

SEPTEMBER 2019 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, G. Arnold, D. Burns and N. Hinman
Administration:

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

Guests:

L. Hartman and Z. Thomova

Welcome and Introductions

The September Council meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new student representative Gretchen Arnold.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Aney and seconded by Ms. Burns to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019, meeting as presented. All were in favor.

President's Report

Interim President Grace Wang shared a PowerPoint Presentation that highlighted various campus activities and discussed the Framework for a Sustainable Future.

SUNY Poly ranked very well in the U.S. News & World Report listing of Best Colleges in the Regional Universities North category, moving up three spots to #12 overall. Poly also ranked #2 Top Public Schools, #2 Best Value Schools and #6 Best Colleges for Veterans. Grace thanked our outstanding faculty, staff and students for their hard work.

Additional notable rankings are #1 Accredited Online Colleges in New York (by EDsmart), #5 of 20 Best Affordable Healthcare Administration and Management Online Degree Programs (by Affordable Schools), and #20 Best Healthcare Administration (by Study.com.)

Dr. Wang advised the two colleges at the Albany campus (College of NanoEngineering, Technology and Innovation and College of Nanoscale Science) have been combined into the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. She explained that extensive consultation took place with faculty and staff over the summer and it was determined that there were a lot of synergies between the two colleges. Dr. Andre Melendez has been appointed the interim dean of the newly created college. Also, Dr. Wang introduced Susan Head, who was recently appointed as our new associate VP for business affairs, and advised Dr. Michael Carpenter has been appointed interim dean for the College of Engineering.

The creation of the Framework for a Sustainable Future has been a priority for about a year now. Dr. Wang advised that there are two goals, the first is to set a clear vision as one institution and the second is to lay a strong foundation for the future. She pointed out this is not a strategic plan, but a process to set the stage so we are successful moving forward and are able create a solid foundation for a new president when appointed.

“The vision of SUNY Polytechnic Institute is to:

- *Provide high-quality experiential learning for our students,*
- *Empower faculty, students, and staff to conduct impactful, leading-edge research, scholarship and innovation, and*
- *Engage private and public sector partners to answer 21st Century technological and workforce challenges in a financially sustainable and inclusive manner.”*

There are six Core Values to the Framework for a Sustainable future, they are Academic Excellence, Societal Benefit, Life-long Learning, Community Engagement, Integrity, and Inclusion and Transparency.

The Framework structure has three categories, with several committees under each, the categories are Innovative Academic Programs and Research Opportunities, People and Culture, and Ways and Means. Dr. Wang advised for Ways and Means, we will look at tangible and intangible. Each committee has created both short- and long-term recommendation to help set the next chapter for the university.

Enhance Academic Strengths and Excellence is one of the themes for the Framework and incorporates improving retention and graduation rates, building innovative undergraduate programs, while expanding mater’s programs, and strategically increasing enrollment. The second theme is Establish Academic Research and Support Infrastructure, which includes administrative support, processes and policies, as well as physical infrastructure.

The Utica campus master plan will be completed in fall 2019 and will include funding for Campus Center renovations and physics and chemistry labs in Donovan Hall. These upgrades are critical to grow the Utica campus to approximately 4000 students.

A groundbreaking for Hilltop Hall was held in May, this will be the first net-zero carbon certified residence hall to be newly built in the SUNY System and will have 257 beds. Anticipated opening is fall 2020.

Dr. Wang advised that we are launching the first ever facilities master plan at our Albany campus, which we expect to be completed in spring 2020. She showed the CESTM building, which will be one of the focal plans. Once the initial plan is complete, we will have a better idea of how we grow.

SUNY Poly and University at Albany have a new partnership, which allows our Albany campus students use of Freedom Apartments, as well as dining services, campus recreation resources, health services, counseling and psychological services, and IT services. Dr. Wang thanked Ms.

Marybeth Lyons and Ms. Susan Head, along with their teams for their hard work in finalizing this partnership.

Dr. Wang discussed our partnership with AFRL, which started about one year ago and has since developed into an array of exciting opportunities for SUNY Poly and the community. In July, we hosted the Quantum Information Science 1st International Workshop. We were pleased to welcome approximately 200 people to our Utica campus for this three-day event.

In collaboration with AFRL, Griffiss Institute and Oneida County, we are creating the Open Innovation Campus, which is a \$12 million research center to be located at the Griffiss International Airport. Completion is anticipated in April 2020.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Hanson updated the Council on the status of the presidential search, noting he spoke to Chancellor Johnson recently and she intends to begin the search in the near future. He sent an email to Council members asking them to consider being a member of the search committee and Chairman Hanson was pleased to say George Aney, Gretchen Arnold and Darlene Burns have all agreed to join him on this committee. Emma Vanderwerken, Student Government Utica President, has agreed to be a student representative on the search committee. There will be six faculty representatives, with four coming from the Utica campus and 2 from the Albany campus.

Proposals for a search firm have been received and evaluated and Chairman Hanson stated a firm has been identified to aid in the search process. He noted the contract for hiring the search firm must be approved at the State level before it can be issued and this can take up to eight weeks.

The search committee will do the bulk of the work to select qualified candidates, but Chairman Hanson advised it is the College Council who makes the final decision on which individuals' names are forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration.

The Association of Council Members and College Trustees (ACT) will hold their annual conference in October. Chairman Hanson plans to attend and has been asked to participate on a panel to discuss presidential searches.

Student Government Report

Ms. Gretchen Arnold shared a PowerPoint presentation with updates from the Student Government, she highlighted the following activities:

- Everson Sign – significant progress has been made on the installation of the new sign. Ms. Arnold shared a photo of the where the sign will be located on campus.
- Elections for Student Government Utica (SGU) representatives on various clubs and boards have recently been finalized.
- SUNY Poly, sponsored by SGU, has recently joined an E-Sports network, our membership is with the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

- The Utica campus will host the SUNY Student Assembly executive meeting in March 2020. This is the first time we have hosted this meeting.
- SGU has recently moved their organization financials to an online platform called SUNY Poly Engage. Next semester, they are hoping to move all of their transactions to Engage, therefore, there will be no more paper transactions.
- Residence Hall Association, is a nationally affiliated association that SGU has a strong relationship with. They are working together to build connections to improve the life of all students with joint events and initiatives.
- A commuter lounge has recently opened in the Student Center.

Faculty Representative Report

Dr. Zora Thomova advised that Dr. Scott Tenenbaum, who is located at the Albany campus, has been elected co-chair of the Joint Governance Council.

In May, the governance leaders met to discuss faculty representation of the presidential search committee, Utica campus representatives will be Dr. Linda Weber, Dr. Robert Edgell, Dr. Timothy Busch and Dr. Zora Thomova, and Albany campus representatives are Dr. Susan Sharfstein and one faculty yet to be identified.

Government Council will be moving forward with review of their by-laws, which may include some restructuring, this may decrease the number of committee members. Also, the Utica campus Faculty Assembly is looking to possibly move from an assembly model to a senate model.

Dr. Thomova advised that she will be stepping down as co-chair of the Joint Governance Council and a new co-chair from Utica campus should be identified next week.

Adjournment

At 4:49 p.m., Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting.