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

**MEETING OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**May 4, 2016**

Present: Cynthia Ahlstrom, Richard Alexander, Dr. Terry Brown, Jason Burgos, Russell Diethrick, Betty Gossett, Dr. David Herman, Dr. Virginia Horvath, Dr. Kevin Kearns, Stephen Keefe, JoAnn Niebel, Kevin Seitz, Frank Pagano

Guests: Dr. William Boerner, Dr. Robert Deemer

Absent: Michael Cerrie, Joseph Johnson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The College Council meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The College Council minutes of March 2 were approved without modification with a motion by Jason Burgos and seconded by JoAnn Niebel.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CHANCELLOR’S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Herman introduced four Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence recipients. The SUNY policies now allow for one student nomination for every 1500 students per campus. The four Fredonia recipients were invited to a reception in Albany where 180 other students from across the system will join them. The overall system GPA for Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence recipients is 3.85.

Titianna Baker a Communication Disorders and Sciences major with a minor in Leadership is from Perry, NY. While on campus, Titianna has been a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and Golden Key International Honour Society. She served as president of Alpha Lambda Delta for two consecutive years and also served as webmaster for Golden Key. She belongs to the Alma Mater Society, Student Health Advisory Committee, and Fredonia National Student Speech Language Hearing Association. She participated in Relay for Life, Fall Sweep, Pennies for Pets and the NSSLHA Peer Mentor program. She served as a volunteer at Fredonia Place and completed internships at the Campus and Community Children’s Center and Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center. She’s been a Fredonia cheerleader since 2013 and a recipient of the Robert E. Coon Scholarship, Golden Key, Outstanding Junior Scholarship, Ann James Manley Scholarship, and the Fredonia Scholar Award. Following graduation, she plans to pursue her education at Nazareth College to receive a master’s degree in Speech Pathology. She hopes to eventually obtain a job in an early intervention setting.

Caeli Faisst is a Theatre Arts major from Morrisville, NY. She’s a Keeper of the Dream scholar, a member of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, and a student presenter at the SUNY undergraduate Research Center. She’s a member of Writers Ring, a participant in Relay for Life, a member of Fredonia State of Mind, and a member of the editorial staff of the student-run literary magazine *The Trident.* She provides leadership at Elevation as president of the campus church and service group and coordinated numerous service events during Love Week. She hosted Kick Butts Day, a campus-wide event that addressed the effects of tobacco use. Caeli serves as vice president of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honor society. She’s a writer for the Big Read Festival and playwright for *Echoes of Emily*.Caeli was a social media intern for Kingdom Bound Christian Music Festival and was a script-writing intern at Venture Productions. She plans to continue her writing career by writing scripts for Venture Productions. She said she really grew as a leader while at Fredonia and is thankful of her time at Fredonia.

Kearstin Derrenbacher is a Communication Disorders and Sciences major from Dansville, NY. She was inducted into Golden Key International Honour Society and Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society and is a recipient of Ann James Manley and Winch Endowment Fund scholarships. She served as community service chair for Golden Key, team captain of the St. Jude Up ‘Til Dawn fundraiser, student mentor in Communication Disorders and Sciences and head teacher and activity supervisor for the before and after school program at the Campus and Community Center. She’s a member of the Fredonia National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, Operation Smile, Fredonia for St. Judy, Friends Across Borders and Voices for Autism. She also served as a volunteer at the Dunkirk Boys and Girls Club Autism Clinic and at the Youngerman Center for Communication Disorders. She’ll be leaving for Europe in ten days and plans to continue her education at the University of Buffalo to complete a master’s in Community Disorders and Sciences.

Olivia Kaltenbach is a Communication Disorders and Sciences major from Brocton, NY. A member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society and Alpha Delta International Sociology Honor Society, she is the recipient of the Lieutenant General Woods, Marion Sonnenfeld, Walter Gotowka Endowment, Fredonia Alumni, and Fredonia Merit scholarships. She’s been active through the New York State Speech Language Hearing Association and organized a trip for 23 students to the association’s three-day convention in Rochester. She participated in the Belize Learning Project and helped raise funds through Operation Smile. She tutors children in reading at Brocton Central School, assisted at the Henry C. Youngerman Center for Communication Disorders, and volunteers at the Chautauqua Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and WCA Home. While working as a graduate assistant with Dr. Kim Tillery, Olivia plans to earn her master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Fredonia.

The College Council congratulated them all on their accomplishments and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

**CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL UPDATE**

Interim Vice President Kevin Seitz announced that the campus did not receive the remaining funding to begin construction of the Admissions Center. Fredonia needs approximately $5 million more to move forward with the project. Fredonia is planning to receive $4.6 million in critical maintenance funds for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Fredonia did not receive full funding for the Houghton Hall renovation, but the State University Construction Fund is working with Fredonia to help phase in the project. Administration staff are working on updating the campuses Facilities Master Plan since it has not been updated since 2011. Many of the changes in the plan are based on enrollment.

The Academic Spine Bridge will be demolished this summer due to damage to the columns, bearings, deck, and spandrel beams. Phase II of the project will consist of the design phase and construction and will occur during Summer 2017. The replacement bridge will be a surface-level pedestrian path that will incorporate aspects of the original I.M. Pei design.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Seitz gave a detailed report on the 2015-2016 campus budget and the $4.3 million shortfall. Fredonia continues to address the budget shortfall and declining enrollment by a number of strategies. Savings from delayed hires, $2.5 million in reserves, and $750,000 in year-end transitional cost recovery measures will be used to offset the shortfall. Fredonia missed its revenue target this year and may face a penalty fee. Cabinet members continue to work together to implement a plan to cover the deficit for the coming year.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Virginia Horvath expressed her gratitude to Provost Terry Brown and Vice President Dave Herman for the fine work they did on the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. With over 150 staff engaged in the development of the plan, the campus is committed to turning enrollment around, but she stressed that it will take time.

President Horvath will give a campus budget presentation next week to all campus faculty and staff. As a result of concerns expressed within the community about our enrollment, President Horvath will also provide an open community forum on Tuesday, May 24 at 7 PM in Kelly Auditorium in the Science Center. Dr. Horvath appreciates the level of interest in the community and plans to discuss the enrollment and budget challenges with the community. Moving forward, President Horvath hopes to offer a community forum biannually.

President Horvath acknowledged the good work of the SEM team. Fredonia received funding for Scheduling for Success through the SUNY Performance Improvement Program. As a result of Dr. Terry Brown’s efforts, Fredonia will receive direct benefits in the efficiency of course scheduling. Terry Brown has shown tremendous leadership in helping to control higher education costs and by ensuring Fredonia remains focused on student learning.

Even though final enrollment numbers for next fall have not been confirmed, early indicators suggest we will do better this year than last. We need to focus on “right-sizing” Fredonia. We’re working collaboratively with the VPs, University Senate, Planning and Budget, and union leaders, to consider the right size for Fredonia. We need to look at how we can use retirement and resignations opportunities to fill those budgetary gaps. Most importantly, we can’t lose the quality of education received by Fredonia students. If necessary, President Horvath said she is willing to take a systematic approach and ask SUNY for dollars to help.

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Student Association (SA) President Jason Burgos said the Student Association had a busy spring semester. SA passed their $1.3 million budget for 2016-2017. As a result, the student activity fee will increase $7.50. SA felt this increase was necessary to avoid enduring drastic cuts. Although it’s an extra financial burden on Fredonia students, it’s important to keep SA organizations sustainable. Jason noted Fredonia still has the lowest SA fee in the state.

Fifteen SA representatives attended a bi-annual SUNY Student Assembly conference in Saratoga Springs. Two key resolutions were approved at the conference, many key resolutions were passed, and the first Fredonia representative was appointed to be part of the SUNYSA E-Board.

Four students were selected to travel to Washington, DC on April 19 for SUNY Day. This two-day trip will allow Fredonia students an opportunity to meet with their state senators and local legislative representatives.

**UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT**

Chairman Frank Pagano and President Virginia Horvath announced that this would be Dr. Robert Deemer’s last Council meeting as Senate Chair. After completing his fourth year as Chair, Dr. Deemer will step down after this semester. Dr. Deemer was nominated and selected as one of 33 ACE Fellows. He will spend a year shadowing a President at another university while working on a project for Fredonia. The Council congratulated him on his appointment and wished him well.

Dr. Deemer said this year involved much planning and implementation for University Senate. The General Education team worked very hard this past year. The SEM plan was brought to Senate on Monday and is moving forward. Five adjuncts were appointed to serve on the Contingency Faculty Standing Committee.

Most recently, University Senate approved the following:

1. Merger of of Environmental Science with the Department of Geosciences under the new name of Department of Geology and Environmental Science to be chaired by Dr. Sam Mason

2. B.A. in Dance

3. Vision Statement

4. Dual program with Anadolu University in Turkey

5. Department Chair Policy

Membership of the incoming Senate Executive Committee includes Dr. Brian Masciadrelli, Associate Professor of Social Work, Sociocultural and Justice Sciences, Senate Chair; Jennifer Costa, Assistant Director of Human Resources Employee Benefits, Senate Vice Chair; Mary Beth Sievens, Professor, History, Senate Governance Officers, and Kathleen Magiera, Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, Senate Secretary.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

With over 150 staff engaged in the development of the SEM plan since September, the campus expects the plan to help turn enrollment decline around. The SEM plan consists of three recruitment and three retention goals including:

* To develop markets and increase enrollment beyond the traditional student from WNY;
* To differentiate Fredonia from its competition;
* To keep Fredonia financially manageable while maintaining fiscal sustainability;
* To engage all faculty and staff in the common good of helping students succeed;
* To engage students in the curriculum and co-curriculum, and
* To revise the curriculum to reduce complexity and provide a clear path to a degree.

The plan was presented to University Senate on Monday.

Vice President Brown announced that Fredonia received the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Only seven colleges in the country hold this distinction so it’s a remarkable achievement for Fredonia. This is a testament to all the faculty and staff who make Fredonia’s Education program so great.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE REPORT**

Interim Vice President Kevin Seitz announced that the annual community electronic recycling event on April 23 was a huge success. Many volunteers from the campus helped unload 1,251 vehicles and fill eight semi-trailers. Proceeds from the event went to the College Foundation for scholarships.

Mr. Seitz announced the upcoming retirement of Associate Vice President Karen Porpiglia. Mrs. Porpiglia plans to retire at the end of July after 32 years of service at Fredonia. Mrs. Porpiglia has been a valuable member of the Finance and Administration division and served twice as Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration.

The Rockefeller Arts Center addition will be completed by the beginning of the fall semester, despite a few delays. A dedication ceremony will be held Friday, October 21.

After receiving approval from SUNY Central, the campus rolled out a local early retirement incentive to M/C and UUP employees. The incentive allows eligible and approved employees to work ½ time while being paid 2/3 their salary. Two employees have opted to participate and a third person has expressed an interest.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION REPORT**

Dr. Bill Boerner gave an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan. A working group has been formed and will meet weekly. A questionnaire was sent to the campus community to engage feedback. The deadline for submission of the plan to SUNY is November 1, 2016.

Dr. Boerner is beginning the third year of a SUNY required campus climate check related to sexual violence prevention and response. The report for sexual violence will be submitted to Cabinet and President Horvath by July 31.

Dr. Boerner explained that he manages internal claims of discrimination. This year he had two claims which is a decrease from previous years. He attributes this to his added presence at campus events and classroom involvement as a guest lecturer. Claims from outside agencies did increase as well as Title IX investigations. Dr. Boerner tracks these issues so to be transparent with his involvement on campus with colleagues and students.

A revised Sexual Harassment Policy, approved by Cabinet, Senate, and Legal Counsel, was presented to the Council. This policy defines sexual harassment. College Council member Stephen Keefe motioned, seconded by Richard Alexander, to approve the policy so to be added to the Student Code of Conduct, effective July 1, 2016. Incoming students receive an electronic and paper copy of the Student Code of Conduct. All students must sign off that they received the document at the time of registration.

Vice President David Herman was honored and recognized with a resolution read by College Council Chairman Frank Pagano. The resolution highlighted Dr. Herman’s achievements, knowledge, and work with students, faculty and staff at Fredonia.

Dr. Herman said it’s been a pleasure to work at Fredonia. After a career spanning 47 years in Students Affairs, Fredonia being his fifth campus, he said Fredonia has been an amazing place to work.

Interim Vice President for University Advancement Betty Gossett said the search for a new Director of Marking and Communications is also moving along with a strong pool of applicants interested in the position. An appointment should be made by July 1.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Vice President Herman reported Fredonia’s enrollment numbers are slightly up from last year’s. Admissions will continue to work diligently to recruit incoming students. Attendance at campus Open Houses has increased by 19 percent this year over last year. We’ve had Open Houses that have been standing room only. This year we are streaming Open Houses so those unable to attend can view them at a later date. There is still time for incoming students to apply and submit deposits. The campus continues to focus on controlling the enrollment decline and expects the SEM Plan to serve as a roadmap in preventing future decline. Dr. Herman said Fredonia is not alone in its struggle to retain enrollment. Four institutions (three in Western New York) have experienced enrollment decline.

Fredonia athletic teams have had an impressive spring semester. After winning against Plattsburgh, Fredonia’s Baseball team made it into playoffs. They will go on to play a team that holds the national championship title. The Student Athlete Gala will be held on Sunday, May 8. Senior athletes will be recognized at this Gala.

Jason Bishoff, Director of the Fitness Center resigned. A search to fill that vacancy will begin immediately. Megan Valentine was promoted Associate Athletic Director.

Campus Life has been busy working on Student Association events. Relay for Life was a huge success with over 400 people in attendance. The First-Year Transition program is going well. Erin Mroczka and Lisa Hunter continue to work on student retention efforts.

Former College Council student representative Jefferson Dedrick received the Robert E. Coon Scholarship. Jefferson has an internship in Washington DC this semester, but will return to campus next semester.

An update was provided by Dr. Terry Brwon on the Vice President for Student Affairs Search. The committee, which is chaired by Terry Brown and Michael Lemiux, includes Council members JoAnn Niebel and Richard Alexander. Four strong finalists are being brought to campus next week for final interviews. An appointment is expected to be made in the next couple of weeks.

The Council asked what the campus is doing to recruit students from afar. Vice President Herman said a number of things are being done. Fredonia solicits students from the SAT and ACT exams, there is a full-time recruiter in New York City, and a number of student regional receptions are held throughout New York. Fredonia also brings students to campus from New York City, and we have a web page dedicated to each entering class.

Council members asked about the EC English and Cabinet reported that EC English has experienced a decline in students, but it’s consistent with what is happening elsewhere due to world events.

**ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Vice President Kevin Kearns announced that the Career Development Office held another successful Job and Internship Expo with over 265 students participating. Seventy-one companies were on hand to discuss possible job opportunities with prospective students. An Interview Face-Off was held prior to the Expo. The Face-Off was a great hands-on interactive way to prepare students for an interview. Jobsapalooza was also held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott in Buffalo, as well as a Teacher Recruitment Day at the Conference and Events Center in Niagara Falls. This year 28 school districts from Erie-Niagara County attended the event.

Dr. Kearns said the Incubator is making great strides under the leadership of Chuck Cornell. The Incubator has 11 clients including 9 companies in residence and 2 affiliate clients. The incubator hosted 73 community events this year. The Arts and Business Luncheon series has proven to be very successful. Fredonia students completed 14,200 internship hours this spring. As a result of Tracy Collingwood’s good work, Fredonia submitted a draft of an Applied Learning Campus Plan to SUNY.

Following the announcement of Athenex coming to Dunkirk, the Incubator has received three new inquires about start-up businesses and one was approved with the potential to grow to over 200 jobs in the next five years. Four local businesses, including two Incubator clients, submitted applications for the 76 West Clean Energy Business Competition. Finalists will be announced this summer. The Village of Fredonia, City of Dunkirk, and the State University of New York at Fredonia received a technical assistance grant. Working with the University of Buffalo Regional Institute, the communities will compile a joint consolidated funding application and the Institution will provide the research, data, and help with the presentation to strengthen the proposal for funding through the Governor’s regional economic development award.

The Fredonia Incubator recently received a three-year, $375,000 grant for additional staffing and programming to support business development and local entrepreneurship.

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT**

Interim Vice President Betty Gossett said University Advancement staff have been busy visiting with donors. Receipts are strong for the first three months of 2016 -- just under $31 million. Mrs. Gossett is excited about the alumni event to be held in Carey, North Carolina at Dennis and Jan Hefner’s residence.

Following the resignation of Director Michael Barone, the Director of Marketing and Communications search is progressing on schedule. Candidates are expected to begin visiting the campus at the end of May with the expectation that the new incumbent will begin July 1.

Beginning this Commencement, the Alumni Association will sell scholarship walkway bricks for a path near the Williams Center patio. The bricks can be engraved with a personal legacy or be used to honor a friend, parent, student, or faculty members. All proceeds to benefit the Fredonia Alumni Association and Scholarships. The bricks come in two different sizes – 4” x 8” or 8” x 8”.

President Horvath reminded members of the College Council that Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 14. Platform Party enrobing will be in the Student Athlete Lounge at 9:00 a.m., the morning ceremony starts at 10:00 a.m. A Platform Party luncheon will be held between ceremonies at Cranston Marche’. Enrobing for the afternoon ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m.; the ceremony will begin at 3:00 p.m. Four-time Tony Award nominee Judy Kuhn will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree at the morning ceremony. Dr. Horvath remarked that she made a strong impression on students when she visited Fredonia for a master class in 2015. Distinguished alumnus Dr. Jeffery W. Kelly will bring an inspiring message as this year’s keynote speaker at both ceremonies. Dr. Kelly, is a member of the Class of 1982 and the Lita Annenberg Hazen Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Department of Molecular Medicine at The Scripps Research Institute in California. Senior Julianne Foster will receive the Lanford Presidential Prize at the morning ceremony and Class President Stephanie Willis will speak at both ceremonies. Dr. David Herman will serve as Platform Party Coordinator. Senator Charles Schumer is expected to join us at the afternoon ceremony.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Burgos and seconded by JoAnn Niebel. The Council meeting concluded at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Szalkowski, Fredonia College Council Secretary