

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT FREDONIA  
MEETING OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
DECEMBER 10, 2014**

Present: Cynthia Ahlstrom, Richard Alexander, Joseph Johnson, Stephen Keefe, Frank Pagano, Antonio Regulier

Guests: Michael Barone, Hughdean Blake, Dr. Teresa Brown, Jefferson Dedrick, Dr. David Herman, Dr. Virginia Horvath, Dr. Kevin Kearns, Liz Praetorius, Dr. David Tiffany

Absent: Michael Cerrie, Russell Diethrick, JoAnn Niebel

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The College Council meeting started at 3:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The College Council minutes of October 1, 2014 were approved without modifications with a motion from Richard Alexander and seconded by Joseph Johnson.

**NAMING OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE**

President Virginia Horvath provided a brief background on 194 Central Avenue (also referred to as Building #26). Because of its lack of a formal name, a proposal was put forward to name the house the "Lanford House" after President Oscar Lanford who served as Fredonia President from 1961 to 1971. President Lanford had a very successful term and expanded the size of the campus, the number of students, and academic offerings. College Council Chairman Frank Pagano read the resolution and asked for the Council's support. Mr. Joseph Johnson approved the resolution and Mr. Richard Alexander seconded. The motion was carried. Dr. Horvath said a dedication with Mrs. Esther Lanford would be held at a later date.

**UPDATE ON POLICY COMPLIANCE TASK FORCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Horvath said a number of campus committees were formed this fall. The Child Protection Policy Committee was created to address regulations when children are on campus. Nonprofits and universities need to have protections in place when dealing with children. A Sexual Violence Prevention Committee was also formed as well as an Ebola Task Force. Dr. Horvath said SUNY adopted a uniform Sexual Assault Policy because of the criticism colleges are facing in regards to sexual assault response procedures. SUNY released its own uniform policy which will apply to all 64 campuses. The policy will create a safer learning and living environment for students by outlining specific and consistent expectations of safety and responsibility. Dr. Horvath and Debra Dibble, the Director of the Health Center, both serve on the SUNY Ebola Committee. The local Ebola Committee must identify how the campus will manage and prevent the

spread of the disease and to have policies in place for those traveling in and out of the country. Fredonia must provide continual, effective communication regarding Ebola to the campus community and must ensure that all campus policies are aligned with federal regulations.

Mr. Joseph Johnson asked if the campus has problems with fraternities. Dr. Horvath said it's a matter of importance that our students feel safe. We fortunately do not have a climate of perpetrators.

### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Dr. David Herman said we continue to receive applications for Spring 2014. At this point, it's difficult to predict where we'll stand with our enrollment numbers. Overall, fall Open House numbers are up over last year. The "Say Yes Buffalo" visit was postponed due to the winter storm last month. One hundred and two prospective "Say Yes to Buffalo" students are scheduled to visit the campus tomorrow. We were slightly down with freshmen applications, but we're ahead now. SUNY withheld some of our applications so that caused our numbers to be down. Transfer applications are down slightly. The one unstable variable is the economy. Students are applying to numerous colleges. They are shopping around for the most affordable options. With the Assistance of Marketing and Publications, a video is now showing in movie theatres and on Cable TV and Fredonia banners are hanging in the Galleria Mall. The advertising has definitely helped campus recruitment efforts. A Facebook page is created yearly for incoming freshman.

Mr. Johnson asked if the dorms at Jamestown Community College attributed to enrollment decline. Dr. Herman said he believes the expanded programs and on-campus living at the community college did affect Fredonia's enrollment numbers.

The new science building is bringing growth especially with Biology, Chemistry, and mathematic majors. Student Affairs continues to work closely with Academic Affairs to meet campus enrollment targets. In an effort to help with recruitment efforts, Victoria Dutcher, a consultant, will be on campus on Friday to review Fredonia's recruitment plan and to help update Fredonia's Strategic Enrollment Plan.

The campus' 2015 target is 1,115 freshmen and 380 transfer students. Dr. Herman cautioned that we need to exceed these numbers with deposits because many students change their mind. There are currently 33 students enrolled in the EC English program. Some of these students are conditionally admitted. Dr. Teresa Brown is confident that we'll exceed our goal of 90 admitted students from the EC English program. Seven of the EC English students are currently living in the residence halls. Dr. Brown said Fredonia is a wonderful destination campus because it offers international students all the qualities they are looking for in a study abroad experience. Mr. Stephen Keefe suggested the campus include a community visit component when the international visitors are here.

## **BUDGET**

Vice President Liz Praetorius announced this year's \$51,778,000 budget is an increase of \$2,108,400 over last year's budget. This amount includes \$13,185,900 in state support, \$32,398,00 in campus tuition revenue, and \$1,890,000 in campus support. The campus' shortfall decreased to \$4.3 million from \$6 million. To offset the deficit, funds from over-enrollment tuition revenue, vacant salary savings, and delayed hires will be used. Cabinet continues to work with the President to identify delay hires in each of the divisions. The academic fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 and most departments have not used half of their departmental allocations to date. The budget staff meets monthly with divisions to be sure they are on track with their spending. Fortunately, employees on campus are fiscally responsible. The campus is currently in the fourth year of a five-year rational tuition plan. The plan allows for approximately a \$300 per student yearly tuition increase. That increase has been offset by TAP and unfunded contractual salary increases. The tuition increase hasn't helped Fredonia's budget, but without it, we would have a larger deficit. There is receptiveness in SUNY to continue the tuition increase after next year. The budget submitted for next year is a flat budget with no increases. It's not likely that funding will be provided for future or past salary increases. Chairman Pagano had a conversation with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher at the ACT Conference, and we're hopeful that SUNY will support an out-of-state tuition plan. There is also some discussion and excitement about a \$5 billion budget surplus; however, the Governor has a 2% cap on spending increases. Although the budget is not great, it's better than dealing with mid-year cuts.

Mr. Antonio Regulier inquired about Senator Catherine Young's most recent proposals including:

- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Enhancement
- Expanding Tuition Tax Credits
- Student Load Debt Relief Program
- Math, Science and Engineering Technology
- Veterans Tuition Award Program

Dr. Horvath said that at both the state and federal levels, attention is being paid to providing access of an education to everyone. She said the campus supports anything that offers students' assistance, access, and completion of a college degree.

Chairman Pagano said the campus continues to advocate for campus capital projects, campus maintenance funds, out of state tuition, and the continuation of a rational tuition plan.

## **RESOLUTION HONORING ANGELO BENNICCE**

Mrs. Cynthia Ahlstrom read and proposed a resolution in honor of Angelo Bennice. Mr. Regulier seconded the resolution. Motion carried.

### **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ANNY CASTILLA**

Dr. Brown introduced faculty member Anny Castilla. Dr. Castilla was appointed in 2009 and currently serves as assistant professor in Communication Disorders and Sciences. Within that time, she has become well known on campus as a challenging and effective professor. Her research focuses on Spanish language development, language assessment and disorders in Spanish-speaking monolingual and bilingual children. The grant she received provides funding for her laboratory and 11 student assistants (graduate and undergraduates). When asked about her methodology, Dr. Castilla said she uses language analysis and development to conduct her research.

### **CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Ms. Praetorius said ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held this fall for the University Townhouses and the Science Center. Work on punch list items continues for both projects. There was a hot/cold water issue in the new University Townhouses, but the problem which was isolated to one tower has been resolved. A sprinkler was accidentally set off in the Science Center a week ago causing extensive damage in that building. Crews were on site immediately to begin cleaning up. Ms. Praetorius acknowledged the work of Facilities Services in getting both of these new buildings up and running before the beginning of the semester. The grounds crew also did a great job clearing the roads and sidewalks during the most recent snowstorm. We're not getting a strong, positive message from SUNY regarding funds for the \$33 million Houghton Hall rehabilitation, but we continue to move forward with the planning until we hear otherwise.

When asked about occupancy at the University Townhouses, Dr. Herman announced that 130 students have requested rooms in the building for Fall 2015. The townhouses will not be full, but occupancy is definitely increasing.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Horvath said the recent racial tension march coordinated by the Black Student Union went very well. Universities should be sites where students can talk about campus compliance issues. Visual Arts and New Media received NASAD accreditation for five years. Fredonia was one of 18 SUNY campuses to be named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which recognizes colleges and universities who achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes in the communities they serve and show a clear commitment to community service and service learning. This year the campus was elevated to the President's Honor Roll with Distinction. The campus also received the Carnegie Classification for an Engaged Campus. A press release will go out in January when the national announcement is made.

Dr. Horvath joined President Barack Obama, the First Lady, and Vice President Biden, along with hundreds of college presidents and other higher education leaders at a summit in Washington announce new actions to help more students prepare for and

graduate from college. Dr. Horvath was invited as a board member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

### **UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT**

Dr. Robert Deemer provided an update on Senate activities. The Senate continues to work on General Education revisions, comprehensive internalization, University Handbook, and increasing the number of adjunct and contingent faculty involved with shared governance. The General Education Revision proposal was presented at the November Senate meeting and the Senate voted against it. Two main concerns were the inclusion of the First Year Seminar in the General Education program and a lack of confidence in the level of support coming from the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. These concerns will be revisited in February with the intention of reconfiguring the proposal for another vote in the spring semester. Council members asked how senior faculty perceive these campus initiatives. Dr. Deemer noted that it's not so much the senior faculty but a disciplinary indifference. Some of the changes will have more of an impact on certain disciplines so the buy-in takes longer. Chairman Pagano asked how the College Council can assist the Senate with these initiatives. Dr. Deemer said the Council can help by reaffirming the Senate's agenda items to the rest of the campus. A First-year Seminar is a high priority and discussions now include whether the seminar should be attached to the General Education program or if it should be treated separately as a Fredonia requirement. The Comprehensive Internationalization Plan was discussed in Senate at the October and November meetings. The plan was approved at the December Senate meeting. This initiative covers a large number of international aspects of the campus and community. Some portions of the plan are already in the works. The Adjunct and Contingent Faculty Subcommittee is working on a proposal with Senate to increase the number of non-tenured faculty and coaches in the Senate as well as elevating the subcommittee to a full Standing Committee status.

### **STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Chairman Pagano acknowledged Antonio Regulier for his work on the College Council. Mr. Antonio received the ACT Student Scholarship this past fall and he gave an excellent presentation at the ACT Conference. Dr. Horvath presented Antonio with a small gift on behalf of Cabinet and the Council. She also invited Antonio to take his nameplate and she said she hopes to see it in important places in the future.

Antonio thanked the Council and Vice President Hughdean Blake for their support. He presented a short video highlighting SA's successful year. This past year brought many challenges to SA including cuts to the SA budget, an insensitive article in *The Leader*, bullying, a high committee turnover, an increase in the SA activity fee, and FRED Fest concerns. SA successes this past year included an incentive program, new name tags, new office furniture, campus committee appointments, positive working relationship with the administration, more engagement with students, new logos, and most recently a R-34 resolution, which allows transgender students to use their preferred name on FRED cards as opposed to their birth name.

The new Student Association Board includes President Jefferson Dedrick a sophomore adolescent education major with a concentration in social studies from Alleghany, NY, Vice President Elect Alexis Phillips a senior Communications major from Albany, NY, and Speaker of the Assembly Tracy Halloran, a sophomore Public Relations major from Rochester, NY.

Chairman Pagano thanked Antonio Regulier and Hughdean Blake for their service. He welcomed Jefferson Dedrick and said the Council looks forward to working with him and the new SA Executive Board.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Brown announced that the accreditation report is due to Middle State in June. The Institutional Effectiveness Committee is working to finalize the report. The College of Education is preparing its CAEP Self-Study report (formerly known as NCATE) due January 23, 2015. We do not anticipate any problems with this report. A second AACSB progress report is being finalized by the School of Business with a January 11 deadline. We've done the best we can to answer the questions they raised. The draft will be reviewed by February 11 and we will know at that time if we're ready for a campus visit. If approved, a team will come to campus and review us for accreditation. A search is in progress for a Director of International Education following the resignation of Mary Sasso last June. Candidates will be on campus this week and the new incumbent will begin in early 2015. Candidates for the Chief Information Officer will also be on campus this week. The Council asked about the reorganization of the Information Technology area. Dr. Brown said it is one of the fastest growing units on campus and required change to accommodate campus needs. Information Technology is focusing on a client and customer service approach. We need to consider how we might participate in Open SUNY. Fredonia offers some online courses and we have the opportunity to develop more if they align with Fredonia's mission. We currently see a need to develop more graduate programs and we have a proposal in place for an M.A. in Language and Learning. This will serve those individuals who don't want certification in New York State but do want training in ESL. If approved by SUNY, we plan to implement the program in Fall 2015.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Following extensive damage, Vice President Praetorius said FSA is working to have the damaged windmills at the College Lodge replaced with solar energy at no cost to the FSA budget. By using scrap metal and donations from the Class of '59, the project is completely funded. The panels will be installed in January or February.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Dr. praeto Dave Herman said the number of credit-bearing internships resulted in the second largest number in the history of the internship program. The information Career Development is able to obtain from these internships has improved. Some of the

internships are paid but not all. The Res Net Technology Services team has a \$260,000 operating budget and continues to offer stable, secure, and friendly services to students in the residence halls.

### **ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Vice President Kevin Kearns acknowledged the work of Joyce Smith, Adrienne McCormick, and Chuck Cornell. Their collaboration resulted in the approval of the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement. Applications for this prestigious award are only accepted every five years. Throughout the year, over 100 meetings/events were held at the Incubator. Currently, there is no charge to use the facility, but charging for the space is now under consideration. We've had several StartUP NY referrals, and four of those have either applied or are in the process of applying. One business has the potential to bring at least 50 jobs to the area. Thanks to the good work of Nicholas Gunner, the campus was involved in the AT&T Western New York Civic App Challenge. With over 30 entries, Fredonia alums placed second in the competition. Over 60 people attended the last Open House at the Incubator. We're excited about the three-year grant we received from the Oishei Foundation. With a match the grant will provide \$500,000 to support the Incubator.

Chairman Pagano asked about the status of the ConAgra closing. Mayor Keefe said he heard the closing date has been delayed to early February. A new owner has not been identified yet for the building.

### **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT**

Vice President David Tiffany announced that the Senior Class has been busy planning for a tangible gift for the campus. Following the resignation of Jean Blackmore, William Cunningham was appointed Foundation Controller. A broker is now in place to market the Franklin Street property the campus acquired this past year from Stanley Star. Foundation receipts for the year exceed \$3 million. Council members were encouraged to consider making a tax-deductible gift before year end.

HughDean Blake asked about the status of the former Alumni House on Central Avenue. Dr. Herman explained that the college hopes to have the house demolished and replaced with a new Welcome Center. The campus continues to seek funding to support this project.

Chairman Pagano wished everyone a happy holiday season. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Keefe. The Council meeting concluded at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Szalkowski, Fredonia College Council Secretary