

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCIL

278th MEETING

November 28, 2017

Present:	Grace Burke Joseph Rich	Chloe Ann O'Neil Thomas Sauter	Ronald O'Neill, Chair Nikki Zeitzmann
Absent:	Timothy Currier Roger Sharlow	Cecily Morris	Marie Regan
Others:	Courtney Bish Douglas Scheidt Zvi Szafran	Brian Harte Anne Sibley Barat Wolfe	Shawn Miller Travis Smith Michaela Young

Call to Order

Chairman O'Neill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes of September 12, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Sauter made a motion to accept the September 12, 2017, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rich and approved.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Chairman's Report

There was nothing new to report.

President's Report

Dr. Szafran reported on some highlights since the last time the Council met.

- Two additional degree programs have been fully approved: B.S. in Cybersecurity and B.B.A. in Early Childhood Care and Management – which have been in progress for a while. Both will begin in Fall 2018.
- Mechatronics has been at State Ed for more than a year; we are still waiting on approval. Dr. Szafran plans to speak with the Chancellor on a number of issues; this being one of them – hoping for an idea to help us get this unblocked and letting us move more into Engineering.
 - Mr. Sauter asked for some explanation on why State Ed. would not want us to get this accredited as an engineering degree.
 - Dr. Szafran answered that engineers and engineering technology have butted heads for a while. The reality is there is a 60% overlap in the two fields – there is no straight

separation. Engineers tend to work on developing new things (research focused), and engineering technology tends to focus on optimization of existing technology. Obviously, both are necessary. Many ET's are employed as engineers and many engineers are essentially employed as ET's. The problem arises in licensure, where ET's are treated much worse than engineers, with the most happening in the area of civil and environmental. It is less important in electrical and not important at all in mechanical. He went on to describe some inequities in the way some states handle licensures. Another example is that ET's (including some of our own students) have not been allowed to sit for Civil Service exams in New York State.

- Dr. Szafran would like to have the Chancellor on our side, because eventually we would like to have the authority to change the civil degree to an engineering degree. Ultimately, we may not go there, but we should be allowed to if we want to. We should be able to get accredited at the highest level that our students have the maximum number of opportunities.
- We have received four (of the five that we applied for) grants from the SUNY Performance Improvement Fund (PIF) that we submitted almost a year ago:
 - Online Industrial Technology Management and Logistics (4-year degree), \$190,000.
 - Online Sustainable Construction Degree (4-year degree), \$170,000.
 - Model Co-curricular transcript, \$110,000.
 - Courtney Bish will explain this in more detail later.
 - Involves outside-of-class experience.
 - Online Enhancement (to bring online students fully into the life of the College), \$480,000. This will give us the leadership role in developing this for SUNY.

All of these amounts are essentially 100% of what we requested, which is very unusual. The thought is that it reflects SUNY's belief in us in making a real breakthrough in the online area. The current total is \$950,000, with one additional proposal that will be funded to some level for equipment to support our Solar Ready Vets and alternative energy programs, so it is likely to be more than \$1M when we are done. These are all solo-SUNY Canton grants.

- In addition to this, we are also part of an additional PIF which was to fund promotion of the Tech Sector in general. Here, the request (which came from Morrisville and was in part a redo of one we submitted last year) was for \$1.2M and was funded for \$120,000, so we will get some of the benefit from that. All in all, we were extremely successful in this year's PIF funding.
- SUNY Canton has been accepted as a full member in the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) for all sports except men's and women's ice hockey and men's golf starting Fall 2018. This is a more compact league than the one we are in now, meaning our travel distance/cost will go down. It is a better league. This makes us eligible for post-season play in NCAA tournaments. In addition, our women's ice hockey team has been accepted into the NorthEast Women's Hockey League (NEWHL) starting Fall 2019. NEWHL is the women's version of SUNYAC. We are preparing an application for our men's ice hockey team for SUNYAC, which will be a longer shot.
 - It was asked why all of our teams were not in SUNYAC.
 - Dr. Szafran explained that it is felt that some of our teams are not yet ready to compete at that level.

- Efforts have begun to launch our initiatives of Personalized Pathways, Online Enhancement, and Athletic Leadership. There are now nine subcommittees working on the Pathways effort, which is now fully staffed with faculty, staff, and students. We have gotten the funding we need for the Online Enhancement effort and just made some important decisions regarding e-Sports, which will be launched this spring. We have identified a space on campus for students to use in the e-Sports competitions, as well as some industrial partners which may potentially help us fund it. Over 30 students have signed up for the league, and we anticipate more than 50 by next fall.
- We have made some important connections with CEGEP colleges in Quebec regarding potential partnerships, which will hopefully result in an increased number of Canadian students and some near-abroad study-abroad opportunities for our students. A CEGEP is essentially a community college in Canada. In Quebec, a student cannot go into a four-year college – they must attend a CEGEP first.
- We hope to sign an MOU with Cayuga Community College very soon to offer online programs on their Fulton campus and house our Dental Hygiene program. We are working to do something similar with other community colleges that are strategically located around the State, to bring our “brand” statewide. They are very interested in our converged modality online program development and having it offered on their campuses. We are also looking at partnering in other efforts as well, including various economic development efforts. They plan to supply space, computers, and support for the students at no cost to us. This will offer a seamless transfer from them to SUNY Canton. Besides Cayuga, Niagara Community College may also be interested in such an agreement.
- We are also embarking on an effort with the Veterans Liaison at SUNY to make transferability of credits easier for soldiers transitioning out of the military. The NY State Division of Veterans Affairs is very supportive of this effort. A representative from that office is interested in participating in a meeting happening on December 4.
- Early Fall numbers for the incoming class look very good, and our initial round of open houses have been very well attended. The percentage of increases is quite solid.
- Upgrades on the Cyber Café and to the women’s ice hockey locker room have been completed, both of which are quite beautiful and well received. The work has begun on the Dana Hall exterior as well. Because of the construction, our University Police have moved from Dana Hall to the first floor of Wicks Hall in a newly renovated space.

Chairman O’Neill asked if the changes in the sports programs will have any effect on recruitment.

Ms. Bish said that it should have a significant positive effect on recruitment. Additionally, entering a more established conference will make us more marketable with students deciding among colleges based on their sports opportunities.

Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Scheidt reported that we have two leadership positions being searched to replace people who are leaving. Our Dean of SBLA is returning to faculty, so that search is proceeding as an internal search for an interim for the spring semester. Once the interim position is taken care of, the search committee will focus on the external search for the permanent position, for which we already have several applications. The other position is to replace the Coordinator of Sponsored Programs/Grants Development Coordinator JoAnne Fassinger, who is retiring at the end of December.

A couple of metrics we focus on pretty closely in terms of measuring our success in serving our students are graduation rates and first- and second-year retention rates. The second number was 61% three falls ago. Our SUNY Excels goals for 2018 and 2020 are 71% and 73%, respectively. This fall's retention rate hit 70%, so we are moving really nicely toward that goal. In terms of operating efficiently, Dr. Scheidt likes to look at how well we are scheduling courses to meet student need without overscheduling and having empty seats that require additional salary expenses (often adjuncts). Our target is 80% of seats filled (90% is maximum because 10% of students will drop within the first week). We started at 76%, which is pretty good practice, but this fall we hit 80%, meeting our goal. That speaks to the Deans and Chairs doing good work to best optimize our resources.

Already mentioned are our new programs: Cybersecurity (Bachelor of Science) and Early Childhood Care and Management (Bachelor of Business Administration) starting next fall. This early approval gives our Admissions Office more time to recruit for these new programs.

Dr. Scheidt provided more information on the Mechatronics program. He shared information on how the process of approval works – initially, SUNY reviews and approves, and then it moves to State Ed. The State Ed process follows one of two paths – Office of College and University Education (OCUE) or the Office of Professions (programs leading to a license) – and from there, the review could be lengthy depending on the profession. It is felt that engineering is one of the lengthiest, as board members are people in that profession and tend to have strong allegiances to their alma mater that already offers engineering, so opening the gate to other campuses sometimes can be a bit sluggish. The Mechatronics program has been at State Ed. under review for approximately 450 days. This is causing problems because we are unable to support the Chancellor's goal of serving the State in a more agile way with new programs that meet workforce and employer needs. This has also affected our ability to bring in a targeted group of students and stopped our current ones from being recruited – a very large employer in NYS contacted us regarding offering a focused cohort online program for their facility and an agreement to recruit our students. This company also followed up with an invitation to their employee advancement fair to recruit students into this new program. This has been reported to the SUNY Provost and other senior administrators, which led to a discussion and a conference call with State Ed; it was reported that the call was ineffective.

Both of the above programs were supportive of new classroom space for a converged modality – or flex class – delivery (class is delivered face-to-face, live streamed, and lecture captured for students who cannot be in person due to their job or other life issues but can participate later). Live streaming provides the opportunity for students to ask questions in real time, by text, or post-class, so everyone can interact. This is hopefully in all ways going to be an enhanced learning experience for students. We currently have classes online for local students who would be available for face-to-face, but there is not enough enrollment for both face-to-face and online classes. The flex class is being piloted with the

Health Care Management students, and their reaction is very positive. We are piloting it further in the spring with nine different sections and have a grant in the amount of \$40K to build the room with the enhanced technology: the camera that will follow the professor, the microphones throughout the room, and the screens that will make this a smooth experience for the students. We built one of those last summer, so this grant gives us the opportunity to cover those expenses already spent, leaving that money for other things. We are building another one in December that will be online for the spring. Those two rooms are now covered by that, which is \$80K back in our budget that we can use for the planned building of a third room this summer, assuming we have the need for that. The professor will now have the flexibility to give the local students the choice on any given day to come to class, live stream, or watch the class later that evening. This gives local adult learners the flexibility to do the most engaging classroom experience their schedule will allow. This is not just about serving more students but also about providing a better learning experience for those students we already have. I am excited and glad SUNY is supporting our full online enterprise in all of the different ways. We will have the opportunity to lead, not just in enrollment numbers, but in quality of experience.

Dr. Szafran added that this is pretty exciting and is getting excellent reception from the community colleges. When we launch it full scale, it will be good for faculty, students, the College, and the State.

Mr. Sauter asked about the business that requested we provide distance learning for their employees. How are we responding to them? Are they requesting something that we can do?

Dr. Scheidt said they are asking for a new bachelor's degree program that we do not currently have. We have told them yes, we will build that bachelor's degree program. They are ready to start enrolling students. We have responded that we will do it as soon as we are able to. He reiterated some of the approval process and shared that there was no comment from other SUNYs during the comment period, so we moved the full proposal submission to SUNY. Dr. Szafran added that SUNY approval should be relatively easy to complete, which is true in most states. The added step of needing to get outside evaluators – find them, then get them approved – and then waiting for review and recommendation to SUNY often is time consuming. After corrections, if any, the proposal moves to State Ed. It was noted that the Chancellor is well aware of this problem, having heard it from the Provosts and the Presidents.

Administrative Affairs Update

Ms. Miller reported that she filed our projections for the Fall in October. She noted that we hit our targets, which means that even though we were down by 39 students, tuition increased \$200, so we met our projected targets. Our allocation is based on our initial target, which is submitted May 1. Even if we do not meet our number target, it matters more that we met our dollar target, so we do not have to pay any money back.

She reported that the UUP contract is still not finalized, but money has been set aside in reserve for the anticipated union contract raises, UUP raises will most likely be retroactive until July 2016 and the CSEA contract will probably be retroactive to April 2016.

As Dr. Szafran mentioned, University Police has moved from Dana Hall to lower Wicks Hall. She expects they will be there for up to two years while construction takes place in Dana Hall. Al Mulkin reported this morning that they are settling in, and he thinks the space will work out well for them.

A major renovation was done to the Cyber Café, which is the food service located inside the Library. It is beautiful, with expanded seating and menu. Upstairs in the Library, a lighting project was completed, and restrooms were added. Reportedly the students are very happy about the presence of restrooms upstairs. The outside of Dana Hall is in progress, with bids back for the inside design. She reported that the bids for Chaney Dining Hall are in, but they are deciding whether the low-bidding contractor will be able to handle a project that size. In May, the dining hall will be shutting down, and meals will be served out of Dana Hall's gymnasium with an exterior kitchen. That will continue until January 2019.

She shared that her area is searching for a new Director of Human Resources to replace a December retiree. They hope to have a recommendation later today and will make an offer right away. There was a good pool of candidates. Dave Rourke has been a huge asset to our campus and will be hard to replace. Dr. Szafran added that we had five candidates, all of whom are excellent.

Advancement Update

Ms. Sibley reported that our year is progressing well, and they are tracking ahead of last year in our fundraising. They are anxious to see what the numbers will look like for November from the Fall campaign and the After Canton magazine release. She encouraged everyone to read After Canton from cover to cover, as it has some nice stories, including a nice piece on the 50-year anniversary of the College's move to this location, with some interesting history found during PR's research.

They are continuing their goal of having more events this year – some of the primary ways will be to engage more alumni, find new people who might become donors, and get others to increase their donations. They are especially looking to do more in NYS, since this is where the majority of our alumni live. December is a tough month for events because of the holidays, but they are trying a few very small Coffee with the President events nearby in early December, in hopes of attracting some new faces. January and February become their busy time, with an event in NYC, as well as multiple trips to Florida. January through March will be busy with trips to Florida, Texas, and Arizona, where it is sunny and warmer, and they have a lot of great alumni and donors and continue to uncover new ones.

Ms. Sibley reported that the 50-year anniversary events and information has encompassed a good portion of the year; it has been emphasized in many of our communications, and it will continue to be throughout the year. It will also be a big piece of our Reunion Weekend, which will be the first weekend in June. We expect to hold a large dinner, and that Friday night, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of this campus being opened. More plans for the celebration of 50 years will be forthcoming.

Another piece in support of the 50th anniversary is their goal to have 1,968 donors this year in honor of the Class of 1968, the first class to live, have classes, and graduate on this campus. It is a high goal compared to past years, but they hope it is successful.

She shared that today is Giving Tuesday, an international day of giving, which they are promoting on all of our social media accounts. President Szafran is helping them in acquiring new donors and increasing visibility by giving a challenge grant. He is challenging alumni whom have never given to the College to start giving with any size donation, matching their gifts up to \$5,000 over the next five years. A nice consequence of this challenge is that other people are noticing his challenge. One staff member – Amanda Deckert, together with her husband – has put together a challenge to alumni from their era

(2009 to 2012) to give. It was noted that younger alumni are harder to target, so Amanda's challenge involves the Student Emergency Fund, aimed to help students in dire need. She and her husband have pledged \$5,000 in matching donations for anyone who donates from those class years.

They are also working very closely with Athletics on fundraising. It was noted that many colleges have very strong athletic fundraising programs, with coaches often playing a large role in that. Among others, our Men's Hockey Coach is very interested in taking part in this, getting 70 donors in 70 days this summer. Advancement is working closely with them and Randy Sieminski to give them the tools they need, so the coaches can do more fundraising on their own.

They are looking at naming hockey locker room stalls and getting more seats named in the hockey arena, as well as raising money for the teams. They have already named a number of new endowment scholarships, with four gifts made and a couple of others in the works.

Ms. Sibley announced that they are losing one of their staff members, a gift officer. An ad is going out, but please direct anyone interested with fundraising experience – especially alum – to the advertisement, and ask them to apply.

Chairman O'Neill asked if they have heard any feedback from others on the new tax reform bill that was just passed which affects private universities but not state universities. Ms. Sibley responded that there was some recent attempt by the legislature to tax SUNY College Foundations, with the motivation that there is money that should be taxed. This has been quashed, and the hope is that it will not go through in the future, as it will set a bad precedent – donor money in college foundations is only to be spent as the donor specifies, according to the mandate given by the foundation. Dr. Szafran further explained that other area colleges have discussed this subject. There is a threshold set for endowments and scholarship donations, and the colleges are working to stay under that threshold in order to prevent funds from taxation, as that expense would take away from money meant to support students.

Dr. Burke stated that education is huge in immigrant communities. They value good education as a group. Dr. Szafran added that listening to people's statements about higher education is important. Some of the concerns of those who do not support it are real. However, if you listen to some of the common arguments against higher education, such as degree programs that do not match the job force needs, it does not describe this campus at all. Every single degree program we offer leads to a job.

Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Wolfe reported that October's SUNY Plenary was the first time they saw the new Chancellor. This was the Chancellor's opportunity to communicate her values, which include Access, Excellence, Innovation, Outreach, and Scale. She seemed to really recognize the full scale of SUNY, and I think she had some positive things to say about what each sector does contribute. When Dr. Wolfe gave the presentation for the Tech Sector, they wanted to go bold, so she made many of the statements heard here today, about how our students are practical, what we contribute to economic growth and development in our communities, about the applied learning piece, and how we are really leaders. Instead of timidly requesting recognition for what we do, it was their plan to show what we do and how we lead in these areas. One of the plans is for the sector to have conversations on disciplines, with the Tech Sector leading the way in terms of applied learning – something we spoke about doing. She shared that General Education was a big topic. She indicated that the Tech Sector thinks this will be rolled out in a

3-year process. They are trying to find the best practices in General Education. The belief is that diversity and inclusion should be at least one of our General Education departments. They will collect data for one year, and then try to build a plan. The third year will focus on a policy, with seeing changes to campus five years down the road.

Dr. Wolfe is attempting to get some of our faculty to join some of the standing sub-committees at the SUNY level. She is currently the only SUNY Canton representative, and she feels it is time that our voice is heard on a much larger scale.

They also passed several resolutions, which have been brought before our Faculty Assembly. Dr. Wolfe presented them and asked for support. These included recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day as opposed to Columbus Day on our calendars. That was supported at our Faculty Assembly. Free menstrual products for all SUNY campus restrooms. This was heavily discussed at our Faculty Assembly; however, the support was there for programs that give menstrual products to students who have financial insecurity.

The Charter School Committee for the SUNY BOT passed a resolution on their ability to educate their own teachers. Our Faculty Assembly strongly disagrees that this should be allowed, so they passed their own resolution at SUNY Canton stating that we do not believe this should be allowed.

Dr. Szafran mentioned that there will be a meeting with the Colleges of Technology Presidents and the Chancellor in mid-December in hopes of working on a few things together. He also shared that he had the pleasure of speaking at the fourth SUNY Conference on Applied Learning, which was in Niagara Falls recently. He sat on a panel of three presidents and spoke about applied learning on their campuses. Many commented on how far ahead we were; it was nice to hear. It was noted that people are recognizing what we are doing, and Barat's push for us to be more active within SUNY is exactly on target.

Public Relations Update

Mr. Smith reminded us that the latest After Canton came out last week. He noted that if anyone did not receive a copy and wanted one to please let him or Ms. Sibley know. He also noted that they were challenged to completely redesign the publication, and he thinks it is their best yet. He acknowledged the great job done by his staff, and noted the highlight was the 50-year anniversary of the building of the campus story. As part of our 50-year anniversary, they are also highlighting 50 acts of kindness. It was reported that the campus does a lot of community service, so finding 50 of them will not be a problem. A few examples include: three different campus groups got involved in sending support to Puerto Rico in response to the recent hurricane damage, Alternative Energy students went to a local farm to help them hook up some solar panels – another applied learning feature, and Construction Technology students went to the North Country Children's Museum to help them build their facility.

Mr. Smith reported that we received some awards for our military friendliness. There are only three that you can win in academics, and we got all three: Military Advanced Education, G. I. Jobs, and Military Times. A big thanks goes to Patrick Massaro for doing some hard work there to make sure everyone in the military knows about SUNY Canton.

He stated that more stories will be going out in the news over the next month, and noted that probably the biggest success of this past fall was the Digital Design Studio, featuring our Game Design program and our Technological Communications program. It is a great facility, and if you have a chance, go check it out – it is pretty high tech. It was also noted that SUNY wanted to feature our open house in their blog, and the Chancellor re-tweeted it. This is a pretty big deal for us, and puts us ahead of our competitors.

Student Affairs Update

Ms. Bish reported that they are excited about joining the NAC. The long trip was worthwhile, and she thinks membership in this conference will help with recruiting new student athletes.

Regarding the PIF grant received for online student engagement and co-curricular transcript, Ms. Bish and Dr. Mott had put a lot of time and work into it, presenting it to SUNY through Open-SUNY Webinars over the past month and a half. Accolades came from other schools, who had not thought to do anything like this. It was noted that it is great being first in online student engagement, and the grants will enable us to hire a person to manage this process, which will really get this up and running well.

She shared that the student-athlete leadership program, mentioned earlier, includes a “Roos’ Path to Graduation,” which is an early intervention program for student athletes. There have always been intervention programs for athletes who might be having challenges in the classroom, but this is an amped-up approach, which models TRiO’s successful retention program. Currently, 54 student athletes are working through Roos’ Path to Graduation, and they are already seeing tremendous success.

The volleyball team won their first ACAA championship this year, and our men’s and women’s basketball teams are off to a great start at 1 and 4 and 1 and 3, respectively. We have relatively new coaches in both programs, and the women’s basketball is showing a lot of promise this year with their new coach.

She reported that Dr. Szafran, herself, Mr. Sieminski, and Dr. Brown (our faculty-athletic representative) plan to attend the NCAA Convention in Indianapolis this January.

Ms. Bish shared that housing numbers are stable. They are at 1,186 this year compared to 1,178 last year. There have been more disciplinary suspensions this year compared to last year at this time, which has impacted numbers, but not enough to make a difference, as they are still up.

They are currently analyzing and reviewing the student-conduct processes, looking closely at how we do conduct on campus. It has been a challenging semester with regard to student behavior issues. It was noted that it is cyclical – one semester may be great, and the next may be wild, but it is still important for them to re-evaluate what they do to ensure they are doing their best for the students.

Lastly, she reported that the SUNY Canton EMS Organization is in their second year. They were recognized by Canton Fire & Rescue this year for the important work they do on campus, which was a nice community recognition.

UUP Update

Mr. Harte reported that he spoke with the UUP President and statewide representatives on the negotiating team regarding the contract. UUP is one of five contracts in the queue to be settled, and they are working to get on the State's calendar. He shared that they do look at the other contract negotiations to get a feel for what their contract will likely look like. Right now, 2% is pretty much standard – it seems that most unions are getting 2% raises. He commended Dr. Szafran and the administration for putting monies aside for the retroactive aspect of this, because it does look like it will be retroactive. Nothing is set in stone at this time, but one of the main sticking points appeared to be the health care. Negotiations include co-pay increase and who would be responsible if it goes through. He shared that with regard to discretionary monies (DSA and DSI) they would like to see that applied in a step system, where monies are given to employees based on a measurable performance or other process, as opposed to a one-time, cash allowance distributed at the discretion of the president. They are awaiting a response from the State on the date of the next meeting to continue negotiations.

Chairman O'Neill asked if retirees are included in these negotiations. Once retired, Mr. Harte responded, the benefits are pretty much set based on the rules in place upon retirement. He added that retirement benefits are kept in mind during negotiations.

Chairman O'Neill asked how a retiree could lose benefits. Mr. Harte replied that currently the benefits package is tied to people who have joined the union. He also added that currently it is possible to pay into the union without actually joining it. Other states are having discussions regarding employees opting out of even paying into the union. This could eventually cause the union to collapse, not having enough income from employees to continue paying out benefits. As far as retirement goes, a loss of income could potentially affect retirement benefits.

Ms. O'Neil added that as employees retired under a contract, when a new contract was negotiated, the old one was null and void. Mr. Harte said that the hope is always to have a new contract be as good as the old one; however, every time you open up items for negotiation, you must be strategic in how you open them up, as opening an item opens the whole section, which allows for all to be re-negotiated.

Mr. Rich asked whether a cost of living increase was included in retirement contracts. Mr. Harte does not think there is. Others added that there is, and it is based on Social Security. The timing is not annual, though.

Dr. Szafran added a correction to the credit given for putting aside funds for the retroactive raises; the credit goes entirely to Ms. Miller.

Student Government Update

Ms. Zeitzmann reported that the SGA Budget Director, Brittney Ruff, is leaving her position at the end of this semester. She and the SGA Board are working to find a replacement. They have two candidates and will make a decision by the end of this week, and the decision will be presented at the SGA Budget and Senate meetings.

The SGA Board attended the SUNY Student Assembly in Albany this semester. There were fewer resolutions this semester than usual – four or five compared to the usual ten to twelve – for the student delegates to look at. Some of those included water quality testing on the campuses (not currently a

problem here), student representation at the community college level as far as student representatives sitting on different committees and boards on campus (some community colleges were struggling with students either being able to participate or generating enough involvement from students), a legislative agenda, and a couple of more minor resolutions. They were also able to meet the Chancellor for the first time, which was very nice. It was noted that it looks like it will be very positive to have someone so vigilantly involved in the STEM programs – it is great for our campus, specifically.

They are soliciting student feedback on the new programs being added to the curriculum. There is a lot of positive feedback. Students are really excited about the game design program, new lab, and new facility updates being made such as Cyber Café. The seating area there with the booths is very popular – you should go see it, if you have not. Some of the particularly positive items are the expanded menu and later hours for students wanting their coffee “fix.”

This semester has seen a very positive increase in the freshman class student atmosphere compared to the past two years. Student involvement is higher, we had a very good turnout in the Carnival of Clubs at the beginning of the semester. Involvement in clubs has increased, and a couple of new clubs have been added. They are thankful to Ms. Bish and Mr. Mattimore (Thayer) for their involvement in increasing online student engagement, and they have had positive response to this from the students.

As Mr. Smith mentioned, students have been very active in fundraising. She noted that in the past generally each semester students either focused on club involvement or fundraising. This semester has seen a marked increase in fundraising, particularly for hurricane relief, which was impactful to so many students. They are hoping to end this semester strong and lead into the next semester even stronger.

Dr. Szafran added that with the Personalized Pathways Initiative each of the nine sub-committees has at least one student member, with the majority having two. Not surprisingly, the one with the most is the leadership one, because our students are very interested in increased opportunities for student leadership – with this committee having at least seven student members. Thanks to Ms. Zeitzmann for helping to gain these volunteers.

Chairman O’Neill asked if the SGA board meetings are open to the public or not. Ms. Zeitzmann said that any of their bi-weekly budget and senate meetings are advertised and open to anyone to attend and participate. The public are not necessarily voting delegates the way that the student club senators are, but they are welcome to come during open forum and bring up points, ask questions, or get clarification. They always encourage students and faculty/staff to attend. They have had more faculty and staff attend, especially from the Ready Center (they have made it a point to have at least one staff member attend just to stay aware of what is going on with the clubs and organizations and student life). She added that if anyone was available to come and sit in on a meeting they are welcome to.

Chairman O’Neill asked how the student feedback usually comes – at meetings or one-on-one. Ms. Zeitzmann answered that it varies from semester to semester, but this semester most of the feedback has been at the meetings, even though the office is always open for students to drop in and talk any time.

Dr. Szafran said that Ms. Zeitzmann introduced him to several of the SUNY Student Leadership members, and one thing that they keep mentioning, which is gratifying to hear, is that the students here at SUNY Canton are much more involved with our administration and having their voice heard on

campus than is apparently the case at most other places. Other places ask how they can get their presidents and campus leadership to let students have a greater voice. For example, on the campus visits to SUNY, we were the only campus that brought a student – or a union representative, for that matter. It was noted that we try to do this across the board on as many committees as is practical. Regular meetings are held with our student government leaders. It is very important to have the student voice heard. He further told a story of how two cars of students traveling back from Thanksgiving break slid off the road near Tupper Lake (nobody was hurt, thankfully), and they reached out to him by phone early in the morning, asking if there was anything the College could do to help them. The first thing that came to mind was the Student Emergency Fund. In the absence of bus transportation or rental cars in Tupper Lake, there were six separate volunteers willing to go pick them up. In the end, the local mechanic in Tupper Lake was able to fix one of the cars, so they were able to drive themselves back to campus. The students were very thankful that they could reach out and that help was offered, and the faculty were notified of their plight, so they would not be penalized for missing classes. It shows how help was offered from across the campus when there was an emergency, and the students were very thankful that we were so easily reachable and promptly offered help.

Adjournment

Chairman O'Neill concluded by wishing everyone a happy holiday, Merry Christmas, and Happy Hanukah; enjoy the holidays and be safe.

Ms. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeitzmann and approved at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela Young
Secretary to the College Council