MINUTES
SUNY CORTLAND
COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE
April 21, 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, Thomas Gallagher, Margaret Perfetti, Joan Robinson, Marie Rumsey, Bruce Tytler and LeighMarie Weber

Council Members Excused: Katherine Compagni and Renee James

Also Present: Erik J. Bitterbaum, Michael Doris, Fred Pierce, Kimberly Pietro and Jeffrey Walkuski

PROGRAM

Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Director Jeffrey Lallas gave a tour of the newly renovated Bowers Hall.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Approval of Minutes
Chair Gallagher asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of January 22, 2014. Linda Armstrong motioned to approve the minutes as written. Joan Robinson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Introductions
President Bitterbaum introduced Lori Porter as the new Assistant to the President and LeighMarie Weber introduced incoming Student Government Association President Michael Doris.

Chair’s Report
Bruce Tytler, Kim Pietro and Fred Pierce were thanked for their work with the Cortaca Commission. LeighMarie Weber was also acknowledged for her contributions. The final recommendation is forthcoming.

College Council members were encouraged to participate in commencement.
President’s Report

This year’s graduating class is the largest in school history with an 84% retention rate and nearly a 70% six-year graduation rate, the highest among the SUNY comprehensive colleges. To accommodate the number of graduates and their guests, this year’s undergraduate commencement ceremonies will be held outside in the stadium. Alumni Arena will be open for additional viewing. In the future, graduating seniors will participate in one of three ceremonies, including a combined graduate and undergraduate ceremony on Friday night.

News regarding Jets training camp should be forthcoming within the next 36 hours. The rate of additional signatures being added to petitions aimed to prohibit Michael Vick from coming to campus is decreasing. Proper security will be in place. Having ex-Bronco’s wide receiver Eric Decker on the team will be good for Cortland.

Renovations to Bowers Hall are 95% complete and Dowd is also coming along.

Admissions has received 11,000 applications. A record of more than 1,000 seniors attended Open House on April 5.

A college community forum to share and discuss experiences with biased and hurtful language on campus is being held at 7 p.m. in Sperry, Room 105. The purpose of the forum is to discuss how the campus community can work together to prevent future incidents of bias, educate our community, and create expectations for future cultural climate and behavior in our community.

President Bitterbaum explained the math and English common core controversy. Discussion followed.

Faculty Senate Chair’s Report

Faculty Senate is scheduled to meet two more times before the end of the semester. The proposed changes to the General Education Program were introduced two weeks ago; however, approval was delayed for additional clarification. The proposal will be presented again at the next meeting.

The search to fill committee vacancies is continuing. There were no nominations for vice chair, secretary or treasurer. Kathleen Lawrence has agreed to serve as vice chair for the remainder of the semester and will assume the role of chair this fall.

There is a referendum to various Handbook changes.

A shared governance conference has been scheduled.

Student Government Association President’s Report

A Children’s Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Moffett Gymnasium. This year’s event is in honor of Mary Joy Greene Sherlach.

College Council members were thanked for an “unbelievable two years”.

Approval of the 2014-2015 College Council Meeting Schedule

Bruce Tytler motioned to approve the proposed 2014-2015 College Council meeting schedule. Joan Robinson seconded. All in favor. Motion approved. Meetings will be held on the following Mondays: September 22, 2014; November 17, 2014; January 26, 2015; and Monday, April 20, 2015. Programs will commence at 3:15 p.m. and the business meetings at 4 p.m.
Other
Margaret Perfetti stated that the recent newspaper articles about students raising money for various events/charities is positive.

Next Meeting
College Council will meet next on Monday, September 22, 2014. Kim Pietro stated that it may be necessary to schedule an Executive Session this summer to discuss a naming opportunity.

Bruce Tytler motioned to move to Executive Session at 4:42 p.m. Marie Rumsey seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Lori Porter
Recording Secretary