

**College Council Meeting  
November 20, 2019**

Voting Members Present: Mr. Basch, Dr. Venables, Mr. Catalinotto, Ms. Pink (Student Association president), Mr. Law (phone), Dr. Balant (non-voting faculty representative), and Ms. Bishop (non-voting alumni representative).

Campus Administration Present: President Christian; Interim Provost Lyman; Vice Presidents Blaisdell, Eaton, Halstead, Marks, and Wright; Tanhena Pacheco Dunn, Associate Vice President, Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion. Guests: Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Associate Provost for Assessment; Ken Goldstein, Chair and Professor of Theatre Arts.

Interim Chairman's Report:

Mr. Basch called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mr. Basch proposed adoption of the minutes of the October 24, 2019, meeting. Dr. Venables moved to accept the minutes, Ms. Pink seconded the motion, and they were approved by voice vote.

Mr. Basch and Vice President Marks spoke briefly about the "Crossing the Finish Line Fund" that supports students who encounter unforeseen financial challenges to remain in school. They welcomed and encouraged Council members to support the fund.

President's Report:

President Christian said that there wouldn't be a budget presentation today because Vice President Halstead was at a meeting of a SUNY-wide business officers group that she leads, and there were no changes to report since the Council's last meeting.

President Christian shared that SUNY New Paltz hosted a New York State Senate hearing on the cost of public higher education, its accessibility, and affordability on October 28. The hearing was convened at the request of Senator Toby Stavisky, who chairs the Higher Education Committee. The president testified as part of a SUNY leadership panel. He spoke about the:

- financial realities and challenges that SUNY New Paltz and its students face;
- high-quality public higher education the College provides;
- College's positive economic impact in the Hudson Valley;
- indirect taxpayer support received in the form of fringe benefits and debt service;
- components of the College's operating budget (direct taxpayer support and tuition);
- diverse student body the College serves so well;
- College's work to manage its budget by reducing expenditures and increasing enrollment;
- great success of the EOP program and its growth;
- College's facilities improvements and remaining space deficit; and
- cost of living that negatively impacts College employees.

President Christian said that he believes legislators gained a deeper appreciation for how effectively the College uses its resources, the positive impacts it produces, and the potential that further investment could achieve. Student leaders, including Ms. Pink, employees and union representatives provided further compelling testimony about the important return on the state's investment in SUNY.

The president shared that the College hosted its fourth annual Hudson Valley Future Summit earlier this week, with a focus on "Creating Equity in the Hudson Valley." The president had the opportunity to address the participants, and spoke about the College's:

- recognition as a top tier public university in the Northeast;
- regional and national rankings;
- selectivity as one of the hardest schools in NY to get into;
- open, welcoming, campus environment and how students value and praise this campus feature.

During the Summit, President Christian said he spoke about the College's latest six year graduation rate – the federal standard – that is 77%, compared with the national average of about 60%. The president noted that the College's incoming first-year class typically includes about 1,125 students. About 200 more students graduate from New Paltz in six years than if those 1,125 students had attended the average public college or university. Students in the Scholar's Mentorship Program (SMP) graduated at a phenomenal 81.7% rate. The president said that we want to keep pushing that success up, and Interim Provost Lyman and Vice President Eaton are assembling a broad-based "Student Success and Retention Committee" to develop evidence and identify key actions for us to best support students so they continue their studies and graduate in a timely way.

The president also spoke at the Summit about New Paltz's many connections to the Hudson Valley and the ways that we support and work to enhance quality of life in the region through educational, entrepreneurial, environmental, economic, cultural, and civic pathways. The president described some of the work and challenges related to the theme of creating equity, which is central to the College's core mission as a public university. He shared the lessons learned from last year's Ottaway Visiting Journalism Professor about diversity and inclusion, how the College's student body is increasingly diverse, and how the building renaming dialogue we undertook made many students feel much more included and respected as full members of the SUNY New Paltz community.

In closing his report, President Christian talked about some of the great strides the College has made in veteran and military student programming and support since the Office of Veteran and Military Services was established five years ago. The College is increasingly recognized as one of the outstanding campuses in New York for its leadership in this area.

The Office of Veteran and Military Services (OVMS) and Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH) led a recent conference convened by SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson in Albany, titled *Best and Shared Practices for Supporting Military-Affiliated Students on SUNY Campuses*. IDMH Director Amy Nitza and Jason Gilliland, Coordinator of OVMS, played key roles in organizing the event. Vice President Eaton, who played an instrumental leadership role in



expanding our veteran and military programs, spoke on “The Value of an Active Military-Affiliated Students Program.” He drew on the complex and changing history of the College’s relationship to the military since the 1960s and through the post 9-11 era to the present. Jason Gilliland presented sessions on “Administrator Bootcamp: Federal Policies and Compliance” and “Military Culture.”

The president said that the goal of the conference was to build a better understanding and support among campus leaders for these programs, with a particular focus on building advocacy at the highest levels of campus leadership, and all reports are that the New Paltz campus shined in this event.

Mr. Basch spoke briefly about the College’s high graduation and retention rates that have helped make the College a top-tier public university. He attributed these successes to the hard work of Vice President Eaton, President Christian and the whole team. Vice President Eaton recognized the four presidents he has served under, as well as the College Council that helped bring each of them to the institution.

#### Student Handbook Update:

See attached Student Handbook change proposal.

Mr. Basch introduced an update to the Student Handbook. He asked for a motion to add this agenda item as part of new business before the Council. Ms. Pink moved to add the item, Mr. Catalinotto seconded, and the motion was adopted by voice vote.

Vice President Blaisdell described the proposed change to the handbook that would make a minor adjustment to a fire, health and safety administrative regulation. The vice president said that the specific regulation in question includes a list of all the prohibited items in the residence halls. This list was developed by the Department of Residence Life, in conjunction with Emergency Management. She noted that the current provision in the handbook implies that the list of prohibited items extends to the entire campus, and not just the residence halls. The vice president said that this was not the intent of the regulation.

Vice President Blaisdell said that the proposed change in wording clarifies what items are prohibited in the residence halls compared to non-residential buildings and on campus. The updated provision would include links to lists for each of those three categories to make clear what items are prohibited in specific locations.

Mr. Basch said that the proposal to separate out and list prohibited items across these categories made sense. He asked when the change would take effect. Vice President Blaisdell said that if the Council supports the proposal, it would be effective immediately. Mr. Catalinotto asked how the student body would be informed about the change. The vice president said students receive alerts through their my.newpaltz.edu accounts about student handbook changes. They must acknowledge having read the changes.

Mr. Basch asked for a motion to approve the Student Handbook change proposal. Ms. Pink moved to accept the change, Mr. Catalinotto seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### Middle States Commission on Higher Education – Reaccreditation Process:

See attached PowerPoint slides.

Mr. Basch welcomed Middle States Steering Committee Co-Chairs Laurel Garrick Duhaney, Associate Provost for Assessment; and Ken Goldstein, Chair and Professor of Theatre Arts; who joined the council meeting to provide an overview of the reaccreditation process. They were joined by Dr. Balant, who also serves on the steering committee.

Professor Goldstein and Associate Provost Garrick Duhaney talked about the College's regional accrediting body, Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). They walked the Council through the structure and process for reaccreditation, including the current self-study phase. Professor Goldstein noted that the self-study calls for certain campus community members (we have a broad composition from across campus) to examine what the College does and how well we're doing it. He said that this phase provides an opportunity to identify things that the College may want to continue doing, examine areas we might be able to work on, and areas for growth.

Dr. Venables asked about the steering committee's mission and what the group is looking for during this process. Professor Goldstein said that the process asks the College to identify specific outcomes, including the ways in which it delivers on its mission, and to identify areas where we can continue to grow. As part of that structured work, Associate Provost Garrick Duhaney said that the committee was given a set of standards by MSCHE. The associate provost noted that the College is examining itself against the criteria of each standard that MSCHE assigned.

Associate Provost Garrick Duhaney spoke about the institutional priorities that will be addressed in the College's self-study. Dr. Venables asked about the meaning of sustainability within this context. The associate provost described the multiple forms of sustainability that the College will be studying through the lens of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

Mr. Catalinotto asked how the College will achieve the institutional priority of increasing accessibility of undergraduate and graduate education in the region. The associate provost said that the College has a wide range and selection of programs that attract students and help address this goal, including 105 undergraduate and 45 graduate degree programs. The associate provost noted that there are new programs in development as well.

Mr. Basch asked if the College selected its institutional priorities that will be addressed in the self-study or if MSCHE did so. The associate provost said that the College developed its own institutional priorities.

Associate Provost Garrick Duhaney noted that the College may soon be designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution. President Christian said that the College would be the first four-year campus in SUNY to achieve that status. Dr. Venables said she thought the College always had that status.



The president responded and clarified for the Council that the term is a federal designation that requires a certain percentage of the College's student body to be Hispanic.

Associate Provost Garrick Duhaney said that MSCHE will be interested in the work of the Council in terms of its oversight of budgets, plans, and policies. As part of this process, she said that the Standard VII Working Group will be working directly with the Council.

Mr. Basch said that he is always amazed at the amount of energy, thought and hard work that goes into the self-study and reaccreditation process. He added that the Council appreciates the efforts of the steering committee members.

Wrap-Up:

Mr. Basch adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Richard Winters

Director of Community and Government Relations

## Student Handbook Change

### 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 NYS fire, health and safety regulations is regularly updated. See [www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html) for a list of items/actions prohibited on campus. (Penalty: Warning Probation or Disciplinary Probation and possible Restitution for Damages.)

To:

### 12.0 Fire, Health, and Safety Regulations

Items or actions which may be considered hazardous are specifically prohibited in three categories: in the Residence Halls, in all campus buildings, and on campus property. The list of items in each category is generally updated every August, however the list can be updated anytime a new safety threat is identified. See [www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/guidelines.html)\* for a list of items/actions prohibited in the residence halls. See [www.newpaltz.edu/TBDXX](http://www.newpaltz.edu/TBDXX)\* for a list of items/actions prohibited in all campus buildings and/or on campus property. (Penalty: Warning Probation or Disciplinary Probation and possible Restitution for Damages.)

\*Links are not live/have not been updated

# MSCHHE: Middle States Commission on Higher Education

## Understanding Commission Expectations: An Overview

Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney

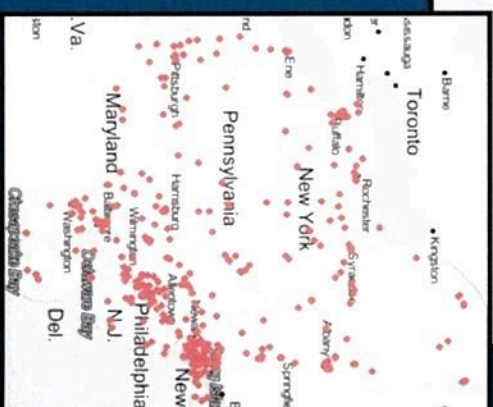
Associate Provost for Strategic Planning and Assessment

Ken Goldstein

Chair/Professor of Design, Department of Theatre



# MSCHE: Middle States Commission on Higher Education Membership



- MSCHC:**
- ~530 Member and Candidate Institutions
  - Region includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and 19 international institutions



# Why participate in Accreditation?

- A major new development occurred in 1952, when the U.S. Department of Education started to make extensive use of lists from accrediting associations to determine “eligibility” for federal funds. In 1968, the U.S. Department of Education created the Division of Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility.



# Structures and Involvement:

## *We have entered the Self-Study Phase*

- Steering Committee:  
Working Groups
  - Consultants/Support Personnel from Administration
  - Outreach to Campus Wide Constituencies
    - Awareness and Participation
    - Involvement in Discussions, Surveys, Forums
    - Providing Evidence and Documentation



# Intended Outcomes

- Pursue reaffirmation of accreditation by MSCHE by engaging the New Paltz community in an inclusive and transparent self-appraisal self-study process
- Integrate MSCHE self-study and Strategic Plan review to identify strengths and opportunities and to develop forward-looking and aspirational recommendations to advance New Paltz's mission
- Engage in continuous quality maintenance and improvement by documenting current assessment practices and making recommendations about the use of assessment to advance educational and institutional effectiveness.



## 1 School self-evaluation

School sends accrediting agency a self-evaluation describing its performance in relation to the accreditor's standards.

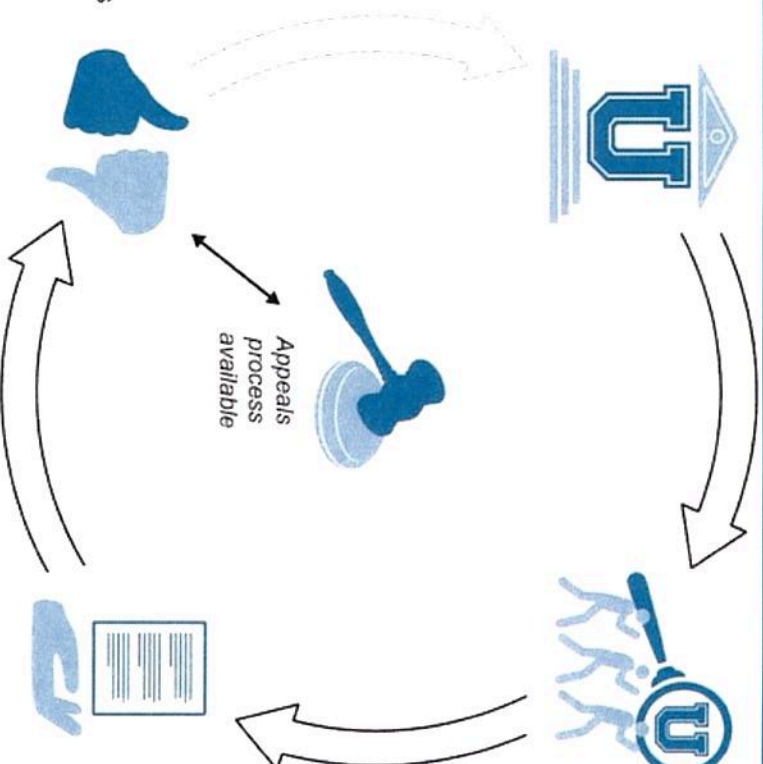
## 2 Peer review site visit

A committee of peer volunteers, generally from other schools, is selected by the accrediting agency to review the school's self-evaluation and conduct a site visit to assess the school's compliance with accreditor's standards.

*Accreditation typically lasts from a few years to up to 10 years, after which the school must reapply*

## 4 Accrediting agency decision

The accrediting agency considers the self-evaluation and the peer review team's assessment before issuing a decision on the school's accreditation status.



## 3 Peer review report

Committee produces a confidential report assessing the school's compliance with the accreditor's standards and makes a recommendation on the school's accreditation.

Source: GAO analysis of information from accreditors and relevant federal law. | GAO-15-59

Fall 2019: Begin Writing Chapter Reports and Hold Community/Information Gathering Forums  
 Spring 2020: Complete self-study report May 2020  
 Fall 2020: Review and community wide-discussion of Self-Study  
 Spring 2021: MSCHE Team On Site Visit  
 Summer 2021: Commission meets to determine accreditation status



## Institutional Priorities:

### Addressed in the Middle States Self-Study

1. Nurture a learning environment founded on critical thinking, creativity, and the growth and sharing of knowledge
2. Cultivate sustainability in all its forms, including institutional, social, economic, and environmental sustainability
3. Forge community and enhance our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
4. Increase accessibility of undergraduate and graduate education in the region



# The Seven Standards

I. Mission and Goals

II. Ethics and Integrity

III. Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

IV. Support of the Student Experience

V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment

VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration



# SUNY New Paltz

## Mission Statement

In the proud tradition of SUNY, the State University of New York at New Paltz is committed to providing **high quality, affordable education** to students from **all social and economic backgrounds**. We are a faculty and campus community dedicated to the **construction of a vibrant intellectual/creative public forum** which reflects and celebrates the diversity of our society and encourages and supports **active participation in scholarly and artistic activity**. SUNY New Paltz is an **active contributor** to the schools, community institutions and **economic/cultural life of our region**.

We are selective in admitting students who show **promise of thriving in a learning environment which is challenging, student-centered, and personalized**. Our goal is for students to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute as **productive members of their communities and professions and active citizens in a democratic nation and a global society**.



## Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration

The institution is governed and administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission and goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, and the other constituencies it serves. Even when supported by or affiliated with governmental, corporate, religious, educational system, or other unaccredited organizations, the institution has education as its primary purpose, and it operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.

This standard reviews the:

- Governing Structure (Board of Trustees, College Council)
- Chief Executive Officer of the Campus
- Administrative Structures and Procedures
- Faculty and Student Governance



# Role of the College Council in the MSCHE Accreditation Process

MSCHE will be interested in the work of the College Council in terms of its oversight of budgets, plans, and policies.

Prior to the Site visit: Standard VII Working Group

- Data/documentation
- Conversation with College Council members

During the Site Visit:

Possible discussion with Visiting Team members