College Council Meeting
May 1, 2019

Voting Members Present: Mr. Basch, Dr. Venables, Mr. Catalinotto, Ms. Seque (Student Association president), Mr. Law (phone), Mr. Cozzolino (phone), Dr. Balant (non-voting faculty representative), and Ms. Cohen-La Valle (non-voting alumni representative).

Campus Administration Present: President Christian; Provost Arnold; Vice Presidents Halstead, Wright, Marks, and Blaisdell; Tanhena Pacheco Dunn, Associate Vice President, Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Interim Chairman’s Report:

Mr. Basch called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members.

Mr. Basch proposed adoption of the minutes of the March 6, 2019, meeting. Dr. Venables moved to accept the minutes, Mr. Catalinotto seconded the motion, and they were approved by voice vote.

Mr. Basch reminded the Council about the College’s upcoming Commencement ceremonies. He and Dr. Venables said that they would attend.

President’s Report:

President Christian shared news about the Men’s Volleyball National Championship. They beat the University of California Santa Cruz in finals on April 27, following wins in previous tournament rounds over Baruch, Endicott, and Springfield. Springfield was the defending national champions and the #1 ranked team in the nation coming into the tournament.

The president said that he continues to hear unequivocal praise from parents of these and other student-athletes about the tremendous experiences these young people are having at New Paltz – as students, and as athletes. Such assessments reflect the great work of an entire community. It was rewarding to hear one of the NCAA commentators in a livestream of one of the games comment about the great academic reputation of SUNY New Paltz that serves as an asset to Coach Petrus in his recruitment of top volleyball talent.

President Christian updated the Council about the College’s professional development needs. He noted that we are in the process of developing training for employees that goes beyond optional and voluntary. Beyond compliance, the president said that training helps us be transparent about institutional values, policies, and procedures, how we practice them, and how we support each other in living them. We are in the process of working with faculty and staff to find the right timing, as these are difficult to pull off effectively while classes are in session.

The president provided a brief update about environmental sustainability efforts. He noted that the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is renovating parts of its Catskill
Aqueduct that is the water supply for the Village of New Paltz. As part of the College’s effort to help assure that the municipality has enough water during the times that the aqueduct is shut down, the campus has engaged in a campaign to reduce our water usage, titled “Slow the Flow.” During the fourth quarter of 2018, the College’s water usage decreased by more than 1.5 million gallons compared to the same period in 2017, nearly a 10% decrease in usage.

The president added that students in the residence halls reduced their daily water use per capita by more than a gallon and a half, spurred by a competition between the residence halls that students in Capen Hall won. Sodexo feeds thousands of students every day and Hasbrouck Dining Hall uses more water than any other building on campus. The staff there changed practices that resulted in an 8% decrease in water use.

President Christian said that he hears from members of our community, including Huguenot descendants, that they do not know that a significant part of the College’s decision around the Hasbrouck Complex building names — beyond removing and replacing them — is to take concrete steps to tell the College’s local and campus history more fully than we have in the past. He noted that a working group of faculty, staff, and students has been developing proposals for a contemplative space on campus where we can tell our shared history more fully. The College’s efforts will include the many positive contributions of the Huguenot patentees and their descendants, including building and sustaining the New Paltz educational institutions that preceded SUNY New Paltz.

In the president’s exchanges since the name changes have been approved, he said that he has often clarified that it is not our purpose to discredit, humiliate or shame Huguenot descendants, nor – as suggested in a recent news story – to “redefine [the Huguenot families] solely by the fact of enslavement.” The president said that he is committed to continuing to bridge the different viewpoints and positions on this change. He again thanked Council members for their support for that change, and appreciated how difficult that was.

President Christian updated the Council about last week’s tremendous Scholarship Reception, to celebrate the generosity and support of scholarship donors, thank those who have joined the College’s “Tower Society” – people who have named SUNY New Paltz in their wills and estate plans, and recognize student scholarship recipients. Two alumni spoke about what their New Paltz education has meant in their lives, and how that gratitude has spurred their philanthropic support for their alma mater. A student shared what her scholarship has meant to her, and the opportunity it has created for her educational journey.

This year, the president said that the College awarded $610,000 in Foundation-provided scholarships, an increase of about $107,000 above last year, and about $470,000 more than the figure he cited in his comments at a similar event in spring 2015. Mr. Basch encouraged the Council to participate in giving and focus on scholarship opportunities. He thanked Vice President Marks for her leadership and support of these efforts.

The president shared news that History Professor Louis Roper earned the title of SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest academic rank in SUNY. He is the 15th New Paltz faculty member to earn this title. Lou is the author or editor of seven books and numerous peer-reviewed publications and invited presentations, and is loved and respected by his students. The president
said that some Council members may know his parents who are long-time New Paltz residents. His dad, Don, was a professor at the College for many years and his mother, Carol, has been a long-standing community leader.

The president said that he spoke to the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce at its April 17 monthly breakfast meeting. His presentation focused on topics of particular interest to the business community and regional leaders, tailored to Dutchess County. For example, nearly 200 of the College’s employees reside in Dutchess County, and about 700 of our first-year and transfer students are from Dutchess. He shared insights on the following topics:

- The College’s success in fulfilling its educational mission, including development of new programs;
- Improvements in campus physical environment;
- Rankings and key statistics;
- Financial matters, including helping people understand trends in state funding;
- Ways that the College engages regional partners;
- The College’s economic impact; and its
- Overall work to create a model public university.

President Christian concluded his report with an update about the Middle States Reaccreditation Process. The College was last reaccredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in 2010-11, the year he was interim president. The president said that the College is up for reaccreditation again, and have begun working on our self-study in preparation for a spring 2021 campus visit by the review team. He is impressed with the work that members of our community are taking on already, and said that we will keep the Council posted on our process over the next two years.

Student Handbook Proposed Revisions 2019-2020:

See attached list of recommended updates to the 2019-2020 edition of the Student Handbook.

Vice President Blaisdell said that the revisions are all wording clarifications that align with SUNY System Administration guidelines. She added that incidents that occur each academic year allow Student Affairs to take a fresh look at the Student Handbook and make appropriate clarifications to certain provisions, as needed.

Mr. Basch asked about the proposed change to the Academic Transcript Notation Policy. Vice President Blaisdell said that students who have been expelled from the College for any violation of campus regulations would have their judicial sanction permanently noted on their academic transcript. A permanent notation would also occur in cases that resulted in a judicial sanction of suspension. In certain instances, that notation may be removed following the suspension.

Mr. Basch asked about the proposed change to the Procedure for Appeals policy and email notification. Vice President Blaisdell said that the update would clarify that the appeals clock would begin from the date her office sends notice to a student’s e-mail account (Hawkmail) of the findings and sanctions imposed as a result of a judicial hearing, and not from the date a student may review that notification. The change also makes clear that students are responsible
for monitoring and checking daily their Hawkmail accounts and will be held responsible for any and all content sent there.

Dr. Venables asked about the proposed change to the Illegal Weapons policy. Specifically, she suggested removing the word (abbreviation) “et cetera,” as she found it to be too vague. Vice President Blaisdell said that the word is included within the state code and is intended to keep the policy flexible to address new weapons that may come into the marketplace without explicitly naming them. After continued discussion, the vice president noted that the proposed update included the following language, “these items include but are not limited to.” Vice President Blaisdell said that the “not limited to” phrase would provide enough flexibility to address weapons that aren’t explicitly named and allow for Student Affairs to strike “et cetera” from the proposed changes.

Mr. Basch proposed adoption of the Student Handbook Proposed Revisions 2019-2020. Dr. Venables moved to accept the revisions, Mr. Catalinotto seconded the motion, and they were approved unanimously.

Budget Update:

See attached PowerPoint slides. Vice President Halstead said that at the beginning of the year, the College set a tuition target of $48.5 million and ultimately came in at $48.8 million, meeting and exceeding its enrollment target for the year. The vice president said that the College has been holding the line on spending. We are projected to underspend budgeted personal service and overspend temporary service, but net expenditure savings by about $2.1 million. The vice president also said there were significant savings – about $200,000 – from non-personal service spending reductions across the College, largely from the President’s and Provost’s divisions.

Vice President Halstead noted that the College’s most recent projected deficit had been $2.5 million. However, this year’s state budget provides advanced payment of direct taxpayer funding – about $1.9 million – that will help preserve campus reserves. As a result, the vice president said that the deficit will be about $600,000 for the year, which is much less than the $5 million deficit that was projected at the beginning of the year. The vice president said that the College still has work to do to continue to address the ongoing imbalance between revenue and expenditures in its core operating budget.

Mr. Basch asked if the state’s advanced payment this year reduces payment the following year. The vice president explained that this is only true if the campus receives the advanced payment in perpetuity.

Mr. Catalinotto asked if any campuses are operating in the black. Vice President Halstead responded that some campuses are healthier than others. She added that some are operating on the margins and everybody took a significant fiscal hit this year. The vice president does not know if all campuses budget the same. President Christian said that the direct taxpayer support the College received this year is at the same level as 2012-2013, even as costs have increased. The only path, unless the state changes the formula for direct taxpayer support, is to grow enrollments that will bring increased tuition revenue.
Wrap-Up:

Mr. Basch said Vice President Wright will work on meeting dates for the fall. He thanked Council members for their service this year. Vice President Wright echoed that recognition, extending her appreciation to the group, as they are all volunteers who dedicate their time.

Mr. Basch adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Richard Winters
Director of Community and Government Relations
Campus Rules 10.00 Hate/Bias Related Acts [edit required by SUNY Counsels Office]

p. 15 Insert “gender expression”

No person shall engage in acts which intentionally select a person or group against whom a criminal offense is committed because of a belief or perception regarding the race, color, ancestry, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, religious practice, age, disability, national origin or immigration status, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.

Note: ‘gender expression’ will also be inserted between the terms ‘gender identity’ and ‘sexual orientation’ in the related Appendix, p.52, Paragraph 6, Line 5.]

Campus Rules 13.00 Illegal Weapons [updated list under NYS law]

Current wording on p.15

No person shall possess weapons of any kind (even if licensed) including but not limited to: nunchaku sticks, firearms, knives, air guns, etc. in the Residence Halls or anywhere on campus.

Proposed wording:

No person shall possess weapons of any kind in the Residence Halls or anywhere on campus (even if licensed.) These items include but are not limited to: firearms, electronic dart or stun guns, gravity knife, switchblade knife, pilum ballistic knife, metal knuckle knife, cane sword, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, plastic knuckles, metal knuckles, chuka stick, sand bag, sandclub, wrist-brace type, slingshot or slungshot, shirken or “Kung Fu Star”, etc.

Campus Rules 18.00 Sexual Harassment [The current wording was extracted from an employee policy, and therefore did not reflect student behavior or its impacts. The proposed intro, “no person or group of individuals shall engage...” also becomes consistent with all other Student Code of Conduct items.]

Current wording on p.17:

Sexual harassment in the educational setting can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual violence is seen as an egregious form of harassment. Sexual harassment of a student denies or limits, on the basis of sex, the student’s ability to participate in or to receive benefits, services, or opportunities in the educational institution’s program. Isolated instances, e.g., a sexual comment or joke, ordinarily will not constitute sexual harassment unless the circumstances are egregious. Such sexual behavior does not constitute harassment if it is welcomed (i.e., voluntary and consensual). However, while such conduct in the educational or workplace setting may fall short of the legal standard for sexual harassment or discrimination the college may, within its discretion, address the behavior as uncivil, unprofessional and/or inappropriate.

Sexual Harassment has been defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when any of the following occurs:

- Submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of an individual’s continued employment, promotion, or other condition of employment or is made a term or condition of an individual’s grades or other aspects of their education (quid pro quo).
Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment or educational decisions affecting an employee, job applicant, student or student applicant.

Such conduct is intended to interfere, or results in interference, with an employee’s work performance or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or school environment.

The College is committed to ensuring a community that is safe for all who study and work here and encourages students and employees to report concerns about sexual harassment immediately but will hear a concern at any time. Immediate notification allows the college to provide appropriate support and a timely response. Delays in reporting may limit the type or effectiveness of responses from the College, law enforcement and external resources, or may impact any evidence and access to witnesses that may assist us in investigating and responding to your concerns.

(Penalty: Disciplinary Probation, Suspension Held in Abeyance, Suspension or Expulsion)

Proposed wording:

No person or group of individuals shall engage in unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment of a student denies or limits, on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression, the student’s ability to participate in or receive benefits, services, or opportunities in the educational institution's program.

Isolated instances, e.g., a sexual comment or joke, ordinarily will not constitute sexual harassment unless the circumstances are egregious. Such sexual behavior does not constitute harassment if it is welcomed (i.e., voluntary and consensual). However, while such conduct in the educational or workplace setting may fall short of the legal standard for sexual harassment or discrimination the college may, within its discretion, address the behavior as uncivil, unprofessional, and/or inappropriate.

In addition, other examples can include:

- Submission to such a conduct is made a term or condition of an individual’s academic status, of an individual’s grades, and/or other aspects of their education (quid pro quo).

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for educational decisions affecting the student, student applicant, or student employee.

- Such conduct is intended to interfere, or results in interference, with a student’s educational performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

The College is committed to ensuring a community that is safe for all who study and work here and encourages students and employees to report concerns about sexual harassment immediately but will hear a concern at any time. Immediate notification allows the college to provide appropriate support and a timely response. Delays in reporting may limit the type or effectiveness of responses from the College, law enforcement and external resources, or may impact any evidence and access to witnesses that may assist us in investigating and responding to your concerns.

Campus Rules 21.00 Theft (add “possible denial of campus residency “as a discretionary condition)

Current wording on p.19 (Penalty: Disciplinary Probation, Suspension Held in Abeyance, Suspension or Expulsion, and Restitution for Damages when applicable.)
Proposed wording: (Penalty: Disciplinary Probation, Suspension Held in Abeyance, Suspension or Expulsion, Restitution for Damages when applicable, and possible Denial of Campus Residency.)

Administrative Regulations 1.01 Alcohol [highly intoxicated, underage students who become ill are refusing medical transport to hospitals to evade the mandated parental notification]

Current wording on p. 20: Students under the age of 21 may not possess or use alcoholic beverages on the college campus.

Proposed wording: Students under the age of 21 may not possess or use alcoholic beverages or be highly intoxicated on the college campus, e.g. vomiting, losing consciousness, losing the ability to independently ambulate, and/or losing the ability to speak clearly due to the ingestion of alcohol.

Administrative Regulations 2.00 Compliance with Official Requests [add options to Sanctions]

Current sanctions: Disciplinary Probation, Suspension Held in Abeyance or Suspension

Proposed sanctions: Warning Probation, Disciplinary Probation, Suspension Held in Abeyance or Suspension (and possible Restitution for Damages, where applicable)

Administrative Regulations 7.00 Showers and Bathroom Facilities [wording doesn’t align with gender inclusivity]

Current wording on p. 22:

.01 No person shall enter shower areas and restroom facilities when the facilities are designated for use by another gender. All showers are for single use only.

.02 No person shall permit their guest to enter shower areas and rest room facilities when the facilities are designated for use by another gender. All showers are for single use only.

Proposed wording replaces .01 and .02

Showers and bathroom stalls are for single use only. Residents and their guests are expected to use the facility which most closely aligns with their gender identity/program.

Administrative Regulations 8.00 Guests [p.22 Just adding new clarifying language in gray]

A student hosting any guest shall be responsible for their conduct. Guests may include individuals not affiliated with the college. New Paltz students who live in the same residence hall, a different residence hall, or off campus can also be considered guests.

A resident hosting any guest(s) must sign in all guests as required by Residence Life and outlined in the Housing Handbook. Individuals issued a guest pass are required to keep the guest pass with them at all times while on campus.

Overnight guests need to be 16 years or older to stay overnight. If under 18, the guest(s) must provide written parental consent, using the Underage Guest Consent Form available on the Residence Life website.

Any person present in a residence hall room not assigned to them after 11:00pm is considered an overnight guest and must be signed in with their host and residence hall staff. Overnight guests are permitted in college
housing facilities, provided everyone who lives in the unit agrees to have guest(s) stay overnight. Residents must obtain a guest pass for their guest(s) one day in advance, when possible, with the Director or designee. Guest privileges shall not extend past two consecutive nights. Under no circumstances will more than three guests be permitted to occupy a residence hall room overnight.

**Administrative Regulations 11.00 Room Changes**

The Housing Coordinator and other members of Residence Life frequently approve room changes.

Current wording p.23:

Room changes are prohibited unless written authorization has been granted by the Resident Director.

Proposed wording:

Room changes are prohibited unless written authorization has been granted by the Resident Director or the Department of Residence Life.

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**Administrative Regulations 12.00 [broaden title from “Electrical Appliances” to include all prohibited items]**

Current wording p.23: Electrical appliances which may be considered hazardous by the Department of Residence Life and/or the Office of Environmental Health and Safety are specifically prohibited. The current list of items prohibited by N.Y. State is regularly updated. See www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html for a list of items prohibited on campus.

Proposed: New name for category and wording:

Administrative Regulations 12.00 Fire, Health, and Safety Regulations

Electrical appliances and additional items or actions which may be considered hazardous by the Department of Residence Life and/or the Office of Environmental Health and Safety are specifically prohibited. The current list of items prohibited under fire, health and safety regulations by NY State is regularly updated. See www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html for a list of items/actions prohibited on campus.

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**Immediate Administrative Action [update method of delivery]**

Current wording: [p. 29, line 8]

E. 1. (a) Within three (3) days from receiving notice of immediate sanctions, the respondent may request an Administrative Hearing within five (5) working days with the Vice President for Student Affairs relative to the immediacy of the sanction.

Proposed wording: Within three (3) days from the time the respondent is sent notification via Hawkmail of immediate sanctions, the respondent may request an Administrative Hearing within five (5) working days with the Vice President for Student Affairs. [As of 2017 Hawkmail became the official vehicle for all campus business and students no longer sign a receipt. (p.25 D.4.) “Students are responsible for checking this account daily, and will be held responsible for any and all content sent to their Hawkmail account.”]

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**Appeals  1. Procedure for Appeals [update method of delivery]**

Current wording: [p. 32]

E. 1. (a) Within three (3) working days from the time the respondent receives notice of the findings and sanctions imposed as a result of an Administrative Hearing or a hearing conducted by the Campus Hearing
Committee, they may exercise their right to submit a written letter of appeal to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. If just cause is demonstrated to exist, then a new hearing will be conducted as indicated in 2(a) or (b) below........

**Proposed wording** Within three (3) working days from the time the respondent is sent notification via Hawkmail of the findings and sanctions imposed as a result of an Administrative Hearing or a hearing conducted by the Campus Hearing Committee, they may exercise their right to submit a written letter of appeal to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. [As of 2017 Hawkmail became the official vehicle for all campus business and students no longer sign a receipt. (p.25 D.4.) “Students are responsible for checking this account daily, and will be held responsible for any and all content sent to their Hawkmail account.”] If just cause is demonstrated to exist, then a new hearing will be conducted as indicated in 2(a) or (b) below..........
In cases resulting in Suspension, with the exception of those outlined above, the transcript notation will be removed at the end of the period of Suspension.

If a finding of responsibility is vacated for any reason, any such transcript notation shall be removed.
## Projected Use of Reserve

Anticipated Accelerated Payment of State Support

### Projected Detail

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### FY 18-19 Status of Core Institutional Budget

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**New Paltz State University of New York**

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