

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SUNY COBLESKILL  
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING - October 10, 2012**

**Members Present:** Olive Scott, Barbara Bartlett, Linda Cross, Julicia Godbout, Tom Greenlees, Jeanne Kane, Phil King, & Susan Rightmyer

**Excused:** Cliff Hay & Ginny Kintz

**Guests:** Dr. Vancko, Steve Ackerknecht, Carol Bishop, Bonnie Martin, Joel Smith, John Kowal, Jennifer Regelski-Rotman & Amy Healy

Olive Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00 A. M. **The meeting was audio-taped.**

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Tom Greenlees to amend the September 19, 2012 meeting minutes. The September 19 meeting minutes stated that Peter Barvoets is the new chair of the Curriculum Visiting Scholars on Campus. Peter is the new chair of the Curriculum Committee. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Kane and carried. A motion was made by Julicia Godbout to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Jeanne Kane and carried.

**PART I**

Members were emailed the agenda for the October 10 College Council Meeting prior to the meeting.

**Dr. Candace Vancko, Officer in Charge:**

- Dr. Vancko thanked College Council Members for attending the ceremony held on September 27 that kicked off the Agriculture and Natural Resources construction project. Former Congressman Michael McNulty, Agriculture Commissioner Darrel Aubertine, Senator James Seward, and Assemblyman Peter Lopez joined Dr. Vancko and many campus stakeholders on a beautiful Thursday afternoon.
- Dr. Vancko held a donor reception at her home on September 27 which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Dr. Vancko attended the Scholarship Luncheon held in the Bouck Ballroom on September 27. A record breaking number were in attendance.
- Dr. Vancko attended the Faculty/Staff Recognition event held in the Van Wagenen Library on September 28 which recognized faculty and staff for accomplishments that have brought local, regional and national acclaim to SUNY Cobleskill.
- Dr. Vancko attended the Athletic Hall of Fame Reception on September 28.
- Dr. Vancko attended the Schoharie Business Expo held at the Best Western Inn in Cobleskill on October 3. Along with other Schoharie vendors, Coby's had a display promoting the restaurant to community members.
- Dr. Vancko attended a fashion show to benefit the American Cancer Society held at Grapevine Farms on October 3.
- Dr. Vancko will be having lunch with the Student Government Association Officers this week to discuss ideas/initiatives important to students.
- Dr. Vancko reported that she, together with cabinet members, met recently with the Faculty Executive Committee to address key issues, including the finalization of the re-appointment, tenure & promotion policy by the end of the year, which is a Middle State's requirement.
- Dr. Vancko attended design presentations for the Alumni Association townhouse apartment project to be constructed on the north side of campus. A project design decision will be made in the near future.
- Dr. Vancko will be submitting a SUNY 2020 application to Chancellor Zimpher entitled "New York State Bioenergy Learning Collaborative" which is a multi-campus partnership consistent with the

State University's strategic plan priorities and meets the spirit of SUNY's shared services initiative.

- Dr. Vancko discussed that every three years, SUNY mandates that campuses conduct student opinion surveys (SOS). SUNY Cobleskill administered the SOS survey in spring, 2012. Dr. Vancko will share the results of the survey with the campus and post the results on Sharepoint in the near future.
- Dr. Vancko reported that SUNY Cobleskill's results in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* Great College's to Work For Survey were less than she hoped for.
- Dr. Vancko reported that the SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Delhi joint cabinet members met at SUNY Cortland's Camp Huntington at Raquette Lake from September 24 – September 26. The retreat was extremely productive; priorities and goals were established. Dr. Vancko will be sending a campus-wide memo communicating the outcomes in the near future.

**Tara Winter, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management:**

- Reported that SUNY Cobleskill is losing associate degree seeking students faster than it is gaining baccalaureate degree seeking students.
- We are seeing some instances of increases in direct enrollment into upper division programs and a decline in those students interested in pursuing the compatible 2-year programs first.
- While it benefits the college in terms of increased retention and graduation rates by having a larger percentage of bachelor degree seeking students, the loss at the associate level negatively affects overall headcount growth.
- Growth at the baccalaureate level comes with an increased demand for scholarship dollars so that we can compete with comprehensive colleges which have the same admissions requirements and bigger endowments to yield students.
- We have increased our efforts in marketing and recruitment and are exploring more partnerships with community colleges to expand our off-site offerings.
- The main areas of growth are in the lower Hudson and New York City markets which are also where graduation rates are on the rise in contrast to a decline in the greater capital region and locally.
- Out-of-state enrollment has remained steady over the past several years; Slight declines in a few states have been offset by a healthy increase in Connecticut.
- We continue to lead the tech sector in out-of-state enrollment, second only to Maritime which has a unique mission.
- We continue to explore partnerships internationally and have aligned with SUNY's overall efforts to increase international enrollment at all campuses.

**Carol Bishop, VP Business & Finance:**

- Nothing to report

**Bonnie Martin, VP Operations:**

- SUNY Cobleskill has submitted its next 5 year capital plan request totaling \$131 million to SUNY. The request needs SUNY, legislative, and executive approval.
- All current construction projects are on schedule.
- New web pages have been developed to keep the campus informed of all construction projects and plans <http://www.cobleskill.edu/construction/index.asp>; pages developed with the help of shared webmaster Jill Reid.
- Bonnie Martin is co-chairing the new Administrative Council with Jennifer Gray. The Council will be designing and carrying out an administrative prioritization process, similar to the academic prioritization that took place last spring.

- Bonnie Martin is chairing the search for the new Director of Communications and Marketing. We hope to have a candidate selected by mid-November.

**Joel Smith, VP College Relations:**

- Reported that he has been working to get more local news placement; more coverage in Gazette, Daily Star, and Times Journal.
- Discussed the importance of our SUNY 2020 proposal which is a regionally focused economic development initiative that meets each of the State University's strategic plan's major goals.

**Steve Ackerknecht, VP Student Affairs:**

- Reported that this semester continues to be productive. Students are well behaved and traversing the campus without too many problems.
- Homecoming was well attended and enjoyed by all.
- The Athletic Hall of Fame Event was a pleasurable evening celebrating SUNY Cobleskill alumni. The efforts of Kevin McCarthy and staff were truly appreciated.
- Discussed that Coby's is serving dinner from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday nights. The food is delicious and the prices are reasonable. He encouraged Council members to please support our students and community while enjoying a delicious meal.

**Jennifer Regelski - Rotman, President Alumni Association:**

- Stated that she is a proud alumna of SUNY Cobleskill which is why she is glad and willing to volunteer her services to the campus.
- The Alumni newsletter was reinstated in September, 2012 and will go out twice per year.
- The Alumni Weekend was a great success and enjoyed by all.
- The Veterans Plaza Celebration will take place in Spring, 2013.
- The Alumni townhouse project committee continues to meet weekly. All project design presentations have been made to the committee and a decision will be made in the near future.

**Dr. John Kowal, Presiding Officer of the Faculty:**

- Reported that Faculty Governance Executive Committee and Cabinet members had a very productive meeting. EXCOM and cabinet members are working together to maintain transparency and to collaborate on key concerns and issues.
- Academic and Administrative Prioritization processes were discussed at the meeting.
- Reported that the APPC Committee's priority is to conclude work on revisions to the reappointment, tenure and promotion (RTP) proposal by the end of 2012.
- Discussed the importance of aligning governance committee composition to reflect the new academic structure and to assure balanced representation.
- Discussed the importance of faculty participation in governance.
- There will be a faculty meeting held on October 11. Bylaw proposals will be presented to faculty, including athletic eligibility criteria articulation.

**Julicia Godbout, President of Student Government Association:**

- Reported that next week the Student Government Association (SGA) will be holding club officer training to educate club officers and to reinforce leadership development skills.
- SGA will be undertaking a special campus project again this year (past projects include library café, Tiger's Den).
- SGA officers attended a leadership weekend retreat at Camp Oswegatchie.
- SGA Community Service Week will take place November 5 – 9; community service projects on and off campus – winners will get money and awards for their clubs.
- SGA Grant Program – Watch for information regarding the annual grant program

## **PART II – College Council Members:**

**Chair's Report** – Dr. Scott reported that she attended the scholarship luncheon on September 27. It was an outstanding event and very well attended. Also on September 27, Dr. Scott attended the kick-off event of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Building. Dr. Scott noted that it was good to see so many elected officials as well as former Congressman McNulty. That evening, Dr. Scott attended the donor event held at Dr. Vancko's home and remarked that it was a beautiful evening. On September 28, Dr. Scott attended the Athletic Hall of Fame event. Dr. Scott applauded Kevin McCarthy and his staff for their hard work. On September 29, Dr. Scott attended the alumni award events and noted the large number of people in attendance despite the rainy weather

### **Committee Reports:**

**ACT** - Dr. Scott and Cliff Hay will be attending this year's ACT conference in Lake Placid which will be held this coming weekend. By-law revisions are included on the agenda. Dr. Scott asked Council Members to contact her prior to the meeting if they have comments/questions.

**CAS** – Nothing to report.

### **Faculty Governance Executive Board**

- Reported that the meeting with EXCOM and cabinet members was very good and productive.
- Academic and Administrative Prioritization were discussed.
- Restructuring – Dr. Thatcher has been meeting with deans who in turn meet with department chairs.
- Searches for deans will take place in spring 2013.
- Announced that Dr. Vancko provided a very thorough and informative report.

### **New Agriculture Building:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Professional Development Committee:**

- Linda Cross announced that there have been no meetings since she last reported.
- Dave Campbell, chair of the committee, has communicated requests via email.
- In addition to supervising the SUNY Cobleskill culinary students at Coby's on Thursday and Friday evenings, Dave has been taking two online classes.

### **New Business:**

- Motion to approve Peter Michael Nichols as a member of the Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Committee made by Linda Cross, seconded by Susan Rightmyer and carried.

Tom Greenlees made a motion to adjourn at 10:35, seconded by Jeanne Kane and carried.

**The next meeting will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Knapp 203.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy K. Healy

**Distribution:** College Council, Vice Presidents, Deans, Department Chairs, Presiding Officer of the Faculty, The Alumni Association, The College Foundation, Van Wagenen Library.