photos and putting them out on our website. Nick George is the videographer and he is creating videos for academic programs and student life. Perspective students will be able to view the life of a vet tech or welder. We are also doing a lot of photos shoots so that we can feature story telling. Telling a student's story or experience here at SUNY Delhi helps with marketing.

Graphic design is also increasing and we have been using interns from SUNY Oneonta. This point in time we don't have one but looking to other colleges for interns in graphic design that can assist in our department.

It was a pleasure to go to New York City to meet Jeff Rainforth class of 1995 and be able to tell his story of building the Statue of Liberty Museum.

Lastly, we are working to update all the enrollment services literature so they are attracted by our perspective students and parents and not like all other college marketing tools.

**Carol Bishop:** We worked on the new budget process this year and it went well but there was a new process that everyone had to get to know and understand. We started by wiping the slate clean and starting at zero. Most of the people preparing the budgets were realistic but based on revenue we still had to cut the budget by one million dollars. During the process the Deans and Leadership Team had a major role helping people realize that we have to be responsible for a budget and hold folks accountable.

**Kathy Mario:** How was the budget weighted?

**Carol Bishop:** Priority was number 1, then 2, and 3. The other aspect was making sure it was tying back to assessment and the strategic plan. A very new concept that folks had to wrap their heads around.

**President Laliberte:** The main focus was for people to look at their budgets and prioritize and then come to the table for discussion why it was a priority or if it could wait until another budget year. They also had to think about revenue which is part of enrollment. The under enrolled programs will need to be looked at as well and see if we continue with them in the future. We didn't cut any positions but do we fill them in the future is something we will have to consider when they become vacant.

**Paul Hanks:** Carol Bishop and Stephen Cembrinski worked very hard and did a great job at putting people at ease through the process. The sessions that Stephen held were excellent and informative.

**Carol Bishop:** The concept was, here is where we are but how do we get there so that we don't over spend and then be in trouble financially as an institution.

**President Laliberte:** We have to come up with the money to pay the UUP contract because we are not getting any money from the state. Pay the UUP contracts without getting any money from the state to cover the contract agreement.

**David Kryzton:** I have to say I was very nervous about the new way but it worked out well.

**Carol Bishop:** Katie Bucci is working out the assessment piece helping Stephen with the process.

**Carol Bishop:** We have hired a Scholarship Coordinator and his name is Adam Lang. He is doing a great job and students have been receiving their awards early in the semester.

**President Laliberte:** The awarding of scholarships is also going to help with retention. It also helps to focus on those students in need.

**Carol Bishop:** Adam has awarded most scholarships except for a few that are very specific to certain major. He is doing an excellent job and very good with systems.

**President Laliberte:** He was a Residence Director for several years at SUNY Delhi so he is one of our own that was promoted.

**Carol Bishop:** The SUNY Board of Trustees came out with a policy regarding faculty and staff not having relationships with students. There is going to be mandatory training in the Fall for faculty, staff, and volunteers.

**Paul Hanks:** I am sitting in for Michael Sullivan. I am the Major Gift Officer for SUNY Delhi. October 3, 2019, we are going to have an alumni event with businesses and business students. The students will be able to get business cards and give out resumes.

**Paul Hanks:** Horizons magazine just came out and will be mailed to 26,000 alumni and friends.

**Paul Hanks:** I have been busy on the phone building relationships. I am working with an Alumni that wants his estate to go to Oklahoma State and SUNY Delhi so this very exciting.

**Paul Hanks:** We also just hired Kari Hauge to who is going to help us with data entry and CRM for the College Advancement Office.

We will also be doing an alumni event in the Houston, Texas area where many of former graduates live.

**Kathy Mario:** Have we heard from the Governor's Office regarding the appointment of College Council Members?

**George Spielman:** Yes, I have been in contact with them and they were going to make the appointments a priority but that was three weeks ago.

**Chair Schoonmaker:** It took them two and half years to appoint me.

**Tomás Aguirre:** There has been so much going on in the Student Life division. You all have the report to read. I also feel that the report helps people besides SUNY Delhi employees know how great the college is and the great things need to be spread throughout the community and region.

We have three division meetings a year. The first one we decided that we would have ten teams to come up with innovative ideas for a program that can be used in the future to help our students be and remain successful. The teams are made up of Student Life folks but also other faculty and staff on campus.

There is also a new program for students who are employed on campus. They will go through a training program and the end goal is to help them be valuable employees and not so much about just receiving a pay check.

We also have highly qualified individuals in Student Life with many years of experience. We are trying to create a culture of excellence and recognition.

**Kathy Mario:** We have been working on diversity the past few years.

**Tomás Aguirre:** We have been very successful in the hiring process when it comes to diversity and it has really been an encouragement to our students.

The SWIPE it forward initiative regarding the food pantry on campus has been recognized by the Governor's office.

The Mosaic Multi Cultural Center is hosting a Men of color equity summit on October 4, 2019.

We are also very proud of our student athletes who have the highest -grade point averages and the lowest student conduct.

**Kathy Mario:** I just need to mention that I love the athletic banners they are great!

**President Laliberte:** The women's soccer and volleyball are undefeated and off to a great start.

**Tomás Aguirre:** Lawrence Mannolini and myself travelled to New York City and met with the Chinese Consulate because when China had an earthquake four Chinese students attended SUNY Delhi. What was awesome is that we met two of the students. We are also working with them to have more Chinese students attend SUNY Delhi.

Welcome Weekend went very well and we are working on improving the program to make it even better for incoming students. The program is one of the best and we will be presenting the program nationally.

**Sebastian Ruiz:** I am the new Student Senate Presider. I am very excited about this year. When the governance body met, we came up with a theme for the year. The theme is Mental Health Awareness. We will be working with the Counseling staff in Foreman Hall so that we don't have another suicide this year or years to come.

**Dawn Sohns:** Please let us know if we can help you with anything.

**Sebastian Ruiz:** Our goal is to get as many clubs and organizations to help and focus on education and programming.

**John Padovani:** Sebastian reach out to Resident Director Fran Magro she can help as well.

**Wayne Oliver:** What are the grade point averages of students compared to the past?

**Kelli Ligeikis:** Grade point averages are higher and so is the SAT scores.

**President Laliberte:** There has been a confirmed case of Pertussis and questionable for other cases.

#### V. Old Business: None

#### VI. New Business:

We are working on the legislation for the land swap between the foundation and the state for the hotel location in Delhi. We have had discussions with Jen Metzger and Brian Miller. We have to write the bill and we are in the process of doing that right now. Then it will have to go through the SUNY Board of Trustees. We will need help speaking with other legislatures so we may call upon the College Council Members in due time. It doesn't involve any loss of tax money and the developer would give a donation to Delhi.

**Wayne Oliver:** Has SUNY Delhi completed their portion so this can move forward?

**President Laliberte:** We are working on the documentation and then we can move forward.

**Kathy Mario:** Will the Education Center land be touched or part of the process?

**President Laliberte:** No, just the softball fields.

**Kathy Mario:** I also just want to mention thank you for not mowing down the milk weed to protect the monarch butterflies.

#### VII. Chair's Comments:

There is something I want to bring to everyone's attention and it is an invite:

#### **Catskill Water Discovery Center "Friend Raising" Event.**

Thursday, October 10th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Union Grove Distillery *43311 State Hwy 28, Arkville, NY 12406* [uniongrovedistillery.com](http://uniongrovedistillery.com)

There will be appetizers w/ cash bar and a brief presentation on CWDC developments to date.

The mission of the CWDC is to increase public awareness of the threats to global fresh water resources. Using the Catskill/Delaware watershed as a living classroom, they hope to inspire people through programs, exhibits and events to care for, conserve and protect the world's water resources for the benefit of generations to come.

For more information see <https://www.waterdiscoverycenter.org/>

As I mentioned, Carol O'Beirne (a former member of the College Council) is Vice President of the Board of Directors, Martie Gailes (a Delhi Alumna) is Secretary/Treasurer, and Past College President Candace Vancko was on their original Advisory Board at one time.

**VIII. Adjournment:** Chair Schoonmaker asked for a motion to adjourn. Michelle Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting. Hank Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.