

**MINUTES
SUNY CORTLAND
COLLEGE COUNCIL
January 22, 2024**

A meeting of the SUNY Cortland College Council was held at 4 p.m. in the Park Center, C-Club Hall of Fame Room.

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

Also present: Erik Bitterbaum, Rich Coyne, Kathleen Lawrence, Ann McClellan, Fred Pierce, Greg Sharer, April Thompson, Mark Yacavone, Mike Urtz, Curt Fitzpatrick, Zac Boyes, Max Llewellyn and Ryan Bitka

Excused: Mark Yacavone and Lorraine Lopez-Janove

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

Thomas Gallagher called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Chair's Report

- Gallagher welcomed members of the SUNY Cortland football team, winners of the Stagg Bowl, the NCAA Division III National Championship.
- The university's progress is encouraging, with more than 16,000 first-year applications and recent athletic success. Gallagher recognized Curt Fitzpatrick, head coach of the university's football team for his leadership.

President's Report

- Bitterbaum echoed Gallagher's sentiments about a positive fall with five conference championships in athletics.
- The meeting date marked the first day of spring semester classes. First-year application numbers reached a record level, with hopes for a first-year class of 1,300 students.

- Admissions Office offers an opportunity for students who do not receive admission initially: attend a different institution and take required number of credits, earn a 2.5 grade point average and transfer into SUNY Cortland at a later date.
- Two major constructions projects:
 - Cornish and Van Hoesen halls: This is a \$27 million project and construction is currently underway. It will house the Communication and Media Studies Department and associated facilities, the Disability Resources Office and several other student-serving offices.
 - Corey Union will undergo a \$90 million project with a focus on sustainability. This work will include a new roof and geothermal wells.
- International news:
 - Three SUNY Cortland undergraduates traveled to Cuba to present at their undergraduate research at the Universidad de Cienfuegos. President Bitterbaum is traveling to Cuba to attend the 14th International Congress on Higher Education “University 2024.” Several other SUNY presidents will attend as well.
 - Sport Management Department led a SUNY Collaborative Online International Learning course, “Cross Cultural Perspectives Abroad,” in Lithuania.
 - Two SUNY Cortland students recently received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. Senior Frank Denteh, a biomedical sciences major, studied in India this past summer. Ashton Patalidis, a sociology and criminology major, studied abroad in Australia.
- Continued topics of interest in higher education:
 - Freedom of speech and First Amendment-related issues. Protected speech and unprotected speech have been discussed. Several faculty members have led workshops.
 - Mental health continues to be a priority for both students and employees. Surveys show that 50% of students have some form of anxiety. NCAA states it is higher among student-athletes.
- Assemblymember Sarah Clark has ties to campus and serves on the higher education board.
- New York State Senator Lea Webb attended SUNY Cortland’s Abraham Lincoln DeMond 1889 Day on Feb. 1.

- Assemblymember Dr. Anna R. Kelles and Senator Webb held the Utility Debt Relief Public Open House on campus on Jan. 18.
- Bitterbaum reported things continue to go well, but it remains a challenging time for many higher education institutions. Affordability and value remain strong selling points.

Tour of the Michael J. Cappeto '71, M '73 Team Room

- Discussion took place with Head Coach Curt Fitzpatrick, Athletic Director Mike Urtz and football team captains: Zac Boyes, Ryan Bitka and Max Llewellyn
- College Council members had the opportunity to ask questions. Fitzpatrick and student-athletes shared stories, lessons and anecdotes.
- SGA President Joe Mascetta, on behalf the student body at Cortland, thanked the team. When they win, he feels that they all win as a school.
- Large group toured the Michael J. Cappeto '71, M '73 Team Room, which is a brand-new locker room for the Cortland football team.

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Lawrence reported the semester has been very positive. Classes are off to a good start. Regarding the high advising load for the Physical Education Department, progress is being made. Provost, chairs and others are working manage the rapid rise in the department's enrollment.

Faculty Senate committee work completed tasks for Fall 2023:

- CTE, Communication Teaching Effectiveness completed charges from the Senate from Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 regarding course teacher evaluation administration.
- EPC Policy Revision to support undergraduate and graduate combined programs was accepted by the Senate.
- Several UFS resolutions endorsed by the Faculty Senate.
- Several guests were invited to present.

Initiated ongoing tasks:

- AFAC reviewed department bylaws; continuous updates to clarify language in Chapter 220.07 regarding promotion procedures.
- Continuing to fill senator and committee vacancies for the Spring 2023.
- Continuing review of governance, Section 150 of the Handbook.
- Continuing to address advising load issues.
- Artificial intelligence committee work continues.
- EPC academic grievance tribunal policies are continuously reviewed.

Business slated for Spring 2024:

- Handbook revision for generative A.I.
- UFS resolutions to be put before the Senate floor for endorsement.
- Collaboration with UUP, SGA, Vice President for Finance and Management and IPAC. Others being considered for projects are Division of Institutional Advancement and Advisement and Transition.

SGA President's Report

- Mascetta reported that it's been a great start to the semester with SGA's first meeting taking place the day of the College Council meeting.
- SGA has been working with various committees around campus. They would like to educate students about issues that come up when moving off campus. He suggested up to 80% have landlord issues. Tytler recommended to reach out to the different ward representatives because some are active with student housing.
- Clubs Fair takes place Tuesday, Jan. 23.
- The Big Event will take place on Sunday, April 21. It is a day of service where Cortland students work with people in the community with outdoor projects they need to complete such as clearing debris, working on playgrounds or painting outdoors. Student-athletes often contribute and there is a major goal to include Greek life and others this year. SGA wants the community to see students helping out.
- The 2024-25 Election will be coming up soon. Mascetta is excited for his future. He is a business economics major who hopes to work in consulting.

President's Cabinet Reports

Division of Academic Affairs: Exciting news to come regarding the SUNY Chancellor's and Distinguished Faculty awards. Our faculty are very impressive.

February is Black History Month. Provost Ann McClellan is presenting on the mystery of the missing Black Sherlock Holmes on Feb. 29.

The second annual SUNY Cortland TedX event is taking place Tuesday, April 9. There has been a first call for speakers, with hopes that faculty can help coordinate it.

Committee work is taking place regarding course and teaching evaluations continue. A new contract is coming from SUNY system, and campus leadership continues to work closely with Faculty Senate.

A director and associate director position will be created with SUNY investment funding, specializing in inclusive work with students of different learning abilities. This will be unique to our campus.

Division of Student Affairs: Additional funding has been received from New York state and SUNY to put towards a new internship initiative through Career Services, the SUNY Cortland Cupboard and Disability Resources.

The SUNY PRODiG Fellowship program aims to create a more diverse faculty and staff who represent the backgrounds of incoming students. We need ongoing training about learning styles. Outreach programs are planned for the future along with future collaboration with Human Resources.

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 entered into a contract with a tele-counseling program, which has helped. Turnaround time has shortened drastically and Counseling Center staff is more available.

Division of Institutional Advancement: The Cortland College Foundation is strong. There is \$62 million set aside for student scholarships. Next year is the 75th anniversary of the Cortland College Foundation.

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

A restructured Division of Institutional Advancement is helping to engage with students and alumni. Assistant Vice President Kerry Gotham is an excellent addition to the team.

Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House received a \$500,000 grant to help with repairs and properly restore the front of the house. This work is projected to start in 2025.

A thank you to Michael J. Cappeto '71, M' 73 for donating the football team room.

At 4:39 p.m., Gallagher motioned to adjourn. Mascetta seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.