

## **APRIL 2020 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Present:** Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, G. Arnold, D. Burns, J. Corasanti, C. Giruzzi, and N. Hinman

Administration:

M. Frame, M. Lyons, S. Schneider and G. Wang

Guests:

L. Hartman, M. Lemire, C. Phipps, S. Tenebaum, K. Tynan-Smith, M. Wyett-Lennon

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Hanson convened the Public Meeting at 4:03 p.m., which was held via Zoom. At this time, Chairman Hanson declared a quorum.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by Ms. Burns and seconded by Ms. Arnold to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019, meeting as presented. All were in favor.**

**Notes from the February 26, 2020, meeting was shared with Council members. Chairman Hanson noted there was no quorum at this meeting.**

### **President's Report**

Dr. Wang thanked the College Council and the leadership team for their commitment to SUNY Poly during this time. She spoke of the honor and privilege of being part of this community for almost two-years.

Dr. Wang announced that Dr. Mark Montgomery has been appointed the new SUNY Poly CDO and will join Poly over the summer. Dr. Montgomery is currently dean at MVCC and is a Poly alum. He is well known in the local Utica community and serves in a variety of volunteer roles.

Following two-years of hard work, the College of Business Management team received reaccreditation in the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB.) Dr. Wang thanked the faculty, Dean Lu and Interim Provost Schneider for their commitment to this process. Dr. Wang advised that only 5% of business schools can receive this accreditation.

The College of Health Sciences also received reaccreditation of their Health Information Management program (HIM). Accreditation is with the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatic and Information Management Education (CAHIM).

Dr. Wang advised that over the past two-months, Poly has worked to ensure a smooth operation at SUNY Poly during this unprecedented time. A COVID-19 task force was created after the first case was diagnosed in New York State, with the first meeting on March 2. Thanks to the taskforce, along with students, faculty and staff, Poly moved academic courses to 100% distance learning starting on March 23. Dr. Wang attended several online classes and was pleased to see robust student engagement.

College of Engineering Dean Mike Carpenter and CNSE Professor Nate Cady, along with employees at both campuses, have volunteered to create full face shields in support of our local hospitals, as well as SUNY Upstate and SUNY Downstate. The team has donated over 1000 face shields to front line workers.

The Residence Life team donated blankets, pillows and sheets for Mohawk Valley frontline workers can stay in the area and not return to their homes. College of Health Sciences staff and faculty donated a variety of coffee and goods to local hospitals.

Professors Scott Tenenbaum and Nate Cady are working with the state's public health lab to develop an advanced COVID-19 test that will check both for the virus and immune response.

SUNY Poly is currently focused on opening research labs for faculty and graduate students at the Albany Campus this summer and at the Utica campus, efforts are focused on a reopening plan for fall 2020.

Dr. Wang thanked the College Council for their support of her over the past several years, as Poly's Interim President.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Hanson recognized Darlene Burns, George Aney, and Gretchen Arnold, who along with himself are serving on the Presidential Search Committee. Storbeck and Associates is the presidential search firm.

In late March, the committee conducted the final review of applications via Zoom to select a candidate group for initial, face-to-face interviews. Each candidate was evaluated, using criteria stabled by the committee, in a consistent, fair and balanced way. Throughout the process, the committee honored Poly's commitment to select a diverse pool of candidates.

First round of interviews took place April 16/17 via Zoom. Interview topics ranged from candidate experience with students; priorities and concerns of students, faculty and staff; diversity, research and instruction; equity and inclusion; leadership values; budget management; fund raising; and experience with infrastructure oversight.

After the first round of interviews, the committee identified a small group of candidates to participate in confidential meetings with campus constituent groups including faculty, staff, students, administrators and College Council members. All meetings will continue to be held virtually. Further reference checks will be conducted on all continuing candidates.

Chairman Hanson anticipates the College Council will recommend three highly qualified candidates for consideration by the Chancellor no later than the middle of May.

### **Student Code of Conduct Revisions**

Marybeth Lyons advised a memo was sent to the College Council prior to the meeting with seven proposed revisions to the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct. She thanked Mark Lemire, Megan Lennon-Wyett and Katie Tynan-Simon for their work on these provisions.

Ms. Lennon-Wyett pointed out that Student Code of Conduct will always be a living document, as requirements for the document are always changing and in order to be in compliance, the code will need constant updates. These proposed changes are based off of cases they have worked through this semester.

#### **Proposed Revision #1: Student Organization (Section 1: Definitions, Page 6, #29)**

We are proposing the following bolded language be added to the existing definition of student organization:

“Student Organization” is a group of students who have complied with the appropriate requirements, including clubs, organizations and **teams**, for SUNY Poly recognition and/or registration.

#### **Proposed Revision #2: Time of Incident and Applicable Code (Section Two: Student Conduct System Authority and Jurisdiction, Page 7)**

We are proposing the addition of the following language in bold:

The Student Code of Conduct applies to conduct which occurs on SUNY Poly sites, international and exchange programs, and at SUNY Poly sponsored or supervised functions. When a nexus between the behavior and SUNY Poly exists and the College is aware of the behavior, a student or student organization may be subject to action under the Student Code of Conduct.

**Reports of prohibited behavior will be charged using the applicable violations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct in effect at the time the alleged incident occurred. The conduct procedures outlined in the most current Code of Conduct will be used to investigate and resolve the alleged violations.**

In cases in which the prohibited behavior occurs off campus, the conduct officer will consult the Vice President of Student Affairs, to determine if conduct action is warranted under the circumstances.

#### **Proposed Revision #3 - Fire Safety Violation (Section 3: Prohibited Behavior, Page 10, #14)**

We are proposing the following bolded language be added to violation #14. Fire Safety violations:

- a. Actions that cause or attempt to cause a fire or explosion;
- b. Falsely reporting a fire, explosion or an explosive device;

- c. Tampering with fire safety equipment;
- d. Inappropriate and/or unauthorized activation of the fire alarm system;
- e. Failure to evacuate SUNY Poly buildings during a fire alarm.
- f. **Smoking within a College building, facility or space including, but not limited to: residence halls, academic spaces, and dining halls. Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, of tobacco and tobacco-derived products and marijuana intended for human consumption. Smoking also includes the use of an electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor of any form.**

Proposed Revision #4: Sexual Exploitation (Section Three: Prohibited Behavior, Page 11, #16, c.)

We are proposing the addition of the following language in bold:

Sexual exploitation is non-consensual behavior that takes sexual advantage of another person, and does not otherwise constitute another sexual misconduct violation. Examples of sexual exploitation include but are not limited to: intentional, nonconsensual tampering with or removal of condoms, other methods of birth control and/or sexual transmitted infection (STI) prevention prior to or during sexual contact in a manner that significantly increases the likelihood of STI contraction and/or pregnancy by the non-consenting party; engaging in sexual activity with another person while knowingly infected with a STI and without informing the other person of the infection; non-consensual videotaping, audio taping, or photographing sexual activity; **non-consensual intentional sharing or publication of a sexually explicit still or video image of another person consistent with NYS S.1719C/ A.5981**; observing others engaged in dressing/undressing or in sexual acts without their knowledge or consent; trafficking people to be sold for sex; and inducing incapacitation with the intent to initiate in sexual activity.

Proposed Revision #5 - Local, State, or Federal Law Violation (Section 3: Prohibited Behavior, Page 12, #22)

We are proposing the following additional language, in bold, to be added to violation #22:

Violation of local, state, or federal law, **rules, regulations or directives**.

Proposed Revision #6: Administrative Directives (Section Four: Temporary and Administrative Directives, Page 13)

We are proposing the addition of the bolded language below:

The terms of the administrative directive shall be specified in the administrative directive notice letter issued. A student who has been issued an administrative directive, or **has requested and been denied an administrative directive**, shall be entitled to a prompt review of the need for and/or terms of the administrative directive. Any party seeking a review shall submit a written request with supporting documentation to the Vice President for Student Affairs. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall be made within two (2) business days of the receipt of the written request and shall be final. The party who submitted the request shall be notified of the decision regarding the administrative directive in writing.

Proposed Revision #7: Character Witnesses (Section Six: Student Conduct Procedures, Page 21 for Category I cases and Page 31 for Category II cases); definition added, page 6.

We are proposing the following language be added to the witnesses section:

**While character witnesses are prohibited from participating in an administrative or board hearing, written statements prepared by character witnesses will be considered during the sanctioning phase of a hearing. Character witnesses' written statements must be submitted no later than three days prior to the hearing and shall not exceed one page each.**

We are also proposing that the following definition of character witness be added to Section One: Definitions:

**“Character witness” shall mean an individual who solely provides information about a respondent’s moral conduct and reputation, and who does not provide any other information that is considered relevant to a conduct matter.**

*A motion was made by Mr. Corasanti and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve the seven proposed revisions to the 2020—2021 Student Code of Conduct. All were in favor.*

Ms. Tynan-Simon advised there are some potential additional changes that may be needed during the summer of 2020 due to Title IX changes.

### **Student Government Report**

Ms. Arnold provided an update on student activities, noting the spring semester has not been what the students anticipated due to the COVID-19. She advised Poly moved to a pass/fail grading system for the spring semester. Students were pleased this recommendation moved forward, noting Student Government president and vice president were part of these conversations with faculty and administration. Students choosing to opt in to the pass/fail system, does not impact their GPAs. Dr. Wang thanked Drs. Phipps and Tenenbaum for their hard work in quickly approving the pass/fail initiative.

Student Government is hosting “Talk Tuesday” on Instagram. Every Tuesday morning, a student joins Mike Aiello, digital outreach specialist and alumni outreach coordinator, to discuss a Ted Talk they recently watched.

A weekly events newsletter is now going out to the student body. Various virtual events are occurring and are well attended by the students.

The Student Recognition Banquet was held online last Friday evening. Ms. Arnold advised the event is an annual event held to celebrate student accomplishments during their time at Poly.

Student Government at Utica (SGU) held elections recently to appoint interim executive board positions for 2020. They will lead the student body until elections take place in the fall. The following is the newly elected board:

President: Giovanni Harvey  
Vice-President: Ari Papagianis

Treasurer: Gaby Sorto  
Secretary: Haley Couch  
College Council: Gretchen Arnold

Ms. Arnold advised she will continue in her role as student representative to the College Council until elections occur in the fall.

The Albany Student Affairs team is developing a virtual event to recognize their students, similar to the Utica Awards Banquet.

### **Faculty Representative Report**

Dr. Tenenbaum advised the Joint Governance Council, which oversees issues on both campuses, has streamlined their organizational structure. Following approval from the Utica Faculty Assembly and the Albany Senate, the Council committee chairs and co-chairs will be replaced with the respective heads of the two local assemblies.

A working policy on the Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct was recently endorsed by Albany Senate.

Dr. Phipps advised the withdrawal date for the spring semester has been extended. Along with the pass/fail initiative, Joint Governance continues to be involved in these coordinated efforts.

Dr. Phipps advised she has been pleased with the process of moving to distance learning and impressed with the faculty and student support. Faculty are discussing the possibility of offering a one-credit short lab techniques course, to tie in the practice elements missed in class due to the move to distance learning courses. Faculty will work to develop this over the summer.

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Hanson proposed a move to Executive Session under provisions of Section 105 of the Public Officers Law for the purpose of discussing matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

### **Executive Session**

**At 5:22 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Arnold to move out of executive session, and seconded by Ms. Burns. All were in favor.**

No actions were taken in Executive Session.

### **Adjournment**

**At 5:23 p.m., Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurie M. Hartman*

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