

M-147

April 4, 2019

Meeting of College Council Volume 46 Number 3

There were present:

Prof. Alessandrini
Prof. Barnhart
Prof. Borgese
Prof. Cally
Prof. Chapman
Prof. A. Cohen
Ms. J. Cohen
Mr. Compere
Ms. Daly
Prof. Dawson
Prof. Derimanova
Ms. Driscoll
Prof. Ferretti

V.P. Fox
Ms. Howard
Mr. Klein
Prof. Lax
Prof. Martin
Prof. McDevitt
Prof. McKinney
Prof. Mintz
Prof. Miranda
Mr. Ng
Prof. Noe
Ms. O'Shea
Ms. Olvina

Mr. Overtsky
Prof. Perea
Prof. Repetti
Prof. Ricciardi
V.P. Rios
Prof. Rozenboym
Prof. Sokolow
Dr. Sutton-Young
Prof. Taras
Ms. Todman
Mr. Vakolo
Prof. Weeks

Prof. Sokolow called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

I. The minutes of the meetings of November 15, 2019 were approved by acclamation.

II. Reports

A. President's Report

In the President's absence, Prof. Sokolow presented her report on her behalf:

Good afternoon,

I am pleased to provide you with my April 2019 Report to the College Council. As I want to avoid too much redundancy, I trust that everyone has been receiving and reading my monthly reports to the campus which provide a comprehensive overview of salient activities and information.

In my November Report to the College Council, I shared with you some of the challenges we were facing with regards to enrollment. Our Spring 2019 enrollment, compared to last year, is down by 300 who are mostly continuing students. VP Friebel will provide more information in his report. For me, this points to some challenges with retaining students, which is not surprising as retention is trending downward across the university. As you know we have begun to look at issues such as retention and equity gaps that affect student persistence and completion.

While it is our practice to look at college wide enrollment, I am also very mindful about how these decreases are reflected in and affect academic programs. VP Fox has developed a report of enrollment by academic programs and concentrations which will be shared with department chairpersons.

As part of today's Council meeting, I have asked VP Rios to provide an overview of the college's budget. In the spirit of transparency, I believe it is important for everyone to be aware of both our current financial status and forecast given our enrollment, as well as state and city budget appropriations.

I am pleased to share that on Monday, we hosted Ms. Judith Bergtraum, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management and her team. Although I have described in writing the state of our facilities, I thought it was important for the Vice Chancellor to see in person what we see every day, a library in disrepair, leaky roofs and the need for upgrades throughout the campus. VC Bergtraum has shared with me that Kingsborough is her number one priority and she will be exploring ways in which we can expedite some of these protracted processes and identify funding to meet our capital needs.

As I have indicated, please be mindful that many facility issues are capital projects and are therefore more involved, but other issues can be addressed in a more timely fashion. The results from our recent Faculty and Staff Satisfaction survey I received on my visits with faculty and in my meet and greets have been a great source of information and have propelled us to address some issues immediately. We have brought faculty to the table to participate in the selection of classroom furniture. I have asked VP Rios to form a Bathrooms Conditions committee, and he and his team are also exploring ways in which we can improve custodial services.

Last week I had the pleasure of participating in a Middle States Visit to a college in NJ. As I read their self-study and supporting documents, interviewed faculty staff and students, and discussed our findings with fellow MSCHE peer evaluators, I couldn't help but think about our own preparedness for MSCHE in 2025. As fate would have it, I had a meeting pre-arranged with VP Fox on Thursday. He reviewed his office's efforts in developing a culture of administrative assessment and shared with me some preliminary data from the process. I am confident that if we continue down this path he has laid out for the assessment of our administrative units that our destination will be one of success. In the coming weeks, I will have additional meetings to discuss our academic assessment efforts as well as a short-term plan for beginning our journey towards 2025 reaccreditation.

As part of this journey, as I indicated we will be developing a new Strategic Plan, one that will be framed by a set of values that we will select, define, embrace and demonstrate as members of this college community. I trust that the value of respect will be among those that we select. But colleagues, we need not wait until we have a Strategic Plan to start demonstrating the value of respect. We can demonstrate it in the way we engage with each other, especially, as I have observed, in our email exchanges. What may not seem as disrespectful or hurtful to you, may be to others. Some of the interactions I have seen on emails are counterproductive to our goal of promoting civility. I appreciate a hearty exchange of ideas, but it should not be an exchange that is offensive and uncivil. I ask that you consider our mission, our goals and your impact on others as you engage with your colleagues.

And speaking about engaged colleagues, for 13 years, VP Friebel has brightened the KCC with his charismatic personality and his depth of knowledge about enrollment management. Tom recently informed me of his intention to retire from the college effective May 31, 2019. While we will miss his presence at the college, I know I speak for all of us when I say that his legacy of service and love for the college will always be an important part of our history. As you know, enrollment is a high priority, as such I plan to commence the search process for a new VP of Enrollment Management immediately.

Finally, thank you for coming with me to DC to receive our prize for being a Top 10 finalist. I felt the spirit of the faculty and staff who come to work every day with the mission of helping students to achieve their academic goals. Our status as a finalist is a recognition of your work. I couldn't be prouder to represent you and the college.

B. Report by V.P. Friebel

Vice President Friebel offered a report on enrollment issues and initiative, including the following highlighted points:

Freshmen admitted as of April 1:

Fall 2019: 9933

Fall 2018: 9948

Update of Initiatives:

- HS feeder schools are transporting KCC admitted students to campus to file FAFSA and take CUNY Placement Test.
- Territories have been assigned to the 5 FT recruiters—currently recruiting class of 2020 (juniors) and meeting with all fall 2019 applicants at the high schools.
- We will be hosting the end of year NYC DOE South Brooklyn counselor's professional development in June.
- NYC DOE Transition to College event will be hosted by KCC in May.
- Due to a delay in test grading, registration for new students will begin next week rather than April 1 as originally announced at Spring Convocation.
- Relationship with NYC DOE and feeder high schools, which has always been strong, continues to strengthen further.

Last year the committee held Town Hall meetings on a new College mission statement. There will soon be a new vision statement as well, for the first time since 2003.

C. Report by V.P. Ruiz

Vice President Ruiz offered a report on budgetary issues and initiative, including the following highlighted points:

Revenue Target

- KCC's Revenue Target has decreased \$11,153,200 or 20% since FY2015.
 - FY2015 Revenue Target = \$56,812,200
 - FY2019 Revenue Target = \$45,659,000

FTEs/Operating Budget

- FTEs have decreased 2,453 or 21% since fiscal year (FY) 2015.
 - FY2015 FTEs = 11,465
 - FY2019 FTEs = 9,012
- FY2020 FTEs projected at 8,783, 561 FTEs or 6% less than FY19.
- Projected additional City/State reduction of \$1,800,000 - \$2,000,000 for FY 2020.

Next Steps

- Review of all expense categories to determine any savings that may be achieved.

D. Strategic Planning Committee Report

V.P. Fox announced that the Committee would produce a KCC Values Statement based on the results of the ensuing group activity. Council members used 'sticky dots' to identify values from a compiled list which they judged important enough to include in the upcoming statement. The results were tallied and a statement will be forthcoming.

In the absence of new business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sokolow

Michael Sokolow, Secretary