

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCIL

287th MEETING

September 22, 2020

Present:	Grace Burke Joseph Rich	Ronald O'Neill, Chair Jennifer Stevenson	Marie Regan
Absent:	Roger Sharlow	Cameron Smith	
Others:	Courtney Bish Shawn Miller Tracey Thompson	Peggy De Cooke Travis Smith Lenore VanderZee	Laini Kavaloski Zvi Szafran Michaela Young

Call to Order

Chairman O'Neill called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

He introduced Laini Kavaloski as the new Faculty Senator, replacing Barat Wolfe. He noted that Laini is the Associate Professor in English/Humanities.

Chairman O'Neill continued the meeting by sharing who was in attendance, and he noted that all materials were emailed to the Council Members prior to the meeting.

Minutes of September 17, 2019, Meeting

Mr. Rich made a motion to accept the September 17, 2019, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stevenson and approved.

Notes of October 29, 2019, Informational Meeting

Chairman O'Neill asked if there were any questions regarding these notes, which were only informational. No questions were asked.

Minutes of April 20, 2020, Conference Call

Ms. Regan made a motion to accept the April 20, 2020, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stevenson and approved.

New Business

Advisory Board Appointments/Reappointments

Dr. De Cooke stated that she felt the appointments/reappointments made good sense.

Ms. Stevenson made a motion to accept the Advisory Board Appointments/Reappointments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Burke and approved.

2019-20 President's Annual Report

Dr. Szafran shared that the report focused on the College's ability to provide quality instruction during the pandemic. No one had any questions. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the annual report.

Mr. Rich made a motion to approve the 2019-20 President's Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Regan and approved.

Dr. Burke made a motion to adopt the 2019-20 President's Annual Report as the College Council's annual report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rich and approved.

Naming Resolutions

It was shared that two naming proposals were sent to the Council for review and approval – Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital and Renzi Food Pantry. The first is being named for Mary Ann Caswell who was instrumental in starting the SIM hospital. It was also shared that \$150,000 has been raised for the simulation hospital and mostly by one individual. The Renzi's have contributed \$25,000 to the Pantry.

Ms. Regan made a motion to approve the naming resolution for the Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stevenson and approved.

Mr. Rich made a motion to approve the naming resolution for the Renzi Food Pantry. The motion was seconded by Dr. Burke and approved.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Chairman's Report

Chairman O'Neill stated that he intends to draft a written statement recognizing the College, et al. for their response during the pandemic; he indicated that he would send the draft to the rest of the Council for their input. He stated that he really wants to recognize the students and have all posted on the website.

President's Report

Dr. Szafran provided the following report and asked others to add to it.

As you probably have guessed, much of our work on campus since we last met has been around preparing for the Fall semester and making sure our campus is safe. Thus far, the results have been very good. Our students were required to self-quarantine at home for seven days before returning to campus and were then screened using a pooled-saliva test developed by SUNY Upstate Medical University upon their return to campus. We tested 1,360 students on campus, with additional students getting tested by their own doctors or at work. The result was that only one student was found to have the virus and had to isolate. That student has now been cleared. A second student was found to be positive and is isolating, and two students are quarantined for 14 days because of contact tracing.

There are similarly low results at the other three local colleges—two students positive each at SLU and Clarkson, and four at Potsdam, as of the time this was written.

Having completed the screening process, we have started our surveillance testing program at SUNY Canton. We had to submit a plan to SUNY for their approval, which we have received. *A brief description of what we went through was provided.* The person in charge of student testing is Courtney Bish, ably assisted by our staff in the Davis Health Center as well as campus volunteers. **Courtney**, can you please describe what the surveillance testing looks like—both the pooled testing and the wastewater testing? If you could also describe what we're doing in Student Life so that students can enjoy activities including athletics in a safe manner?

Ms. Bish indicated that she was in the Theater where student testing is currently being conducted, and she reported the following. We have done over 1,500 individual tests. This test is a non-invasive mouth swab. *A brief description of how the test is done was provided.* After the student finalizes the test, we pool 12 tubes into a pooling tube, which are sent to Upstate Medical for testing. If the test is negative, then all tests in that pool are negative. If the pool tests positive, they retest all the individual tests associated with the pool. They are able to tell us who definitively is positive for COVID, and recently, they have modified the process so that that is a diagnostic test. At that point, we are able to notify the Dept. of Public Health and the student if they are positive for COVID. Prior to the recent noted change, we have had to run a follow-up nasal pharyngeal test to confirm a positive. On Monday, we do employee testing, which is handled by Lenore and Amanda Deckert, and on Tuesday, we do the students; we pool them all and drive them to Upstate to be tested. There is about a 48-hour turnaround for results. There has been a tremendous willingness to volunteer to help with testing; between 8-10 people are needed for each session. The support from the faculty/staff and administration has been wonderful and is appreciated. The Health Center is doing the testing and pooling for students, and for the employees, volunteers are doing the testing and pooling, with the pooling being handled by those within the nursing program. It does not require trained medical staff for any of the processes; however, it is nice that we have some where it is a natural fit for them. Testing is going well; to date, there has only been two positive cases, and we hope for continued negative results. The wastewater testing can be better explained by Shawn, but functionally, facilities is working with the residence hall staff to collect wastewater samples, as a way to keep an eye on levels within the buildings to monitor for positive cases. Shawn added that Mike McCormick and Derek Converse have developed a tube to go down into the wastewater manholes to collect samples. The samples are then refrigerated and transported for testing. Results have just been received for our first samples, and all were negative for Smith and Kennedy Halls, giving us a baseline of zero. She noted that in the future we will be partnering with Clarkson University to have the testing done there, which will be less expensive, more convenient, and helpful to the local community. Ron asked if this type of testing was common; Shawn noted that it was, with many campuses doing it. Courtney continued her report by stating that the pooled testing was similar in that it was common for campuses across SUNY. We are testing about 25 students every 15 minutes, so it moves quickly.

Ron asked if a pooled tube shows positive what would be the next step. Courtney explained that if a pooled tube tests positive they would test the individual tubes and the positive individual tube would be considered a diagnostic test now, so they are confirmed positive. Our Health Center would be notified, along with receiving a copy of the positive test results; they would then notify the Department of Health, and then we would go into isolation with that student. On the campus, we have designated isolation spaces which is separate from traditional student housing. The student would be isolated for 14 days. She noted the difference between isolation and quarantine – if you isolate, you are ill; if you quarantine, you are questioning if you are ill. Food will be delivered, and there will be assistance with laundry; the process is well vetted.

Courtney continued her report by sharing other things that are going on in Student Life. We have been a leader in online engagement for some time, which has benefitted us in this environment. They have created a robust activity schedules for students via the online platforms, student clubs and organizations are engaging in new and creative ways, the athletic teams are doing smaller group practices and strength training sessions (most are not allowed to have competitive seasons – golf and cross county may be able to compete). They are keeping busy; the pandemic and response is taking up a lot of their collective time, but I feel that it is important work to keep the campus safe. Engaging the students to let them know they play a part in keeping the campus safe is important too. I am also very proud of our students, as they have done a tremendous job in a challenging environment that is not a normal college experience.

Dr. Szafran added a few points about the pooled saliva tests and continued with his report. We were one of the first campuses to commit to this method of testing; other campuses that did not choose this method in the beginning and who are having some issues are making the move now. The saliva tests made it very easy for us to screen all students on entry to the College. We have been very straight forward with students on what not to do and do – no parties, wear a mask, social distance, etc., and so far, students have complied with the rules. The pooled testing also cuts down on false positives, which is an issue with other methods. He provided an explanation of the process – overall, it does not allow for the RNA to breakdown prior to testing. Upstate has been a great partner; they are offering this testing service for about 1/10 of what others have to pay, and whenever, we have had questions they are answered immediately. There have only been a few glitches. Clarkson is also being a very good partner with their help in testing the wastewater samples. We would like to do this type of testing at least twice a week to watch for and catch any increases, and test as soon as possible. Courtney added that if there was a rise in the baseline in any building, we would test all students in that building immediately, and they would be put on quarantine while they await results. Dr. Szafran emphasized to the Council how fast things change and what you need to be prepared for – we had several plans (A, B, C, and D...) to fit every scenario. It was a huge undertaking, but he happily reported that we made the right choices so far. Dr. Burke asked if the nasal pharyngeal test was more expensive; Dr. Szafran indicated that it was and it took a lot longer to get results (ranging for 4 to 12 days and had to quarantine for all that time). He also noted that the saliva test is less invasive, and he shared that

students were initially scared until they realized that it was the saliva test. He stated that he felt it may have helped with compliance as well.

Dr. Szafran continued his regular report. SUNY has reached agreement with the UUP Union for testing to be mandated; prior to this, we could only recommend it. Now, it is required for UUP and MC employees. Negotiations with the other unions are happening as well, and we anticipate them to reach an agreement soon. We are, however, testing faculty/staff now, which first round happening yesterday. He noted that this is just part of our work to make the surrounding community safe. **Lenore**, can you describe how faculty and staff testing is being done, as well as some of the ways we have reached out and coordinated with the broader community and health officials?

Lenore reported the following. Testing has gone smoothly due to the help from Courtney and her team, especially RJ Thayer. Yesterday, we tested almost 120 employees, and all employees who were required to be tested were done. Some who were just encouraged were also done. In terms of our cooperation with the community, we have developed a strong partnership with the County Department of Public Health, as well as with the Chair of the Board of Public Health. Several areas within the Associated Colleges meet weekly with the Chair of the Board of Health and Public Health to discuss testing and COVID 19 related issues. They have been very helpful and cooperative, and the partnership among all has been invaluable as we develop our plans. We are all working together towards a common goal of keeping the county safe.

Zvi briefly noted that the colleges in the area developed plans that were not identical; however, with regard to the testing method, one of the others has decided to use the same method as us, and the other two campuses are inquiring about switching over.

He continued with his report by saying one of the major challenges we face as a campus is related to our budget. Our enrollment is down about 200 students, which isn't as bad as we had feared. One factor is that students are considering taking a gap year. That, combined with a decrease in students living on campus due to the virus, an anticipated reduction in State aid, and an increase in costs due to testing and related issues, make this a challenging year. **Shawn**, can you talk a bit about these challenges, how we are facing them, and about our current fiscal picture?

Shawn reported the following. Our tuition revenue is down, and the State's financial issues are trickling down to us through SUNY – we have quarterly spending restrictions; we have not been advised as of yet as to what our State support will be (rumor has been that it will be a 20-25% cut and we may not know until November). They have given us our target for tuition revenue. Today's numbers show that we did not hit our target, which is the first time in quite a while. We are down from last year by about \$500,000 in tuition revenue from fall to fall. If the cut is 25%, it would be \$1.5M for us, plus the \$500,000 decrease in enrollment for the Fall semester, not the full year. Things are tighter this year; COVID expenses are up, and we are trying to hold the rest of our expenses back. We are seeing a third less of students on campus and many of the students that are here are taking online classes as opposed to in-person classes. We are

looking at the expenses to see what is really needed for the students that are here and see what we can hold on. She reiterated that expenses are being reviewed closely, and she may need help from the campus to justify expenses in each area. Hires have been held back; we are trying to do everything we possibly can to save on expenses and save money to hit our targets for our quarterly spends. I know it is difficult, and people do not always understand. There is nothing personal involved in any of the decisions; it is about keeping the College afloat, which is challenging at times.

Dr. Szafran added that it is very complicated due to a number of moving parts, which puts us at risk for a number of things such as what will the State do with financial aid. That issue left us with a choice at the beginning of the year to anticipate if the State is going to reduce financial aid or not, resulting in us needing to decide if we reduce financial aid to students which meant risking losing students, or did we want to be at risk for these amounts and cover the financial aid. We decided on the latter and was subsequently mandated by SUNY to do that. Often things happen that way – need to decide on things before we are directed. For the most part, we have made the right decision and have not had to change direction, but on occasion, we have had to add something. One example is with employee testing – initially, we could only encourage they get tested and recommended that they do this through their doctor; once the unions reached agreements to mandate testing, we switched to testing employees on campus and at no cost to them. We also had to add increased periodic testing for students and employees, which we have done.

We are anticipating a total shortfall of about \$6M for the year, with hopes that it will be better than that. He shared several “hopes” for the semester – no outbreak on campus or in the area that would result in us having to close early, leading to refunds being a budget factor; will be federal support for the State, resulting in a smaller cut or shorter duration for cuts. We have reserves of about \$16M that we have set aside over the course of many years, and because we have these to help this year, we will be able to make good decisions. Some people have been questioning why we have such large reserves, and now they are realizing why. We do not know what will happen this Spring, but if we are allowed to open live, we will continue to do the screening and surveillance testing until there is an effective vaccine that has been distributed and works – this will cost money. There is the question (and hope) as to if our numbers will return to what they were last Spring or get higher. He shared some of the many unknowns – what will the norm be on campuses; how long will the State be running behind financially and not be able to restore the formula funding – these unknowns are huge, and it is good to have reserves to last for some time and be able to make thoughtful decisions. All of this has been possible because of Shawn and her staff and how much effort they put into their work.

A major part of our preparations for fall has consisted of making sure our course offerings are offered in a way that allows our students to continue to get hands-on experience in their labs and clinicals but also ready to go fully remote if we need to. **Peggy**, can you tell us how this has gone, some innovative things our faculty have done, how our support services are available to both on-campus and online students, and about some new programs we have developed?

Peggy reported the following. We have a new program approved – Crime Analysis – that is being offered through the Center for Criminal Justice, Intelligence, and Cyber Security; this is also a course that is part of the suite of programs that we are offering through SUNY Online. We are hoping to capitalize on the work that is being done at the System level to boost enrollments in this program quickly.

A lot of planning that went into this semester started in May before faculty left for the summer, as well as continuing through the summer. Faculty were asked to engage in a planning exercise that explored their responses to a number of different teaching scenarios – how to change course formats to respond to social distancing in an abbreviated semester if we were allowed to meet face to face, as well as a variety of contingencies in case course delivery had to change over the semester. They were also asked to consider what could be online without a loss of content, what needed to be face-to-face, different class formats – hybrid, flex, merged modalities, what they would need in terms of training and resources to retool their courses, and what do students need to be successful. Based on those responses, we decided that the lecture-based classes would be largely retained in an online format, and they developed a prioritize format for use of on-campus space for face-to-face classes that allowed for social distancing and safety. The first thing in that prioritization was activities, labs, and practicals that were mandated by our accredited programs (experiences that students need to have to sit for licensure and be able to graduate); second in priority were labs, especially those that would lose value if they were not offered face-to-face. In and around that scheduling are recitation sections or small group discussions for our larger introduction courses that serve our freshman, so we have the opportunity to acculturate them to campus. A new system of course codes was developed, so students would know how their courses would be offered. Admissions and Advising did a great job of bringing in the next class, and over the summer, the Center for Learning Design, Innovation, and Online Instruction continued to support our faculty in course redesign by offering more group training, drop-in sessions, and individual sessions. They also developed a three-tiered training institute that guided faculty through all facets of online-course development. The Library also assisted faculty with identifying open educational resources for use in their classes and creating multiple ways for students to access materials remotely.

Peggy stated that she is impressed with the innovation and creativity that the faculty have come up with to develop their online courses – videos (some have set up studios in homes to produce high-quality videos), written detailed study guides, been available to students (some have provided their personal phone numbers), worked with those that need help with access (Foundation has provide some students with laptops). I'm in awe of faculty who have confronted their fears of COVID in order to teach in person, because they feel it is the best way to provide instruction. Academic Support Services have changed their hours to provide support into the evening to better serve our online students. The overarching principle through all of this was what is in the best interest of our students, and how can we keep them on track to a timely graduation, especially for our seniors. Dr. Szafran reiterated that it took a large number of people, both on campus and off, to make this work. He stated that we are capitalizing on earlier decisions and investments, which allows for the changes we have had to make this work well.

Dr. Szafran continued with his regular report. One might have thought that due to the pandemic, we'd be having a rather bad year in Advancement. As it turns out, due to some fine work by Tracey and the Advancement staff, this isn't true. **Tracey**, can you talk about some of the successes we have had closing out last year and going into this one?

Tracey reported the following. In late February/early March, all of our spring travel was cancelled, which presented many challenges due to the fact that we had a \$1M in solicitations. Those people who love SUNY Canton continue to, and those generous donors continued to be generous donors – some gifts were put off, but many still came through. We closed out the last fiscal year with \$1,654,000 in cash, new pledges, bequests, and gifts-in-kind, which put us at 168% of our goal for the year. A highlight included raising over \$411,000 in gifts and pledges for the Canton Fund, which is the unrestricted fund that serves all areas of the campus, and that was the first time surpassing the \$400,000 mark in several years.

We had a tremendous success with the Student Emergency Fund. The Chancellor put out a \$50,000 match for any campus that could raise \$50,000 in a six-week period. For our small campus and small donor base it should have been impossible, but it was not; we pulled out all of the stops and engaged everyone – on campus and off – and raised over \$64,000 in that 6-week period. We received the \$50,000 match, plus a \$45,000 bonus on top of that, meaning we raised over \$125,000 for the Student Emergency Fund since the start of the last fiscal year until now. Additionally, we were able to secure some large ongoing gifts that will provide the fund with \$15,000 in new gifts every year going forward. One of the new initiatives for this year involves one of the ways that SUNY Canton can do more to support justice and racial equality; we are launching a scholarship initiative to assist our black students in creating clear pathways in obtaining a college degree and pursue their career of choice. It is a commitment to fulfill the unique promise of our students' talents and passions; it is called the Promises Kept Pathways Scholarship Initiative. We will be establishing three sets of these Promises Kept Scholarships – 1st set will support students entering SUNY Canton, the 2nd set will be aimed at retention, and the 3rd set will engage our students' aspirational goals by assisting them in pursuing a Master's degree. These scholarships will be awarded to black students who have financial need and who can demonstrate through their community involvement that they too wish to be part of the solution. Joe Rich was one of the first donors to this initiative; thank you, Joe. If anyone else is interested in supporting this initiative you can reach out to me, and I will help you.

Since the first quarter, we have raised \$360,000, secured four new endowments, and five new annual scholarships, as well as the two new naming gifts that were presented earlier. This includes \$160,000 for the Canton Fund and \$80,000 for the Endowed Scholarship Fund. This represents 37% of our total goal for the year. We always hope to go way beyond our goal, especially with bequests and planned giving, but I am encouraged. Our biggest challenge is with events; travel within the State has resumed to a certain level, but all of the live, on-campus events have had to be cancelled. However, we have been creative and are developing virtual events; we are working on an expansive alumni

reunion week of events, and we are trying to figure out how to keep that engagement strong.

Dr. Szafran continued with his report. Peggy and Tracey are just completing their first year at SUNY Canton; the expression “drinking from the firehose” never was more appropriate than this year – they not only had to get acclimated to a new campus and our way of doing things, but they had to deal with a once-in-a-century pandemic while doing it. They have done an amazing job. In fact, our whole campus community has pulled together to get the job done, no matter what it takes. I’m extremely proud of Tracey and Peggy and my senior staff, our faculty, and our staff, and could not ask for better colleagues.

The reality is that at this point, we’re surfing a wave that can change under our feet at a minute’s notice. Just like when surfing, we have to continuously make changes and adjustments so that we don’t get flipped off the board. I’m sure you’ve heard about the challenges that have caused one SUNY campus to close down live instruction for the semester. Several other campuses are close to numbers that would require them to begin shifting to full online, with one already having to do that. Could it happen here? I wish I could tell you “no,” but the truth is that wouldn’t be honest—it could happen here. Things can go out of control in just a few days. We’ve taken every responsible step to safeguard our campus and to keep on top of things and are using our resources to their absolute limits, but one big party, one super-spreader, or an outbreak elsewhere in the county or state could impact our campus too. We’re all working super hard, often around the clock, and our students are overwhelmingly complying with safety rules, but we’re not immune. That’s the reality.

We’re doing something else that’s very important on campus and in cooperation with the other Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley regarding all the things that are going on across the country, making sure that our students feel safe and welcome in our community. We’ve taken major steps to try to ensure that they do, in ways you’ve already heard a bit about but in other ways too. We’ve also started a number of new or enhanced initiatives, including starting a campus anti-racism faculty and staff group; working to bring some major speakers to talk about racial justice to our campuses; raising money for scholarships that Tracey just described, establishing a racial justice workshop/conference starting next year, and examining our curriculum to focus on areas of racial and social justice where appropriate. We have always had a campus credo of everyone is welcome here, and we are going to live up to it even in these challenging times. We have worked with our colleagues in the village, town, and county on this, and they are fully supportive of what we are doing. Meetings have included the Mayor, the Town Supervisor, Board Members, County officials, police agencies, health agencies, business owners – everyone – to ensure our students are welcomed, that everyone in the community takes safety measures – everyone is committed to doing this. They have all been supportive and cooperative, and we have responded in kind. One example – we hosted one of the massive food giveaways to help the community, and we will continue to work together and support each other.

Laini, would you like to talk about what's happening at the SUNY Faculty Senate?

Laini reported the following. I took over in July, and not much has happened yet. The first plenary is in October, so I will have more to report after that. There has been some conversation around the appointment of the new Chancellor, and the Faculty Senate did send out a statement of no confidence. She read a portion of that statement, which reflected their concern – “Politically appointed members of the SUNY Board of Trustees who voted in favor of the appointment of the new Chancellor without a search that meets the guidelines of shared governance.”

Dr. Szafran noted that due to the issues surrounding the pandemic he mistakenly forgot to announce that SUNY has a new Chancellor. We are sorry to see Chancellor Johnson go, and I know it is early on, but in my opinion, Chancellor Malatras is off to a good start. Chancellor Malatras reached out to us directly to ask us to supply some good news, so we shared the idea of our initiative to start an athletic team for eSports. He provided some background regarding our various eSports successes – in May, we worked with Chancellor Johnson on a competition, and during the summer, we held another competition and partnered with University of Buffalo (not our normal partnership). He went on to report that on Friday, Chancellor Malatras announced a SUNY-wide eSports league to be funded by SUNY, giving full credit to us for the idea, doing the work, and being New York's premier eSports program.

Dr. Szafran stated that he appreciates the faculty's concerns regarding the way the Chancellor's appointment was handled; however, he stated that he was off to a good start.

Travis, would you like to talk about some of our recent media successes?

Travis reported the following. SUNY's release regarding the eSports conference went out on Friday, and ours went out to the local media yesterday. We will be working with Extreme Networks and SUNY on a media push this week. Chancellor Malatras mentioned Zvi in his quote, which is a huge deal for SUNY Canton. Greg Kie and myself will be speaking at SUNYCUAD on Friday regarding eSports, and we will add in the newest announcement of the SUNY-wide league as well.

Regarding the Annual Report, I would like to give a shout out to my team for their great work on this piece. There is a print and digital version, which pays tribute to all the great things that happen on campus; the print version will be here in a couple of weeks. Thanks goes to Matt Mulkin for putting the print version together.

US News and World sent out their rankings this past week, and we moved up 4 spots to 19 in the Northern Region. We additionally earned the 12th spot in the Best Value Regional Colleges of the North, 11th place in the Best Public Regional Colleges of the North, 10th place in Best Veterans Regional Colleges, and 19th place in the Top Performers in Social Mobility Regional Colleges. We have been moving up slowly since Dr. Szafran arrived, and I hope we can continue that trend.

Over the summer Educate to Career recognized us as a Tier 1 classification based on our flexibility and ability to deliver education in a variety of formats during the COVID 19 issues, which is a testament to the Provost's Office and the faculty for being so adaptable throughout the whole spring and over the summer.

This is National Cyber Security Month, and we are working with the faculty in our Cyber Security and Criminal Justice programs to highlight the Cyber Security program through online activities such as panel discussions.

Dr. Szafran added that PR won the SUNYCUAD award last year for our annual report, and SUNY Canton has been mentioned or had articles in publications that are outside the norm – NY Times, Wall Street Journal, etc.

Travis added that they are also trying to get Zvi, Melissa Evans, and others on the local radio to talk about our situation, getting students here this fall, how safe our campus is, etc.

Dr. Szafran wrapped up his report with the following. Our SBDC has done tremendous work to help businesses stay open, to plan, and to move forward. We have two SBDCs that cover the north country, and it is a vital part of the economic infrastructure of the region and our ability to move forward. The four colleges have been working together on all kinds of things including the pandemic, racism and anti-racism efforts, and telling our story so people know about us and what we stand for.

Joe Rich added that he and members of his fundraising team had an opportunity to visit with Randy Sieminski and the eSports program; he stated that they were very impressed and hoped that it will result in increased enrollment in the future. He stated that he feels things will come around.

Marie Regan echoed Joe's points. She also asked President Szafran how he was holding up. Dr. Szafran stated that the challenges are big and sometimes there is pressure, but he noted that the people in his office – Lenore and Michaela – provide comfort and help, as well as doing great work. He also noted that he is surrounded by the best senior staff team; he stated that his four Vice Presidents are fantastic. He reminded everyone that they heard about our terrific faculty and staff. He specifically noted how our critical workers were the ones to work through the pandemic to be sure our campus was clean and safe, and he noted that it was difficult, but they did it. He additionally noted that the staff in the housing area rose to the occasion and helped to get students their belongings, as most did not take anything with them when they left for spring break. He stated that this was no small feat – developing a plan that was safe and met campus and local health department approvals, boxing and shipping student belongings, etc. He also stated that because our plan worked well we became the model for other campuses; SUNY and our faculty/staff felt that our reopening plan was one of the best.

The Council Members offered accolades to Dr. Szafran and his team – Marie – all have done a great job.; Grace – thanked Zvi and his team, and she stated that it is amazing to be on this

team; Jen – said she was glad for all the updates and appreciated being kept in the loop.; Ron – pointed out the wonderful job that Shawn has done over the years to get us a significant reserve.

Chairman O’Neill noted that he knows the process to appoint the new Chancellor was not normal, but he stated that June has known Jim for a number of years; her view is that he is a wonderful person, and Ron asked the campus to give him a chance to try to prove himself. Chairman O’Neill also mentioned that the campus has done a wonderful job during the pandemic, as well as the State of New York. He stated that he felt the State needs to be thanked for their plan, and he subsequently thanked the Governor and the State. He also thanked everyone on the campus from the President to the students, and he thanked Michaela for keeping the Council informed regarding campus plans, issues, etc.

Adjournment

Marie Regan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Grace Burke and approved.