

**MINUTES
SUNY CORTLAND
COLLEGE COUNCIL
April 15, 2024**

A meeting of the SUNY Cortland College Council was held at 3:15 p.m. in the Miller Building, Room 405.

Council members present: Adrienne Traub, Andrea Haenlin-Mott, Bruce Tytler, Linda Armstrong, Lynn Brown, Liz Arnold, Robert Haight, Thomas Gallagher, and Joseph Mascetta

Also present: Erik Bitterbaum, Mark Yacavone, Rich Coyne, Kathleen Lawrence, Ann McClellan, Greg Sharer, April Thompson, and Khlya Diggs

Excused: Renee James, Lorraine Lopez-Janove, and John Reagan

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

Thomas Gallagher called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Gallagher approved minutes as written. Bruce Tytler seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chair's Report

- Gallagher welcomed new member Adrienne Traub. Traub is the project manager for Seven Valleys Health Coalition. She has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from SUNY ESF and a Master of Science in Food Studies from Syracuse University.

President's Report

- Bitterbaum announced 17,000-plus first-year applicants (17,361). The university's goal is 1,300 enrolled students for the fall.
- The university's Spring Open House event for accepted students was a success and brought excellent energy to campus. More than 900 families registered.
- SUNY Cortland remains in a good spot compared to many other colleges and universities. The reputation of programs like physical education remain golden.

- R. Coyne, the vice president for institutional advancement, continues to seek ways to increase merit scholarship awards through the Cortland College Foundation.
- Two major construction projects:
 - Cornish and Van Hoesen halls: This is a \$27 million project, and construction is underway. It will house the Communication and Media Studies Department, associated facilities, the Disability Resources Office, and several other student-serving offices.
 - Corey Union will undergo a \$90 million project focusing on sustainability. This work will include a new roof and geothermal wells.
- Chancellor John B. King Jr. will speak at the university's Administrative Conference on Monday, April 22. The Chancellor will plant a tree with biological sciences students to celebrate Earth Day.
- SUNY Cortland's chapter of Turning Point USA will host Riley Gaines, a former swimmer from the University of Kentucky, who will speak on her "Reclaim Feminism" campus tour on April 19.
- The Blackbird Music Festival hosted on campus has 100 accepted submissions. There is a substantial diversity of people attending from all over the world, including France, Israel and the United Kingdom. SUNY Cortland students will present as part of the Thursday portion.

Fall 2023 Budget Update

Mark Yacavone, vice president for finance and management, share the following:

- 2023-24 Original State Budget Submitted
- State Operating Budget
- 2023-24 State Operating Revenue
- 2023-24 State Operating Expenses
- Projected Campus Cash Reserves
- Planned Reserve Expenditures

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

- Kathleen Lawrence, professor of communication and media studies and Faculty Senate chair, expressed her gratitude for SUNY's Shared Governance Award, which SUNY Cortland received in 2024.

- Lawrence shared that the Faculty Senate administration continues to move forward. Discussions lead to decisions, with Faculty Senate voting on 20 motions and considering several proposals.
- There will be an open meeting on April 16. The review of the governance will be included in the SUNY Cortland Handbook. Proposals from various committees have been received, and the Steering Committee has shown a very positive attitude. SGA representatives have made significant contributions.
- Gallagher thanked Lawrence for her efforts and leadership.

SGA President's Report

- Joe Mascetta, current SGA president, announced that SGA is in great hands with junior Khyla Diggs, who was elected SGA president. Diggs is the president of the Black Student Union; she is majoring in adolescence education: social studies with a minor in Africana Studies.
- Student government leadership awards will be held Thursday, April 25.
- The Big Event will take place on Sunday, April 21. SGA is expecting 450 students to take part in the event. They will receive shirts and breakfast on the day of the event. It is a day of service where Cortland students work with people in the community on outdoor projects, such as clearing debris, working on playgrounds or painting outdoors. Student-athletes often contribute, and there is a goal to include Greek life and other groups this year. SGA wants the community to see students helping out.
- Mascetta shared he is excited about his future and grateful for his time at Cortland. He is a business economics major who hopes to work in consulting. He has accepted a position at PepsiCo Corporation.
- Outdoor Recreation Space Proposal: SGA is interested in organizing events outside the Student Life Center. The Student Activities Board has sufficient funds to support this initiative. They are considering having the Cortland Auxiliary Service Red Dragon Wagon at these events. They are proposing that Campus Recreation could provide lawn games. Furthermore, they are interested in eventually naming the area and collecting pledges for it.
- Mascetta talked about his time at SUNY Cortland, from starting a club to becoming SGA president. He created a pamphlet for Advisement and Transition in an effort to help to prepare students at Cortland.

President's Cabinet Reports

Division of Academic Affairs

- There is a good group of new faculty coming to SUNY Cortland in the fall thanks to successful faculty searches.
- Student retention is at 81-82%. The campus is doing very well recruiting new students and keeping them here.
- The second annual SUNY Cortland TedX event was held on Tuesday, April 9. It was a successful event.
- McClellan answered Tytler's questions regarding whether the Chancellor looked at Cortland's retentions. Her answer was yes.

Division of Student Affairs

- Greg Sharer, vice president for student affairs, shared that it has been a successful year for SUNY Cortland Athletics. Many teams are doing very well.
- Career Services has implemented new software for networking and career development thanks to additional SUNY funds that were given to her office.
- Mental health continues to be an area of priority and concern. There has been a three- to four-week turnaround with the Counseling Center. SUNY Cortland has contracted with a tele-counseling program, which has helped. Turnaround time has shortened drastically, and Counseling Center staff members are available more often.

Division of Finance and Management

- Yacavone discussed the construction that will take place on Broadway. The goal is to have an updated pedestrian-friendly crosswalk. The construction will start after Commencement and should end by July.
- SUNY Cortland is hosting the New York State Envirothon this year. The campus will host 300 science-focused students on campus.

Division of Institutional Advancement

The Cortland Challenge is a 24-hour giving day on Wednesday, April 17

- The university is hoping for 3,000 donors

- It is SUNY Cortland's most significant fundraiser, which funds many academic departments and initiatives on campus
- Various donors plan to match donations

Men's Soccer Alumni Reunion

- Head Coach Steven Axtell '08, M '14, and current SUNY Cortland men's soccer team welcomed back former Red Dragon players on April 13. They plan on fundraising for Holloway Field.
- A Women's Soccer Alumni Reunion will be held in the fall.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

- Proposed 2024-25 College Council meeting schedule

Meetings will begin at 3:15 p.m., with business meetings starting at 4 p.m.

- Monday, September 9, 2024
- Monday, November 18, 2024
- Monday, January 20, 2025
- Monday, April 14, 2025

At 4:42 p.m., Mascetta motioned to adjourn. Haelin-Mott seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.