

## **College Council Meeting - Hybrid**

**September 9, 2025**

### **Approved Minutes**

**In attendance:** Brady Morris, Jeanne Elsworth, Ray Pucci, Wayne Oliver, Jack Schoonmaker, Tahirah Clark, Seth Blocker.

**Guests:** President Bonderoff, Ruth Ehrets, Louis Reyes, Dr. Doug Holub, Shawn Brislin, John Padovani, Dr, David Brower, Nazely Kurkjian, Andrea Dibble, Dr. Shai Butler.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order 4:34pm.

Introductions of members in the room.

**Approval of Minutes.** Motion by Wayne Oliver, seconded by Tahirah Clark. Approved

**Chair's Comments:** Welcome to a new semester! Numbers looking good with enrollment. Invitation to dinner at the president's house afterwards.

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

Working on fundraising campaign.

Welcomed Dr. Butler, Vice President of Student Life and thrilled she is here.

Really trying to move forward this fall with the tactics for our strategic plan. Last spring, we charged the campus with building out the tactics to match the goals and strategies. Excited to have those done, we are prioritizing them now, and we have looked at committees we have on campus to see how we can attach the tactics to people who are doing the work.

The strategic plan tactics align very well with the NISS playbook that we have. We will be building out groups to work on those items in collaboration and support of the strategic plan. Everything is focused on retention and completion.

We finalized our campus values, the four "C's" – Collaboration, Commitment, Community and Care. These are values we all stand by and are important to SUNY Delhi as an institution and to our students.

Mechatronics building, we have met with Architecture firm and will move forward with those plans. Waiting on final okay about the grant, and the goal is to make an announcement this fall.

Financial sustainability – moving in right direction, and will continue to meet with SUNY monthly. This was put in place by Delhi, mandated by SUNY. We will update each year working towards being fiscally sound by 2027-28. SUNY will likely have continued oversight. Some concerns from the State about cuts, but we continue to be fiscally mindful. Prioritizing what we can and cannot support, still look at attrition and whether we fill positions.

Busy with REDC (Regional Economic Development Council) and we are in the midst of the Achieve Competition throughout the state for significant funding. Community is working on a DRI grant which I am hopeful they will complete and will go to the REDC. There is huge potential for Delhi right now.

SUNY working on new College Council members. Names have been submitted and hopeful we will have more additions. There should be nine appointees and one student.

Chief Diversity Officer search moving forward.

Great fall semester so far; students out & about, attending classes, attending study hours.

### **Staff Reports Highlights**

### **College Leadership Team**

#### **Dr. David Brower**

Classes full and going well. Visited classes.

At the May meeting, we discussed the academic restructure which we have since modified and scaled back on hiring two of the associate deans for now, but hope they will come to fruition at a later date. Search launched for a Dean for the College of Health, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and we are pleased to announce that Dr. Amy Brandt accepted the position and will start October 14, 2025.

We were able to identify an Interim Associate Dean for Veterinary Sciences, and Dr. Andrea Balcom is filling that role. And we have a newly appointed Program Director, Professor Alyse Funck will overseeing our Veterinary Science online programs.

In the process of hiring an associate dean for the School of Applied Technologies and Architecture and the School of Business, Hospitality & Recreation. This person will provide support to the faculty in those schools as well at support Dean Davis.

Key initiatives:

Compliance with Title II, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), WCAG, 2.1 level A standards which need to be in place by April 2026 (IT Accessibility.) Dr. Shelly Jones was identified as our Electronic & Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility Fellow, and they will be helping us navigate some of the transition to the new standards of our digital content being accessible, such as web applications, websites, mobile apps, PDF's, Word documents and presentations, digital newsletters etc. We are taking a collaborative approach and we have created a Title II Accessibility Workgroup with representative from Access & Equity, Online Instruction committee, Center for Excellence, Innovation, Teaching and Learning and the Callas Center.

We are excited about the growth & expansion of our opportunity programs:

ASAP (Advancing Success in Associate Pathways) and ACE (Advancing Completion through Engagement) are comprehensive programs designed to support students complete their degrees on time and are funded exclusively by SUNY.

The ASAP program is for associate degree students and the ACE program is for bachelor degree students. Benefits include financial, academic and personal resources, including academic advising as well as a financial stipend towards the cost of attendance, textbooks and course materials.

The C-PASS, EOP and A&O programs have robust and successful transition programs. The academic reboot program brought students in prior to the start of the semester to get them off to a better start. early summer programs to bring students in.

Apprenticeship programs are growing. The second cohort of the Golf/Groundskeeper are starting. Pursuing additional opportunities in cabinet making and chef/culinary.

Charged the Prior Learning Assessment and Credit for Prior Learning working groups to develop a campus wide policy to provide students, especially non-traditional students with credit for experience obtained in other venues, such as military training.

Academic Advisement Center has assumed the development of our first-year student schedules, centralized advising which has proved to be effective so far. This also allowed to manage course sections much more effectively and add them where needed. Our employees are 12-month so our students will always be able to reach someone during the summer months.

Findings and recommendations have been received from NISS – National Institute for Student Success which we have spoken about previously.

This was an Initiative paid through a grant from SUNY. Two-part process; diagnostic and playbook. A comprehensive report was provided on their findings relative to what we are doing in the student success realm as it relates to national and international best practices. Nazely Kurkjian and Nikki Hoffman were the leads on this.

We will host an academic open forum in September to review the report and the findings with the campus.

We are pleased to be a part of the development of the Inn at Kirkside in Roxbury. Dr Bonderoff & David attended the groundbreaking. Jeanne Ellsworth is part of the organization and David part of the advisory board, and this is a great partnership between many entities, and certainly for SUNY Delhi and the Mark Project in Roxbury.

Microcredentials built out as small stackable academic credentials that people can earn, and are more appealing to non-traditional students or those not able to commit to a full program. We are just launching them so no enrollment in them yet, but they are leveraging programs that have capacity. Jack noted these are a great opportunity for the non-traditional student. These are transferable anywhere and microcredentials are composed of credit bearing course work.

**Dr. Shai Butler:**

Thank you and excited to be here and thank you to my colleagues around the table helping with the transition to the position.

Dr. Butler has been in the industry for about 27 years, held senior roles in student success, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, as well as in Advancement & External Affairs and has now returned to student affairs and working directly with students, challenging them to be their best selves and supporting them on their journey.

Dr. Butler has three children, two are undergraduates at RIT.

Athletics – had the chance to meet all sport athletes. Last year we had eight students who achieved 11 All American Honors.

All are welcome to attend events and our students have a lot of talent.

CADI – new partnership with SODEXO. Started out with a nice BBQ for move-in day & great service.

Some changes have been made that students were not too fond of, but we are working with them and all parties have been very responsive.

What are the focus concerns? Menu's, hours, portion size, locations, quality. Sodexo sat and listened to the students and started making changes where they could the next day.

Counseling & Health Services - religious exemption for vaccines – new process.

Continuing to partner with Academic Affairs to ensure our veterinary students receive rabies vaccines. Residence Life hosted over 350 guests over summer including housing for Moore family reunion, Catskill Yoga & SUNY Librarians Association conference.

Transitioning housing cloud management software to allow for a better end user experience and for our systems to work together across campus.

Center for Student Leadership – successful welcome week/orientation program for students to transition to college. Successful pre-arrival program for EOP, A&E, C-PASS students, Community service day with over 70 students plus staff out in the local area engaging in service activities.

CADI/Student Senate – pleased to report that an audit of this year's financials resulted in an unqualified opinion for fiscal responsibility, which is the highest rating possible.

Dr. Butler hosted a Senior Leadership Retreat for the senior leaders in the division where they focused on the Strategic Plan and how we are aligning it with our goals and institutional goals and how we are assessing ourselves, our assessment plan. Bought the entire division together to do some team building since we have a lot of new staff and we could get to know each other and engaged in some professional development.

Award winning program "Delhi Broncos Vote" will be receiving an award from the SUNY Senior Student Affairs Office for an outstanding program which is led by Elizabeth Hoyt.

**Louis Reyes:**

Kudos to Elizabeth Hoyt for revamping our DEI website & web presence & how it looks on a phone. We identified what was been viewed often and moved them front & center for ease.

Conducted bystander intervention training for all incoming athletes at the beginning of the semester, great way to meet them.

Equity Council members are collaborating with campus departments, local organizations, along with student groups to develop a Week of Belonging, planned for Monday, September 15 – Friday, September 19 which includes Latin Cultural festivities, and a Who am I campaign (getting to know who people are across campus) which we will continue through the semester.

Christina wood officially appointed Title VI campus coordinator.

SUNY emphasis on every student having internships, and our team has two intern students in Mosaic Center; Rebekah Osei-Owusu who reorganized WOKE and relaunched as WISE (Womxn Inspiring Success & Empowerment), and Nicole Espino who is developing educational and social programs for international students.

Partnered with the O'Connor Center to host weekly Summer Suppers with guest chefs for on-campus summer residents. We identified a need over previous summers to do more for students who were working over the summer and staying on campus.

Facilitated “Compassionate Conversations” workshops for RA training, incoming C-PASS students, and Orientation Leaders, we reached a total of 150 students enrolled for fall 2025; also introduced MOSAIC resources and Title VI.

Men of Distinction is going to continue. We have SUNY Delhi alum who will be a guest speaker this fall. Tyreik Jackson is a carpenter, and his visit will include trades student engagement and a public talk.

Hello Beauty Vending Machine coming to campus, and will be located in Farrell Center for students. This was developed and created by an EOP alum SUNY Brockport. Yemi Adesanya, C-PASS Counselor took the lead to make this a reality.

We have paid Internship opportunities, are external internships welcome? Absolutely, have students in the community and across the country. We have a lot of requested for hospitality students, especially over the summer.

Through SUNY's Transformational Funds, we are able to get around \$230,000 to support the internships we have on campus. This provides the student with experience on campus, but it really benefits our campus as it's a great help for offices who need help with projects or events. Rob Mazzei has hosted a successful job fair that bought in fifty vendors and over 400 students attended.

**Chelsea Mathieu:**

Chart shows favorable cash balance. When we have a surplus, it shows in the reserves so we have funding if needed for an emergency.

**Shawn Brislin:**

Evenden Tower ADA – This summer, accessible restrooms were installed on the basement level as well as the first and seventh floors. The restrooms on floors two and three were completely remodeled as well. The sixth-floor science labs remain under construction and on track for completion this fall.

During the intersession break the fourth and fifth floors will come off line and be remodeled. Accessible restrooms will be constructed on floors 4-6 in conjunction with the science labs.

South Hall – new lab for Mechatronics to use for pneumatics and hydraulics and will start work on CNC lab space and start work on the exterior (siding).

Storm run off on Foreman Hall over a weekend and backed up into the building. Drywall/carpets had to be replaced.

Internship – CIS had an intern in the spring (Applied Communications program) spent a couple of weeks with each of the business units, and we have hired him at an entry level position.

Fiber Optic work is a large undertaking and we are replacing all the cables that were installed in the 90's. Facilities have done a lot of things around campus to make it look good; the fountain by Smith Hall working again; built a new stone wall around greenhouse and planted Zinnias around campus.

**Nazely Kurkjian:**

Recently hired two graduates as admissions advisors for downstate.

Intern this summer will continue for the year, helping a lot with communications & social media.

Intern in Applied Communications has a one credit internship requirement and will be working with athletics to create some automated communications to recruits. Athletic interest added to enquiry card. Put into Slate so coaches can follow up.

We are up 100 schedules (additional students who have schedules) as of September 8. We are up over 100 students online –significant growth in online Veterinary Science, Nursing, Electrical, Residential Construction and Mechatronics. Will continue to explore goal caps for next year.

Working closely with Marketing & Communications on undergraduate campaigns for some select programs and generic transfers.

Kudos to Peter and Riikka in Marketing & Communications – branding is a component of the strategic enrollment management plan; increased social media presence, revamped and increased our promotional materials that we have, press releases, Riikka attending Deans' Council so we can promote programs/events within those areas.

[ASAP/ACE](#) is our new program on campus, Laura Pehrsson is the Director, Ayhan Ozyesil is our Advisor Evidence based model that provides academic, financial and career development and other services at the associate-degree and bachelor's level.

National Institute for Student Success (NISS) – seven-month consultation fully covered by SUNY. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Academic Open Forum will present on the diagnostic (fact finding) and playbook (recommendations for us to bolster student success). The four-focus area are first-year student support (first-year experience), proactive advising, academic data & design and financial wellness. These are directly aligned with the Strategic Plan, preparing for implementation once the presentation has been made to the campus community.

**John Padovani:**

Three student achievements were published on Merit, including the dean's list, graduation, and a student competition. A total of 1,331 students were recognized and 1,551 personalized student stories were generated. Our click-to-open rate for student and parent emails is over 35x the industry average.

Over the summer, the main focus on social media channels was to showcase student internship experiences. From an environmental studies major working as a park ranger to construction management students coordinating with subcontractors on jobsites, these stories highlight our hands-on programs and job readiness preparation.

One of our ongoing projects is to expand the staff and faculty directory on the website to include staff photos and bios. To this end, we have been offering opportunities for employee headshots. This new directory feature will enhance campus relations and showcase faculty and staff excellence to outside audiences.

Alumni Office partnered with SUNY Oneonta and sold out a co-branded Alumni Night at Citi Field on Friday, September 19. Two hundred Delhi and Oneonta alumni plan to attend.

Homecoming is planned for September 26 – 28. Student Life and Alumni staff have planned a diverse schedule of activities with most scheduled for Saturday, September 27 in conjunction with the Village of Delhi Harvest Festival.

Donor outreach in the last quarter of fiscal year 2025 resulted in donations which were 66% higher over last year, \$41,750 v \$27,600. Overall, a total of \$775,500 was donated to the Delhi Annual Fund.

Working on a contact and profile list for our NY State Assembly & Senate.

Planning a fall legislative forum on campus with our local, state and federal representatives to give an update. Plan is to do this twice a year, either bring people to campus or let them know what's going on from academic initiatives to regional economically development councils, to town gown relationships, and how we can better partner with some of our elected officials.

**Dr. Douglas Holub:**

We have had a couple of senate meetings, President & Provost meetings, the executive board has met as well as the E-Board.

College senate has applied for the SUNY Shared Governance award again this year (across all campuses). We applied two years ago and did not receive it.

**Brady Morris:**

Student Senate, great first meeting with large attendance and engagement. The biggest thing we are seeing is two or three student groups that want to start new clubs; Ski club to restart (80 signatures), Book club working with library to rent out books.

Meeting with Sodexo was a well-attended event and they are making the small changes as quickly as they can.

**Old Business:**

Council Membership – Vacant Seats. Submitted names, hope to have seats filled. Jack is still serving as interim chairperson.

Council Member emails – sent out over summer. Mary will work with HR on trainings for College Council members.

ACT handbooks – copies to be shared with members.

**New Business:**

Homecoming Weekend, September 26-28, 2025. College Council members to help/attend where we can.

ACT Conference, October 17-18, Albany Marriot. College has assisted in the past with members who want to attend, please let Andrea know. Jack will attend.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Seth Blocker seconded by Brady Miller to adjourn the meeting at 6:03pm.