

**College Council Meeting  
April 17, 2017**

Present: President Christian, Mr. Abt, Dr. Venables, Mr. Basch, Mr. Law, Mr. Catalinotto, Dr. Balant (faculty representative), Mr. Dunefsky (alumni representative), Ms. Reynoso (Student Association president), Provost Arnold, Vice Presidents Eaton, Halstead, Wright, and Interim Vice President Brumfield.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. The minutes of the March 2, 2017, meeting were approved by voice vote.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Abt opened the meeting and reminded members about logistical details for the Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies. He then recognized Mr. Basch who introduced a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Abt, honoring his twenty-three years of service to the Council as member and chair (see attached resolution).

Mr. Basch commended Mr. Abt for his leadership, enthusiasm and energy throughout his tenure of service. He remained centered on public education and what's best for students. Mr. Basch said Mr. Abt brought a sense of curiosity, had fresh ideas and asked great questions, and will be sorely missed. Mr. Abt thanked Mr. Basch and said that while his professional focus was outside education, his work on the Council has been a great experience. He worked to help make the College successful for its students and enjoyed working with four SUNY New Paltz presidents along the way.

Mr. Basch read the resolution and moved for its adoption. Mr. Catalinotto seconded the motion and the Council approved the resolution, as follows:

*Whereas, Kenneth J. Abt has provided extraordinary service to the State of New York, the State University of New York, and, particularly, the State University of New York at New Paltz; and*

*Whereas, he was appointed to this Council by Governor Mario M. Cuomo in 1994; reappointed in 2001 by Governor George E. Pataki; and again in 2008 by Governor David Paterson, and has served this institution with great distinction over these twenty-three years during the administration of four College Presidents: Alice Chandler, Roger W. Bowen, Steven G. Poskanzer; and, Donald P. Christian; and*

*Whereas, Ken, then president and CEO of First Federal Savings of Middletown, N.Y., was appointed Chair of the College Council in June, 2008, after Harry Scherr, III, Chair of the College Council, passed away in December, 2007; and*

*Whereas, he played a key role as the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee in securing the leadership of the College's current President, Donald P. Christian, and in steadfastly and wisely advising and supporting him; and*

*Whereas, Ken in his role as Chair, established the College Council Student Aid Fund, for students with changed financial circumstances that placed them at risk of not completing their degrees; through their generosity, Ken and other Council members helped many students in a time of need; and*

*Whereas, he has given freely of his remarkable experience and many talents in support of the students, faculty, staff and administrations of the State University of New York at New Paltz and to this College Council; and*

*Whereas, this College Council is desirous of recognizing his many and significant contributions to the College and the work of the Council during these last 23 years; therefore be it*

*Resolved, that this College Council pay special tribute to Kenneth J. Abt; and be it further*

*Resolved, that these preambles and resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Council and a copy thereof be presented to him.*

*Adopted by the College Council of the State University of New York at New Paltz on the 17th day of April, two thousand seventeen.*

President's Report: President Christian offered a brief report, as the Council planned to tour Wooster and Science halls. He thanked Mr. Basch for agreeing to serve as interim chair of the Council until the governor makes a permanent appointment. President Christian informed the chancellor about Mr. Abt's retirement and her staff will relay the status of Council appointments to the governor's office.

The president provided an update about budget planning for the coming year. As he shared previously, the College is adjusting expenditures and exploring ways to generate new revenues that will bring the budget into balance. The Cabinet is developing plans that will be announced to the campus community in early May. Once we know our enrollment picture for fall, further adjustments may need to be made during the summer. The College will announce any further adjustments after students and faculty are back on campus this fall.

President Christian said that we're learning more details about the new state budget and its implications for SUNY. The tuition plan, with increases of up to \$200 per year for several years, will help the campus cover increasing costs. The budget includes some capital funding, although we do not yet know what that means for our campus. We are learning more detail each day about the Excelsior Scholarship Program and what it will mean for our students and for our campus finances. The program provides additional funding for tuition beyond that provided by federal Pell grants and New York State Tuition Assistance Program funds. It focuses on middle class families, those who earn too much income to qualify for much, if any, other aid, but are not so well off to pay as you go. The president's view on this is that any steps to increase access and affordability for students is a step in the right direction. The College is also watching closely to determine if the new program increases the annual yield of new incoming students.



President Christian reminded the Council that the way the state budget translates into our campus budget will not be known for some time, one of the reasons that we are approaching our current budget situation incrementally.

The president then spoke about adjunct faculty and recent actions to manage the campus's economy. We are adopting a practice that is consistent with employment contracts and in use at many SUNY campuses as well as institutions across the country, and was – in effect – past practice at the College even though the mechanism by which it was done differed. We are providing notice of non-renewal to “term adjuncts” who have taught at SUNY New Paltz for four or more consecutive semesters and who do not presently have a class or other academic role assigned to them at this time. This notice allows the College to more carefully plan for staffing needs while complying with the collective bargaining agreement and SUNY Board of Trustees policies. Approximately half of our adjuncts will receive this notification.

As students register for summer and fall classes this month, President Christian said that we will evaluate the need for adjunct faculty in each program. Many adjuncts who have received the notice will be asked to teach in the fall and the selections will be based on length of service and value of contributions to the College. This adjustment of adjunct instruction to need is a prudent planning practice. The president noted that this practice does not disrupt health insurance coverage for any adjunct.

The College held two very successful and full open houses for Accepted Students on April 1 and April 8, reaching our capacity for such events. President Christian said students and their parents take a closer look at us at these events as they finalize their college choices. Prospects meet with professors, current students, attend mock classes, visit information sessions, and tour the campus. This is a very important event in our effort to recruit the number and quality of students we need to sustain the caliber of our programs and our financial well-being. This is a difficult challenge for many campuses in an era of intense competition for students, especially the best and brightest.

As we approach the nationally agreed upon May 1 decision date, President Christian noted that our enrollment numbers are strong and on par with our very successful previous years. This is the time of year where we do everything we can to leverage our scholarship funding to achieve our recruitment goals.

Earlier this month, Interim Vice President Brumfield and President Christian attended the awards ceremony for students receiving the SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence. Five of our students were recognized. They represent about the top one-half percent of SUNY students. Their achievements in academic performance, campus life, athletics, research, volunteerism and community service, leadership and other areas are inspiring, and should remind all of us of our goal of developing human potential.

President Christian concluded his report with news that the Women's Basketball Team won the SUNY Athletic Conference title this year, then won in the first two rounds of the NCAA championship to advance to the “Sweet Sixteen” for the first time in our program's history. The

president noted that he hears from parents that their sons or daughters are better students because they are athletes – part of the reason that they end up loving New Paltz.

Mr. Abt asked President Christian to describe how he understands the governor's new Excelsior Scholarship Program. The president replied that it is a "last dollar" aid program toward tuition. Low-income students who receive large Pell grants or TAP awards may have their tuition covered fully and may not receive anything under Excelsior. But middle-income students may not qualify or receive much, if any, awards under those longstanding programs and could now apply for Excelsior. Mr. Abt asked if Excelsior recipients have to stay in New York after college. The president replied that they have to remain full-time students completing 30 credits per year, though not necessarily 15 credits per semester. They are required to live in New York for the same number of years they received the scholarship as well. If not, the award would be converted into a loan. Mr. Abt asked if the award only applies to tuition. The president said that was correct.

Mr. Law asked if any other schools had more than five award recipients. The president said yes, but the total number of annual awards are dependent upon the size of the institution. Mr. Abt asked if the recipients receive a financial award. The president said no and that it's based on recognition.

Budget Update: See attached PowerPoint slides. Vice President Halstead said that at the last Council meeting, the College was approaching a \$4 million deficit in the state operating budget. But now that we're three-quarters through the year, the vice president could determine a finer calculation on where we stand. On the expenditure side, she's now predicting the College will spend less than what was budgeted initially. This is based on what had been spent to date and how much time remained in the fiscal year. As a result, the overall estimated deficit will be about \$3 million.

Vice President Halstead said the College took several actions that helped achieve these savings, including a 90-day hold on vacancies with special circumstances for health and safety-related positions. Departments reduced supply orders and many staff have held back on conference travel, all leading to a downturn in expenditures.

Mr. Basch asked if there are more temporary service hires because of the 90-day hold on full-time positions. Vice President Halstead said there were very few additions. Because of the hold, other current employees are taking on additional work during this interim period. Dr. Venables asked where the College will get \$3 million for the deficit. The vice president said the campus will use campus reserves and while overall cash funds are healthy, that fund has enough reserves for possibly one more year to mitigate this issue.

Ms. Reynoso shared that she attended a SUNY-wide Student Association conference last weekend. At that event, resolutions and affirmations of support were introduced and passed recognizing the Black Lives Matter movement, allocating more resources to veteran students and supporting undocumented students. President Christian asked how closely the Student Association's resolution about undocumented students aligns with the SUNY Board of Trustees resolution. Ms. Reynoso was unsure and said that this is an issue students really care about and they wanted to make sure the Board knew this as well.



Wrap-Up: As the Council was preparing for the tour of Wooster and Science halls, Mr. Abt asked about construction activity. President Christian noted that the 2008-2013 capital plan resulted in unprecedented projects across the campus (e.g., Wooster Hall, Science Hall, Sojourner Truth Library, Old Main) and allowed us to plan much more effectively.

Mr. Abt adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Winters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Winters  
Director of Community and Government Relations

## **A Resolution of Appreciation for Kenneth J. Abt**

Whereas, Kenneth J. Abt has provided extraordinary service to the State of New York, the State University of New York, and, particularly, the State University of New York at New Paltz; and

Whereas, he was appointed to this Council by Governor Mario M. Cuomo in 1994; reappointed in 2001 by Governor George E. Pataki; and again in 2008 by Governor David Paterson, and has served this institution with great distinction over these twenty-three years during the administration of four College Presidents: Alice Chandler, Roger W. Bowen, Steven G. Poskanzer; and, Donald P. Christian; and

Whereas, Ken, then president and CEO of First Federal Savings of Middletown, N.Y., was appointed Chair of the College Council in June, 2008, after Harry Scherr, III, Chair of the College Council, passed away in December, 2007; and

Whereas, he played a key role as the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee in securing the leadership of the College's current President, Donald P. Christian, and in steadfastly and wisely advising and supporting him; and

Whereas, Ken in his role as Chair, established the College Council Student Aid Fund, for students with changed financial circumstances that placed them at risk of not completing their degrees; through their generosity, Ken and other Council members helped many students in a time of need; and

Whereas, he has given freely of his remarkable experience and many talents in support of the students, faculty, staff and administrations of the State University of New York at New Paltz and to this College Council; and

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Adopted by the College Council of the State University of New York at New Paltz on the 17th day of April, two thousand seventeen.

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Eli B. Basch  
Member, College Council

# College Council

April 17, 2017



## FY 16-17 Status of Core Instructional Budget

April 15, 2017

### REVENUE

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>over/under</u>
Fall Tuition & Fees	\$ 26,963,598	\$ 26,092,201	\$ (871,397)
Spring Tuition & Fees	\$ 27,065,403	\$ 25,017,051	\$ (2,048,352)
<b>Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities</b>	<b>\$ 54,029,000</b>	<b>\$ 51,109,252</b>	<b>\$ (2,919,748)</b>
State Support	\$ 15,994,300	\$ 15,994,300	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 70,023,300</b>	<b>\$ 67,103,552</b>	<b>\$ (2,919,748)</b>

### EXPENDITURES

	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>To-go</u>	<u>Total Estimated Expense</u>
Personal Service	\$ 56,296,336	\$ 41,624,152	\$ 12,700,000	\$ 54,324,152
Temporary Service	\$ 4,415,538	\$ 3,831,509	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 4,931,509
Utilities	\$ 2,784,100	\$ 1,398,454	\$ 750,000	\$ 2,148,454
Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment	\$ 4,711,613	\$ 3,257,858	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 5,057,858
Tuition Scholarship	\$ 3,706,453	\$ 2,523,999	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 3,673,999
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 71,914,040</b>	<b>\$ 52,635,971</b>	<b>\$ 17,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 70,135,971</b>

Total Estimated Revenue Less Estimated Expense

**\$ (3,032,419.80)**