

**College Council Meeting**

**Monday, August 29, 2022**

**5:30 pm Council Meeting**

**Lake Lodge**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Patricia Fogarty, Mr. Matthew DiRado, Mr. George Welch, Mr. Charlie Craig, Mr. Ron Nasca, Mr. Jack Benjamin, Ms. Carrie Redman, Mr. Austin Caporin

**Also Present:** President Dr. Steve Mauro, Vice Presidents Dr. Craig Clark, Mr. Timothy Sortore, Ms. Betsy Penrose and Dr. Gregory Sammons, Chief of Staff Ms. Wendy Dresser-Recktenwald, Executive Director Ms. Danielle White, and Executive Assistant to the President Ms. Trish Haggerty.

**Absent:** Mr. Joseph Pelych

1. **Call Meeting to Order-Chair Fogarty**

Chair Fogarty called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting-Chair Fogarty**

Motion to approve minutes from April 27, 2022, meeting made by Charlie Craig. Seconded by George Welch. Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

1. **College Council Chair’s Report-Chair Fogarty**

Chair Fogarty shared that she has been extremely impressed with Dr. Mauro and the way things have started this semester. She commented on how well attended the Opening Remarks were and how great the message was, as well as New Student Convocation. She said that the students were very engaged with the student week of welcome events including the club/organization fair following convocation. She also shared that last night was the student carnival that precedes the first day of classes.

She asked all who were involved in the Student Convocation to relay the college council’s thanks for a great start to the 22-23 semester.

She also shared that herself and George Welch have applications in to continue in their council positions. She has also asked Jack Benjamin to apply for full membership instead of serving in his current role as the alumni representative.

She asked that everyone make an effort to attend the Inauguration on October 20th.

Chair Fogarty introduced Austin Caporin the new student representative. She gave a bit of a background on Austin. She asked everyone to introduce themselves to Austin.

1. **President’s Updates: Dr. Steve Mauro**

Dr. Mauro thanked Chair Fogarty for her kind words. He shared that when he first presented to this group, he had three slides he shared about our strategies and priorities that we planned to work on. He said since that meeting his administration team and the whole college have been busy digging in and working on these strategic priorities. Dr. Mauro gave a recap of Opening Remarks. Pioneer Pride was his first point. He said we welcomed 40 new employees to Alfred State. He said he was able to recognize six groups on campus who have gone above and beyond over the last year and award those groups lunch on him. He shared that we recognized, facilities, English & Humanities, Welding/Electrical, Student records and Financial Aid, and Health and Wellness. Pioneer Purpose is point number two. Our purpose is to come out stronger after adversity, including COVID, enrollment decreases, and other adverse situations. He shared that on a scale of 1-5 our overall employee satisfaction was a 4 out of 5 based on a survey with almost 300 responses. The number one reason people were happy was the people here at Alfred State. Co-workers, students and making an impact in students lives. He shared that he then asked what we needed to be successful moving forward. Enrollment was the top response, planning financially for the future, and development and support for our faculty and staff. Our Pioneer Promise is to start working as a team to propel the boat forward in this common direction. How will we invest in the future of Alfred State? He shared there are three things we are going to invest in…A-Attract new Students, S-support student success and C-Create a caring community. And we call this the ASC Challenge.

Attracting New Students; we are investing in increasing the number of students that visit campus, offering free applications, create and expand new academic sections for programs with waitlists, and we are increasing the number of athletic teams we have that will help with recruitment and retention of athletes interested in those sports. We are measuring the outcome through enrollment tracking specifically through these new initiatives. Our goal is to surpass 3400 in enrollment. An investment of $750k has been budgeted.

We are bringing on a new student success coach, increasing student engagement and retention through clubs and organizations as well as student employment. Removing registration barriers is another area of focus. We also want to optimize the financial support we have available to students. We will monitor and follow up with students who might be nearing financial distress. Our investments in this portion would be $225k. Our goal is a 71% retention rate, which would be an increase from our current 68%.

The last part of this plan is to cultivate a caring community. Compensation and salaries are a large part of this plan. We are evaluating and looking at salaries across the college. We have adjusted salaries already to a portion of the faculty & staff. We are increasing avenues of communication through such ways as fireside chats at the president’s home, we will also hold community virtual meetings and let people submit questions. Leadership team members will be visiting their areas on a regular basis as well. We are also moving to provide supervisor support and mentoring programs for new employees. Our goal here is to increase the overall employee satisfaction from 4 out of 5, to 4.2 out of 5. He says now more than ever we need to bring positive energy. We are working aggressively towards these goals, but we need to remember to have fun while doing it. Dr. Mauro shared that much of the investment in salaries went to Wellsville and Northland where salary disparity was the greatest.

1. **Action Items –**

**Parking Regulation Update- Seeking Approval – VP Sammons**

VP Sammons shared the change in a recap of the sought changes. He shared that our current parking lots do not necessarily align with the residence halls and what year students live where. He also shared that the freshmen parking lot is the furthest away from campus and res halls which can cause added stress and retention concerns from freshmen. George Welch motioned; Jack Benjamin seconded. Approved by all.

**Executive Session:**

Chair Fogarty asked for a motion to move into Executive Session. Charlie Craig motioned to enter executive session and Ron Nasca seconded. Executive Session was entered at 6:18pm. George Welch moved to end Executive session, and Charlie Craig seconded. Executive Session ended at 6:33pm

1. **Senior Staff Updates: (Brief reports only)**

* Human Resources/CCET **(Chief of Staff Dresser-Recktenwald)**

COS Recktenwald shared in the interest of time you can see her attached report.

* Student Affairs **(Vice President Sammons)**

Dr. Sammons shared that they are partnering with a tele med company out of NYC to offer more mental health counseling, they have added e-bikes, hammocks and Adirondack chairs around campus, vitamin D lamps etc. all in the interest of increasing ways for students to de-stress.

* Enrollment Management **(Vice President Betsy Penrose)**

VP Penrose shared that Dr. Mauro covered most of her report. We are currently running a little over what our budgeted enrollment was. We are at 3320 vs. 3250 budgeted. She should have comparative data in a few weeks. Data shows that Allegany County and Steuben counties are where we lost the most students. We met our goals at high income and low-income ranges, but not at middle income range. We had over 1000 students at orientation on campus this year. Lots going on for 2023 as well. Free applications are active now, and out of state recruiting is being amped up for PA and NJ.

* Academic Affairs / Economic Development **(Vice President Clark)**

VP Clark shared that Civil Engineering Technology has been approved to move forward as a new degree. And several other new programs are at SUNY. Academic Affairs had a Student Launch session for faculty and staff during PDW, that went well, and gave faculty a lot of tools to better help our students. He also shared that all departments are engaged and working on recruiting and retention. Chair Fogarty thanked VP Clark for all his hard work in changing the relationship with faculty. Dr. Mauro seconded that. Dr. Clark also shared that the Middle States meetings will be taking place in coming weeks.

* Business Affairs **(Vice President Tim Sortore)**

VP Sortore was introduced to the group by Chair Fogarty. He shared the updated financial plan. He shared the TAP Gap change and how much that has affected our bottom line. NYS had two other new initiatives this year to help us support institutional hires. There are several capital projects going on, the biggest one is the infrastructure project, which will take 2-3 years. Ag Science Renovation is underway, and we have approved the design, and are currently working on the surge plan for space.

* Institutional Advancement – (**Executive Director. Danielle White**)

ED White shared that fundraising is off to a good start. She shared that PS Dinner is Friday October 21, and Homecoming and Family weekend will have the annual tent and Alumni end zone party. She also shared that they are working with several consulting firms to help us launch our next capital campaign. There are also several big donor projects underway on campus. Doc Bruce lab is almost complete. Joe Laraiso lab is nearing a finish. Wilder & Linnebal Hall of excellence on SAT campus is finishing up. And the Harris project is in the design phase. Chapters are still meeting, and they are also establishing affinity groups. Chair Fogarty asked College Council to make sure they all donate.

1. **Constituency Reports**

* Alumni Representative **(Mr. Jack Benjamin)-** shared that they are trying to figure out the new culture of alumni post COVID. He said they are working to try to get more involvement. He said that they are not sure if this is a short-term issue or a new trend with engagement. He said they are also trying to figure out how they can continue to recognize the best of our alumni. They also want to better leverage our successful alumni as marketing tools for enrollment.
* Faculty Representative **(Mr. Matthew DiRado) –** Matt shared that was a digital literacy assessment sent out to our incoming students last Tuesday and they are awaiting the results.
* Student Representative **(Austin Caporin) –** Austin shared that they have their first meeting next week and they will be announcing the MSCHE.
* ACT Update **(Mr. Ronald Nasca) –** Mr. Nasca reminded everyone of the upcoming ACT Conference and said he would report on it the next time.

**9. Unfinished Business – N/A**

**10. New Business – N/A**

**Meeting Minutes Recorded by:**

Ms. Trish Haggerty

Secretary to the College Council

**Strategic Priority #6 Campus Renewal and Resource Optimization**

**Student Parking changes – G. Sammons**

**Strategic Priority #1 Advanced Hands-on Learning**

**Strategic Priority #2 Inclusion and Belonging**

**Strategic Priority #3 Team Investment and Professional Growth**

**Strategic Priority #4 Partnership and Impact**

**Strategic Priority #5 Student Development and Support**

**Strategic Priority #6 Campus Renewal and Resource Optimization**

**Strategic Priority #7 Enrollment and Recruitment**