College Council Meeting  
April 16, 2015

Present: President Christian, Mr. Basch (acting as chair), Dr. Venables, Mr. DiCarlo, Mrs. Kuhlmann, Mr. Catalinotto, Mr. Abt (phone), Mr. Cozzolino (phone), Mr. Law (phone), Mr. Okundaye (Student Association president), Dr. Anderson (faculty representative); Vice Presidents Halstead, Marks, Rooney, Eaton, and Wright. Guests: Ms. Laura Barrett, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. The Council approved the minutes of the March 5, 2015, meeting.

Chairman’s Report: Mr. Basch opened and stated that he would serve as acting chair for the meeting since Mr. Abt was away. Mr. Basch said that he’s been affiliated with SUNY New Paltz for 30 years and was pleased to lead the meeting. He noted that Dean Barrett would give a presentation about liberal arts and sciences, and also reminded the Council about attending the upcoming commencement ceremonies.

President’s Report: President Christian stated that we had a very successful “Accepted Student Day” on March 28 and another coming up on April 18. This is part of the College’s work to help students (and their parents) decide on New Paltz among the average 6-8 schools that students now consider. The president noted that application numbers have been strong, but “yielding” those students is the challenge that we face between now and the start of fall semester. The number of paid deposits has been tracking closely with last year’s pattern. Where we stand after May 1 will be most telling. This is the national date for students to declare their intentions, even though we receive applications and accept students right up to the start of fall semester.

President Christian shared that the Admissions staff had done a tremendous job in a challenging environment, and the entire campus community pitched in to help prospective students and their parents learn about the tremendous opportunities available to students at New Paltz. The College is extremely attentive to its recruitment efforts because of heightened concern across the higher education landscape about declining enrollments because of demographic, economic, and other forces. Those forces are perhaps especially apparent in the Northeast. With 75% of the College’s core instructional budget coming from tuition (only 25% from taxpayer revenues), SUNY New Paltz’s budgetary health is sharply dependent on enrollment.

The enacted state budget for next year includes the 5th year of the five-year rational tuition increase ($300 for in-state students). The net effect of tuition increase, virtually no new taxpayer revenue, and multiple financial commitments (including increased TAP support, salary increases negotiated at the state level, new positions committed to the new mechanical engineering program) is that our budget for next year will be essentially flat, with little flexibility to invest in new positions and programs. We are in the process now of scrutinizing pending vacancies from retirement, resignation, and non-renewal to reallocate them from areas of declining enrollment to departments and programs where instructional demand is greatest.
President Christian noted that the Council may have read about a recent student protest about tuition increases. The president provided members with copies of a recent message sent to the campus community that is a response to the concerns and issues the students’ expressed.

This fiscal year’s fund-raising total as of April 1 is more than $2.5 million, including bequests (booked using standard industry protocols). This compares with $1.2 million last year at this time.

The president shared that one of the College’s really important strategic plan goals is figuring out ways to better engage alumni in the life of the institution. This year, the campus acted on many exciting initiatives to meet this goal, including:

- Hosted several outstanding “President’s Roundtables” that bring successful alumni or other supporters together with students, helping our students gain important career and life guidance as we build new relationships with people who may support the College.
- Organized and hosted a summit entitled “Successful Women: What Does it Take?” We welcomed 32 women scholars and business leaders, most of them New Paltz alumnae, who spoke with students and responded to their questions in five panels organized by the five academic units. Our students, women and men, engaged actively in these discussions and flocked to speak individually with the panelists.
- Identified at least six potential new members of the Foundation Board, who will be asked this spring to join.
- Launched a “100 Days Senior Celebration” on February 6 to help graduating seniors think about sustaining connections to the College after graduation.
- Alumni Relations, partnering with the Career Resource Center, placed 29 first-year students in internships with alumni-employees. The two units are planning an “Alumni Discovery” program in which a select team of students will conduct up to 500 interviews with alumni during summer 2015 to gain insights into alumni perceptions of their New Paltz education and help connect them to the College. Students will receive compensation and a great experience.
- Planning multiple alumni gatherings across New York and the U.S.

SUNY New Paltz has earned a “Silver” STARS rating (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System), a program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS assesses sustainability performance in academics, campus and public engagement, operations, and planning and administration. The STARS data give us the opportunity to track development of sustainability initiatives over time, and benchmark our work to other institutions, providing a path for us to move towards STARS Gold.

Mr. Basch said that the Foundation has accomplished great work that he is both fond of and thankful for. The board has dedicated considerable energy focused toward fundraising and making the institution better always. He thanked the president, Vice President Marks, and the board for their success in this area.
Mr. Abt echoed Mr. Basch’s comments and noted that the College’s fundraising efforts should work very well for the large alumni base that New Paltz has. President Christian thanked the members for their support and recognition.

Mr. Abt asked what the graduation rates are for full-time New Paltz students. President Christian replied that the College’s 4-year rate is 55% and 6-year rate is 73%. He also noted that these are narrow measures of institutional success as the metric looks at only first-year students. Transfer students are not reflected in graduation statistics.

Vice President Eaton stated that the national average 4-year graduation rate at public and private universities is 29%; 6-year is 55%. President Christian said the College has a real opportunity to increase its 4-year rate and bring it closer to the 6-year rate. This can be achieved by identifying course bottlenecks, supporting students, and increasing curricula.

Mr. DiCarlo asked how this year’s 4-year graduation rate compares with 30 years ago. Vice President Eaton replied that the 4-year graduation rate in 1980 was below the national average at approximately 19-20%.

Dr. Anderson inquired about first-year retention rate statistics. Vice President Eaton replied that the overall first-year retention rate is 90%. President Christian concurred with the overall rate and added that the retention rate for African American students is 92%, EOP students 91%, and Latino students 91%.

Mr. Okundaye asked about sophomore retention rates. The president said that the College was looking into those statistics as well.

Dr. Laura Barrett: Dr. Barrett thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak about the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LA&S). She has been dean at SUNY New Paltz for eight months after serving as dean for five years at another public university in Georgia. Dean Barrett provided an overview of her unit and discussed specific initiatives and programs of interest. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

There are 17 departments, 21 major programs, and more than a dozen concentrations in LA&S. Dean Barrett also noted that LA&S has approximately 2,700 student majors with 43% residing on campus, and 51% of New Paltz’s total student credit hours. Students can choose from nearly three dozen minors, including interdisciplinary programs in Asian Studies, Black Studies, Evolutionary Studies, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Many students also choose to double major or combine minors during their studies.

Dean Barrett said that LA&S has maintained fairly even enrollment across programs with a few notable exceptions. For example, the Public Relations concentration within Communication has grown by 50% in the last three years. Communication Disorders continues to be one of the most sought after programs in the College and the Deaf Studies minor is the most popular minor at New Paltz. And next spring, the Speech, Language and Hearing Center will be renovated, increasing capacity for the graduate program.
The dean described a number of noteworthy LA&S initiatives to the Council, including:

- This year, the College hired its first digital humanities faculty member, who will work with faculty across the campus to create an interdisciplinary scholarship center.
- Two years ago, a Global Information Systems (GIS) specialist joined the geography faculty to work with faculty and students to expand GIS opportunities.
- In the past year, Languages, Literatures and Cultures worked with the Center for International Programs to bring two languages to the College – Arabic and Portuguese.
- The Department of Political Science boasts some of the College’s most unique experiential learning programs, including Model European Union.
- Psychology and Sociology are among the most popular programs and also offer great experiential learning opportunities, including a minor in Disaster Studies through the Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH). IDMH also launched a new advanced certificate in trauma and mental health.

Dean Barrett said that many programs also sponsor lectures, presentations and conferences that can appeal to the entire College. For example, this year, LA&S welcomed environmentalist Bill McKibben to campus, Evolutionary Studies hosted a spring seminar series, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies hosted a conference on Sex, Power and Money, and IDMH held its annual conference with this year’s focus on responding to climate change.

The dean ended her presentation with a focus on the LA&S strategic plan. The plan outlines goals, including increasing student/faculty research and faculty team-taught classes, and enhancing the quality of the academic experience for students and faculty. The document will help streamline LA&S work and counter the perception that the liberal arts are impractical and out of touch.

Mr. DiCarlo asked if the College still had a legislative internship with Albany. Dean Barrett replied no. The president said that the NYS Assembly has its own program in which New Paltz students participate.

Mr. DiCarlo asked if there has ever been an attempt to get more right, conservative speech on campus. The dean replied that we do not discourage anybody from bringing different viewpoints on campus. Mr. DiCarlo asked if we are reaching out for alternative views. Mr. Okundaye replied that it would be useful to hold an event with speakers who offer differing points of view. Students could see what a real political debate looks like outside of college.

Mr. DiCarlo stated that people are afraid of speaking out and that he is concerned students who may have minority viewpoints do not have the opportunity to have their voices heard. He noted that this may especially be the case at liberal arts colleges where discussion and free expression of ideas on the conservative spectrum may be hampered. Dean Barrett emphasized that liberal and liberal arts colleges are two very different things.

Budget Update: See attached PowerPoint slide. Vice President Halstead stated that the College achieved its target for tuition collections for 2014-2015, and will exceed the target by $1.2-$1.5 million. The additional revenue will be deposited into a one-time funds account. The vice president noted that expenditures are well-below the personal service expenditure allocation, but
slightly above the temporary service allocation. She noted it is natural to see a “see-saw” between these two numbers. Vice President Halstead also stated that utility expenditures are doing really well and are currently under the utilities target for this year, primarily due to lower costs compared with last year.

Mr. Basch concluded noting that this was the last Council meeting of the academic year. He wished everyone a good summer. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Winters
Community & Government Relations Associate
Liberal Arts & Sciences: An Overview
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Growth & Innovation
Departments of Communication Disorders

- Equipment upgrades
- Growing Public Relations concentration
- 50% Growth in 5 years

Departments of Communication/Digital Media & Journalism

Growth & Innovation
Portuguese

Alonso (center) leads a classroom discussion in PUC-Rio Graduate Student Veronica Coomes

Growth & Innovation

Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Geography

Digital Humanities

Curricular Revision
Sociology

Health (online program)

IDMH: Advanced Certificate in Trauma & Disaster Mental

Psychology and Counselling

Model EU

Political Science

Growth & Innovation
Students
Students

- Experiential Learning
- Global Engagement Program
- Harvard Model UN
- United Nations Semester
- Disaster Mental Health trip to Israel

Disaster Mental Health students with a reinforced concrete shelter near cattle pens at Kibbutz Sado.
Internships

204 students enrolled in internships this spring; 136 in fall

Offering A&S Summer Internship Scholarships in Summer 2015, all

Amanda Ruschak (Public Relations) - Kingston Land Trust
Danielle Halikias (History) - Vassar Brothers Medical Center

Field Experiences

- Kaitlyn Lavacca (Sociology - Human Services) - New Paltz Youth Program, Step One at the NorthEast Center for Special Care
- Monica Glouque (Sociology - Human Services) - Family of Woodstock, Midway Center for Spectrum Services
- Sam LaCovra (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies) - Crime Victim’s Assistance Program
Study Abroad

London Art Seminar
London Theatre Seminar

Université de Franche Comté (Besançon, France)
Universidad de Sevilla (Spain)
Kapito Language School (Germany)
Spanish Language Studies at Universidad de Oviedo (Spain)
German Language Studies at Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic)

Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (Argentina)
"Granada" University (Perth, Australia)
Welfare in South Africa
International Social Work (UK)
Nagasaki University (Japan)

University of Huddersfield
University of Dundee (UK)
Cardiff University (UK)
Cardiff Program (Jamaica)
Jamaica Service Learning Program (Jamaica)

University of Limerick (Ireland)

Italian Language Studies at the University of Urbino (Italy)

Santo Espíritu University (Ecuador)
Especialidades de Espíritu Santo (Ecuador)

Dankook University (Korea)

Victoria University (New Zealand)

University of Western Ontario (Canada)

University of Lisbon (Portugal)

University of Texas at Austin (USA)

University of California at Berkeley (USA)
Anthropology in December

prize from the Association for Feminist
earned Undergraduate Sylvia Forman
Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Breanna McCaffrey '14 (Anthropology,

at Woodstock Film Festival,
named an Official Selection
students' film "Warning Wolf"
Digital Media Production

Awards and Honors

Students
Sustainability/Environmental Studies

LGBTQ

New in 2015-16:

Romance Languages

East-West

Living and Learning Communities

Students
2014 LAS Teacher of the Year

Faculty

Penny Freel (English)

2014 Provost Awards for Faculty Excellence

Faculty

Navin Viswanath (Psychology) – Outstanding Pre-Tenure Scholarly/Creative Activity

Eve Wallerman (Sociology) – Excellence in Teaching Excellence

Hamilton Stapell (History) – Excellence
Alexandra Cox and Keranae Carroll (Sociology and Black Studies)

County

"Inside Out" course at the Brookwood Center in Sullivan

Dan Lipson and Rosemary Milham (Political Science and Secondary Education)

"Climate Change Science, Politics, and Policy"

Anne Roschele and Luz Porras (Sociology and Languages, Literature, and Culture)

"Inequality, Gendered Violence, and Migration in Guatemala"

Team-Taught Courses

Faculty


Faculty Publications
River Valley Heritage Project, which is catalogued by WorldCat.

Hosted by the Southern New York Library Resources Council's Hudson online exhibit, "Stored Objects: a Material History of New Partizan," the site is an essay and an exhibit in the "Material of History, Thought, and Art," collaborating on the site.

Cyrus Mullen, and students from his spring 2013 and 2015 honors courses. Presentations and students from this spring 2013 and 2015 Honors classes, presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, April 8-12.

Association of Physical Anthropologists, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, April 8-12.

Research, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, April 11-13.


Journal of Evolutionary Studies Consortium, 6(2), 33-41.


"Divorce patterns and the male-to-female mortality ratio: is middle class the death of men?" L. G. (2015). 'Divorce patterns and the".
Presentations & Lectures
Presentations & Lectures
LA&S Strategic Plan
LA&S Strategic Plan

Proposed Initiatives

- Represent and promote the strengths of faculty and student research in contributing to the quality of teaching and learning
- Enhance quality of academic experience for students and faculty
- Articulate the LA&S story of liberal education for students and the public
Newsletter

Available for viewing online at:

http://sites.newpaltz.edu/colllegealumni

Published in fall and spring

Staff

Email distribution to alumni, faculty, and
Performing Arts Education and School of Fine Arts Partnership with School of Arts
• Autism Initiative Institute at SUNY Albany Partnership with the Roosevelt
• Joint BA/MPA in Public Administration

Potential Partnerships
## Expenditures

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## Revenue

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As of April 15, 2015

FY 14-15 Status of Core Instructional Budget

Total Expenditures
- Tuition Scholarship
- Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment
- Utilities
- Temporary Service
- Personal Service

Expenditures

Total Revenue
- State Support
- Total Funded Generated by Campus Activities

Revenue