College Council Meeting  
April 18, 2016

Present: President Christian, Mr. Abt, Dr. Venables, Mr. Basch, Mr. DiCarlo, Mr. Law, Dr. Anderson (faculty representative), Mr. Dunefsky (alumni representative), Interim Provost Deen, Vice Presidents Eaton, Rooney, Wright, Halstead, and Marks. Guests: Jeni Mokren, Dean, School of Fine & Performing Arts.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. The minutes of the March 3, 2016, meeting were approved by voice vote after a quorum was reached (Mr. Law arrived at about 4:00 p.m.).

Chairman's Report: Mr. Abt opened the meeting with best wishes to Vice President Rooney, whose retirement was announced recently by the College. He then introduced Dean Jeni Mokren who provided an update and goals for the School of Fine & Performing Arts.

Jeni Mokren: See attached PowerPoint slides. Dean Mokren began her presentation with the mission of the School of Fine & Performing Arts (hereafter, School). The School is guided by a belief in the transformative power of art and scholarship. The liberal and professional studies encourage rigor and risk by challenging tradition while also recognizing the value of history.

Dean Mokren noted that the School is comprised of nationally-accredited programs in art education, art history, art studio, music, and theatre arts. There are approximately 100 full- and part-time faculty members who are involved actively in creative work, performance and independent scholarship, and teach and train more than 1,000 student majors. The School has the largest MFA program in the SUNY system as well.

Dean Mokren said that she's been working to better align the School with the College's strategic plan initiatives. Examples that nurture innovation and the learning environment include: the fall 2016 debut of the digital design and fabrication minor, launch of an MFA in photography for fall 2018, the exploration of an arts management minor, and a new design department.

The dean also described efforts to strengthen philanthropic relationships and success and engage alumni in the life of the College. This year, the School created FUEL - a guest artist and scholar fund that sponsored New Paltz Design Week, a multi-day set of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and events connected to design. Dean Mokren noted that she will re-launch an advisory board next year, begin a music concert series subscription service, and enhance community building within the School. To increase alumni engagement, the School will continue to connect these stakeholders with lectures, workshops, critiques, performances, internship offerings for students, exhibitions, and field trips.

Dean Mokren said that the School continues to serve the region and offer numerous opportunities that strengthen the College’s regional and community engagement. For 2016, the School has held more than 100 public events to date. Saturday Arts Lab is a popular program for K-12 students, theatre hosts four main-stage productions each year, and Piano Summer draws a local and regional audience and national and international guest artists to the College. In closing, the
dean said the School inspires students to become creative and informed artists, critical thinkers, and leaders who contribute actively to our global community.

Mr. Abt asked the dean to talk about how design is integral to every single thing we do. Dean Mokren agreed with Mr. Abt’s statement, and said that there have been recent conversations about a minor in design thinking because of its widespread importance. She noted also that 100 of the top Fortune 500 companies were design-based businesses.

Mr. Basch asked if the School’s innovations have raised enthusiasm among students. The dean said yes and cited the growth of the College’s digital design and fabrication program as an example.

President’s Report: President Christian began with an acknowledgement of Vice President Rooney’s forthcoming June retirement. He noted that the College is a better place because of the vice president’s work. His contributions to programming and facilities that support Student Affairs are highly commendable.

The president thanked Interim Provost Deen for her service and reminded the Council that Dr. Lorin Arnold, the new provost and vice president for academic affairs, begins on July 5.

The College hosted two accepted student open house events that were well attended with record-breaking numbers.

The president noted that this spring four students were selected for Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence. The students had a broad array of accomplishments and leadership roles, including through Athletics, Residence Life, Undergraduate Admission, Honors Program, and academic programs across the College.

President Christian said that the results of the final enacted state budget passed on April 1 are very disappointing. The budget included no rational tuition authority and no maintenance of effort that would have helped cover inflationary and contractual increases in the campus’s budget and protect SUNY campuses from budget cuts. As a result, the College’s budget next year will be very tight.

The president then showed the Council three graphs related to tuition increases historically and for the College, and national trends. See attached PowerPoint slides. He also noted that since the creation of NYSUNY2020, the College has added 47 new full-time faculty, hired a veteran services coordinator, psychological counselor, and staff in other key areas. The new budget compromises the campus’s ability to make similar investments in the years ahead.

Mr. DiCarlo asked why NYSUNY2020 was not extended. President Christian replied that some legislators agreed with the message of student activists that it would be unfair to increase student tuition for another five years and that it is time to increase taxpayer support to the system. However, legislators and the Governor did not include that support in the final budget.
President Christian shared details about the cancellation of a recent media and politics debate. Student Activities had scheduled. The president said it had become apparent that the event was unlikely to be received by our campus community in the way it was intended. The campus quickly made the decision to reschedule this event, seeing it as a teachable moment for the campus. This time, the campus would prepare the community for the potentially provocative conversations that it might generate, so that we maximize the educational value for our students and others in the community.

The dates this spring that we offered the speakers did not work for them, but they have offered to come in the fall. The president said he is forming a faculty group that will plan a panel discussion and presentation on free speech issues this fall, perhaps to be followed by a debate by the original debaters or perhaps by other speakers about this issue. Our goal would be to hold this event before the November elections.

In messages to the community, the president reinforced the College’s commitment to free speech, and the responsibility we have to model for our students the ability to listen to and try to understand views that we disagree with or find abhorrent, and to do so civilly. It’s part of our educational mission to engage in the free exchange of ideas, even with people whose views we may disagree with. If we don’t prepare our students to engage with differing views while they are in college, then we have not prepared them for the world they are about to enter.

Mr. DiCarlo commended the president on his free speech position. He said that these types of issues are appearing on campuses across the country, and that it is disheartening when an institution shuts down a speaker whom they do not believe in. Mr. DiCarlo said that faculty need to be a little more supportive of free speech on college campuses.

The president said that we, as educators, have a responsibility to keep the conversation and dialogue going, including with those whose positions we may disagree with substantively.

Mr. Law asked when the College would hold the public events and who would serve as sponsor. President Christian responded that the faculty was considering a panel in September followed by the debate in early October, and that a sponsor had not been decided.

President Christian shared news that the men’s volleyball team recently won their conference championship, and are on a 29-game winning streak. The NCAA tournament takes place in Rochester this upcoming weekend.

The president concluded his update with announcements of several upcoming events, including the second Women’s Leadership Summit; Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Robert Kyncl, Chief Business Officer at YouTube; and this year's Commencement ceremonies.

Budget Update: See attached PowerPoint slides. Vice President Halstead said that fall tuition and fees have mostly been received, and we still continue collections for the spring. Funds from state taxpayer support will be forthcoming soon. The vice president expects the College to run basically flat (no deficit or surplus) for the fiscal year and well on target for what we had planned. There may be some money for reserves, which will be used to help support next year’s
deficit since NYSUNY2020 was not extended. The vice president noted that the accepted student open houses were robust, indicating a strong enrollment picture for fall. Solid enrollments will be critical toward sustaining next year’s budget as well.

Vice President Halstead said that the College’s expenditures on personal service are slightly below targeted amounts, with the surplus to be used on the over-expenditure for temporary service.

Utility costs looked good relative to budgeted amounts, and all other spending is on track for this point of the fiscal year.

**Wrap-Up:** Mr. Abt reminded the Council about next month’s Commencement ceremonies, and gave Vice President Rooney an opportunity to offer the last word.

The vice president spoke warmly about his 14 years at the College and that it was easy for him to be successful, as he inherited an incredible staff.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Winters
Community & Government Relations Associate
Our Mission

The value of history, challenging tradition while recognizing scholarship. Our liberal and professional transformative power of art and "FaPa" is guided by a belief in the School of Fine & Performing Arts.
largest MFA program in the SUNY system. We are currently the
then 1,000 student majors. We are currently the
independent scholarship – teach and train more
involved in creative work, performance, and
100 full- and part-time faculty members – activity,
Studio, Music, and Theatre Arts. Approximately
programs in Art Education, Art History, Art
The School comprises nationally accredited
Performing Arts
About the School of Fine A
New Design Department
Management minor
Exploring an Arts Exploitation for Fall
a Master of Fine Arts in Working on the Launch of
Fall 2016 Fabrication minor begins
Digital Design and

Learning Environment
Nurture Innovation and the
- Building
- F&PA Community Concert Series
- Begin subscription service for Music Advisory Board in 2016-
- Re-launch F&PA

Strategic Plan Initiative #3

Strengthen Philanthropic Relationships and Success

FUEL

Empowering Connections through the Arts

Guest Artist - Scholar Fund

New Paltz State University of New York
Engaging Alumni in the Life of the College

- Lectures
- Workshops
- Critiques
- Performances
- Internships
- Exhibitions
- Field trips
Fuel

Empowering Connections

Marketing on all communication channels
Work with Office of Website
Fuel Branding (logo)

Internally and Externally

Market New Paltz
consistency of message.
Establish clear lines of
FGPA Travel Policy
FGPA Workshops
FGPA Promotion
Reappointment, Tenure
FGPA Council

Improve Institutional Capacity
and Internal Processes
Online Education

Build Quality

- Explore best practices in offered online courses currently
- Online arts education
Community Engagement and Strengthen Regional and Space Rental
Local Arts Organization Piano Summer Community Program Saturday Arts Lab so far this year Over 100 Public Events
Public Exhibition Spaces
Art Collides
Lectures
community.

active, contribute to our Global
Critical thinkers, and leaders who
creative and informed artists.
We inspire students to become
New Palzz

Tuition and Fees, 2015-16
Public Four-Year Universities

New York
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April 15, 2016
FY 15-16 Status of Core Instructional Budget

New Paltz State University of New York