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. Catalinutto 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. Catalinutto 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,

[Signature]

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 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* for a list of items/actions prohibited in the residence halls. See 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
MSCHE: Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Understanding Commission Expectations:
An Overview

Chair/Professor of Design, Department of Theatre
Ken Goldstein

Associate Provost for Strategic Planning and Assessment
Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney
MSCHE: Middle States Commission on Higher Education Membership

- Region includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and 19 international institutions
- 530 Member and Candidate 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 Division of Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility.
We have entered the Self-Study Phase. Structures and Involvement:

- Providing Evidence and Documentation
- Involvement in Discussions, Surveys, Forums
- Awareness and Participation
- Outreach to Campus Wide Constituencies
- Consultants/Support Personnel from Administration
- Working Groups
- Steering Committee
Educational and institutional effectiveness.
Recommendations about the use of assessment to advance
documentation current assessment practices and making
Engage in continuous quality maintenance and improvement by

Aspirational recommendations to advance New Palz’s mission
Appraisal strengths and opportunities and to develop forward-looking and
Integrate MSCEH self-study and Strategic Plan review to identify

Appraisal self-study process
New Palz community in an inclusive and transparent self-
Pursue reaffirmation of accreditation by MSCEH by engaging the

Intended Outcomes
Summer 2021: Commission meets to determine accreditation status
Spring 2021: MSCHE Team on site Visit
Fall 2020: Review and communitywide discussion of Self-Study
Spring 2020: Complete self-study report
May 2020: Faculty 2019: Begin writing chapter reports and hold community/Institutional Forums

1. School self-evaluation
   - In relation to the accreditors' standards
   - School sends accreditation agency a self-evaluation describing its performance

2. Peer review site visit
   - A committee of peer volunteers, generally
   - A site visit to assess the school's self-evaluation and conduct an on-site review
   - Accrediting agency to review the school's standards

3. Peer review report
   - A recommendation on the school's standards and makes
   - Recommendations
   - Committee produces a confidential report

4. Accrediting agency decision
   - After which the school must respond
   - Accreditation typically lasts from a few years to up to 10 years

5. Accrediting agency status
   - Assessment before issuing a decision on
   - Self-evaluation and the peer review team's
   - Accrediting agency considers the

6. Accreditation
   - Available process appeals

Source: GAO analysis of information from accreditors and relevant federal law | GAO-19-569

State University of New York
4. Increase accessibility and affordability of undergraduate and graduate education, and inclusion

3. Forge community and enhance our commitment to diversity, social, economic, and environmental sustainability

2. Cultivate sustainability in all its forms, including institutional creativity, and the growth and sharing of knowledge

1. Nurture a learning environment founded on critical thinking

Institutional Priorities:
Addressed in the Middle States Self-Study
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
Mission Statement

SUNY New Paltz

The State University of New York at New Paltz is a comprehensive, public, land-grant university located in the heart of the Hudson River Valley in the New York City metropolitan area. Our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable education to students from all walks of life, while contributing to the economic, cultural, and social development of our region.

SUNY New Paltz is committed to providing an educational experience that is characterized by excellence, innovation, and engagement. We are dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, the development of critical thinking skills, and the promotion of lifelong learning.

Our campus community, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, is characterized by its inclusivity and diversity. We welcome students from all backgrounds and perspectives, and we strive to create a learning environment that is welcoming, supportive, and vibrant.

As a land-grant institution, SUNY New Paltz is committed to addressing the needs of our local community and beyond. We are an active contributor to the schools, community institutions and supports active participation in scholarly and artistic activity.

We are a faculty and campus community dedicated to the construction of a vibrant intellectual/creative public forum and the celebration of the diversity of our society and our region.

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 walks of life, while contributing to the economic, cultural, and social development of our region.
Faculty and Student Governance
Administrative Structures and Procedures
Chief Executive Officer of the Campus
Governance Structure (Board of Trustees, College Council)

This standard reviews the:

with appropriate authority.

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

Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration
Possible discussion with Visiting Team members

During the Site Visit:

- Conversation with College Council members
- Data/documentation

Prior to the Site Visit: Standard VII Working Group meetings or its oversight of budgets, plans, and policies.

MSCHE will be interested in the work of the College Council in the MSCHE Accreditation Process.

Role of the College Council in the