

FEBRUARY 2020 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, G. Arnold, D. Burns

Administration:

M. Frame, S. Head, M. Lyons, S. Schneider (via videoconference) and G. Wang
(via videoconference)

Guests:

L. Hartman and C. Phipps

Welcome and Introductions

The February College Council meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Chairman Hanson welcomed everyone in attendance and noted with only four Council members present, there was not a quorum for an official meeting.

Approval of Minutes

As there are not an adequate number of Council members present to constitute a quorum, the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting will be presented for approval at the April 2020 meeting.

President's Report

Interim President Wang presented an update on the campus and strategic initiatives.

Dr. Wang updated the Council on the Chief Diversity Officer search, which will provide a strategic approach toward critical diversity, equity and inclusion-focused programming for faculty, staff and students at both campuses. Three highly-qualified candidates met with faculty, staff and students and a hiring decision is forthcoming..

Dr. Wang noted that the Framework for a Sustainable Future process has concluded and thanked faculty, staff and students who provided time and input into the process. An executive summary was shared with the College Council members as well as added to the presidential search website.

As part of the Framework process, SUNY Poly established core values and identified key challenges, including:

- Developing academic and research support infrastructure, including through the founding of the Office of Research Advancement and Graduate Studies and building a new Utica residence hall;

- Enhancing academic strengths and excellence, via accreditation and the creation of new programs;
- Empowering people and cultivating diversity and inclusion, including realigning senior leadership, recognizing the importance of empowering female students, and celebrating diversity;
- Enabling and leveraging partnerships, for instance, with the MVCC “Path to Poly” transfer process, a pathway to medical school with Upstate Medical University, and a new interdisciplinary program with Albany Law; and workforce development efforts with industry partners; and
- Engaging regional communities and rebuilding a supporting network through community outreach, such as the FIRST Robotics competition, along with other specific engagement efforts.

SUNY Poly is thankful for the support from Chancellor Johnson and her commitment of \$2 million to assist with growth and sustainability. \$1.05 million will support seed funding for research at both campuses. Funding will also support academic achievement, with the hiring of an instructional designer and updates to the physics lab. There are additional initiatives for online learning, enrollment marketing efforts and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), which includes support for the “You Belong,” which is a new program in support of DEI.

Dr. Wang stated that Poly’s faculty are the backbone to academic excellence and highlighted some of their scholarly activities:

College of Arts and Sciences

- Dr. Kazuko Behrens – Associate Professor of Psychology. Dr. Behrens received international coverage as part of an article about why Japan is so successful in returning lost property.
- Dr. Lauren Endres – Assistant Professor of Biology. Dr. Endres was interviewed by *Future Medical Chemistry* regarding the emerging role of tRNA modifications used in cancer diagnosis, prevention and therapy.
- Dr. Andrew Gallup – Assistant Professor of Community and Behavior Health. Dr. Gallup has been highly successful in his research focused on yawning being contagious.

College of Business Management

- Professor Robert Edgell – Dr. Edgell leads a group of students working on Innovation Challenge New York (ICNY), where he brings students to neighboring communities to discuss challenges within the community; students use their knowledge and skills to come up with solutions to their challenges.
- Dr. Marie-Odile Richard – Dr. Richard is one of the top contributors to the *Journal of Business Research* with 13 published articles and over 600 total citations on her research.
- Dean Arthur Lu – Dean Lu joined Poly in August 2017 and is leading our AACSB Accreditation. He recently took part in an interview with *College Consensus*, where he discussed how the College of Business Management can be a good environment for business students.

College of Engineering

- Dean Michael Carpenter – Dean Carpenter was appointed Interim Dean in July 2019. His collaborative research with General Electric Global Research Center was recently published in *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.
- Drs. Korkut Bekiroglu, Ali Tekeoglu and Joyce Chen recently received an award from the Virginia Transportation Research Council supporting their research focused on asphalt in state roadways.
- Dr. Hisham Khalid – Dr. Khalid’s computer security centered research has recently been published by *Security and Communication Networks*. He was accepted to present this research at a conference held in Saudi Arabia.

College of Health Sciences

- Dean Kathleen Rourke – Dean Rourke is focusing on academic planning to get SUNY Poly ready with our Doctoral in Nursing Practice program. This will be the first DNP program in the Mohawk Valley.
- Drs. Joanne Joseph and Veronica Tichenor – Drs. Joseph and Tichenor were recently interviewed on a local radio station where they discussed social and psychological factors that might explain what can be done to assist at risk youth, as well as the possible indicators and potential solutions to prevent mass shooting.
- Bikesh Regmi – Mr. Regmi is an adjunct professor, as well as a SUNY Poly graduate who was recognized at the 2019 Excellence in Healthcare Awards for the positive changes he makes throughout the region as a healthcare leader and volunteer.
- Dr. Jerome Niyirora – Assistant Professor of Health Information Management. Dr. Niyirora has introduced a new way of teaching in health sciences focusing on open resource materials (OER.) Text books are very expensive and he has been working on quality control how to make it easier to access the material.

College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

- Dean Andre Melendez – recently appointed with the merger of the two colleges at the Albany Campus into one.
- Dr. Susan Sharfstein – Professor in Nanobioscience. Dr. Sharfstein recently received funding from the National Science Foundation in support of her research to develop a bioengineered version of the blood thinner known as heparin to replace the current animal derived product.
- Professor Serge Oktyabrsky – Dr. Oktyabrsky received \$276k in funding from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, as part of a collaboration with the University at Buffalo.
- Dr. Spyros Gallus – Dr. Gallis’s research, in collaboration with Stony Brook University, has received a grant from the National Science Foundation Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes program. The grant will help to fund a quantum-focused center where researchers can advance everything from quantum devices and materials to distributed quantum systems.

Dr. Wang discussed the Utica campus budget advocacy initiatives. The Campus Center will need significant renovations and as well as planning for a center for research activities.

Dr. Wang thanked the Poly team and SUNY System for their work on a facilities master plan for the Albany campus for the first time. Through these collective efforts, we anticipate launching a plan for the Albany campus this summer.

Chairman's Report

The presidential search is underway, there are four College Council members on the search committee; they are George Aney, Gretchen Arnold, Darlene Burns and Chairman Hanson. The committee began review of applications and which will continue through mid-March. The committee plans to conduct their confidential interviews in April with the goal of recommending candidates to the Chancellor by the end of April. The Chairman reminded the Council, it is their responsibility to submit a recommendation to the Chancellor, choosing potentially up to three, unranked candidates to move forward. This recommendation may take place at the April meeting, but also may require a special meeting in May.

Dr. Phipps asked if other members of the campus community will be meeting with the candidates. Chairman Hanson explained there will be no open meetings due to confidentiality requirements, but each candidate under consideration will be invited to meet with a small number of yet-unidentified faculty, staff and students.

Student Government Report

Ms. Gretchen Arnold presented an update from the Student Government in Utica (SGU), highlighting the following activities:

SGU has been working hard on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, supporting the First Annual Multicultural Summit. DEI training has been provided to all student club executive boards and SGU is requiring the training for club activation. Additional funding has been made available to clubs who host events focused on various social problems, cultural competency, and tolerance. Approximately 5 or 6 student leaders will be attending a Leadership and Diversity Conference in Oneonta. SGU is developing an accessibility checklist for clubs to use when planning events.

E-Sports is rapidly growing with more than 50 registered players and 15 teams. Season two was recently kicked off which included team tryouts. The students are currently working with SGU to make E-Sports an organization. Poly is part of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), which allows our students to compete against students at schools such as Syracuse, Binghamton, Oneonta, University at Buffalo, and many more across the Northeast.

SGU members thanked a number of faculty, staff, and students across campus, including the College Council, for helping to build relationships with the students.

Ms. Arnold shared events that are coming up in the spring semester, including:

- Student banquet is scheduled for Friday, April 17

- SUNY Student Assembly Spring Conference - Poly students are applying to present at the conference
- Throw Pies to Save Lives – an event to raise money for the American Cancer Society
- First Annual Multicultural Summit
- Transition and Development Day - a new event, where current SGU executives will have an opportunity for present to the incoming executives

Resident Hall Association (RHA) has been working with Residence Life to improve lounge and study spaces. They recently passed a resolution to ensure DEI initiatives across campus are supported and to raise awareness to these issues. RHA, in collaboration with SGU and Residence Life are planning several events on campus for Sustainability Week.

Dr. Wang thanked Ms. Arnold for her efforts, especially on DEI initiatives.

Faculty Representative Report

Dr. Phipps advised that governance groups are working to prepare for an incoming president, they are currently reorganizing on a large scale and looking to find any areas that they can approve on. In an effort to streamline initiatives, Utica Faculty Assembly is voting on a new structure. At the Albany campus, the Senate held a meeting yesterday and they are also looking to update their structure and will likely vote at their next meeting. If both are approved, Dr. Phipps advised Joint Governance will then discuss some anticipated changes to their structure.

Adjournment

At 4:55 p.m., Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Hartman

Laurie M. Hartman