**THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA**

**MEETING OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

Present: Cynthia Ahlstrom, Richard Alexander, Michael Cerrie, Jefferson Dedrick, Stephen Keefe, JoAnn Niebel, Frank Pagano

Guests: Michael Barone, Dr. Teresa Brown, Dr. David Herman, Dr. Virginia Horvath,

Dr. Kevin Kearns, Alexis Phillips, Liz Praetorius, Dr. David Tiffany

Absent: Russell Diethrick, Joseph Johnson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The College Council meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The College Council minutes of December 10, 2014 were approved without modification with a motion from JoAnn Niebel and seconded by Stephen Keefe.

Chairman Frank Pagano welcomed Student Association Vice President Alexis Phillips.

**UPDATE ON POLICY COMPLIANCE**

Dr. Virginia Horvath introduced Chief Diversity and Title IX Officer William Boerner. Mr. Boerner explained that the University must demonstrate progress towards implementing policies and procedures related to the new SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response. This new compliance policy provided by SUNY requires the College Council’s approval on three sections. He noted that the campus cannot alter any language in the policy, but can add additional language. The campus Student Code of Conduct will be updated to reflect these changes. Through the assistance of University Police, Student Affairs, Judicial Affairs, and the Diversity Office, Fredonia already does many of the things suggested by SUNY to assure the protection specified in the policy. The three sections which require the Council’s approval include:

* Definition of Affirmative Consent (new language is more clear)
* Section III Protection and Accommodations (only for bulleted items in section)
* Section IV Student Conduct Process (includes entire section)

The full policy will be approved by the College Council at a later date.

A motion was made by Michael Cerrie to vote and approve the three sections. Richard Alexander seconded and the Council unanimously approved.

Dr. Horvath referenced the Fredonia Child Protection Policy. Fredonia must comply with this policy to ensure a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the campus. No action is required by the College Council; the document is included for information purposes only.

Mr. Boerner said as we continue to educate staff on these new policies, electronic training such as We Comply and Onboarding will be utilized. A good portion of the language in both of these policies was provided by SUNY.

**ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Dr. David Herman said spring enrollment numbers are down with projected spring enrollment at 4,821. This figure includes 10 new full-time freshmen, 95 new transfer students, and 40 less international students. Fall 2015 FTFY and transfer applications are slightly behind last year. Dr. Herman attributes this decline to the Educational Development Program. It’s going to be a challenge meeting our enrollment target. Community college numbers are up and the number of students not going to college is up. We have an alumni working in Long Island trying to help us recruit students. The Hobson System is being utilized to get out 300,000 emails to prospective students. We’re trying to build our graduate program. Campus visits are up and we continue to utilize social media to attract students. Inquiries are up so hopefully over time we can offset the demographic challenges we’re up against. We have a Facebook page for each class and prospective students’ questions are responded to promptly. When asked if the response is better for visiting students, Dr. Herman said that over 70% of visiting students apply to Fredonia. Enrollment challenges have affected all Western New York colleges. Dr. Horvath said on average, the high school senior year class population is down between 12% to 20%. Considering this decline in students, Fredonia is doing better than what our typical population would predict. The public message that college is not worth the expense is adding to the lack of student interest in college.

Council members asked why the international student numbers are down. Dr. Brown explained that the Korea government gave orders not to continue a relationship with colleges; however, we’re optimistic that EC English and the hiring of a new Director of International Education will open new doors. Fredonia currently has 52 international students which is down from the 164 students we had last spring. We have agreements with some international high schools. We also have an exchange program with Brazil and we were approved as a recipient school with Saudi Arabi, Taiwan, China, and four Korean high schools. We want a diverse portfolio, but International student numbers are still unpredictable.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Vice President Liz Praetorius announced that the 2014-2015 University Operating Budget totals $51,778,000. The budget includes $13,185,900 in state support, $32,398,000 in tuition revenue, and $1,890,000 in recurring campus support. The resulting campus shortfall is $4,304,100. To address this shortfall, we’ll continue to utilize over-enrollment tuition revenue, salary savings from vacant positions, and salary savings from delayed hires. Ms. Praetorius explained by delaying hires, we were able to reduce the need for our over-enrollment funds by $1.5 million. Next year’s level of state support remains the same. The good news is that next year’s budget does not include any mid-year cuts. Unfortunately, the budget does not include state support for collective bargaining costs estimated at $1 million. Fortunately, the increase in tuition should cover salary increases and TAP.Ms. Praetorius said there is talk of continuing a Rational Tuition Plan and Fredonia supports this extension. The Governor’s Budget includes an additional $18 million in direct state support. We are waiting for further details from SUNY about the Performance Improvement Plan. The original language dictates that 10% of direct state support will be released to campuses after approval by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

When asked about over-enrollment dollars, Ms. Praetorius said we budget for in state, out of state, and graduate student tuition to meet our revenue target. We just made it this year with approximately $85,000 over. However, due to the decline in student headcount, we’re concerned we won’t be able to sustain this target.

The Council asked what is the likelihood of continuing the Rational Tuition Plan. Dr. Horvath said the Chancellor included it in her recent testimony so we are optimistic that it will continue. The Chancellor has asked all campuses to advocate for the plan. Students have typically supported this state-wide Rational Tuition Plan.

**CONSRUCTION UPDATE**

Governor Andrew Cuomo’s 2015-2016 Executive Budget includes $200 million for critical maintenance funding; Fredonia anticipates just over $4 million of this pool. The Executive Budget did not identify any Strategic Initiative Projects (new construction), but the SUNY Construction Fund continues to advocate for additional funding and a five-year critical maintenance plan. The SUNY Construction Fund visited the campus on Feb. 12. The visit and conversations were very good, and we hope that we can include Houghton Hall in any additional state support we may receive.

Work continues on the $36 million Rockefeller Arts Center (RAC) addition. The expected completion date remains Summer 2016. The work to RAC also includes a new HVAC system and a sprinkler system to the third floor so it will be compliant with current code and safety standards. The goal is to complete this work during the same schedule as the second floor renovations in RAC (January 2016 through August 2016).

**SENATE REPORT**

Dr. Robert Deemer said he was very pleased to report that the Comprehensive Internationalization Proposal was passed by Senate in January. An executive committee is now being finalized and they’ll meet twice a semester to review the Internationalization components. Now that a permanent director has been appointed in International Education, there is much more momentum in recruiting international students.

The Student Affairs Administrative Review wrapped up in December and a summary report was shared with Senate in January. The campus plans to move forward with similar reviews for Academic Affairs and Engagement and Economic Development this semester. The Advancement division will be reviewed in Spring 2016. Dr. Deemer said the reviews are a way of constructively accessing each division and vice president.

A new General Education proposal will be brought forward to the Senate in March for vote. The new General Education proposal includes some minor changes as well as one major change. The First Year Seminar class has been removed from the proposal. Instead, a separate Fredonia Requirement initiative has been proposed. The requirement would contain three courses: First Year Seminar, Writing for Majors, and a Capstone experience.

Dr. Deemer is co-chairing the new Preferred Name Task Force. The committee was formed after students inquired about using a preferred name instead of a legal name. Transgender students often feel uncomfortable being known by their birth name. The task force will include faculty, professionals, and students.

**THOMAS LOUGHLIN – FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Professor Thomas Loughlin has been a faculty member at Fredonia since 1988. He currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. He specializes in acting and directing with an emphasis on Shakespearian acting. He has performed all over Buffalo. He served for a brief period as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. He has been very successful at retaining students on campus. Professor Loughlin said he feels most fortunate to work at Fredonia. He thanked the Council for their time and the work they do on behalf of the campus. He said he is proud of the 38% increase in student enrollment in the Theatre Department. Theatre and Dance currently has 14 faculty and three adjuncts for 315 majors. The department annually showcases five shows on a self-supporting budget of $75,000. Following the completion of the RAC addition, his department will have three dance studios and two new acting studios. He’s very excited that the studios will have high ceilings. Both studios will provide adequate floor space equivalent to Marvel and Bartlett. The RAC addition will also include a new paint shop, box office, and café. Due to his advocacy efforts, the campus received the Margaret L. Wendt Challenge Grant. The grant provides funding for high-definition projectors. These projectors will change how we do future scenery on the campus. Professor Loughlin encouraged the Council to attend Balm in Gilead which will show Feb. 27 to March 7 in Bartlett Theatre.

It was also pointed out that Theatre Arts student Laurel Brennan of Erie, PA was on the front page of *The Buffalo News.* Ms. Brennan is a student who is willing to pay almost triple as an out-of-state student because of its prominent theatre program. Professor Loughlin said this year there are three out-of-state Theater and Dance majors from Connecticut and four from New Jersey.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Horvath referred Council members to SUNY’s 2015-2016 Budget request. Together with Dr. David Tiffany, Dr. Horvath visited Albany recently to be part of the Chancellor’s testimony at the higher education budget hearing. What is most important to Fredonia is to have our maintenance of effort covered. Dr. Horvath said she made a case that we do not need special programs, but we need to keep our costs low and we need to cover salary increases. This was a very good time to visit Albany since the state has a windfall of $5 billion, there is a change in Assembly leadership, and Governor Cuomo has a clear mission for promoting jobs and infrastructure. Fredonia is seeking $2 million to offset the Houghton Hall project and $6 million more for a new welcome center. The Buffalo News article is great coverage for the out-of-state differential tuition pilot program request we made. Senator Catherine Young has already agreed to sponsor a Senate bill. The Senate bill language is not clear yet, but we want to use the available space on the campus which is not being used. We could make better use of our resources by allowing out-of-state students to attend Fredonia at 1.5% of in-state tuition. We’re at the center of New York State and we need to reach out to the south especially since we have direct competition from Edinboro University, PA which is located about 30 miles from the New York border and other colleges in Ohio. There are billboards along the highways of Western New York advertising in-state tuition at Cleveland State. The University of Pittsburgh Bradford, PA, six miles from the New York border, offers in-state tuition for incoming freshman from Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. The University of Pittsburgh Bradford draws nearly a quarter of its students from out of state, mostly from New York. The pilot program will include protections against out-of-state students taking seats away from in-state students. Students admitted into the pilot program would also be grandfathered in until they graduate. Dr. Horvath noted that there’s also an economic impact to the state since it could possibly expand the NYS workforce. This is a great opportunity for the campus and New York State. If this pilot program is attached to this year’s budget, it will make a difference to out-of-state students next fall. Dr. David Tiffany said he is already having discussions with Michael Barone about how to market this pilot program. Dr. David Tiffany and Liz Praetorius have already begun discussions about how the program will be rolled out. We want to be proactive.

Chairman Pagano commended Senator Catherine Young for understanding our needs and carrying this forward to the legislature. Mr. Richard Alexander also commended Councilman Pagano for pushing this out-of-state tuition incentive forward.

Mr. Stephen Keefe suggested that Fredonia consider offering programs for Veterans and displaced workers. Dr. Horvath said this suggestion could be addressed at a future College Council meeting. Liz Praetorius did note that Veterans and their dependents already attend Fredonia at the state rate regardless of where they reside.

**FREDONIA’S ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY**

Dr. Kevin Kearns referred Council members to the Economic Impact Study prepared by the University of Buffalo. As noted, Fredonia’s total economic impact is $330.81 million to New York State, $204.36 million to the region, and $157.02 million to the local economy. This document provides Fredonia an accurate information tool and will be useful in measuring our progress well into the future.

Dr. Horvath acknowledged Dr. Kearns for his work on the Carnegie Classification. This classification is a direct link to the Power of Fredonia Strategic Plan and community engagement.

Dr. Horvath also thanked members of the College who attended the Lanford House dedication today. It was a wonderful way to recognize Oscar Lanford, the ninth President of Fredonia. An exterior sign has been ordered and will be erected on the front lawn to help identify the house as part of the campus.

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Student Association President Jefferson Dedrick announced that Vice President Alexis Phillips led a successful spring summit. This summit brought the leaders from all SA groups together and the SA policies and procedures were reviewed. Kyle Stolt was reappointed Student Comptroller and Tracy Halloran was elected Speaker of the Assembly.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Brown said her division has been involved in numerous initiatives on campus. She referred to this time on campus as a time of transformation. We are adapting to a different world and teaching in a different world. The campus continues to have hard conversations about these changes. We’re trying to change how we offer classes to students and making the process more student centered. Academic Affairs is also revising chapter four of HARP. We recently learned that we’re going to have a visit by AACSB.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Ms. Praetorius acknowledged the Facilities Management staff for their work this past winter. Considering the amount of snowfall we’ve had, they have done an outstanding job keeping the roads and sidewalks open as well as the buildings clean.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Herman said his division had a successful Welcome Week and Activity Night. Spectrum and Campus Life should be commended for their efforts on both of these events. Revisions are being made to the Student Code of Conduct and the Council will be invited to approve those changes at a later date. Scholarship offers have gone out and we’re already receiving calls from interested students. The campus has officially cancelled FredFest. Campus activities such as the Dinosaur BB-Q and concert will be held at a different time; we don’t want to be linked with any of the off-campus activities. Dr. Herman continues to reach out to local landlords and students in hopes of controlling the off-campus parties. No overnight guests will be allowed on campus that weekend. It’s difficult to control the off-campus parties due to social media. The Council agreed that it’s a residual problem and will eventually dissolve over time.

**ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Dr. Kevin Kearns encouraged the Council to save April 14 for an Engagement forum at the College Lodge.

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT**

The Foundation received a bequest of $150,000 from a 1955 alum.

A motion to adjourn was made by JoAnn Niebel and seconded by Richard Alexander. The Council meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Szalkowski, Fredonia College Council Secretary