

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SUNY COBLESKILL  
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING - November 13, 2013**

**Members Present:** Chair Olive Scott, Linda Cross, Cliff Hay, Phil King, Ginny Kintz, Kia Lamica.

**Excused:** Barbara DiCocco, Tracy Purcell, Susan Rightmyer and Eric Stein.

**Guests:** Acting President Debra Thatcher, Steve Ackerknecht, Regina LaGatta, Joel Smith, Tara Winter, Chuck Moran, Bruce Wright, Jennifer Regeski-Rotman, and Amy Healy.

**The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. and was audio-taped.**

**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 meeting. The motion was made by Phil King, seconded by Linda Cross and carried.

**PART I**

Members were emailed the agenda prior to the meeting. The following information was discussed at the meeting:

**Kia Lamica, Student Government Association:**

- Student Government Association finished its 2<sup>nd</sup> blood drive for the year; 124 units were drawn.
- The Student Government Association will co-host the Empty Bowls initiative on November 17 in Bouck Ballroom. Hand painted bowls donated from over 24 local restaurants will be available for purchase. All proceeds will be donated to Schoharie County Food Pantries.

**Jennifer Regeski-Rotman, Alumni President:**

- The Alumni Board held an all-day working retreat on October 25. Dr. Thatcher addressed the board. Amongst subjects discussed was succession planning due to expiration of several terms.
- Residence Hall Project - The delivery of the modular units is scheduled for November 15 and assembly will commence the following week.
- Ski Lodge discussions continue - may have a tie-in to STARTUP NY.

**Bruce Wright, Presiding Officer:**

- Bruce Wright announced that he is back to work four hours per day.
- Bruce met with Dr. Thatcher on November 12 to discuss nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence Committees. Letters from the President will be going out to committee members in the near future.
- Chuck Moran noted that he thinks it is admirable that Council Members have held coffees to speak to campus stakeholders.
- Chuck stated that Dr. Thatcher did a terrific job telling faculty what is going on at the Faculty Meeting held on October 9.
- Chuck announced that he attended the Faculty Chat Series at Coby's on October 30. Dr. Diane Dobry, director of Communications, discussed paranormal phenomenas. The event was very well attended.
- SUNY Administration is pushing seamless transfer. Students will have a pathway within the SUNY System.
- OPEN SUNY is another SUNY initiative that we should be mindful of.
- Review of new faculty - there is positive movement.

### Acting President Debra Thatcher

- The strategic plan has been reviewed by the Fiscal Affairs and Strategic Planning Committee of Faculty Governance and by the Cabinet. As a result, two strategic areas have been identified as priorities for 2013-2015.
  - *Retention – The Administrative Council together with academic deans will lead the retention effort. Dr. Thatcher and Vice President of Operations, Bonnie Martin, will meet with the Steering Committee next week to develop plans.*
  - *Solid Financial Base - assure a strong financial base. Raise enrollment and increase endowments.*
- 3 Presidential Coffees were held in October to engage campus members in discussions about the campus priorities of persistence, performance, principles and pride.
- START-UP NY – SUNY regulations for the program have been completed. The Ski Lodge is a potential site for the program.
- Biodigester Project – The SUNY Construction Fund is managing the 2020 project to build three hydraulic mix anaerobic digesters; one each for SUNY Cobleskill, Delhi and Morrisville. The potential site is between the 2<sup>nd</sup> lagoon and the Facilities Building. A timeline has been established with October 2016 being the earliest possible construction date.
- Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) – The completion date has been set for May 11, 2014.
- Academic Program Development – Several new programs are underway. We are optimistic that they will receive approval.
- The provost has offered ten, \$1,000 mini-grants to faculty to do collaborative projects. Many applications have been received.
- A Faculty Development Institute to mentor new faculty has been implemented.
- Operations:
  - HR – In accordance with the UUP contract and a System decision, all faculty, professionals, and management confidential employees have received a \$500 increase (pro-rated for part-time employees) to base salary. In addition, some of these employees will receive bonuses based upon supervisor recommendations.
  - ITS – The Information Technology Services Department is holding a working retreat on November 14.
  - Facilities – The search for a new Director of Facilities Management resulted in three candidates being interviewed. The VP of Operations is examining campus feedback and the recommendation of the Search Committee before making a recommendation for hire to the President.
- Joint Cabinet Retreat – The SUNY Cobleskill and Delhi cabinets met on November 1 to discuss matters regarding academic programs, employee training and professional development, ITS, emergency planning and preparedness, recruitment, business practices, SUNY’s vision of shared services and shared positions. We are doing things that we couldn’t do if we didn’t have shared services; such as, IR Analyst, Web Master & IT Procurement positions.
- Recruitment – There has been an increase of 25% in applications for fall 2014. We recently welcomed a record number of 224 students at the November 9 Admissions Open House.
- Opinform – Cobleskill hosted a system-wide event on October 17. These events are held at SUNY campuses across New York State. We welcomed 73 high school counselors and more than 34 admissions professionals from across New York State. Many visitors commented on the beautification upgrades to the campus.
- Allergens Dining Room – CAS has created an allergens-free dining area in Champlin Hall. GENERations is a dining concept that addresses dietary restrictions due to allergies.

### Advancement:

- The Foundation Board annual meeting is scheduled for November 21.

- The Phonathon for the Annual Fund is underway.
- The Jack Ingel's Industry Day dinner on November 12 attracted over 80 participants. Council members commented on the diversity of the attendees and the exceptional time enjoyed by all.
  - **Note: Council Member Phil King attended the Global Foundries Open House and commented that SUNY Cobleskill was not listed on the map.**
  - **VP Regina LaGatta said that she would look into.**
- Campus Activities:
  - Feed the Need Campaign is underway.
  - A Veteran's Day spaghetti dinner was held on November 11 to support the organization, Wounded Warriors. The event was a huge success and well attended.
  - **Council Member Cliff Hay noted that we need to reach out to returning Vets.**
  - Assistant Vice President Winter stated that Matt LaLonde, Director of Veteran's Affairs for SUNY Cobleskill and Dehi, is working on a marketing plan with the Admissions Office.
  - **Council Member Linda Cross noted that a training program for EMTs and Firefighters should be considered.** It was noted that administration will research.
  - Council Member Linda Cross thanked the college for hosting the annual Holiday Farmer's Bazaar on November 15 & 16 in Bouck Ballroom. There will be over 33 stations with a range of price levels.
  - **Linda suggested listing the vendor list on CobyNow. VP Regina LaGatta will look into.**
- Athletics:
  - The 2013 Women's Cross Country Team won its fifth NEAC Conference Championship; the 2013 Men's Cross Country Team was the NEAC Championship runner-up.
  - The Equestrian Western Team is ahead of Morrisville, SUNY Albany, Colgate and Keuka. We expect to have a high point rider competing at Nationals.

## **PART II - College Council Members:**

### **Chairs Report:**

- Dr. Scott encouraged all Council Members to attend Chancellor Zimpher's State-of-the-State Address on January 14 in Albany.
- Dr. Scott noted that she and retired Council Member, Jeanne Kane, attended Jack Ingel's dinner on November 12.
- Dr. Scott applauded the efforts of all who planned the fabulous Veteran's Day Dinner on November 11.
- Dr. Scott thanked Dr. Thatcher for scheduling the President's Round Table Event on December 4.
- Council Members invited campus stakeholders to share their thoughts at two coffee sessions on October 9 and November 13 .
- Dr. Scott announced that a reception honoring retired Council Members, Tom Greenlees, Jeanne Kane and Barbara Bartlett, will be held at on November 13 from 3:30 - 5:30 in the American Heritage Restaurant.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ACT :**

- Dr. Scott, Cliff Hay, and Eric Stein attended this year's ACT Conference which was held October 18 thru 20 at Gideon Putnam in Saratoga.
- Chancellor Nancy Zimpher spoke on Sunday. As always, she was enthusiastic and focused.
- Angela Henry, Empire State College, was named the new President of ACT.

**New Business:**

1. Dr. Scott presented resolutions affirming contributions to SUNY Cobleskill by retired Council Members, Jeanne Kane and Barbara Bartlett.
  - Dr. Scott noted that Barbara Bartlett served on two presidential search committees (not one) and that Barbara served on the Academic (not Academia) Restructuring Committee. Dr. Scott will make the necessary corrections.
  - Phil King made a motion to approve the resolutions, with the above changes. Linda Cross seconded the motion. The motion was approved and carried.
2. College Council Members will attend Classroom Tours immediately following the November 13 meeting:
  - BADM 134 (Marketing) - Marilu Marcillo-Gomez (Phil King)
  - ECON 123 (Micro Economics) - Christina Trees (Olive Scott)
  - AGEN 241 - (Ag. Equipment) - (Linda Cross & Cliff Hay)
3. New Council Member Orientation will be held at the next Council Meeting which will be held on February 12.

A motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. was made by Cliff Hay, seconded by Ginny Kintz, approved, and carried.

**The next meeting will be held on February 12 at 9:00 am in 203 Knapp Hall.**

**Respectfully submitted by,  
Amy K. Healy**

**Distribution: College Council, Vice Presidents, Deans, Department Chairs, Presiding Officer of the Faculty, The Alumni Association, The College Foundation, Van Wagenen Library.**