

College Council Meeting September 12, 2022

Voting Members Present: Mr. Basch, Dr. Venables, Mr. Bettez, Ms. Noble (remote), Mr. Law (remote).

Campus Administration Present: President Wheeler; Interim Provost Lyman; Vice Presidents Blaisdell, Gant, Halstead, Pacheco Dunn, Marks, and Wright.

Interim Chairman's Report:

- Mr. Basch called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He recognized President Wheeler and asked Council members to introduce themselves.
- Mr. Basch asked the president to keep the College on its upward trajectory of success and offered his support. The president thanked Mr. Basch for his kind words.

President's Report:

- President Wheeler thanked everyone for the warm welcome he's received since assuming the presidency. It has been a great experience so far engaging with campus community members.
- The president shared feedback on recent campus events (e.g., Welcome Address; recognition of Chancellor's Awards recipients and new and newly promoted faculty). He values the symbolic events that have meaning and character for the campus community.
- President Wheeler said that the College's students are phenomenal. He's been out meeting and greeting an array of students across campus, in classes and more.
- The president said that he carries the College's mission statement in his daily notebook. He focuses on the core mission: continuing to move students into and through their career at the College, achieving their degrees and credentials; and being a value added to the community locally and globally.
- As he's only 60 days into the presidency, President Wheeler said he is developing a vision for the campus that he plans to share at inauguration in spring 2023. The president will continue to engage with campus stakeholders in the coming months.
- The president noted that the provost search is underway, and he acknowledged Interim Provost Lyman for her contributions to campus since 2019. The president also recognized Vice President Gant, who is leaving at the end of the month for a new opportunity.
- President Wheeler said he is launching a set of listening tours. As he goes through these, the president will be re-establishing a version of the President's Council to expand his campus network.
- President Wheeler spoke broadly about the state of higher education. He said that the Council knows SUNY New Paltz is a special place and holds a special position in the community and region. Yet, we also know that higher education is facing a lot of stressors, economic, social, political, etc. He said he is fortunate to be working together with a team who can work through each and every issue, sometimes concurrently.
- Mr. Basch thanked President Wheeler for his leadership so far and said that the president has a great team and outlook, and that we're all in it together.

University Designation:

- President Wheeler said that the state redesignated what is considered university status at the Board of Regents January meeting. SUNY New Paltz meets the standard to be identified as a “University” and not a “College.” Several other comprehensive institutions in the system meet this standard as well.
- The president said that comprehensive campuses are planning to collectively seek this new status before the Chancellor and Board of Trustees. The president added that it would not change research or other demands already in place for New Paltz and would just recognize that we meet the new bar as a “University.”
- President Wheeler said this change is a plus for New Paltz because it says the institution has done such great work advancing its mission that we can use this recognition.
- The president said he presented the designation to the executive body of the Faculty Senate and the full Senate, in his Welcome Address, with each of the deans and all the vice presidents. See attached senate resolution.
- Dr. Venables asked whether the College’s name would change. President Wheeler said each institution is allowed to have more than one official name. The campus can have one primary name and four-five secondary names that may be used. The president said our primary, official name wouldn’t change and that secondary references to the “University” could occur. This approach would not require changes to logos, signage or other materials.
- Mr. Basch asked about costs. President Wheeler said there are almost no costs outside of a filing fee.
- Ms. Noble asked if other colleges and universities are changing their names officially. The president said every comprehensive in SUNY is changing to “University” except for two that do not qualify for this shift. The president added that New York is the last state in the country to redesignate in this way.
- Vice President Wright said many of the comprehensive campuses are keeping their primary name the same (e.g., SUNY Oneonta).
- President Wheeler asked for an endorsement from Council members on this approach. While a vote is not required, Mr. Basch asked for a motion to endorse the “University” designation. Dr. Venables moved and Ms. Noble seconded. The endorsement was unanimous.

Budget Update:

- See attached PowerPoint slides.
- Vice President Halstead said at the beginning of last fiscal year the College had anticipated revenues of about \$63 million and estimated expenditures of about \$71.1 million. The projected deficit was \$8.1 million.
- The vice president talked about revenue (e.g., tuition target) and expenditure (e.g., personal/temp. service; utilities) factors through the year that led to the use of \$6 million in reserves to cover the campus’s operating deficit. Initially, she had anticipated using about \$8.1 million.
- Dr. Venables asked if there is any funding left in reserves. The vice president said that the College is in what SUNY considers a healthy range of reserves (10-25% of last year’s operating expenditure) at 14%. The College’s reserve is currently at about \$18 million.

- Moving to Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Vice President Halstead said we're almost one quarter through the year. She spoke about financial factors this year, including:
 - the College ratcheted down its projected enrollment figures;
 - SUNY did not increase tuition, held at flat rate;
 - direct state taxpayer support held flat;
 - expenditure increases, including in collective bargaining.
- Dr. Venables asked if the deficit is due to fewer enrollments. Vice President Halstead said it is a combination of fewer enrollment and increased costs.
- President Wheeler said that persistence and retention are as critical as new enrollments. If we don't retain students, we're going to always be pursuing prospective student numbers that you can't make up when there is a demographic cliff.
- Mr. Basch said the College is in an ideal position in the Hudson Valley. The president said that we are not only a value-added to the community, but we are a value at our price point, especially relative to other private institutions.
- The president said that the College needs to add revenue streams beyond tuition and state taxpayer support. He said that Vice President Marks and her team have been phenomenal in this area, leading the effort to increase non-tuition-based revenue.
- Mr. Basch said that after 10 years of flat state taxpayer support, increased funding should be considered. The College is a wonderful investment for taxpayers into the economic future of the Hudson Valley and the state.
- The president said we can use education, vision and data to show the benefit of state investments in the College.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- After Mr. Law joined the meeting, Mr. Basch moved to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2022, meeting. Mr. Bettez moved on the motion and Ms. Noble seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Wrap-Up:

Mr. Basch said the next meeting is scheduled for November 16, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Basch adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Winters
Director of Community and Government Relations

Resolved: SUNY New Paltz Should Adopt the “University” Designation

Whereas, the SUNY Board of Regents voted and adopted amended Regulations relating to the definition of “university,” effective January 26, 2022;

Whereas, according to this redesignation, SUNY New Paltz qualifies as a university with NO change to its mission, teaching loads, research obligations, etc.;

Whereas, In many ways this redesignation is recognition of the outstanding work already done by the campus;

Whereas, All but two of the SUNY comprehensives are eligible because of the graduate degrees they offer, and they are all seeking the designation;

Whereas, There is little cost other than a filing fee and no need to change out signage because we will still be SUNY New Paltz;

Whereas, This is not an effort to become a university center;

Whereas, SUNY New Paltz is a regional public comprehensive that meets the NYS threshold for university designation and will remain so;

Whereas, The SUNY Board of Trustees are scheduled to take up this matter during their September 20-21, 2022, meeting and so time of the essence;

Whereas, The Chancellor has asked that all schools anticipating a name designation submit confirmation of this prior to the SUNY Trustee’s meeting;

Be it therefore resolved that the SUNY New Paltz Faculty Senate approves the adoption of the “University” designation.

College Council

September 12, 2022

Presented by:

Michele Halstead, Vice President for Administration & Finance

FY 21-22 Status of Core Instructional Budget
September 12, 2022

REVENUE

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Revenue</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>Over/under</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 24,239,526	\$ 23,396,612	\$ 23,396,612	\$ (842,915)
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 22,776,773	\$ 21,841,013	\$ 21,841,013	\$ (935,760)
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 47,016,300	\$ 45,237,624	\$ 45,237,624	\$ (1,778,675)
State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 16,396,097	\$ 16,396,097	\$ 401,797
Total Revenue	\$ 63,010,600	\$ 61,633,721	\$ 61,633,721	\$ (1,376,878)

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenditure</u>	<u>Total Anticipated Expenditure</u>	<u>Over/under</u>
Personal Service	\$ 58,969,156	\$ 56,852,368	\$ 56,852,368	\$ 2,116,788
Temporary Service	\$ 5,472,778	\$ 4,978,219	\$ 4,978,219	\$ 494,559
Utilities	\$ 2,596,600	\$ 2,772,663	\$ 2,772,663	\$ (176,063)
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,116,674	\$ 3,058,149	\$ 3,058,149	\$ 1,058,525
Total Expenditures	\$ 71,155,208	\$ 67,661,399	\$ 67,661,399	\$ 3,493,809

Projected Deficit (use of reserves) **\$ (8,144,608)** **\$ (6,027,678)**

FY 2022-2023 Status of Core Instructional Budget Initial

REVENUE

	<u>Budget</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 23,648,220
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 22,356,408
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 46,004,629
State Support	\$ 15,994,300
Total Revenue	\$ 61,998,929

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Initial Budget</u>
Personal Service	\$ 60,087,246
Temporary Service	\$ 5,423,417
Utilities	\$ 2,764,820
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,162,428
Total Expenditures	\$ 72,437,911

Projected Deficit (use of reserves) \$ (10,438,982)

Questions?