

SUNY Oswego
College Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2024
2 pm - 4:30 pm

MCC Room 114 and via Zoom video conference

College Council Members Present:

In-Person:

James McMahon, Richard Farfaglia, Tara Fitzgibbons, Christine Patrick, Carol Bradlinski-Watros, Kristin Shanley-Graves

On Zoom:

Darlene Baker
Brian McGrath

Absent:

Cabinet Present

In-Person:

Jamal Coleman, Kristi Eck, Scott Furlong, Vicki Furlong, Peter Nwosu, Kendra Cadogan, Kathleen Kerr, Cory Bezek

On Zoom:

Absent: Mary Canale (Was absent. Attended Foundation meeting during the same time as college council meeting. Stopped by for a moment to receive resolution.)

Invited Guests Present:

In-Person:

Debbie Furlong, Mitch Fields, Gwen Kay, Jennifer Janes, Aiden Wilson

On Zoom:

Absent:

Additional Attendees:

On Zoom: Zachary Vichery

Agenda

1. **Welcome and call to order** - James McMahon, College Council Chair
 - Called to order time 2:13 pm by James McMahon

2. **Approval of Minutes of July 29, 2024** - James McMahon, College Council Chair
 - A motion to accept minutes
 - Second
 - All in favor

3. **Student Association Report** – Aiden Wilson
 - See Slides
 - There's also been a lot of traction for a new platform that we use called laker life. That is the online platform a lot of our student clubs and organizations are using. We noticed that over the summer students have been using it more frequently.
 - Budget Council had decided on was our contingency fund, we decided to increase that amount. So, in previous years it was \$10,000. We increased it to \$12,500. That was because a lot of clubs had asked for additional funding, and we noticed that the \$10,000 that we had was just not enough.
 - We have 14 senators confirmed.
 - Future: Preparation for Ozfest, Entrepreneurship Fair and President's Table

4. **Alumni Report** – Jennifer Janes
 - See Slides
 - Since our last meeting. Once again, we had our annual welcoming torchlight ceremony, which is a favorite among students.
 - If you have, you sense the excitement on campus. This weekend we are in the middle of our 4th annual founders weekend and presidential inauguration, which even makes it more exciting.
 - 1861 Giving Challenge: You should have received emails, or you can go online and make your gift. If we receive 861 gifts, we have a donor who will give us \$70,000.
 - Another plug for the alumni sharing knowledge program which as you recall, connects students and alumni for mentorship as college council members, we encourage you to sign up to become a mentor for our students and our young alumni. It's a really great experience.
 - On October 12th we will hold our class of 2024 athletic Hall of Fame.

- I'd like to share that the next edition of the Oswego Alumni Magazine should hit mailboxes in late September.

5. Faculty Report – Gwen Kay

- See Slides
- Gwen went through the Haudenosaunee Recommendations.
- Discussion on Hyflex Policy: Development
 - Breakdown of Hyflex meaning
- Course approvals, Departmental changes.
- On Monday we approved 3 new courses that will be sent to the President's office. We are continuing to do also the work of what faculty should be doing, thinking about courses, course development, regular decisions and related spaces.
- Kendra shared update on what cabinet is on Haudenosaunee taskforce.

6. President's Report – Peter O. Nwosu

- See Slides
- President Nwosu welcomed everybody.
- Over the course of summer. I spent some time having one on one meetings with each of you and look forward to continuing that work. This afternoon's report spells out the work from the last report to the Council, and there's been a great work going on.
- Campus Climate
 - Kathleen Kerr:
 - I'm going to invite my colleagues to jump in as well because this really has been a team effort to respond to situations but prepare for what we anticipate was going to happen this year, and it really is foundationally built around a fundamental belief that we support the free speech rights of our campus community members.
 - The new landing page that we created for free speech where we house links to all of the associated policies that for the facilities use policy and the free speech policy, the latest updates do say September 2024.
 - Scott Furlong:
 - We've been working on a variety of civic engagement initiatives, really starting with some planning back in in the spring that encompasses both in class or, in class activities as well as Co-curricular activities.
 - You know our role as a public university, and what we want to be doing in helping to prepare civic citizens.

- You might have heard of a Presidential election coming up here in a little bit, and what really wanted to provide a mechanism for students to engage on some of the issues of the election of the larger civic community of our nation.
- President Nwosu discussed Strategic Engagements
 - As you very well know, we continue to serve as the lead convener of the Oswego County Micron strategies hearing committee. And that is really a committee that comprises of 85 organizations really from county and some parts of Central New York that have come together to prepare on various aspects of key priorities, prepare for a Micron's arrival here.
 - Kristi shepherds this particular group, I'm co-chair.
 - We're also working as part of this larger county steering committee in bringing groups together will have ideas that they can partner with us as an institution to further extend the work. So, this is a very important work we're engaged in.
 - Many of you may know Micron just established the headquarters in Syracuse, and that headquarters is right across from our Syracuse Campus. So, there are really opportunities for us there. What's important is the very good relationship we have with them, and we continue to strengthen as we move as we move forward.
- Enrollment – See Slides
 - I want to highlight the work that everyone did to get to this point. Two of the biggest changes in my industry happened in one year. 1st was the Supreme Court affirmative action ruling on eliminating use of race in admissions, and the second being the largest FAFSA changes in the past 50 years in the whole debacle.
 - Our 1st year student FAFSA submissions was up 5.6% year over year.
 - Our underrepresented minority new students, our 1st year students are up 15% year over year.
 - And we also know that roughly a 3rd of our students incoming students we were not their top choice. So, it means we were either an academic or an economic safety reason for them.
 - Really, the focus I wanted to talk to you guys about is really about retention, because it's not just about bringing in the students. It's about what we do with them once they're here, and some of the things that we're implementing for this year. A new specifically, is we started an academic care team.

- Retention Update (Scott Furlong) – See Slides
 - We still need to do better in this space. We need to figure out what interventions have the biggest impact and really try to focus some of our resources in those spaces where we can affect the most students.
 - It might be a living learning community as one of the interventions.
 - Tara Fitzgibbons - Are some more effective than others?

- Budget Update (Vicki Furlong) – See Slides
 - The slide showcases what we consider to be our preliminary enrollment survey. So, every year we prepare a budget based on what we think. The enrollment may be head count for the upcoming year. That is, column 4. You will see that there is limited, indicated on the highlighted 65.
 - We are in what's called the regional universities of the North. There's every year between 165 and 180 of us there. About 2 thirds of the schools in our ranking group are private schools which are really very different.

- Facilities Update (Mitch Fields) – See Slides
 - Construction Activity – Hewitt Hall \$80.0m, Laker Hall Roof \$6.5m, Pathfinder Dining Hall \$.75m.

- Branding discussion (Karen Crowe) – See Slides
 - We engaged Hanover Research to do brand analysis
 - Branding Next Steps
 - Looking for a consistent look. Full Rebrand.
 - Brian McGrath asked the question - The \$300,000 budget is someone at a firm going through a rebrand ourselves. What are those numbers based on? They seem low, particularly for a website redesign.

- Took an intermission to present resolution to Mary Canale
 - Kristi Eck read resolution
 - Motion – Tara Fitzgibbons presented resolution read by Kristi Eck
 - Richard Farfaglia – Seconded
 - All in favor

- Scott talked about Strategic Plan
 - We started this process back in the fall, when President released Vision 4040 document, and from there he charged a steering committee to begin a strategic planning process.

- We are planning this as a 5-year strategic plan. But it is a living document. We're going to take advantage of opportunities that come our way.
- There will be a website developed.

- Strategic Funding-Raising and Funding Priorities Document
 - What we're trying to do is develop a document. It's in draft form now, but it's just been socialized among us. This document really informed by the strategic plan and vision.

- Jim talked about the College Council Annual Report

7. Old Business –

- N/A

8. New Business –

- N/A

9. Adjournment - James McMahon, College Council Chair

- Motion to adjourn - Dick Farfaglia
- Tara Fitzgibbons – Seconded
- All in favor
- 4:20 pm meeting adjourned