

M-240

October 7, 2014

Meeting of College Council Volume 42 Number 2

There were present:

Prof. Barnhart	Prof. Furay	Mr. Patzer
Asst. V.P. Basile	Prof. Garcia-Osuna	Prof. Pierre
Prof. Bassen	Dr. Harewood	V.P. Pobat
Ms. Bishop	Mr. Herklotz	Prof. Repetti
Prof. Borgese	Prof. Hume	Ms. Schlesinger
Ms. Clarke	Prof. Kates	Ms. Seligman
Ms. Clause	Mr. Klein	Ms. Slater
Prof. A. Cohen	Prof. Lax	Prof. Sokolow
Ms. J. Cohen	Prof. Martin	Ms. Spencer-Knowles
Prof. Dawson	Ms. Mason	V.P. Suss
Prof. Descarfino	Ms. Mathew	Ms. Sutton-Young
Ms. Driscoll	Prof. McDevitt	Prof. Thomas
Prof. Farrell	Prof. Miranda	Prof. Troutt
Prof. Ferretti	Prof. Murphy	Prof. Wood
Mr. Forte	Prof. Nicosia	Prof. Yarmish
Dean Fox		

President Herzek called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

I. The minutes of the meetings of May 27, 2014 were approved by acclamation with one correction: Ms. Marissa Schlesinger was elected to the Committee on Committees, not Ms. Judy Cohen as the minutes originally reported.

## II. Reports

### A. President's Report

The President made the following remarks: Fall 2014 enrollment currently stands at 14,300; this figure is down about 600 students from the previous Fall 2013. A local paper had erroneously reported a number of 19,000 students, but the current figure is accurate as per Tom Friebe.

One reason is that high school graduation rates are on the decline since two years ago, and this is a national trend which may continue for another ten years. The economy is improving, and we know that during tough economic times people return to college. So now our enrollment is falling, as it is in senior colleges which are also currently dismissing fewer students to maintain their own enrollment. This also lowers another potential source of our students.

Lower enrollment translates into a budget shortfall, and we are unlikely to meet our budget targets this year. Because FTEs are down since 2011, our three-year snapshot means a lower budget for the college. We have to hit the pause button

and make sound fiscal choices, although if we have new creative ideas to bring new students to the college, we will try to move in that direction.

Middle States is coming to our campus in Spring 2016, and in order for our accreditation to be affirmed we have a long row ahead of us. A Middle States team is soon to be named, and one early concern is our website. There is much work to be done in that area.

I have asked Dean Fox to put together an Accreditation Task Force, a small group of people looking at lists of what we need to accomplish at the college. They will also be making a clear list of tasks, making sure names are attached to those tasks, and that they are accomplished with none falling between the cracks. This will be a facilitation committee, no oversight. We do not want the college to end up on probation.

I have opened up Senior Staff Meetings to various constituencies on campus, but this is not meant to circumvent the College Council process. It is an effort to be transparent and inclusive, to allow the expression of concerns and questions and to be nimble to answer them.

The President reminded the college community of upcoming events: Homecoming on Sunday October 19; the Employee Recognition Ceremony on Thursday November 13; the KCC Walkathon on November 13; and the Faculty Forum on Thursday November 20.

#### B. Legislative Committee

Prof. Sokolow reminded the standing Council Committees that this academic year marks a new cycle in the Council's triannual assessment process. Each committee is asked to perform two tasks: (1) to summarize its activities over the past three years in a short narrative; and (2) to reexamine its mission statement in the College Council Constitution, and propose any edits, changes or additions that it feels are appropriate.

#### III. New Business

Vice President Suss announced the names of the three individuals selected to represent the college on the reconstituted CUNY Pathways Committee. They are Profs. Michael Barnhart (HIS), Mary Dawson (BIO), and Jane Weiss (ENG). After selecting these representatives he was subsequently informed by CUNY that they should be formally elected by the college faculty, and he apologized for his unintentional circumvention of this process which was announced too late. He promises that this will be rectified in the future, presumably next year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Sokolow*

Michael Sokolow, secretary