

College Council Meeting, Hybrid Format

April 14, 2026

Unapproved minutes

In attendance: Jack Schoonmaker, Wayne Oliver, Ray Pucci, Christopher Dragotakes, Brady Miller, Tahirah Clark, Vicki Davis, Amy Warner.

Guests: President Bonderoff, Dr. Brower, Dr. Butler, Chelsea Mathieu, Diana Pollard, Michael Sullivan, John Padovani, Ruth Ehrets, Louis A. Reyes, Jr., Shawn Brislin, Andrea Dibble.

Call to Order

Jack Schoonmaker called the meeting to order at 4:32pm and welcomed members. Introductions were made, including several newly appointed Council members. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of February 2026 Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Motion: Approve the previous meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by: Wayne Oliver

Seconded by: Vicki Davis

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Jack welcomed newly appointed members and expressed appreciation to the Governor's Office for completing recent appointments, allowing the Council to return to full membership.

- Appointment for Vicki Davis effective March 31, 2026 and expires June 30, 2031.
- Appointment for Amy Warner effective March 31, 2026 and expires June 30, 2029.
- Wayne Oliver's retirement from the College Council. Letter to be submitted to the Governor's Office on May 1, 2026.
- Ray Pucci's retirement from the College Council. Letter to be submitted to the Governor's Office on May 1, 2026.

President's Report - Dr. Mary Bonderoff

Recognition of Outgoing Members

Dr. Bonderoff thanked departing council members for their service:

- **Wayne Oliver** for his years of commitment to SUNY Delhi and support of the institution. We know you will remain a great partner.
 - **Ray Pucci** for his contributions to SUNY Delhi and community engagement efforts. We first met at chamber meeting when I arrived at Delhi and introduced me to a lot of people. Enjoy retirement.
- Brady Morris**, Student Senate President, will be graduating in May, we wish you the best and thank you for your exceptional leadership and advocacy on behalf of students.

Campus Updates

Dr. Bonderoff reported that the campus is entering the final weeks of the semester and preparing for numerous student recognition events, including:

- Awards ceremonies
- Dean's Honors Reception
- Commencement activities

Advancement and Fundraising

We are pleased to welcome Diana Pollard, Vice President for College Advancement as we head into our Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign which some of you are involved with.

The College is preparing to launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Highlights included:

- Strong alumni engagement efforts in Florida, Washington, D.C., Tennessee, and Pittsburgh.
- Positive feedback from alumni regarding their SUNY Delhi experiences.
- Growing campaign momentum and philanthropic interest.
- Expansion of scholarship and student support opportunities through fundraising.

Enrollment

Enrollment continues to remain strong across multiple academic programs and growing online Programs currently experiencing capacity constraints include:

- Electrical Controls
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Construction-related programs

The administration continues to explore options for increasing instructional capacity and expanding high-demand programs.

Workforce Development Partnership

Dr. Bonderoff announced encouraging progress on a proposed partnership with the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) to develop an electrical utility worker training center with classroom space.

Updates included:

- Federal funding requests advancing through the appropriations process.
- Continued advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.
- Potential regional economic development benefits associated with the project.

Academic Momentum Initiative

The College continues implementation of SUNY's Academic Momentum initiative focused on:

- Student retention
- Completion rates
- Student success outcomes

New initiatives are being developed and will be implemented beginning with future entering classes.

Capital Projects

Progress continues on several facilities projects, including:

- Design work for the new Applied Technologies/Mechatronics facility.
- Relocation planning for University Police.
- Campus infrastructure improvements.

CADI, Inc.

A search is underway for a new CADI Executive Director. Interviews are being held this week, and we hope to have this finalized soon.

Budget Overview

Dr. Bonderoff discussed SUNY's increased focus on evaluating the institution's academic enterprise budget separate from other funding streams. We have been operating under an all-funds approach, and by doing this, the DIFR (dormitory funding) has a robust balance and helps our overall budget, but the challenge is those monies can only be used for certain things related to residence life, not the campus as a whole.

Key points included:

- SUNY Delhi continues to show overall financial strength.
- The academic enterprise remains challenged by a structural deficit.

- Space limitations continue to constrain enrollment growth.
 - Future budget planning will focus on sustainability while maintaining educational quality.
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Provost's Report, Dr. David Brower

Enrollment and Recruitment

Enrollment trends remain positive, with several programs already full or nearing capacity, including:

- Electrical Controls
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Clinical Nursing
- Construction Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Welding

Efforts continue to identify additional instructional space both on and off campus.

Student Recruitment Activities

Successful recruitment initiatives included, Open House events, Accepted Student Days, and transportation support for EOP and C-PASS students through New York City bus service on May 1, 2026.

Academic Portfolio Optimization

The Academic Programs Assessment Committee (APAC) continues reviewing the College's academic offerings. Programs recommended for deactivation (pauses enrollment) and discontinuance (students graduate out of program and it is officially cancelled from our portfolio) include:

- Adventure Recreation
- Park and Outdoor Recreation
- Business Administration (AS)
- Childhood Education Studies
- Early Childhood Education Studies
- Hotel & Restaurant Management (AAS and BS)

Program Modifications

Several academic programs are being revised or renamed to improve marketability and clarity:

- Adolescent Education (three degrees into one) → Education Studies
- Sustainability → Environmental Sustainability
- Event Management → Hospitality Management

- Renewable Energy → Electrical Construction: Renewable Energy

New Program Development

Exploration continues in new offering new programs:

- Health Studies
- Human Services
- Applied Technology bachelor's degrees
- Direct-entry online degree pathways

Academic Momentum (AcMo)

The institution received additional SUNY funding of \$12,000 to support Academic Momentum implementation.

Current focus areas include:

- Gateway courses and course redesign
- Retention initiatives
- Student success strategies

National Institute for Student Success (NISS)

SUNY Delhi secured approximately \$120,000 in funding to participate in the implementation phase of the National Institute for Student Success initiative.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

A new Prior Learning Assessment policy has been approved to support:

- Adult learners
- Active Military & Veterans
- Career changers
- Non-traditional students

This allows us to provide individuals with credit for their experience in other capacities provided they can document how they achieved the learning outcomes.

Accessibility Compliance

Work continues to ensure compliance with federal digital accessibility requirements by the April 2026 deadline. All state and local governments with 50,000+ people employed including all public colleges and universities, must comply with the Title II Accessibility Standards WCAG 2.1AA for websites, mobile apps and all digital content.

Thank you to Shawn Brislin for rolling out the required trainings that will be forthcoming.

Trainings and Professional Development

We continue to offer professional development workshop and training sessions to faculty and staff through the end of obligation in June.

Updates include:

- Pedagogy of Real Talk (PRT) will welcome the 2nd cohort of faculty and professional staff to the program.

Partnerships and Workforce Development

Updates included:

- Construction Management partnership discussions with Hudson Valley Community College to offer it at their campus in the Capitol District which mimics the model we had we Schenectady County Community College (SCCC).
 - Collaboration with Chobani related to workforce development with the Mechatronics program and micro-credential opportunities for their workforce.
 - Expansion of grant-seeking efforts through AASCU resources.
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Student Life Report, Dr. Shai Butler

Athletics

As SUNY Delhi transitions from the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) to SUNYAC, recognition was given to several coaches and teams for NCAA tournament participation and athletic success.

Dining Services

Changes for 2026-27 include:

- Addition of an unlimited meal plan option.
- Expanded commuter meal plans (academic year rather than on a semester basis.)
- Dining venue adjustments based on student feedback; Farrell Commons for lunch and dinner, and MacDonald Hall for breakfast and lunch. Thanks to Brady for his leadership on this.
- Continued scholarship partnerships through CADA, Sodexo, and Barnes & Noble. Twelve student employees will each be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Counseling Services

A successful Mental Health Day Summit focused on trauma-informed practices was held with strong participation from students, faculty, and staff.

Greek Life

Community continues to thrive, with new member initiations completed with each organization welcoming at least one new member. Membership increased from approximately 88 to more than 120 students.

Health Services

Successful RN recruitment effort to replace a retiring staff member and completion of a Health Services audit with no findings.

Housing and Residence Life

Updates included:

- Strong returning student applications and deposits.
- Establishment of a housing waitlist.
- Ongoing staff recruitment for a new Associate Director of Housing and restructuring initiatives with the promotion of a Residence Hall Director to Complex Coordinator who will oversee a large number of residents, support us with the housing cloud software system as well as facilities and tech aspects, Congratulations Emmie Trammell.

Student Orientation

Planning is underway for:

- Grant received from SUNY for a First-Generation Student Orientation initiative that we will pilot in the fall.
- Comprehensive redesign of New Student Orientation as a result of NISS and the work we are doing through AcMo.

Student Engagement

We are excited to welcome Katie Palm as Assistant Director, who serves as the College's Student Veteran Support lead as well as our Basic Needs Coordinator. We are working to expand the work we do with the Food Pantry and Community Engagement.

Addition of three new student organizations: Electronics Club, Women in Business & African Student Union.

Civic Engagement/Bronco Votes

We earned the highly established Action Plan Seal of recognition, which recognizes higher education institutions for developing strong, nonpartisan college voter participation. We are still a leader in this area.

Conference & Event Services

We are building out this area under student life, and we had some successful initiatives when we partnered with the Delaware Crossover Basketball and Section IV Basketball Tournaments held on campus. We will be hosting a yoga festival this summer, and the Invictus Running Club.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Policy work has been focused on pregnancy, parental notification (Beau's law compliance), and smoke-free campus.

Chief Diversity Officer Report, Louis A. Reyes, Jr.**Diversity and Inclusion Awards**

The President's Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion was successfully reintroduced for a second year and we recognized five people for their continuous efforts to strengthen our community and develop avenues for increased diversity on campus.

Regional Collaboration

SUNY Delhi submitted a proposal to present at the 2026 Multicultural Affairs Convening in Albany in collaboration with North Country Community College and Herkimer Community College.

Community Engagement

In partnership with Office of the President, we hosted a Ramadan break-fast event for that fostered community engagement and intercultural understanding with students, faculty and staff.

As a result, discussions have begun regarding the creation of a Muslim Student Association.

Equity Council

The Equity Council continues to play an active role in community engagement, members supported the Women's Empowerment Panel (Women's History Month), as well as the Women's Leadership Conversation and campus happy hour celebration.

Mosaic and Student Leadership

Student assistants played an active role in Women's History Month programming, including students Nicole Coiro who presented several days of tabling honoring International Women with an interactive table "As Women We Can..."

Rebekah Osei-Owusu held the annual International Women's Day event with giveaways for all students, and education on the women's influences.

Denise Simmons-Green hosted a Women's Music Jam Session educating on women's musical influence in RAP and R&B, along with a Women's History Trivia game night.

Educational outreach for the Lavender and Kente Celebrations. Additional tabling took place to increase visibility and help students sign up for these events.

Applications increased significantly for both the Presidential Diversity Awards and the Pedagogy of Real Talk program.

Finance & Administration Report, Chelsea Mathieu

Financial Position

- Year-to-date current all-funds cash balance: approximately \$22.8 million.
- Projected overall year-end surplus remains likely.
- Academic enterprise budget continues to experience a modest deficit requiring ongoing monitoring. We are working diligently to address this and are meeting with SUNY System more regularly to close this gap.

Financial Aid and Student Support

Initiatives include:

- Earlier processing of student aid files (by two months.)
- Enhanced communication through the SLATE software system for fall 2026 admits.
- Expanded FAFSA and TAP outreach efforts include workshops every other Thursday.
- Proactive support by phone, email and tabling for students with registration-blocking balances. As of April 13, 274 students had a balance over \$1,000 which makes this work critical.

Student Employment and Experiential Learning:

CIS & Facilities are hiring for summer positions, giving students hands on experience at the helpdesk, network operations, custodial work, electrical, carpentry, painting, and our Residential Construction students will be installing faux stones pillars at the main campus entrance.

Human Resources

Personnel updates included:

- Retirement announcement from Ruth Ehrets who has served our campus with distinction since 2017.
- Appointment of Galya Nocheva as Interim Assistant Vice President for Human Resources for one year.
- Melissa Bishop, Bursar will assume oversight of the One-Stop day-to-day operations.
- Carlos Vidal will oversee advising of international students and be our international student liaison.
- We welcomed Margie Heannings as Senior HR Associate to serve as our Title IX Coordinator and Benefits Administrator.
- Onboarding of 11 new employees since the last College Council meeting.

Business Office

Has begun the process of assigning each course fee its own account number, this will simplify reporting and accounting processes.

Automation for CADI accounting processes has been completed and we are working towards automating SUNY transfers as well.

Finalized annual procurement and accounts payable audit on time with no significant findings.

Facilities and Technology Projects

Summer projects include:

- Campus-wide Wi-Fi upgrades.
 - Reconstruction of the 4th & 5th floors of Evenden Tower, including ADA compliant bathrooms.
 - Infrastructure improvements including new steam hot water heaters, painting, lighting and shower replacements.
 - Mechatronics building planning continues.
 - Electrical technology classroom upgrades to facilitate teaching and learning.
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College Advancement Report, Diana Pollard

Alumni Engagement

It's been a very busy nine weeks since I started! Recent outreach included successful alumni visits in Florida met with over 13 alums, and all of them had something to offer whether, hosting events at their homes, on the water, making a gift, talk about estate gifts, start scholarships, it was an amazing time, and we have at least 55 alums in The Villages alone.

Campaign Planning

Preparations continue for the College's comprehensive fundraising campaign and thank you Amy for joining us. This is an exciting time; we have a lot of work ahead of us and it take the campus as a whole to make it successful.

Advancement Initiatives

Future plans include:

- Alumni newsletter development.
- Alumni spotlight series. We recently met with Pike Construction where we have six alums, so they will be featured.
- Alumni-owned business directory.
- Expanded donor engagement opportunities.

Giving and Fundraising

Highlights included:

- More than \$50,000 raised during the inaugural Day of Giving.
- Strong participation and donor engagement.
- Culinary program held their Field to Fork fundraiser dinner which was a great success. We have met with the Program Director and are looking at ways to expand on it for next year.

Marketing & Communications

Recent accomplishments include:

- Launch of a new campus [newsroom](#).
- Continued ADA accessibility improvements
- Growth of social media engagement exceeding 10,000 followers.
- Development of grant-funded promotional videos for HVACR program (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration), featuring lab footage and student and faculty interviews. We also hope to use this for campaign materials as well.

Alumni Outreach:

- Women's Volleyball Volunteer Assistant Coach and Delhi senior Colleen Darby welcomed alumni returning for a special student-alumni volleyball match on Monday, April 20, 2026.
- Architecture students will host their event on Friday, May 1 from 5:00-7:00pm at Bushel, 106 Main Street, Delhi.

Golf Course and Community Engagement

The College Golf Course and Bluestone operation will reopen with expanded community programming, educational opportunities, and student internships.

Jack noted that alumni seem to find each other. After graduating the architecture program, he went to work for a small firm in New Paltz and at one time, the staff of eight had five from Delhi.

Diana reported that she spoke with a community member who is organizing a basketball team and recruiting a former coach to participate in an event scheduled for August. The group expressed interest in exploring how the College might support the initiative and inquired about the possibility of incorporating the Saratoga trip into the event, as the organizer owns a restaurant in Clifton Park. Diana noted that alumni are often self-organizing these types of activities, presenting valuable opportunities for the College to engage with and support their efforts.

One of the alumni that we met in Florida works for Universal Studios, and she wants to come to the reunion. She is still in touch with friends from college and they are all coming together.

She emphasized the importance of capitalizing on alumni-led initiatives and maintaining an active presence in such events.

Student Senate Report, Brady Morris

We participated in the SUNY Student Assembly Conference with 12 student leaders, and we have increased interest in Student Senate leadership positions. This was highlighted by our first contested Student Senate elections in many years, which supports greater interest.

We continue to work on our budget development.

Upcoming Student Senate Banquet and student recognition events are being held before commencement.

Brady expressed gratitude for all the kind words and the opportunity to serve on the College Council.

College Senate Report, Doug Holub

College Senate updates included:

- Continued curriculum and policy reviews.
- Advocacy surrounding CADA mini-grants and funding support.
- Efforts to improve student course evaluation response rates.
- Discussions on textbook affordability.
- Review of adjunct hiring processes.
- Advisor training initiatives.
- Degree Works enhancements.
- Campus safety concerns and door lock initiatives.
- Exploration of a new employee mentorship program.

Doug also reported his reelection as College Senate Presiding Officer.

Old Business

Nothing to report

New Business

ACT Student Excellence Scholarship

2026 ACT Excellence and Student Initiative Scholarship Awards and Nancy L. Zimpher Scholarship for Teacher Education information was received. This has been dealt with through the President's Office in the past. If there are any recommendations, they can be shared with college council.

Christopher asked about the Ames store as additional space to use? Dr. Bonderoff noted that we had considered this space, but it is very expensive. We are looking at other opportunities.

The next College Council meeting will be held in **September** and traditionally includes a dinner at the President's Residence after the meeting has ended.

Dates for 2026-2027 will be sent out over summer.

Council members were reminded they are invited to attend **Commencement** on May 16 in the Clark Fieldhouse and we have two ceremonies:

College of Health, Liberal Arts & Sciences at 10:00am

College of Applied Professions at 2:00pm

Please let the President's Office know if you plan to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Amy Warner and seconded by Vicki Davis.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm with thanks to all members for their service and participation.
