

**College Council Meeting
October 5, 2017**

Present: President Christian, Mr. Basch, Dr. Venables, Mr. Law, Mr. Catalinotto, Mr. Cozzolino (phone), Mr. DiCarlo (phone), Dr. Balant (faculty representative), Ms. Cohen-La Valle (alumni representative), Provost Arnold, Vice Presidents Eaton, Halstead, Wright, Marks, and Blaisdell.

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

Interim Chairman's Report: Mr. Basch opened the meeting and reminded fellow members of his new capacity as interim chair of the College Council (hereafter, Council). Mr. Basch welcomed colleagues to the new academic year and facilitated member introductions. He then proposed to adopt the minutes of the April 17, 2017, meeting. Mr. Catalinotto moved to accept the minutes and they were approved by voice vote.

Mr. Basch welcomed two new Council members – Stephanie Blaisdell, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Robin Cohen-La Valle, Dean of Students, who is serving as the alumni representative to the Council, replacing Alan Dunefsky, whose term as Council alumni representative ended. Vice President Blaisdell joined the College in July and brings 25 years of experience in higher education and a rich background in student affairs. Dean Cohen-La Valle is an alumna and longtime College staff member and administrator and has been part of the campus community for 40 years, serving as dean for the last three years.

President's Report: President Christian noted that his report would focus mostly on some new things that are underway at the College and some things coming up in the fall to give the Council highlights of the latest activities and events.

First, President Christian said that he met the new SUNY Chancellor, Dr. Kristina Johnson. Chancellor Johnson brings an accomplished and talented professional background to SUNY as an electrical engineer, dean, provost, undersecretary in the U.S. Department of Energy under President Obama, and private sector experience. She holds more than 100 patents in her field as well. The president said he looks forward to working with her.

President Christian shared that the College is paying careful attention to emergency planning, particularly given recent national events. After the violent incidents in Charlottesville, Virginia, this summer, we brought together a group of senior leaders and personnel in university police, student affairs, and other divisions to review our policies for planning and managing events and activities so that we can avoid violent incidents like at Virginia, and at other campuses like University of California, Berkeley. New Paltz is analyzing whether we have any gaps or lack of clarity in our policies and practices. The College is drawing on the “lessons learned” that the University of Virginia developed after those incidents. On a slightly different but related topic, the University Police Department and Emergency Management Team have been for some time planning a lockdown drill, the first stage of which will take place next week in a single building, to be followed next year after further study with a campus-wide lockdown drill. Earlier this week, the Cabinet participated in a training session on the Incident Command System overview for Executives and Senior Officials.

President Christian spoke briefly about the Excelsior Scholarship program that provides last-dollar tuition support for full-time undergraduate students who are on track to complete their degree in four years and whose family incomes are below a certain level. The program is still evolving, and some applications are still under review, but as of today about 470 New Paltz students have received some support through this program. Some of them – along with hundreds of others – received federal support through Pell grants and state assistance through the Tuition Assistance Program. This has been a great contribution to college affordability for those students. Dr. Venables asked where the money comes from for the Excelsior scholarships. President Christian replied that the state is providing separate funding for the program.

The president offered a few updates about facilities matters. We completed an eight-month renovation of Bevier residence hall, and are planning the next residence hall renovation. We completed a renovation of the clinical facilities for speech and audiology, which will let us grow our graduate programs in those high-demand areas. We currently are renovating space in the basement between the Student Union Building and Haggerty Administration Building that will be an enlarged and modernized facility for our growing Educational Opportunity Program. We break ground later this month on our Engineering Innovation Hub funded, in part, through an NYSUNY 2020 grant from Governor Cuomo.

President Christian said that he previously shared with Council members the process we are undertaking to review names on the Hasbrouck Complex buildings.

President Christian said that it's important to note that he launched this discussion with the clear understanding of the formal role of the Council to review building names. If a recommendation for a name change were to come to the president from the College's Diversity and Inclusion Council (hereafter, D&I Council) and if he were to support that recommendation, he would bring the matter to the Council. Regardless of the recommendation that comes forward, it should not be our intention to erase history, he said.

The president alerted Mr. Basch, as interim chair, to this plan before it was announced to the campus community. He also spoke in advance with the Student Association President, who is a voting member of the Council. Since the president's announcement, he has spoken about this matter with each Council member. Additionally, Mr. Law has kindly agreed to join the D&I Council this year to participate in this process, bringing in the perspectives of a thoughtful alumnus as well as a member of the Council.

President Christian said his intention is that our campus and the broader community engage in an open, transparent, wide-ranging conversation this year that looks at multiple dimensions of these building names and what they mean for our community.

He is taking every effort to remain neutral as this conversation happens, so that he does not in reality or perception steer the recommendations in any direction. Similarly, the Council's stature in this community as an open-minded, deliberative body will be served best if members avoid expressing their views in public before the process is completed. The president encouraged the Council to function like the Supreme Court and not reach conclusions until they've heard the entire case. President Christian said that that will be the best way for all members and other campus leaders to respect the process that he laid out for the community. That process focuses on

developing an informed, collective understanding through research, discussion, and careful listening.

President Christian then mentioned a few upcoming events that could be of interest to the Council:

The College's alumni reunion is October 13-15. There will be a ribbon cutting for our new Walk of Honor, brick project. Dean La-Valle is being honored with an alumni recognition award.

Prospective student open house will be Saturday, October 28, and Admissions expects 4,000 visitors on campus that day. This is a really important event in the College's efforts to showcase SUNY New Paltz and all that it has to offer students.

On November 2, the College will dedicate a plaque to emeritus professor Heinz Meng, who passed away in summer 2016. The president noted that the Council may be aware of the positive impact Meng had on many generations of students and on the recovery of peregrine falcons in North America.

On November 10, the College will hold its Veterans Day Dining In event, organized by our Office of Veteran and Military Services. When the office was formed in 2014, New Paltz had about 60 veteran and military students on campus. That number grew to about 260 last year and 350 this year. President Christian noted his pride in the several recognitions the College has received as a military friendly school.

On November 20, the College will hold its second Hudson Valley Future Summit that brings together business leaders, artists, techies, entrepreneurs, and others to discuss ways community members can collaborate to advance the Hudson Valley with SUNY New Paltz in a lead role. Last year's inaugural event has boosted the College's profile among regional influencers, and President Christian said he would like to keep elevating the way people view the College and its leadership in the community.

The president closed by sharing a couple examples of some of his recent activities. He is now in his second year serving as a voting member of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council. This is one of 10 such councils around the state that review and make recommendations on proposals for state economic development funding. Kingston just received a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant, a project that President Christian reviewed.

Last month, he gave a presentation on free speech and viewpoint diversity on college campuses as part of a Marist Center for LifeTime study course on American higher education. These are issues that are at the forefront of discourse and sometimes conflict on college and university campuses around the country, and present major challenges in leadership and communication for college presidents. The president said that the College's role as a public university is to protect free speech and keep the community safe.

Finally, President Christian is continuing two series of events with students. One is his hot chocolate with the president sessions in the residence halls, where he speaks with students about things the College is doing to improve the College and their opportunities, take their questions,

and learn from them about what they like best about being a student at New Paltz. He does three of these each semester. He will also continue to host president's roundtables, where the College brings a successful alumnus/na or other leader – from diverse fields – to campus to meet with about 18 students over lunch, speak about their life and career success and challenges, and respond to student questions. These have been marvelous experiences for students, and bring alumni and others closer to the College.

Mr. Cozzolino said that the communication disorders program is the number one thing about the College he is lobbied for by local residents on behalf of their sons/daughters. He said the program is small and tough to be accepted into, but noted that the president mentioned potential enrollment growth during his report. He asked the president to expand on this topic and suggested that the College publicize this unique program more. President Christian agreed that the program is competitive and unique. One of the other SUNY campuses, Geneseo, abandoned its program. The president said the goal is to grow the program at the graduate level, where capacity exists. The undergraduate level would maintain current enrollment given capacity restrictions.

Mr. Basch commended President Christian for being proactive on topics at the forefront of the national dialogue, including emergency planning and the process to review names on the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. He thanked Mr. Law for joining the D&I Council and noted Dean Cohen-La Valle's participation, and said that body was an appropriate place to begin this discussion.

In regards to the Hasbrouck Complex building names, Mr. DiCarlo asked President Christian when the D&I Council plans to give its recommendation to the president. The president responded that the D&I Council met and has begun to chart a course for the process and ways they will gather input from the community about this issue. There will be both in-person and web-based opportunities to offer input and feedback. The president said he asked for a recommendation by April 15, 2018. That timeline reflects his intention that there be an open, honest, full conversation, that community members listen to each other and use broad input to inform whatever recommendation the D&I Council brings to him.

Given its statutory authority under this issue, Mr. DiCarlo asked that the Council gather at a future meeting to discuss the Hasbrouck Complex building names so members have an opportunity to offer input amongst each other and with the president. Mr. Basch said that a future meeting will occur to discuss this matter, likely in the late spring after the D&I Council submits its recommendation to the president. He said it would be premature to discuss the issue right now, as potential name changes are not being brought before the Council at this time.

Mr. DiCarlo said he believes it is necessary that the D&I Council be made aware that the final say, if a name change is recommended, rests with the Council and nobody else. President Christian clarified that that responsibility was made clear in the original communication to campus and charge to the D&I Council. The president said it was also made clear to the community and D&I Council that he is asking for a recommendation and not a decision about naming.

Budget Update: See attached PowerPoint slides. Vice President Halstead started her report with an update on finalized results of last year's budget (expenditures and revenue). As of last spring, the vice president said that the College was planning to use \$3 million in reserves to mitigate its shortfall in tuition revenue anticipated last year. Fortunately, the fiscal year ended using \$2.3 million, less than the previously forecasted amount, to address this deficit.

This year, Vice President Halstead said the College lowered its tuition target. Last year, the College did not reach its projected student enrollment, which was one cause of the budget shortfall. The lowered tuition target reflects an achievable goal based on the campus's capacity and the current enrollment and higher education landscape. The vice president said that as of right now, New Paltz is on track for the adjusted fall tuition target. On the expenditure side, Vice President Halstead noted that anticipated spending has been reduced by about \$2 million, which includes several vacant positions on hold. The College also solicited ideas for generating savings across the campus, which resulted in meaningful cost reductions.

While these collective measures are helping to balance the budget, Vice President Halstead said that the College is still projecting an operating deficit this year of about \$1.8 million. As a result, the vice president said there is more work to do and that work will continue until the budget problem is solved. In addition to the previously described efforts, the vice president also mentioned new curriculum (e.g., accelerated MBA) and other courses/programs in various stages of development as key ways to increase revenues to offset the deficit.

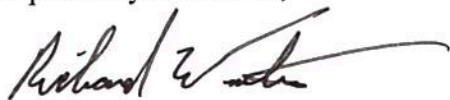
Mr. Basch asked if the \$200 tuition increase for this year will be collected or deferred. Vice President Halstead said the increase will be collected from students who are not eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship program. Tuition is held at last year's level for those students eligible for Excelsior.

Mr. Basch asked Vice President Eaton for an enrollment update. Vice President Eaton said that undergraduate enrollment is slightly over capacity this year, as we brought in the largest class of first-year and transfer students in the College's history. The vice president noted that graduate enrollment declined again, but the number of new students enrolling to replace graduating students at the graduate level increased.

Dr. Venables asked for an update about international enrollment. Vice President Eaton said that international enrollment levels weren't as bad as they could have been, but the environment remains a little unstable including in prime markets, such as India and China.

Mr. Basch adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Winters", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Richard Winters
Director of Community and Government Relations

College Council

October 5, 2017

FY 16-17 Status of Core Instructional Budget

Final

REVENUE

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>over/under</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 26,963,598	\$ 26,076,076	
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 27,065,403	\$ 25,635,416	
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 54,029,000	\$ 51,711,492	\$ (2,317,508)

State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 15,994,300	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 70,023,300	\$ 67,705,792	\$ (2,317,508)

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>over/under</u>
Personal Service	\$ 56,296,336	\$ 54,814,932	\$ 1,481,404
Temporary Service	\$ 4,415,538	\$ 4,945,667	\$ (530,129)
Utilities	\$ 2,784,100	\$ 2,226,847	\$ 557,253
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,711,613	\$ 4,263,047	\$ 448,566
Tuition Scholarship	\$ 3,706,453	\$ 3,719,840	\$ (13,387)
Total Expenditures	\$ 71,914,040	\$ 69,970,332	\$ 1,943,708

Total Use of Reserve (Actual Revenue less Actual Expense) \$ (2,264,540.29)

Budget-to-Budget
Last Year to This Year

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 26,963,598	\$ 26,033,507	\$ (930,091)
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 27,065,403	\$ 26,094,293	\$ (971,110)
Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities	\$ 54,029,001	\$ 52,127,800	\$ (1,901,201)
State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 15,994,300	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 70,023,301	\$ 68,122,100	\$ (1,901,201)
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Personal Service	\$ 56,296,336	\$ 54,790,127	\$ (1,506,209)
Temporary Service	\$ 4,415,538	\$ 4,294,796	\$ (120,742)
Utilities	\$ 2,784,100	\$ 2,584,100	\$ (200,000)
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,711,613	\$ 4,013,699	\$ (697,914)
Tuition Scholarship	\$ 3,706,453	\$ 4,241,959	\$ 535,506
Total Expenditures	\$ 71,914,040	\$ 69,924,681	\$ (1,989,359)
Budgeted Deficit - to be covered by reserves	\$ (1,890,739)	\$ (1,802,581)	