

SUNY New Paltz Council Meeting
May 10, 2023

Voting Members Present: Mr. Basch, Mr. Bettez, Dr. Venables, Mr. Law, Mr. Uchitelle, Ms. Noble (remote), Ms. Hicks (Student Association president), Dr. Scott-Childress (non-voting faculty representative) and Ms. Bishop (non-voting alumni representative).

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

Interim Chairman's Report:

- Mr. Basch called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- Mr. Basch proposed approving the minutes from the February 9, 2023, meeting. Mr. Law moved on the motion and Mr. Bettez seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Mr. Basch complimented the inauguration events and the positive attention they brought to the University, and he recognized Vice Presidents Wright and Marks for their efforts. He added that the inauguration was inspirational, successful and achieved the campus's desired outcomes.
- Mr. Basch recognized Interim Provost Lyman for her service to the University and wished her well in retirement.
- Mr. Basch reminded the Council about commencement weekend.
- Mr. Basch introduced Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management Stella Turk, who assumed her new position this spring. Mr. Basch asked how things are going with enrollment. The interim vice president said while we still have challenges, the University is not far from its enrollment goals.

President's Report:

- President Wheeler said that the University celebrated Interim Provost Lyman's service and forthcoming retirement. We are preparing for the arrival of our new provost, Dr. William McClure, who will begin on July 6. The president said that Dr. McClure is presently at Queens College and understands the public university environment in New York.
- The president spoke about the transition in Enrollment Management with Jess Binns-Dickinson's previous departure and Interim Vice President Turk's appointment to this leadership role for the next year. He said the interim vice president has been remarkable in terms of getting to know the enrollment side more and having familiarity with the landscape from her previous registrar, faculty and advising roles.
- Speaking about enrollment, President Wheeler said the University accepted 9,000 first-year students while seeking a yield enrollment target of 1,375. We have 1,200 deposits to date and 300 hundred waitlisted. As such, the president said the distance to our enrollment goal is not that far, but we also have to protect against summer melt. Interim Vice President Turk spoke about the onboarding system – "Take Flight" – that we started working on last summer to address this concern. The president said when students don't select the University, they typically choose the SUNY university centers. He added that

this is an indicator of the strength of the institution, the programs we offer, and the quality and caliber of our students. The president said our challenge is to improve our yield.

- President Wheeler noted that he received outreach from SUNY asking if the University could receive more EOP students because other institutions in the system are not reaching their enrollment goals. He said this is a signal that we are a destination of choice for students, and SUNY recognizes that we deliver on the promise of what we can offer them.
- President Wheeler thanked Mr. Basch for his comments about inauguration. He shared feedback from a faculty member who said she was among those who had been skeptical about inauguration for all of its pomp and circumstance. This was despite the fact that the president said in many public settings that the inauguration is about the institution and not him. The president said this faculty member added that she and other skeptics walked away from the inauguration events positively, feeling like they were part of a community. The president emphasized that inauguration was about anchoring the strength of our academic resources and partnerships and a celebration of the community.
- President Wheeler said recipient names for this year's Chancellor's Awards were shared with the community, along with our latest SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Kevin Caskey. Caskey is professor in the School of Business.
- The president said that our commencement ceremonies are approaching. He noted that commencement speakers include Warner Music Group CEO Robert Kyncl and New York State Supreme Court Justice Kevin Bryant. Both speakers are SUNY New Paltz alumni.
- President Wheeler highlighted five items coming up in the new academic year that are all consistent with strengthening the position of the University. These include: invest in campus faculty and staff; start a new strategic planning process; plan for mid-cycle review for Middle States reaccreditation; plan for the University's 200th anniversary in 2028; and work further toward a comprehensive fundraising campaign.
- The president said that the experiences he had this year and what he likes to think are wins/successes are also attributed to the strong relationship between himself and Dr. Scott-Childress. He added that this is shown in terms of regular meetings and talking through and demonstrating the collaborative nature of what we do. The president said the same approach was modeled with Ms. Hicks and students in SA/RHSA.
- Mr. Uchitelle asked about EOP dynamics and said it sounds like our trend line is crossing trend lines from other institutions. The president said he can only monitor other institutional data when it is made public. But he can say that some of the other comprehensives are not attracting a base number of students, so SUNY is looking to where they can be redirected to stay within the system and have turned to our campus for enrollment opportunities.
- Vice President Blaisdell said that the University passed its original 150-EOP student enrollment goal today with 151 students and extended the goalpost further. The EOP team worked hard to reach this target with enrollment colleagues and other partners.
- Mr. Law spoke about his time as an EOP student at the University and how SUNY asked the institution to increase EOP enrollments. He said there is a tradition that EOP works well at SUNY New Paltz.

Student Code of Conduct Updates:

- See attached document – “Summary of Proposed Significant Changes to Student Handbook.”
- Vice President Blaisdell said the code of conduct comes before the Council when there are substantial changes. She added there are also things that cannot be changed that are included per SUNY policy, state law or federal law, and go into the handbook verbatim.
- Since the vice president joined the University six years ago, she said the student handbook is reviewed constantly and adjusted to reflect our community’s values. She noted that the latest attached changes all reflect a social or restorative justice approach to allow students to make corrections after mistakes and be successful.
- The vice president walked the Council through the attached handbook changes that include: discontinuing F* grades for suspensions/expulsions; redesigning the Initial Conference; providing a restorative justice approach after a suspension is served; adding education to certain Good Samaritan situations; updating Sexual Assault/Misconduct working for consistency with current legal guidance; and updating language across the handbook when title changes or wording choice provides clarification.
- Dr. Venables asked how often the University has problems with student conduct. The vice president said that we have a busy conduct office and try to mediate and manage situations. She added sometimes matters rise to the level of charges and other times staff can work with students to manage conflict.
- Ms. Bishop spoke about the greater focus on student conduct compared to her time as a student and employee at the University in the 1970s and 1980s. She then joined Vice President Blaisdell in a conversation about social media relevance in this area.
- Speaking about student reentry to campus, Mr. Law asked what is being done behind the scenes to hold the student accountable so that there are no further conduct issues after their return. Vice President Blaisdell said any students who return to campus would be under one year of disciplinary probation, a first-level warning.
- Mr. Uchitelle said that Ulster County has a restorative justice center but has a lot of work to do to fulfill that promise. With the proposed student handbook changes, he said he wasn’t hearing what’s being done to restore justice for victims, if any. He wanted to hear more about the victim component of the restorative justice philosophy perhaps with a future update. The vice president said there is a lot to cover there, and she would welcome a conversation about this with Mr. Uchitelle. She said they may have a lot to share that’s in common with their respective work.
- Mr. Bettez moved to approve the proposed Student Code of Conduct Updates. Mr. Uchitelle seconded and the changes were approved unanimously.

Budget Update:

- See attached PowerPoint slides.
- Vice President Halstead shared details from the state’s enacted budget that included the most substantial increases for SUNY in 20 years (e.g., \$163 million increase in direct state taxpayer support; \$1.6 billion in capital support; other provisions). She said we’re pleased for the investment in SUNY but do not yet have information on specific campus allocations. The vice president added that we are hoping for information on the campus’s upcoming direct state taxpayer allocation around June of this year.

- Vice President Halstead walked the Council through revenue and expenditure comparisons between April 30, 2023, and April 30, 2022. She said we exceeded our tuition revenue target for the year by 3%, which is great news. The University hasn't received all of our current state support allocation yet but should by June. For expenditures, the vice president said we're mostly in line with expenses from last year. She added that we're still seeing a reduction in staff and 10% of budgeted positions are vacant. She noted that utility costs have increased and supplies, travel, contracts and equipment are in line with last year.
- Vice President Halstead looked at the estimated expenses remaining through the year to forecast the budget's closeout. In sum, the University went from an anticipated deficit of \$10.5 million at the beginning of the fiscal year to \$6.5-7 million at the end of the year. The vice president said one caveat to this calculation is that UUP has not yet settled their contract with the state. When they do, any salary increases will be retroactive. While the vice president doesn't anticipate these expenditures hitting this year budget, monies will be held in reserve for this purpose.
- Dr. Venables asked why it is difficult to attract employees. Mr. Bettez said it's part of a broader 'great resignation' trend that is impacting employers. Mr. Uchitelle said he sees it in the county and his private sector work. He added that there is a significant increase in the cost of living in this community, putting upward pressure on wages to make up that difference.
- Looking ahead to next year, Vice President Halstead said the University is hoping to enroll an increased number of students to support higher tuition revenues, receive increased direct state taxpayer support and reduce our budget's overall unmet need.
- President Wheeler said that the plans he is putting forward are based on the need to identify more non-tuition-based revenue (e.g., scholarship, research, intellectual property). He added that the solution is not just in growing more students.
- Mr. Law asked for examples of unmet financial needs for the budget. The vice president said the budget's unmet portion is the gap of money that is needed to balance the budget between revenues and expenditures.

Wrap-Up:

- Mr. Basch thanked the Council for a great year and said he would see everyone at commencement.
- Mr. Basch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Venables moved on the motion and Mr. Law seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Winters
Director of Community & Government Relations

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO STUDENT HANDBOOK
May, 2023

1. Discontinue the practice of assigning F* grades for suspensions/expulsions

- a. When a student is suspended or expelled from the University, current policy states that the student shall receive F* as a grade. This affects the student's semester GPA; considerably affecting a student's overall GPA. Considering a sanction of suspension or expulsion already results in the student losing financial aid/acquiring a bill (no refunds) and temporary or permanent separation from the institution, affecting GPA with F grades is punitive rather than restorative (focusing on the student's ability to learn from the experience). We are proposing we shift to assigning W grades for students who are suspended or expelled. Transcript notations would be still be applied based on the assigned sanction.

2. Redesign the Initial Conference to expedite process and provide alternative solutions

- a. Allow students to tell their story to the initial conference officer (ICO) should they choose to have this person be a decision maker in their case. In practice, when a student negates a charge, they often want an opportunity to explain their side of their story rather than wanting a committee hearing to be convened. Currently, when a student negates a charge at the initial conference meeting, the ICO cannot hear their story and must refer the case to a committee hearing.
- b. At the discretion of The Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards or designee all deadlines and time requirements in the Student Handbook may be extended for good cause and/or as requested by the respondent or the complainant.
- c. If the alleged wishes to demonstrate mitigating circumstances by producing relevant witnesses or evidence a continuation of the Initial Conference process (up to 48 hours on business days) can be requested during the meeting.
- d. The Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards or designee has discretion to rescind charges if informal mediation is appropriate.

3. Provide a restorative justice approach after a suspension has been served

- a. Remove "If a student should choose to return to the college after a period of Suspension, the student will be placed on one-year of Disciplinary Probation, during which time **any further violation of campus policy will result in a minimum of Suspension Held in Abeyance or Suspension from the college with no judicial hearing**" and replace with "Should a student choose to return to the University after a period of suspension, the student will be placed on one-year of Disciplinary Probation."

4. Add education to appropriate Good Samaritan situations

- a. Update Language for Good Samaritan Policy to add that a student may be referred to a brief educational program.

5. Update Sexual Assault/Misconduct wording to be consistent with current legal guidance

- a. The words bullying and harassment are often used interchangeably. However, when the behaviors often described as bullying are against a specific protected class, (i.e., sex), the behavior is identified as harassment. The assessment of behaviors reported to the University have to rise to a specific level (i.e., meet definitions as prescribed by law).

6. Update language throughout when title changes or wording choice provides clarification

SUNY New Paltz Council

May 10, 2023

Presented by:

Michele Halstead, Vice President for Administration & Finance

Elements from the Enacted State 2023-2024 Budget:

- \$163M over last year's state budget & multi-year, non-binding marker for additional state aid in each of next two years (\$54M)
- \$1.6B in Capital support (digital and facilities - \$100M flexible capital, \$200M Research Related for Albany/Stony Brook, \$370M digital transformation & other and \$650M Critical Maintenance)
- \$75M Transformational Initiative Fund (workforce alignment, student completion, support efforts to increase enrollment)
- \$1.5B State Matched Endowment Fund – bolster research at University Centers (\$0.5B State to \$1.0B Privately raised)

Elements from the Enacted State 2023-2024 Budget Continued:

- Increased flexibility for non-resident tuition – 3 years
- TAP benefits to include workforce-focused microcredentials and expansion of part-time TAP to include SUNY Colleges of Technology
- Increases in Minimum Wage (impact on student temp service expense)

FY 2022-2023 Status of Core Instructional Budget
April 30, 2023 Compared to April 30, 2022
83% of Year Completed

REVENUE

	Current Fiscal Year 2022-2023			Last Fiscal Year 2021-2022		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual 4/30/23</u>	<u>% to Target</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual 4/30/22</u>	<u>% to Target</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 23,648,220	\$ 24,506,930	104%	24,239,526	23,436,276	97%
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 22,356,408	\$ 22,893,752	102%	22,776,773	21,841,013	96%
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 46,004,629	\$ 47,400,682	103%	47,016,300	45,277,289	96%
State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 9,987,477	62%	15,994,300	6,359,822	40%
Total Revenue	\$ 61,998,929	\$ 57,388,159	93%	63,010,600	51,637,111	82%

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual 4/30/23</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual 4/30/22</u>	
Personal Service	\$ 60,087,246	\$ 47,162,066	78%	58,969,156	48,165,447	82%
Temporary Service	\$ 5,423,417	\$ 4,378,151	81%	5,472,778	4,188,572	77%
Utilities	\$ 2,764,820	\$ 2,468,135	89%	2,596,600	1,805,068	70%
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,162,428	\$ 2,945,783	71%	4,116,674	2,986,012	73%
Total Expenditures	\$ 72,437,911	\$ 56,954,135	79%	71,155,208	57,145,098	80%

FY 2022-2023 Status of Core Instructional Budget April 30, 2023

REVENUE

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue Remaining</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>Over/under</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 23,648,220	\$ 24,506,930		\$ 24,506,930	\$ 858,709
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 22,356,408	\$ 22,893,752		\$ 22,893,752	\$ 537,344
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 46,004,629	\$ 47,400,682		\$ 47,400,682	\$ 1,396,053
State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 9,987,477	\$ 6,006,823	\$ 15,994,300	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 61,998,929	\$ 57,388,159	\$ 6,006,823	\$ 63,394,982	\$ 1,396,053

EXPENDITURES

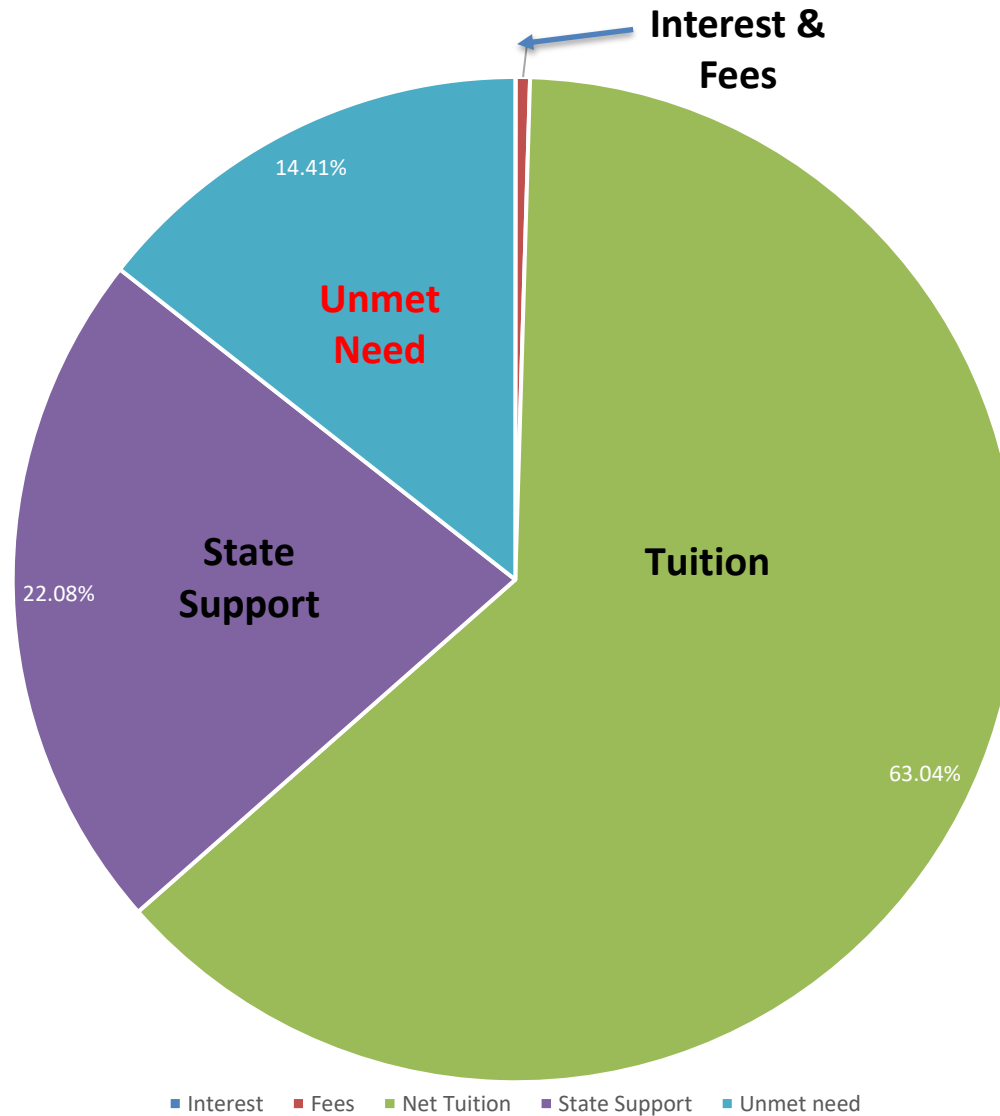
	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenditure</u>	<u>Estimated Expense Remaining</u>	<u>Total Anticipated Expenditure</u>	<u>Over/under</u>
Personal Service	\$ 60,087,246	\$ 47,162,066	\$ 9,991,277	\$ 57,153,343	\$ 2,933,903
Temporary Service	\$ 5,423,417	\$ 4,378,151	\$ 800,000	\$ 5,178,151	\$ 245,266
Utilities	\$ 2,764,820	\$ 2,468,135	\$ 1,066,960	\$ 3,535,095	\$ (770,275)
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,162,428	\$ 2,945,783	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 4,095,783	\$ 66,645
Total Expenditures	\$ 72,437,911	\$ 56,954,135	\$ 13,008,238	\$ 69,962,372	\$ 2,475,539

Projected Deficit (use of reserves)

\$ (10,438,982)

\$ (6,567,390.28)

Revenue



What does the enacted budget potentially mean to SUNY New Paltz?

- More direct taxpayer support in 2023-2024 – amount yet to be determined.
- Opportunity for additional direct state taxpayer support in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
- tuition increase for the non-state students will mean additional tuition revenue, but likely not that much
- Small increase to our critical maintenance funding

Questions?