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

**MEETING OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT’S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MARCH 2, 2016**

Present: Richard Alexander, Jason Burgos, Joseph Johnson, JoAnn Niebel, Frank Pagano

Guests: Michael Barone, Dr. Bill Boerner, Betty Gossett, Dr. David Herman, Dr. Virginia Horvath, Dr. Kevin Kearns, Karen Porpiglia, Kevin Seitz

Absent: Cynthia Ahlstrom, Dr. Terry Brown, Michael Cerrie, Dr. Robert Deemer, Russell Diethrick, Stephen Keefe

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The College Council meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The College Council minutes of December 17, 2015 were approved without modification with a motion by Richard Alexander and seconded by JoAnn Niebel.

**CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION**

On behalf of the College Council, Chairman Frank Pagano offered condolences to the Cabinet members on the sudden death of Vice President for Administration Elizabeth Praetorius. He also offered his appreciation to Karen Porpiglia for once again stepping in to assist the Administration division during the absence of a permanent vice president. Chairman Pagano then thanked Mr. Kevin Seitz for accepting the interim role of Vice President for Administration until December 2015. Congratulations were extended to Vice President for Student Affairs David Herman on the announcement of his retirement, and Director of Marketing and Communications, Michael Barone, on his resignation.

**LANFORD PRESIDENTIAL PRIZE RECIPIENT – JULIANNE FOSTER**

Senior and Communication Media Management major with a minor in English Julianne Foster was selected as the 2016 Lanford Presidential Prize recipient. Miss Foster has been very active on the campus as Coordinator of Fall Sweep, President of Golden Key, Canadaway Creek Cleanup team, Student Representative of the Student Advisory Committee, and Golden Key International Honor Society. Miss Foster also interned with the Student Counseling Center and the Northern Chautauqua County Community Foundation.

**CAMPUS CONSTRUTION AND CAPITAL UPDATE**

Fredonia is expecting to receive $44,064,000 in critical maintenance funds from the state for upgrades and renovations to existing facilities. The Fredonia Admissions Center is under design and bids for the project are expected by the end of the month. Fredonia has not received any firm financial commitment to support this project. President Horvath has been in contact with Senator Catherine Young and the SUNY Construction Fund. She’s hopeful there will be construction funds leftover from existing projects that can be utilized toward the Admissions Center. The project is shovel ready and will support our most critical issue -- enrollment. The Fredonia Rockefeller Arts Center Addition continues on schedule. Crews are finishing the first floor space so occupants on the second floor can relocate to the first floor. Once they are moved, work on the second floor will begin. Concept Construction of Elma, NY was awarded the Dods Hall exterior rehabilitation project. The kickoff meeting for that project was recently held and work should be completed this summer. Concept Construction was also awarded the McEwen Hall exterior rehabilitation project. That project will begin immediately after Commencement. Initially, the exterior work on the building was to be done first, but due to a delay in the production of the windows, work will begin on the interior work and the exterior work will be postponed until Summer 2017. The Houghton Hall rehabilitation work will begin late Summer 2016 after the current occupants are relocated to the completed Rockefeller Arts Center. Bids for the Academic Spine Bridge are due March 16 and demolition is expected to begin Monday, May 16. Chairman Pagano inquired about the status of the University Townhouses. Mrs. Porpiglia said a heat tray system was installed, but the campus does not want the system to serve as the resolution to the problem. Crews planned to test the heat sensors, but the temperature hasn’t remained cold enough to test. Issues with the wind screens on the front doors of the Commons, the Hardee Board, and the leaky windows need to be addressed. DASNY agreed to send a team to review the issues and complete a punch list for the townhouses. Mrs. Porpiglia noted that the campus is not financially responsible for these repairs.

**STRATEGIC ENROLMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Drs. Dave Herman and Terry Brown are the co-chairs of the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan implemented to address the enrollment budget challenges. Stan Henderson from AACRAO was hired as a consultant to assist the campus with this plan. Nearly 100 faculty, staff, and students have been actively involved in the SEM planning process. Several working groups have been identified including an on-line learning team, an internationalization group, and a group to study and recommend changes in the academic program array, and a group to review course scheduling and program demand. An open SEM forum for the campus community will be held on April 6. A final report will be presented to University Senate and the President in May 2016. In the interest of transparency, all documents have been uploaded and are available for viewing in Google.

President Horvath submitted the SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan (see report). The metrics in the plan tie in nicely with the enrollment indicators and the International and Delaware Study.

College Council members asked about the status of the out-of-state tuition discount. Dr. Horvath said she resubmitted the request including a fact sheet to Senator Catharine Young. As out-of-state campuses continue to offer discounted tuition to New York State students, the proposal is all the more critical to Fredonia’s enrollment target. Fredonia has significantly increased the number of scholarship offers to keep on pace with other SUNY schools. Previously, Fredonia’s percentage of students receiving scholarships was far below that of other SUNY’s. Last fall, Cabinet approved a scholarship rubric to assist with the distribution of scholarship offers. As a result of its redesign efforts, this year Fredonia will offer over $5 million in merit scholarships as well as need-based aid, nearly doubling the amount it offered in 2014. Unfortunately, it’s too early to predict enrollment numbers for next fall. Fredonia’s overall accepts are slightly up even though WNY campuses are experiencing enrollment decline. Early indicators show that the increased number of scholarship offers has helped with enrollment. Health and Sciences, STEM, Theatre, Computer Science, Exercise Science, and Criminal Justice majors are all experiencing student growth, but we need to do a better job of marketing these programs as well as the new Science Center. We need to shift an awareness of our academic programs and modify existing programs to meet the market place. Areas that have experienced a decline include Communication, Sociology, and Social Work. Provost Terry Brown continues to review and evaluate existing academic programs and implement change as necessary.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently released the 2016-2017 Executive Budget. The 2011 NY-SUNY 2020 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was extended, providing for flat year-to-year funding. No additional support was provided for collective bargaining costs, but it hasn’t been removed from the table. The Executive Budget continues the predictable tuition increase for undergraduate students with added provisions. The incremental increase amount is $150 per semester over the next five years. The Board of Trustees annually approves the increases. The Administration division has prepared several different budget scenarios to address the budgetary needs of the campus based on projected enrollment numbers. All divisions continue to look for potential cuts to offset the campuses deficit. For the 2015-2016 year, the campus is on track to cover its expenditures and cover the $4.309 million budget shortfall. Fredonia is not optimistic that another five-year Capital Construction Plan will be implemented in the near future.

**PRESIDENTIAL REPORT**

President Virginia Horvath gave a brief update on the personnel changes on the President’s Cabinet. Several big initiatives are moving forward including Strategic Enrollment Planning, SUNY Excels, emergency preparedness, and strategic planning for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. A SUNY Presidential Review is underway for President Horvath as well as an expanded campus review through University Senate. The University Advancement division will undergo a campus review this semester. The Finance and Administration review has been deferred until fall due to personnel changes in that division. The Vice President for Finance and Administration search has been put on hold since Mr. Kevin Seitz will lead the division throughout the calendar year.

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Newly elected Student Association President Jason Burgos announced the new appointments in Student Association (SA). Mary Kay Taylor was appointed Vice President, Nathaniel Clark and Rachel Ando were appointed Speaker of the Assembly and Comptroller respectively. Appointments to the Executive Cabinet will be ongoing throughout the semester. SA will continue work on their budget for the coming year. With enrollment down, it will be a difficult year financially. The budget will be submitted to President Horvath for approval in April. Many students have stepped up into leadership positions and are serving on campus committees. Dr. Horvath said she is very excited to see students becoming more and more involved in campus planning. Dr. Herman acknowledged the Fredonia Student Association for their best practices and record accountability.

**UNIVERISTY SENATE REPORT**

Due to University Senate Chair Robert Deemer’s absence, there was no report given on behalf of the Senate

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Due to the absence of Vice President Terry Brown, President Horvath provided a brief update for the Academic Affairs division. Grants and Sponsored Research submitted three grants: The Teachers Using Language and Culture requested funding of $2,578,095; THE PLAY SEVEN: Empowering women at Home and in the World proposal submitted a request of $2,000; and the United State Geological Survey (USGC) for the Continuation of the Operation of NY10: The Chautauqua County Monitoring Station of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program submitted a proposal for $51,304. In preparation for AACSB Accreditation, the School of Business developed a strategic plan to assist with continuous improvements in the School of Business. Re-Imaging the First Year team attended a kickoff conference through AASCU. Re-Imaging the First Year is a new project aimed at ensuring success for all students, particularly low income, first generation, and students of color. Fredonia is one of 44 institutions participating in the initiative. For three calendar years (2016-2018) Fredonia will work with the other 43 institutions to develop comprehensive, institutional transformation that redesigns the first year of college.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE REPORT**

Associate Vice President Karen Porpiglia acknowledged the many members in the Administration division who stepped up to assist while the division was down four professional staff members due to medical and maternity leave. The Administration division also has vacancies in Payroll, Accounting, and Facilities Services. The Administration and Finance division is very excited to have Kevin Seitz join their team. Ms. Porpiglia spent today touring all the administrative offices as well as the Faculty Student Association area with Mr. Seitz. This was a great opportunity for Mr. Seitz to meet everyone in his or her own work environment before he officially begins next Monday. Mr. Seitz said he is very excited to be part of the Fredonia campus.

**DIVERSITY AND EQUITY REPORT**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Bill Boerner reiterated the importance of the new SUNY implemented policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, adopted in Fall 2015. Dr. Boerner is chairing a working group to develop a strategic plan and the group includes two faculty, two staff, and three students. The working group plans to have a draft ready for review by the University Senate, Student Association, and the President’s Cabinet by the end of the Spring 2016 semester. Dr. Boerner and Julie Bezek are continuing to educate the campus about Title IX compliance. The campus will adopt a Green Dot bystander intervention program, spearheaded by Julie Bezek. Dr. Boerner said it’s a great opportunity to engage the students on campus. The Primary Names (formerly called the Preferred Names) Committee created a draft policy and will submit the policy to the President’s Cabinet this spring for approval. A pilot primary names program was rolled out last fall utilizing 14 students. Later this evening, Judy Shepard will be speaking in King Concert Hall at 7:00 PM. Ms. Shepard is the mother of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, who was brutally murdered in 1998 in a hate crime.

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: SAM MASON AND COURTNEY WIGDAHL**

Dr. Horvath introduced Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Sherri (Sam) Mason and Assistant Professor of Biology Courtney Wigdahl-Perry. Dr. Wigdahl-Perry research focuses on understanding how environmental change influences microscopic organisms in local lakes and sites around the world. She is particularly interested in plankton ecology, lake response to climate change and human influences, and how physical lake characteristics shape food web interactions. Dr. Mason’s research centers on plastic pollution and how it affects 19 different fish species. Her team is the first to study the impact of plastic pollution with freshwater ecosystems. Plastic micro beads were first used in cosmetic and other personal products beginning in the 1990’s. Drs. Mason and Wigdahl-Perry have been working collaboratively on this study and have made national news with their findings. One master level student and one undergraduate student were written into the project to work with them during the calendar year.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Recruitment of first-year students is wrapping up for Fall 2016 and Admissions is beginning to focus on transfer recruitment. Fredonia is waiting on student deposits to determine how enrollment numbers will fall out. Retention in January was up by 1 percent. Scholarship offers went out in December and we hope the earlier timeframe will positively impact the yield rate. An Accepted Student Reception will be held on Saturday, April 9. Athletics had a great season with women’s basketball making it into the playoffs. One Fredonia first-year, one third-year, and one fourth-year student made the All-Conference Team. The Fredonia women's basketball team won for the 18th time this season setting a new team record, as well as securing a first-ever home playoff game. Men’s and Women’s swimming and diving did well with three students going to nationals. Fredonia's Arron Carlson (LeRoy/Notre Dame) set a new SUNYAC record in the 3-meter dive on the first day of SUNYAC Swimming and Diving Championships. A successful Activity Night was held on January 27 in Steele Hall. The Career Development Office was realigned with the Division of Engagement and Economic Development. Dr. Herman explained that goals have been set for as far out as 2020 to improve retention and recruitment. Chairman Pagano asked if students are offered an interview when they leave. Under the direction of Erin Mroczak, a First-Year Retention Program was adopted last year. Non-returning students are sent a follow-up questionnaire and past responses indicate that most withdrawals are due to personal or financial reasons. J-Term has only been successful for study-abroad and online class opportunities. EC English continues to prove to be beneficial to the campus (summary in Provost Terry Brown’s report).

**ENGAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Vice President Kevin Kearns discussed the benefits of moving the Career Development Office (CDO) over to the Division of Engagement and Economic Development. CDO Director Tracy Collingwood is leading the Fredonia Applied Learning Council on the campuses Applied Learning Plan. The first part of the plan was submitted to SUNY on February 15. The plan provides a baseline of campus community engagement activities such as internships, community research, service learning, civic engagement, and volunteer activities. The Fredonia Technology Incubator continues to offer community engagement events. The Arts and Business Lunches at the Fredonia Incubator have been successful. The next luncheon is scheduled for March 4 with renowned artists Sala Wong and Peter Williams. The Incubator is being utilized as a gallery/exhibition space. Most recently, the Fredonia Incubator received the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry 2015 “Community Service Award.” The Fredonia Incubator served as a temporary work site after the Rural Ministry lost their office space due to a fire. Engagement and Economic Development is partnering with the Southern Tier Startup Alliance to support the regional ecosystem of entrepreneurs by sponsoring 76 West. This clean energy competition will bring energy related companies and jobs to WNY. The competition will run for the next four years and $2.5 million will be awarded in prize money. The Fredonia Incubator was awarded a $125,000 CFA Grant. The funding will be used to support additional staffing and expand programming. AT&T is sponsoring an annual business competition for Fredonia students. Students can compete for office space, support and mentoring services, and other prizes. The winner will be announced in spring, but the response has been very low.

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT**

Councilman Frank Pagano congratulated Mrs. Betty Gossett on her interim appointment as Vice President for University Advancement. She thanked the Council for their support and announced that the Foundation has had a strong year with over $2.5 million in giving. Online gifts continue to grow with an increase of 27 percent since 2014. The Foundation Board Executive Committee is under new leadership with Dennis Costello, Chair; Michael Marletta, Vice Chair; Deborah Kathman, Secretary; Thomas Waring, Treasurer; and Richard Johnson, Immediate Past Chair. Foundation fundraisers have done frequent traveling and met with many donors in December and January. Several alumni events were scheduled on campus and reunions were held in Rochester and Syracuse with two more expected in Vero Beach and Delray Beach, Florida. The spring Statement features Alum John Poppo and the timing couldn’t be better with the release of the GRAMMY awards on February 15. The Senior Challenge is progressing nicely and could prove to be a record-breaking year with over $8,500 already raised for an outdoor stage which will be constructed in the Dods Hall grove. This year’s senior class plans to feature the stage at their senior picnic. Alumni Affairs is excited to offer bricks for sale as a fundraiser. The bricks will be used to construct a walkway near the Williams Center. Construction on the walkway will begin this summer by Sandberg Kessler Architects.

President Horvath reminded Council members to fill out their Presidential Review surveys that were sent to them on behalf of SUNY System Administration.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason Burgos and seconded by JoAnn Niebel. The College Council meeting concluded at 4:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Szalkowski, Fredonia College Council Secretary