

College Assembly
Minutes of Meeting
April 10, 2017

Members Present: Jeremiah Godfroy, Julie Lakin, Giovanni Scaringi, Alison Sheridan- Brennan, Michael Kinney, Denise Abrams, Carine Surdey, Scott Kavulich, Jamie Heron, Howard Streby, Joe DeAngelo, Laura Hodel, Fermin Romero, Sue George (for Angie Bergholtz), Tracy Curtis, Dr. Drumm, Michael Sullivan, Penny DeFavero

Members Absent: Mary Gilbert, Dave Michalak, Rosanne West, Mark Ryan, Francis Battisti, Debbie Morello, Sesime Adanu

Guests: Rachael Hagerman, Amanda Soto, Kathryn Wills

- Call to order: 3:05 PM. Giovanni opened the meeting and welcomed the group. Sue George was thanked for being Angie's alternate. Quorum was established, the agenda was approved and the minutes from the last meeting were approved.

- CA Report:

- Giovanni thanked the group for their participation in shared governance and wished a happy spring break to those who have one.

- The Master Plan committee had a well-attended meeting and there will be a one-hour follow up meeting. The Doodle poll is out for scheduling.

- Information was forwarded to the group earlier from Gian Rom and the Achieving Success team. The data deals with retention. Please review it at your leisure. They will be at our next meeting. This is separate information from what we received from Sesime a few weeks ago. There are about 30 people on the team. They are looking not only the trends but they are trying to get down to the micro level on retention and student success.

- Student Assembly Report:

- Amanda reported that the executive board elections are coming up. Open are the Trustee, President and V.P. positions. Petitions will be at the office (SB 107) and are due April 14th. The election will be held until April 27th.

- SA has been working on a financial resolution. There were some concerns at the February Your Voice Matters about why financial aid is disbursed so late to continuing students in good standing. The resolution asked for those disbursements to be made earlier. The Excelsior scholarships may not impact that. Julie and Laura noted that the disbursement discussions should still take place.

- Amanda and a few others went to the spring SUNY conference in Rochester where 13 of 15 student resolutions were passed. One was about campus water quality and to have testing in compliance with the EPA lead and copper rule. One campus had lead and copper in their water. She will share the other 12 resolutions upon request.

It was noted that Amanda and Heather are Chancellor's Award recipients and there was a round of applause.

- COI Report:

- Carine reported that the SG elections committee has been busy with the nominations process for the upcoming elections. A reminder to nominate (or self-nominate) went out today. Please encourage your constituents to nominate. We are still looking for nominees in some areas. There are about 15 positions open.

- This week's COI agenda includes a discussion of the process for room reservations. A couple issues with rooms being double-booked and people not knowing the process.

- There is also a question on campus-wide email which came to the SG chairs. What is the process, and who determines if an email goes to the entire campus or to a sub-set?

- CAI Report:

- Denise reported that there was discussion on a letter that Dr. Battisti sent out regarding the confidentiality of the COACHE survey.
- There was an issue referred to CAI about students using Google instead of textbooks for their courses and that has also been referred to textbook committee.

• President's Report:

- The Excelsior scholarship was included in the NYS budget. There is a provision for part-time TAP and that could be really good for us. To be eligible you need 6-12 credits for up to \$1500/semester. Except for dealing with Albany, I'm the eternal optimist. Only the \$50/FTE increase was approved; thankfully that's what Michael built our draft budget on. Zero had been on the table. They (Albany) are worried that our enrollment will spike and our FTEs will increase the funding. It's a whole new ball game. Enrollment has gone up in other states. Students could commute to other colleges; some do all ready. Room and board costs are more than tuition, so that could help the CCs. They raised the threshold for the private colleges. We may pick up students. It will change somewhat next year. Eventually when the state ops fill up, the CCs will benefit. BU would love to have more local students. Part-time TAP is very good news.

- The new VPSED/CDO is Carol Ross. She starts July 17, 2017.

- People question some of the figures in our budget. We share anything anybody wants. If anyone can find money anywhere, we would love it so the more eyes looking at it the better.

Giovanni also noted that the Excelsior scholarships are for up to \$5,500 as long as you have 12 credits/semester or 30 per year completed; awards are on family income basis. For private colleges up to \$6000/year. Part time is \$1500/semester, and only for community colleges. Laura added that the information is on the website HESC.NY.gov. There are links to Q&A on the scholarships and a little information on the part-time.

It was also noted that SUNY Broome is named one of the top community colleges in New York on schools.com. Jesse is looking into this to see just what it means.

• Vice President of Administrative and Financial Affairs Report:

- Michael noted that it's a challenge to follow the eternal optimist.

- He presented the updated budget forecast. He distributed a handout of the forecast details as of March 31, 2017. The first page is the payroll projection report. The summer payroll projections are based on the number of sections. When you balance the budget against the projection it's about a break-even. Payroll is the biggest and most volatile number in the budget. Enrollment is the key driver of revenue. The FTE forecast is about 2% less than last year, including Fast Forward and Study Abroad, everything. The market response to the Excelsior scholarships is an unknown; there may be some negative impacts. The part time scholarships may help us. We're looking at bigger macro trends like the high school graduation rates, population and competition and are taking a conservative position. He feels reasonably confident that we will have a balanced budget for this year and not need to appropriate any of the fund balance, but it will be a close call.

- Next year's (17/18) preliminary budget has an increase of \$50/FTE in state aid, a 2% enrollment decline and about a 3½% increase in tuition. It's a ballpark number right now. We want our pricing to stay competitive so the tuition increase may differ from the preliminary estimate. The FTE reimbursement will be within five of what it was in 2013/14. The number of sections drives institutional costs. Lots of complicated work still needs to be done. We're driving the 2017/2018 budget towards the 2013/14 benchmarks. Payroll is really the big driver related to that. The draft budget will go to the board April 27th, to the County in May and back to the board in May or June. The VPs, deans and staff have been working on the budget development. He is reasonably confident we will have a sustainable budget going into next year.

- Capital Projects: the most recent info on the Mechanical Building about a \$12 million project: we are at about 90% design state and will have the final figures in a few more weeks. There are a number of funding sources and projects going out to bid in May. The target for Mechanical was originally fall of '18; it may be in between fall and spring, weather permitting. There's good and not so good news on Carnegie. The \$1.9 million worth of new market credit was

approved by two internal committees. It needs to go to two boards and then to a public hearing, maybe by June 2017 we'll have the final answer. SHPO approved the project in January and it went to NPS. We received a letter about two weeks ago three recommending revisions to the building that two of which we think we've adequately allowed. One major revision on the HVAC. Apparently NPS is taking a more negative view of drop ceilings; the application was resubmitted Friday with exposed HVAC to the first floor instead of the drop ceiling. NPS is moving their offices and this could result in a delay. If the application is denied we have a right to appeal, which could take between two and six months and time is money. Part of the new market credits is that we close the financing on the project by the end of June.

Other Business:

- Jeremiah mentioned his trip to Malawi and will send out a letter on that.
- Assessment of shared governance was briefly discussed. Assessment part of the overall process related to Middle States. The SUNY Voices conference for shared governance leaders is the end of April and Denise and Carine are going; there will be some information on the assessment of shared governance at the conference. We would like to get ahead of the game on the assessment. There has been some discussion at SG chairs but thought we could better plan with the information from the SUNY Voices conference. Student Assembly should get some information together to pass along to the next Student Assembly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM.

Next meeting date: Monday, May 1, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny DeFavero
College Assembly Secretary