MINUTES
SUNY CORTLAND
COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE
November 17, 2014

A meeting of the Council of the College was held at 4 p.m. in the Miller Administration Building, Room 405.

Council Members Present: Linda Armstrong, Katherine Compagni, Michael Doris, Thomas Gallagher, Robert Haight, Margaret Perfetti, Joan Robinson, Marie Rumsey and Bruce Tytler

Council Members Excused: Renee James

Also Present: Gradin Avery, Erik Bitterbaum, Kathleen Lawrence, Virginia Levine, Mary K. Murphy, Frederic Pierce, Mark Prus and Greg Sharer

PROGRAM

Wendy Cranmer, Assistant Title IX Coordinator, and Mark DePaull, Assistant Chief, University Police Department, gave a presentation on Title IX.

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order
Chair Thomas Gallagher called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
Thomas Gallagher asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of September 22, 2014. Linda Armstrong motioned to approve the minutes as written. Robert Haight seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chair’s Report
Thomas Gallagher reported that it was an exciting weekend. The Chancellor was on campus Friday for the Innovation Center Kick-Off. During her remarks, Chancellor Zimpher repeated a parent’s comment that “Cortland is the Harvard of Teacher Education”. On Friday evening there was the unveiling of the Harry Bellardini portrait at the Alumni House. Approximately 9,000 people attended the Cortaca football game on Saturday.
Attendance at the ACT Conference held in Lake George was low. Cortland was well represented. Thomas Gallagher, Katherine Compagni and Joan Robinson attended. Conference attendees shared concerns about enrollment and the SUNY assessments. The highlight of the conference was the ACT awards ceremony.

**President’s Report**

President Bitterbaum thanked everyone for their role in making Cortaca weekend safe and fun. Funds donated from the community along with $25,000 from College reserves and $50,000 from the Student Government Association covered costs for the various events held throughout the week. Many teacher education students chose to go home for the weekend. Over 1,000 students attended the White Panda concert. Numerous gifts totaling $20,000 were given away. Three things contributed to a better Cortaca weekend: 1) information sent to students via Public Relations; 2) the cold weather; and 3) a strong police presence. The football game was extraordinary and the last play was highlighted on ESPN’s Sports Center.

The Chancellor's Center for Innovation Kick Off event held on Friday was a success. The Chancellor was on campus for about an hour. Andrea Lachance and the panel of faculty did a wonderful job.

The College will take possession of the Student Life Center in about 4½ weeks. The new building is scheduled to be open in time for the start of the spring semester. The next College Council meeting will be held in the Student Life Center and College Council members will have the opportunity to tour the new building.

A proposal requesting funds for two additional building projects was submitted to Senator Seward. The first request was for $20 million for the next phase of renovations to Moffett Center and the second request was for $50 million to totally renovate Memorial Library. The request for $2 million to renovate the tennis and basketball courts was approved.

In the spring, phase two of the electrical infrastructure project will begin. The project is expected to last 18 months.

Twenty new faculty searches are underway. The quality of the candidates is impressive.

The Jets have asked to visit with us regarding care of the practice fields over the winter.

The national freshman to sophomore retention rate average is 67% for masters granting public institutions. Cortland's average rate is 84%. The national 6-year graduation rate for four year public institutions is 56%. Cortland's average rate is 70%.

There will be four commencement ceremonies in 2015. Three undergraduate ceremonies have been scheduled, one on Friday, May 15, (6:30 p.m.) and two on Saturday, May 16 (9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.). The graduate ceremony will take place on Saturday evening (6:30 p.m.).

**Faculty Senate Chair’s Report**

Faculty Senate Chair Kathleen Lawrence introduced herself and shared that one of her goals for this year is to make Faculty Senate a kinder and gentler group. She is also working to increase participation and to identify a vice chair who will become the chair next year.

As co-chair of the Cortaca Steering Committee, Kevin Pristash kept Faculty Senate informed. Many faculty and professional staff spoke to their students about the planned events. Approximately 50 people, including students and community members, helped with the cleanup on Sunday.
The Educational Policy Committee is increasing its examination of policies related to online programs. There is a push SUNY-wide to increase the number of online programs.

The Faculty Affairs Committee is meeting weekly to review academic department personnel policies.

The General Education Committee has been working since January 2013 to update the GE courses. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, the GE Committee’s proposal will be discussed.

It is likely that a workshop will be held in the spring on the importance of a liberal arts education in the 21st century.

Student Government Association President’s Report
SGA President Michael Doris shared that he was happy with Cortaca weekend and that he had never seen such school spirit. The White Panda concert was a success; however, many students were upset that they were unable to attend due to fire code occupancy regulations. At Thursday night’s event, 2,000 Cortaca hats were given away in ten minutes.

The next major event is the SGA Winter Formal scheduled for Friday at the Ramada Inn. This is an annual event with free music and food. Approximately 150 students are planning to attend.

A holiday party is planned for December for employees and their children.

ACT Conference Update
Katherine Compagni reported that 22 college representatives attended the ACT Conference: 7 from the comprehensive colleges, 7 from the university centers and 8 from the technology colleges. There are lawsuit settlement funds available to New York State totaling $4.2 billion. It is unclear where the funds will go. Themes of the conference panel discussions included a budget overview and review of processes, specifically spending plans and the impact of politics and unexpected events. Changing demographics has resulted in lower enrollment and marketing shortfalls for some schools. Western New York schools, both public and private, have suffered the most. SUNY wants to hold its own and to look for new opportunities focusing on out-of-state students, non-traditional students, international students and Open SUNY for online learning. Student services is another opportunity. Some interesting statistics shared at the conference include: 6.9 million people living in New York State do not have a college degree; 2.4 million people have some college credit; and 70% of people are more likely to consider online learning. Across SUNY, the largest number of international students are from Turkey (twelve campuses), followed by Russia, China, Brazil and Mexico. The third major theme was ACT members’ advocacy strength across SUNY. The public university culture was discussed. Prior to the recent election, 53 SUNY alumni and 91 CUNY alumni held positions in the New York State Senate and Assembly.

Linda Armstrong motioned to move to Executive Session at 5 p.m. Michael Doris seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Joan Robinson motioned to adjourn. Bruce Tytler seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Lori Porter
Recording Secretary