



MARCH 2021 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 18, 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, Donald Hanson and Linda Weber

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Destito convened the Public Meeting at 4:01 p.m., which was held via Zoom. She introduced herself as the newly appointed Chair of the Council, noting she is an alum of SUNY Poly.

Chair Destito thanked outgoing College Council Chair, Dr. Donald Hanson, for his years of service to SUNY Poly and the local community. She also thanked longtime Council members George Aney and Joseph Corasanti for their years of service, as they rotate off of the College Council.

Three additional newly appointed College Council members introduced themselves: Mitchell Ford, Charles “Sonny” Greco and William Thickstun. Mr. Thickstun noted he is a former employee of SUNY Poly.

Standing members Nichole Hinman and Brittany Mendoza introduced themselves. Christopher Giruzzi and Darlene Burns are also standing members, but were not in attendance.

Faculty representatives Dr. Eric Eisenbraun (Chair - CNSE College Senate) and Dr. Linda Weber (Chair – Utica Faculty Assembly), co-chairs of the SUNY Poly Governance Council, also introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chair Destito and seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the minutes of the October, 2020, meeting as presented. Ms. Hinman and Ms. Mendoza approved the minutes with Chair Destito, Mr. Ford, Mr. Greco, and Mr. Thickstun abstaining.



President's Report

Dr. Laursen introduced himself and provided an overview of SUNY Poly to the Council members.

Dr. Laursen also introduced the leadership team and thanked them for welcoming him to Poly, noting how impressed he has been by their commitment and personal involvement to the students and the campus community.

Dr. Laursen highlighted the 2021 US News and World Report rankings, including SUNY Poly being ranked #12 in the Best Regional Universities North Category, #2 in Top Public Schools, #5 in both Best Value Schools and Best Colleges for Veterans and #10 in Social Mobility.

Other notes of rankings include :

- PTK 2021 Transfer Honor Roll
- Top 50 Most Affordable Cyber Security Program
- Best 15 Accounting Schools in NY 2021
- Top 100 Public College with Best Return on Investment
- Recognized by USNWR for Best Online Options

Dr. Laursen thanked Chancellor Malatras for his leadership during this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic and provided an update on efforts to keep our faculty, staff and students safe. This includes mandatory masking/face covering, daily screening, and weekly pooled testing through SUNY Upstate's surveillance program. To date over 14,000 tests have been conducted, with a positivity rate of approximately .13%. Several Poly employees have been trained in contact tracing, allowing the Quarantine/Isolation team to quickly track positive cases and identify close contacts.

SUNY Poly continues to follow strict protocol for in-person classes, which includes social distancing, enhanced cleaning schedules, infrastructure upgrades and reducing on-campus population density where possible.

Currently slightly under 400 students reside on-campus in spring 2021. Currently, no visitors are allowed in the dorms.

Oriskany Hall has been set aside for residential students who need to go into quarantine or isolation. Dr. Laursen advised that there have been no COVID-19 positive residential students on campus to date.

Students are eager to participate in activities on campus and spring sports will resume this week, starting with a men's lacrosse game on March 20. Also, on-campus one-on-one recruitment opportunities for potential students are beginning shortly.

Dr. Laursen thanked Dr. Mark Montgomery for his efforts, noting he has emerged himself into the campus community and has done an excellent job reaching students, faculty and staff on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.



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Dr. Laursen shared an enrollment update with the Council. The update included data from the last 5-years, noting fall 2020 was one of the highest student enrollments in Poly history. Spring 2021 enrollment includes 23 new international students, following travel restrictions from fall 2020. First-year retention rate rose to 82.5%

Dr. Laursen shared the instructional method from the last four semesters and the anticipated projection for the fall 2021. While on-campus density has been lower the last two semesters because of COVID, we anticipate increased density on-campus for the fall.

SUNY Poly's Wildcat Field House is a NYS Department of Health vaccination point of distribution (POD). The POD recently reached 50k shots provided and SUNY Poly is happy to host this important initiative and honored to have some of our employees assist in this critical effort.

SUNY Poly's CGAM Face Shield Project, lead by College of Engineering Interim Dean, Dr. Michael Carpenter, recently received a Leading EDGE Award from Mohawk Valley EDGE. The award recognized Poly students, alumni, faculty and staff for creating approximately 4k face shields using the CGAM 3-D printing lab. Completed shields were provided to community partners.

Dr. Laursen noted recently signed transfer agreements with Hudson Valley Community College and Onondaga Community College. The agreements identify more than 20 transfer paths for students to transfer from these colleges to Poly.

CREE has donated \$3.5 million to SUNY Poly to establish the "Cree / Wolfspeed Scholarship" program and the Dr. John Edmond and Dr. John Palmour SUNY Polytechnic Endowed Faculty Chairs. These initiatives support the continued expansion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and are the first donation in support of endowed faculty positions at SUNY Poly.

Chair's Items

Chair Destito, along with Chancellor Malatras and President Laursen, attended a press conference at Proctor High School to announced the elimination of SUNY application fees for low-income students. The Chair was pleased to be a part of this initiative, which will help to allow access to underrepresented students.

Student Government Report

Ms. Mendoza shared highlights from the student body and noted this academic year has been a challenge. These highlights included: the successful transition to 100% virtual operations for the Student Government at Utica (SGU); the creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee added to the student bylaws; and SGU developing a process combining their policies and procedures with their bylaws.

Other highlights included the success of the ESports program; as well as the Wildcat Events Board hosting virtual, homegrown or socially distanced events each week. The events included Break the



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Tension Day, trivia in collaboration with DEI clubs, and social media in support of Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Faculty Representative Report

Dr. Eisenbraun described the faculty governance structure, noting it has recently been updated to have the CNSE College Senate Chair and the Utica Faculty Assembly Chair also serve as co-chairs of the Joint Governance Council. Since October 4, 2020, Dr. Eisenbraun and Dr. Weber are the co-chairs of the Governance Council and chair their respective bodies on their local campus.

Dr. Weber advised the Joint Governance Council implemented a new tracking system to streamline documents between governance groups.

Dr. Weber highlighted faculty efforts and success in pivoting from primarily in-person to primarily remote teaching.

Topics the Joint Governance Council is addressing are the new Federal guidelines on distance education as well as reinstating release time for faculty conducting research, especially for those under tenure review.

Adjournment

At 5:10 p.m., a motion was made by Chair Destito and seconded by Mr. Greco to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Hartman

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