



OCTOBER 2020 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

D. Hanson-Chairman, G. Aney, D. Burns, J. Corasanti, C. Giruzzi, N. Hinman, B. Mendoza
Administration:

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

Guests:

G. Arnold, E. Eisenbraun, L. Hartman, M. Lemire, L. Weber

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Hanson convened the Public Meeting at 4:02 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 Mr. Aney to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020, meeting as presented. All were in favor.

President's Report

Dr. Wang introduced Dr. Mark Montgomery, SUNY Poly's new Chief Diversity Officer, noting that he is an alumnus of Poly. Dr. Montgomery has a strong commitment to connecting with our student population on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Thank you to Dr. Kathleen Rourke for her leadership and efforts, of the past several years, as our interim dean for the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Joanne Joseph has recently been appointed as the new interim dean.

Dr. Wang thanked her leadership team, as well as faculty, staff and students, for the remarkable amount of work put into our Fall 2020 Plan, the plan outlines how to safely welcome students, faculty and staff back to campus. It was truly a campus-wide initiative as we engaged over 335 campus constituents through roundtable discussions and various reopening committees. This has been a tremendous learning experience for our campus, as we continue to work on concerns as we navigate this new climate.

As part of the Fall 2020 plan, we implemented a number of protocols to allow for the safe return of our students to campus, they were:

- Pre-arrival screening



SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

- 14-day precautionary quarantine if arriving from high-risk states
- 7-day precautionary quarantine for all other students
- Pooled testing upon arrival

Dr. Wang reviewed the process for pooled testing, noting it is a self-administered COVID-19 test using a mouth swab. Testing is through a program at SUNY Upstate Medical University and the turnaround time for each collection is 24-48 hours. Each pool include 12-samples and if a pool comes back as presumed positive, Upstate Medical can immediately go back and test each sample to determine the positive individual. Faculty, staff and students are required to pool testing on a bi-weekly timeframe.

Due to CDC guidelines, we have had to drastically reduce density in the classroom. Thank you to Matt Putnam, director of facilities, and Sean Clive, director of environment health and safety, for their hard work in setting up each classroom and lab to follow these guidelines.

All faculty, staff and students coming to campus are required to do a daily screening. The screening consists of predetermined health and travel questions to ensure it is safe for them to be on campus, once complete they will receive a green check mark. We are working closely with the Health Departments in Oneida and Albany Counties to perform contact tracing for anyone who tests positive and has been on campus.

SUNY System Administration has released a standardized sanctions guideline for students. M. Lyons advised the all SUNY campuses are required to follow these sanctions, they went into effect on October 1. These sanctioning guidelines have been shared with our students on several occasions. If students do not follow the guidelines, they will move through the student code of conduct process for any violations they receive.

In the 2021 US News and World Report rankings, SUNY Poly was 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.

Dr. Wang acknowledged and thanked our faculty for their continuous hard work throughout the pandemic. A few highlights include:

- Professor Nate Cady, in partnership with the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center and Ciencia, developed a 30-minute COVID-19 antibody test.
- Dean Andy Russell recently published a book called "The Innovation Delusion." The book discussed how Americans are being seduced by the false charms of innovation, causing us to chase novelty and pursue disruption while neglecting maintenance and infrastructure in both the public and private sectors.

Over the summer, we announced a new partnership with Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



Thanks to a partnership between SUNY, Air Force Research Laboratory, Oneida County and Griffiss Institute, a new open innovation space for research education and commercialization has been created at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park. The new name is Innovare Advancement Center.

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 are in support of the continued expansion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is the first donation at Poly in support of endowed faculty positions.

Hilltop Hall, our new 257-bed, SUNY’s first-ever zero-net carbon residential building, opened for the fall semester. Dr. Wang thanked Mike Frame, Marybeth Lyons, and Jen Adams, assistant vice president for student affairs, as they worked diligently throughout the pandemic to make sure we were able to finish construction on time.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Hanson thanked the College Council members for their dedication and hard work on the presidential search. He noted that the Council met in May and decided on three candidates to submit to Chancellor Johnson for consideration. However, with the recent departure of Chancellor Johnson, the search has been put on pause, with the way forward to be considered now that the new chancellor is in place.

Student Government Report

G. Arnold thanked the College Council for their support over the past year, stating she appreciates all the Council does in support of the student body. She introduced Brittany Mendoza, who is the incoming student representative to the Council for the 2020-2021 academic year. Brittany is a junior, with a dual major in Interactive Media and Game Design and Computer Science.

The new residential building, Hilltop Hall, is finished and open for the fall semester; currently there are over 200 first-year students living in this building. Hilltop is primarily double occupancy with bathrooms shared between roommates and thermostat controlled air units. Also, there is social space that can be enjoyed by the students.

Student Government Utica (SGU) concluded their fall elections and the following students have been sworn in:

Giovanni Harvey, President
Argirios Pappianis, Vice President
Haley Couch, Secretary
Gaby Sorto, Treasurer

The SGU EBoard held a professional development day today with a focus on effective leadership for 2020. Initiatives include amending the budget to include a line to make technology more accessible to



SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

students in need. SGU will also provide webcams to students who participate in student government meetings.

The ESports Club has over 90 players signed up to participate this year, this includes 63 players across 15 teams.

The Factory Times has recently created a website, where students submit publications on a wide variety of topics. It is located at thefactorytimes.com.

Residence Hall Association has decided to pause on events for the fall semester with the hopes of holding more in person activities in the spring semester.

Faculty Representative Report

Dr. Weber advised that the structure of faculty governance at Poly has recently been updated. With the new structure, the co-chairs of the Joint Governance Council are the chairs from the local campuses governing bodies (Utica Faculty Senate and CNSE College Senate.). As of October 4, 2020, Drs. Eisenbraun and Weber are the co-chairs of the Governance Council and chair their respective bodies on their local campus. She explained that there are eight committees of the Utica Faculty Senate and CNSE College Senate and the chairs from these committees sit on the Joint Governance Council.

On the Utica campus, the governing bodies have recently restructured and moved from an assembly to a representative structure, which is a senate.

Dr. Weber recognized the hard work and dedication put forth by our faculty at both campuses, as they moved quickly from a primarily in-person modality of teaching to a hybrid of remote teaching and in-person teaching.

Adjournment

At 4:45 p.m., Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Hartman

Laurie M. Hartman