



April 2023 COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members:

RoAnn Destito-Chair, Darlene Burns, Mitchell Ford, Nichole Hinman, Keith Levatino, Nicholas Rossi, and William Thickstun

Administration:

Mary Ellen Burdick, Nate Cady, Bonnie Davis, Marybeth Lyons, Mark Montgomery, Andy Russell, and Zora Thomova

Guests:

Michael Fasullo and Linda Weber

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Destito convened the Public Meeting at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all participants to the College Council meeting. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Burns and seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023, meeting as presented. All were in favor.

Chairman's Report

Chair Destito's comments are throughout the meeting. She invited all the Council members to join her on October 13 & 14 for the Annual ACT Conference held at the Desmond in Albany. Given the close proximity, it is anticipated that the Chancellor and Trustee Chair will be in attendance. She is hopeful we will again have another winner for the ACT Student Scholarship.

President's Report

Dr. Russell indicated that it is a great time to be on campus, specifically with several positive events such as Awards Banquet, Awards Ceremonies, multiple Commencements, etc., and overall excitement to celebrate the success of the students.

Chancellor John King, Jr. visited the Utica campus on March 2nd, and was well received. He enjoyed speaking with a group of diverse students, listened to their journey that brought each to attend SUNY Poly. Interim Dean, Dr. Michael Carpenter, gave him the tour of GCAM, and Chancellor played drone soccer in the Robotics Lab! In the Cayan Library, an overview of the Portraits of Hope exhibit was on display for his review. Special thanks to Dr. Kathryn Stam, Professor of Anthropology, for making that available. She was joined by Kay Klo, a refugee and



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current graduate student in IDT at SUNY Poly who is also the Executive Director of the Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC), which is a wonderful illustration of the partnerships we enjoy. At the end of this special visit, Andy joined Chancellor King and College Council Chair Destito, as well as New York State Senator Joe Griffo, Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, and Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, for a news conference, where all shared optimism for SUNY Poly's bright future, and Chancellor King shared his and Governor Hochul's ongoing commitment to the success of SUNY Poly.

Future Enrollment update: We remain optimistic regarding enrollment growth for 2023 with our first-year applications. As of April 17, we are ahead by 72%; 4,798 applications vs. 2,793 on the same day last year. This is a record number of first-year applications. Thanks to our wonderful admissions team, we currently have *3,722 acceptances out vs. 2,173 last year, same day*; an increase of 71%. Paid deposits are running slightly ahead of last year: 192 vs. 184. Additionally, for fall '22, our first-year student enrollment increased 25% compared to last year. This was the 3rd highest increase in first-year enrollment across the SUNY system. Further aiming to bolster the enrollment pipeline, CNY Drones, SUNY Poly's Academy of Model Aeronautics Student Club, and U.S. Drone Soccer held the U.S. Drone Soccer National Championship April 16 in the Wildcat Field House. At that event, 16 teams of middle and high school students, ages 12 to 18, from four regional championships in Alabama, California, Colorado, and New York, competed for National Honors and an automatic invitation to the International Championship and Exhibition in Denver, Colorado, May 8-11, 2023. This is a great way to reach prospective students who are already interested in aspects of SUNY Poly's curricula.

Recent Accomplishments:

College of Health Sciences: We have been awarded more than \$1.4 million from the New York State Department of Education through a Liberty Partnership Program grant to serve hundreds of at-risk students in the region for grades 5-12. This effort has been pioneered by Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Joanne Joseph, in coordination with Central New York Health Homes and our own Council member, Dr. Keith Levatino, from Little Falls. Andy shared that he enjoyed his recent tour of Little Falls and appreciates the amazing work happening there. Through this work, Poly will engage students in a mixed-model school- and after school-based effort. The initiative seeks to facilitate positive outcomes and decrease the chances of students deciding to drop out of school. This three-pronged approach to meet this critical goal is made up of: recruit and select at-risk students to participate; employ family engagement and case management strategies with leadership training from Donelli Associates; and engage students in career and educational goal-setting, civic-minded projects, and after school and summer activities.

College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering: SUNY Poly's Innovation Intensive program with Albany Law was featured in Bloomberg Law article entitled, "ANALYSIS: Innovative Law Schools



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Embrace Experiential Learning”. It featured how “Students at Albany Law School are learning to work with inventors to help turn their ideas into commercially viable products and services, as well as pursue intellectual property protections...” and is a partnership between the Research Foundation for the State University of New York and SUNY Poly to pair inventors with law students. From that, two spinoffs have marked meaningful milestones. The first is SUNY Poly Alumni spinoff Lux Semiconductors raised \$2.3 million in seed-round funding for System-on-Foil semiconductor platform, and secondly, NoMIS Power announced they are collaborating with Hyundai Motor Company to evaluate novel high voltage power semiconductor devices. We are very proud that we continue to lead the way in the semi-conductor world.

College of Arts and Sciences: *Forbes* featured Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Carlie Phipps, in an article, “9 Passion Projects That Admission Officers Loved.” This has a potential reach of up to 72 million people, and highlights the SUNY Poly Upstate Accelerate Scholars Program with SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine. The program allows admitted SUNY Poly students seeking a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree to be guaranteed acceptance into Upstate’s Doctor of Medicine (MD) program if they satisfy the eligibility requirements. She highlighted the importance of genuinely wanting to help others. Another highlight was sending approximately a dozen students, along with a few faculty, to California for the Game Developer’s Conference. They were featured at the NYS Game Developer’s Conference Pavilion. This provided a chance to showcase our degree program in Interactive Media and Game Design, which gives students opportunities to design and produce games, and received news coverage in the Central New York Business Journal. It also gave students the opportunity to network with leading companies in the field for job opportunities after graduation. They had such a great experience and are already planning for next year!

College of Business: SUNY Poly hosted the New York Business Plan Competition’s Mohawk Valley regional semifinal once again, with partner Hartwick College on April 14th. This shark-tank style competition promotes entrepreneurial opportunities for college students who pitch their business plans for the chance to win cash prizes, including \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 for first, second, and third place finishers, respectively. Seven teams advanced to the finals in Syracuse, including four from SUNY Poly in the Safety, Power & Mobility; Learn, Work & Play; and Software & Services tracks. We are very proud of our students for succeeding in that program. In recent National rankings, *Fortune* ranked SUNY Poly #4 in the nation for 2023 Best Online Master’s in Accounting Program. A resource called, Best Accredited Colleges included Poly on their list of Best Online Bachelor Degree Programs in Accounting (#10), as well as its list of the Best Bachelor's of Finance Degrees (#11).

College of Engineering: The Syracuse Post-Standard featured College of Engineering Interim Dean Dr. Michael Carpenter, highlighting how SUNY Poly prepares students for careers like those soon available at Micron. In the article, Dr. Carpenter said, “Electrical and mechanical engineering and technology degrees offered by the college are aligned with what Micron will be looking for when it begins hiring. So, there is no need for students to wait for Micron-specific classes to be announced.” Assistant Professor of Network and Cybersecurity, Mahmoud Badr,



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and Associate Professor and Department Chair, Hisham Kholidy, with researchers from around the world published, "Review of the Data-Driven Methods for Electricity Fraud Detection in Smart Metering Systems," in *Energies 2023*. In short, this article seeks to address problems stemming from how malicious consumers tamper with their smart meters to report low readings to reduce their bills. Such electricity fraud causes financial losses to electric utility companies worldwide, threatens the power grid's stability, and recommends for future research directions to recognize fraud, all the while increasing customer safety.

Alumni Events & Foundation Update: Congratulations to Andrea LaGatta who spearheads this special event raising more than \$184,666 through the SUNY Poly Foundation's Annual Day of Giving. This surpassed last year's total of \$113,000. A few special sponsors that clearly support our students;

President Sponsors: NYSTEC, which established an endowed scholarship in honor of their employee Michele Salisbury '94 who was retiring; SUNY Poly's Student Government Association; First Source Federal Credit Union; "A Remarkable Man"; and Stephen '06 and Gina '03 Surace

Provost Sponsors: Berkshire Bank; Pepsi Company; and Wildcat Hospitality (Aramark)

Scholar Sponsors: Clifford Fuel & Market; Kevin Volk '83; Passero Associates; SR Sloan; The Wildcat Den/Auxiliary Services; and the Utica First Insurance Company

In addition to his support of Day of Giving, a planned gift was established by Kevin Volk '83 to support a nursing scholarship at SUNY Poly.

The next scheduled event is SUNY Poly's Annual Day at the Saratoga Race Track on July 21.

Additional Highlights:

- The National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators recognized SUNY Poly athletes for Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteer work in a recent article. Andy's dad also volunteers with this group and was impressed by our students. Our student-athletes helped build beds by cutting, sanding, and staining wood, drilling holes and branding the headboards of beds with the school logo. They have also collected bedding to facilitate a good night of rest.
- SUNY announced that the Chancellor's Summer Research Excellence Fund will provide 150 undergraduates with paid internships this summer at five campuses, including ours. The internship program will expand research opportunities to students with financial need, first-generation students, and others who may face barriers to securing research experiences. This will further open the doors to our Summer Undergraduate Research Program, which we've held for several years. This is for underserved students and those with financial need.
- Two Senior-year SUNY Poly mechanical engineering students, Zachary Byrum and Luke Handerman created the Scrub Pad Cutter. They participated as a team in the 2023 CREATE (Cultivating Resources for Employment with Assistive TEchnology) Symposium, taking home the third place prize of \$5,000. Participants collaborate with rehabilitative support organizations to develop innovations that help those with disabilities succeed in



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their jobs. The machine they created cuts raw scouring pad material into circles of varying diameters and roughness, which facilitates the Arc Oneida-Lewis Chapter's plans to employ up to five employees with disabilities in its own manufacturing setup to produce the scrub pads, rather than purchase pads from an outside source.

- The Wellness Center partnered with the Central New York DDSO, Employee Assistance Program to sponsor a free wellness fair, which was open to the public and the SUNY Poly community on Tuesday, April 18 in the Campus Center gymnasium. Presentations and exhibits on a variety of wellness topics were offered by local businesses, agencies, and area nursing students, including: holistic health, reflexology, massage, vision/eye care, gerontology services, physical fitness and training, nutrition, environmental health, substance use/abuse prevention, mental health, and more.

SUNY Poly Strategic Plan: Through feedback received from our Co-Design Day mid-February, a meeting with members of the student body, as well as a follow-up Town Hall with faculty and staff held late March, along with other engagements with our stakeholders, we have identified five themes that are central to our mission and strategic direction: human capital to nurture community and enable growth, robust external partnerships, renewal of SUNY Poly's identity, and campus infrastructure, academic programs, research, and scholarship.

- **Putting Forth A Strong Vision Next Steps:** The goal is to have SUNY Poly as the premier public Polytech school in the nation which includes having continued discussions and feedback with Chancellor King and SUNY senior staff. We have requested and are still receiving feedback from these faculty, staff, and student sessions via online forms. The Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairs continue the refinement of strategic themes, development of an implementation plan, and key metrics to evaluate progress toward strategic goals to lay the groundwork for the next permanent president, who will put the finishing touch on this amazing effort.

RoAnn asked Andy to share his perspective on the recent Town Hall which approximately 60 people attended in person and upwards of 40 through online viewing. After the slide presentation, and throughout the day, it became clear that the concern was for SUNY System support, campus infrastructure is strong but meaningless without the care and concern for the staff, faculty, and students. Community involvement was also high on the list. Faculty also had concerns about continuing collaborations with the upcoming CNSE transfer. Students also participated in listening sessions, which was enlightening.

Presidential Search: RoAnn noted that the search committee has submitted their priority 20 candidates of interest out of 38 tier-one candidates. After phone interviews, the group will be whittled down to 8-10 for Zoom interviews, and further reduced to 4-5 on-campus interviews. Late May or June is the anticipated timeframe for the campus visits.

Transfer of CNSE: The process to transfer the Albany-based College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering perseveres with the aim of effectuating the transfer in time for the fall semester. It continues to be reiterated from all sides that all faculty, staff, and students will be "held



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harmless.” Our faculty and staff are working hard to ensure a smooth transition for students, who have received surveys to indicate whether they would want to remain SUNY Poly students, or seamlessly transfer to become UAlbany students. Workgroups across the spectrum of departments are meeting to manage details of this change. Earlier this month members of CNSE participated in a “meet and greet” with their UAlbany College of Engineering and Applied Sciences counterparts. For updates, we have a web page that we have asked everyone to monitor the transparent communications: <https://sunypoly.edu/ualbany-cnse-reunification.html>.

Commencement:

The planning team has been working to prepare us for the Utica and Albany Campus Commencement Ceremonies schedule:

Friday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m. there will be an Academic Awards ceremony celebrating those students who have received program, departmental, or college academic awards.

Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. in the Wildcat Fieldhouse, the College of Engineering will hold its Hooding Ceremony and Conferral of Degrees. There will a quick turnaround and at 2 p.m. that afternoon, the College of Arts & Sciences, Colleges of Business, and College of Health Sciences will hold their Hooding Ceremony and Conferral of Degrees.

Friday, May 12 at 4 p.m. in the Zen Atrium at the Albany Campus, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering will hold their ceremony, including Academic Awards, Hooding Ceremony, and Conferral of Degrees.

Thank you:

We are building a strong foundation for SUNY Poly’s future and it was recently exemplified by the WKTV news coverage we received, showcasing our students who participated in the CREATE Symposium. (The news clip was shared during the meeting.) This positive direction is happening in part by the support of this Council.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education:

Interim Provost, Dr. Zora Thomova, thanked in advance the Council members who have agreed to be part of our 2023 Commencement ceremonies. RoAnn is unable to attend as her son is getting married, and sincerely thanks those Council members who will step in and participate. It is important that the Council members participate, and they are happy to do so. We have received State of Education approval for transfer of programs from CNSE to Poly, with a TBD start date. A letter of intent has been sent for two new Master programs for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, both will be part of the College of Business. On the cusp of submission is a Doctorate in Nurse Practitioner, in addition to the current Family Nurse Practitioner program, with a yearlong approval process. This outwardly signals wonderful growth.

The update on Middle States Commission on Higher Education designing self-studies and working groups will continue through the summer. Their liaison is visiting the end of September and this should be on Council’s calendar. A special thanks to Keith who has agreed to be part of one of those working groups.



Student Representative Update

RoAnn commented on how pleased the Chancellor was to meet with the students in roundtable fashion while visiting the campus. He spent time talking and listening to the students. In addition to all the hard work he does representing the students, she thanked Nick for his part on the Presidential Search Committee.

Nicholas Rossi, Student College Representative to the College Council, presentation started with the election results as follows: Bailey Wadsworth was elected President; Eva Fuess as Vice President; Logan Selph as Treasurer; Nick Rossi returns again as College Council; Lucas Nowlan as Chief Justice. A new pool table and ping pong table are just a few game room additions. Learning center renovations, expected over the summer, included donation of standing desk and chairs. A Senator provided six new 3-D printers which have been received for the Additive Manufacturing Lab, and this has thrilled the students. All the necessary items to create the Community Gardens has been received and that will progress when the weather improves. Every semester the SGU Blood Drive is well attended and the most recent saw the 2,000th unit of blood donated! Logan gave a Basic Self-Defense Seminar which was well received. Eva Feuss hosted the semester Wellness Screening, which is very popular and helps to scan students for mental illness. The Open House assists in promoting transparency between the Student Government and the student body. Several Professional Headshot Day opportunities helped student receive a nice photo to use for developing their personal and collegial means of outreach. Additionally, many events were hosted: DIY, Chalk the Block, Salem and Philadelphia Trips, Spring Rejuvenation, Movie Nights, and Bingo Nights. Apocalypse Week is a way to close out the semester which included Escape Rooms, Casino Night, Chef Egg – Live Cooking, and Carnival Day. More Campus Events included: Wellness Fair, Utica Zoomobile, Fragfest Spring, Active Minds Mental Health Speaker David Romano, Poly “Plate-Off” Championship, Res Life, Women’s History Month Speaker Series, Multicultural Poetry Slam, Multicultural Springfest, Holi-Festival of Colors, and the U.S. Drone Soccer National Championship. SA has been busy!

Student Highlights: SUNY SA Advocacy Day, 2023 Student Recognition Gala, Upcoming SUNY SA Conference, and two students received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence – Wakeley Banker and Jae Fish.

Student Athletics Highlights: Men’s Lacrosse improves to 7-1 in North Atlantic Conference (NAC). Softball improved to 18-5 on the season, 9-1 record in the NAC. Athletics celebrated DIII week as well with great attendance.

Albany Campus Updates: These include hosting a chemistry lab report event; midterm study tips with Michelle Kent-Landes, created a student system for calculators and computer mice, they co-hosted a bowling event between USGA & GSGA, and organized a board game and movie night. GSGA specifically hosted an ice-skating night, open mic night, and facilitated “Chips with Science” industry and faculty panel on the future of nanoscience.



Faculty Representative Update

Dr. Michael Fasullo's report included thanks to Dr. Russell and Dr. Thomova who have worked collaboratively to help facilitate the CNSE reunification with UAlbany. There will be six students for the Summer Undergraduate Program concluding with a research showcase that all are invited to attend. UAlbany has invited students to showcase our student research which illustrates the wonderful collaborations between the Utica and Albany campuses. Already 13 students have made deposits for undergraduate admission. A future goal is to enhance student orientation.

Dr. Linda Weber's reported they are wrapping up the semester. The Governance Group which included the Albany College Senate and the Utica Faculty Senate will be concluding. A unified sense of governance has occurred without compromising the individuality of each campus. Reapproval of microcredentials is on the list. These had been approved but not implemented, which will change. A new management learning system transition is ongoing. GenEd implementations for this Fall are on track thanks our Coordinator for Gen Ed, Daryl Lee. Anticipated are changes to the By-laws to take effect soon. Linda has served for five years and is at term limit. She is not seeking re-election. Keith asked for clarification on GenEd, and Linda explained that SUNY has authorized a new General Education Plan. This is typical every 5-10 years. The main change is the diversity, equity, and inclusion requirement.

Linda queried of RoAnn if the Presidential Search was on track for the academic year. There were many calls to be made and much to do given the large number of qualified applicants. The Committee is doing their best to remain on the suggested timeline, but the search will extend beyond the academic year.

Point of Clarification: Andy thanked Mary Ellen Burdick for helping to clarify the winnings from the 2023 CREATE event. It was determined that 30%, the College's portion, should go to the SUNY Poly Foundation Scholarship to support other students.

RoAnn offered her and Andy's attention should the Council Members have any questions.

Adjournment

Chair Destito requested a motion to adjoin. A motion was made by Ms. Burns and seconded by Mr. Levatino. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Davis