



APRIL 2021 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

RoAnn Destito-Chair, Mitchell Ford, Charles “Sonny” Greco, Nichole Hinman, Brittany Mendoza and William Thickstun

Administration:

Michael Frame, Laurie Hartman, Susan Head, Tod Laursen, Mark Lemire, Marybeth Lyons, Mark Montgomery and Steven Schneider

Guests:

Eric Eisenbraun, Arthur Lu and Linda Weber

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Destito convened the Public Meeting at 4:02 p.m., which was held via Zoom. She welcomed Dr. Arthur Lu, dean of the College of Business, as an invited guest to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021, meeting as presented. All were in favor.

President’s Report

Dr. Laursen provided an updated on SUNY Poly activities via a PowerPoint Presentation.

The Utica and Albany Campuses look forward to hosting modified, in-person outdoor commencement events for our graduates, while adhering to health and safety guidelines. At the Utica campus, the class of 2021 will have an opportunity to walk on Saturday, May 15. Graduates, along with four guests, will be welcomed to campus by faculty and staff and process towards the stage, where they will be congratulated by the president, provost and respective deans. We will also recognize the class of 2020 on Sunday, May 16, with a similar walkthrough ceremony. There will be a suite of congratulatory videos to coincide with the event. Live stream will also be available.

At the Albany campus, we will celebrate both the class of 2020 and 2021 at an in-person ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 14. There are currently 34 graduates registered to attend this commencement ceremony.



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Dr. Laursen provided an enrollment update, anticipating enrollment for fall '21 to be comparable to fall '20, as advanced registration is underway for current students. Deposits were slightly ahead for graduate and transfer students and right on par with first-year students. The resumption of in-person on campus tours have been beneficial to yielding students for fall.

For fall 2021, we are moving ahead with a plan to facilitate as much in-person instruction while following NYS guidance.

The SUNY Poly Foundation recently held their annual Day of Giving event, in support of the Foundation's Annual Fund. These unrestricted gifts provide the Foundation with the flexibility to meet strategic goals, support emerging initiatives, and address significant or unanticipated student and campus needs. We are especially grateful to an anonymous donor who pledged a matching gift of \$30,000. With the financial support of 120 donors, we raised more than \$102,200.

SUNY Poly remains committed in supporting diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives on campus and within our community. Dr. Mark Montgomery, Chief Diversity Officer, has excelled in student outreach to address their needs. Dr. Laursen thanked Dr. Montgomery for his leadership to the President's Cabinet, as well as throughout the campus community.

SUNY Poly was ranked 15th nationwide by *Study.com's* 2021 "Best Bachelor's in Civil Engineering Degree Programs." *College Consensus* ranked Poly #26 in the nation for "Best Value Colleges & Universities for 2021" and Poly ranked #71 in the nation on *Fortune's* 2021 list of top-rated online MBA programs.

The Poly Pantry recently received a grant to purchase a refrigerator to allow students to pick up fresh food beginning in the fall. SUNY Poly was one of seventeen campuses to receive an award, which was an initiative of SUNY Chancellor Malatras.

Dr. Laursen shared recognitions from across our five colleges, they are highlighted below:

College of Arts & Sciences

- National Geographic featured Professor Andrew Gallup's research on contagious yawning in an article entitled, "Many mammals are contagious yawners – this might be why."
- Dr. Kazuko Behrens, associate professor of psychology, published collaborative research articles related to child protection, child separation at the border and attachment transition. Additionally, the Society for Research in Child Development selected her poster as exemplifying international research related to child development ahead of their virtual biennial conference.

College of Business

- Received recognition from *Intelligent.com* listing SUNY Poly among the "Best Online Master's in Accounting Degree Programs for 2021".



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- Teams comprised of SUNY Polytechnic Institute students won the ‘Grand Prize,’ and ‘Best of Mohawk Valley’ in the 2021 Regional New York Business Plan Competition.

College of Engineering

- The American Iron and Steel Institute published new cold-formed steel research reports by Dr. Zhanjie Li and undergraduate student Damir Akchurin.
- 2017 Alumnus Thomas Lucas was recognized in the Buffalo News and other media outlets for his act of heroism. Lucas, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, was walking his dog near a partially frozen creek in western New York when he saw a dog and its owners fall through the ice. He immediately helped rescue the dog and one owner.

College of Health Sciences

- CHS is accepting applications for their new online Master of Science in Health Informatics. This program prepares students for technical and leadership positions related to the fast-growing areas of health information science and technology.
- Dr. Veronica Tichenor, professor of sociology, has been involved with sharing policing and public safety findings at a series of “Police Reform in the Mohawk Valley” forums.

College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering

- Received an award from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to power workforce training in energy storage technologies. This training will be led by Dr. Harry Efsthadias, Dr. Iulian Gherasoiu and Dr. Devendra Sadana.
- Dr. Ji Ung Lee, professor of nanoscale engineering, was recently featured by WAMC as part of the “Academic Minute” segment, where he shared his quantum research and how it might lead to a quantum computer in every home.

The Albany campus recently welcomed Chancellor Malatras and Acting SUNY Provost Dr. Shadi Shahedipour- Sandvik to campus where they announced the launch of the inaugural “Chancellor Distinguished Ph.D. Graduate Dissertation Awards.”

Wildcat Athletics has implemented COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure a successful return for six of our teams, this includes baseball, softball, men’s lacrosse, women’s volleyball, men’s volleyball and men’s soccer.

Update on Need-Based Financial Aid

Marybeth Lyons, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, stated that currently 85% of Poly students receive some form of financial aid, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Excelsior Scholarship Program. Ms. Lyons shared three years of funding, noting that just over 50% of Poly undergraduate students receive TAP. Of this group, 65% were identified as male, 35% identified as female and 30% are from Oneida County.



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The Excelsior Scholarships Program were started to help middle income students and eligibility is limited to NYS residents below a specific household adjusted income, in 2019-2020 that adjusted income increased to \$125,000. These scholarships are awarded after all other scholarships and awards are calculated. Also, this program has a post award residency stipulation where recipients are expected to remain in New York for four years after graduation. The scholarship then moves to a no-interest loan. Ms. Lyons shared some demographics for Excelsior, noting 71% male, 15% from underrepresented minority groups, 23% from Oneida County, all with an average GPA over 3.0.

Mrs. Lyons stated these programs play a significant role in student recruitment and retention.

Resolution on College of Business Name Change

Dean Lu joined the meeting to discuss a resolution to change the name of the College of Business Management to the College of Business. He advised SUNY Poly is accredited by AACSB, noting only 5% of business schools in the United State have this prestigious accreditation.

Dean Lu shared some background on the College of Business, noting its name has change several times over the past 20 years. The proposal was to drop the word management to stand as the College of Business. This change aligns the college with other AACSB accredited business schools and SUNY institutions.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the resolution, as presented, to change the College of Business Management name to the College of Business. All were in favor.

Student Representative Update

Brittany Mendoza, student representative to the College Council, shared a student update.

Ms Mendoza advised that Student Government at Utica (SGU) successfully merged their bylaws and policies/procedures, to create one organized governing document for the organization.

SGU elections are complete for the 2021 to 2022 academic year, with all positions filled, they are:

President – Jae Fish
Vice President – Andrew Burns
Treasurer – Shaun Wu
Secretary – Justin Savoy
College Council Representative – Avenash Kemraj

Ms. Mendoza shared recent SGU initiatives, including community service opportunities with Sodexo, multi-cultural meal events at the Campus Center, Black History Month and Women’s History Month social medial events, and trivia events in collaboration with DEI Clubs.



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The SUNY Student Assembly Spring Conference had three Poly students who attended.

Chair Destito thanked Ms. Mendoza for all her work for the College Council and the campus community.

Chair Destito asked if Poly promoted the vaccination for its students, noting on April 30th anyone 16-years or older can be vaccinated at a state run vaccination site.

Faculty Representative Report

Dr. Weber stated the Governance Council are updating their procedures; successfully created a new process on motions, which will help to speed up this process. She noted that if the local governing bodies at both campuses are in approval of a motion, then Governance Council will automatically approve.

Dr. Eisenbraun advised that the CNSE Senate has met once since our last College Council meeting. The actions they will take at their next meeting are similar actions that have been done at Utica campus, which includes motions from the University Faculty Senate.

Convening of Executive Session

At 5:02 p.m., Chair Destito requested a motion to convene an Executive Session under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law for purposes of a discussion related to matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

In addition to College Council members, she invited Eric Eisenbraun, Linda Weber, Mike Frame and Laurie Hartman to remain.

A motion to convene Executive Session was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Ford. All were in favor.

Reconvening of Public Meeting

At 5:37 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Thickstun to move out of executive session, and seconded by Mr. Greco. All were in favor.

Chair Destito noted the actions taken in Executive Session were confidential and related to matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.



Adjournment

At 5:38 p.m., a motion was made by Chair Destito and seconded by Mr. Ford to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Hartman

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