

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 28, 2011

<b>Present:</b>	Timothy Currier	Cecily Morris	Ronald O'Neill
	Roger Sharlow	Richard Callan	Chloe Ann O'Neil

**Present**

<b>Via Conf. Call:</b>	Thomas Sauter	Grace Burke (joined late)
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**Others Invited  
and Guests:**

Stacey Basford	David Butler	Charles Fenner
David Gerlach	Christine Gray	Molly Mott
Karen Spellacy	Carli Schiffner	Randy Sieminski
Joseph Kelly	Bernard Regan (Conf.)	

**Absent:** Daynelle Richards

**Call to Order**

Chairman O'Neill called the special meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

Chairman O'Neill reported to Tom Sauter that he received a call from Bob Freeman regarding Mr. Sauter's right to vote via conference call. Voting is only allowed if the person is on video. Mr. Sauter understood.

**Roll Call**

Chairman O'Neill asked Stacey Basford, College Council Secretary, to take a roll call of the College Council members. All members present and via conference call indicated their presence and are listed above. Ms. Basford indicated that Dr. Burke and Ms. Richards were not in attendance. Chairman O'Neill stated that quorum was met.

**Executive Session**

Chairman O'Neill read to the group present the reason for calling an Executive Session from the Open Meetings Law, Section F.

Mr. Sharlow made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morris and carried at 2:19 p.m.

All members of the group were excused except the College Council members. Dr. Grace Burke joined the meeting via conference call during the Executive Session. She and Mr. Sauter left the meeting following the Executive Session.

The group resumed the special meeting at 3:11 p.m.

No action was taken in the Executive Session.

***Chairman's Statement***

Mr. O'Neill asked for a motion to dispense with the normal agenda items as this was a special meeting.

Ms. O'Neil made a motion to forgo the normal agenda items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Callan and carried.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the College Council members for waving the seven-day requirement notice for meetings.

Chairman O'Neill read his statement to the group.

"Approximately 2 weeks ago, I received a call from a concerned individual who alerted me to the fact that something might have occurred with reference to our college President subsequent to two SUNY Central officials visiting our campus.

I reached out to President Kennedy who said he was not at liberty to discuss what had transpired at the meeting.

Rumors have been rampant on and off campus, ranging from the President being fired, to being transferred to work for SUNY Central on a special project, to the President of SUNY Potsdam running both campuses and others as well.

Over the past few weeks, I have had numerous calls and email exchanges with top SUNY officials in an effort to get to the bottom of this, and unfortunately, I am not much clearer on SUNY Centrals plans today.

I owe you all an apology. The reason I have not brought the Council in earlier is simply that SUNY Central, at every step of the way, asked me to keep this to myself and not share it with anyone. In fact, they expressed on numerous occasions that it was not a good idea to call a council meeting and that they wanted me to cancel this one.

As a Council, we need to be proactive advocates and not passive players. Our main concern is our students. We are mere weeks away from the beginning of a new semester, and it is unfair to have this cloud of uncertainty hanging over our campus that will affect everyone and everything.

If there is a move to make those sort of changes under the guise of shared services, then we call on SUNY Central to conduct the process properly and openly in a formal study.

On the other hand, as some would have me believe, there is nothing happening and nothing planned, then I will owe all of you, as well as the Chancellor, an apology – which I will be delighted to give.

I sincerely hope the Chancellor proves me wrong.

I am not one who typically deals in rumors. But I also believe that sometimes where there's smoke, there actually may BE a fire.

Therefore, today I am asking you to consider three resolutions, so the College Council can be officially on the record as opposing any changes to our campus leadership or administrative structure until and unless there is full consultation with the Council and all the core constituencies and strongly supporting President Kennedy.”

### ***Resolutions***

Chairman O'Neill asked the members to consider three resolutions.

Mr. O'Neill read Resolution #1 – Support of President Kennedy to the group.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUNY CANTON PRESIDENT JOSEPH L. KENNEDY**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joseph L. Kennedy has been President of SUNY Canton for the past 18 years; and

**WHEREAS**, under his able leadership the SUNY Canton campus has experienced unprecedented growth, academically, financially, and in enrollment; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kennedy's tenure has been extraordinarily successful, and he enjoys the support of the various constituencies on the campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kennedy is student-centered and community-oriented; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kennedy's vision for SUNY Canton has resulted in:

- approximately 400 students living in Russia, Ukraine, and Bosnia taking online classes from the college as well as through video, with more students expected from Ghana and Sri Lanka as well
- the college's first faculty-led study abroad program being offered in Summer 2012 to Ukraine and future study abroad to Russia, Australia, Ecuador, and Ghana
- 30 full-time international students planning to live on the campus in Fall 2011
- grant funds totaling \$2.3 million in 2010-11, including a National Science Foundation grant to support S-STEM programming at regional schools and federal TRIO grants for Student Support Services

- the college offering the second largest number of online courses in NYS with 307 approved courses
- 21 bachelor degrees now being offered with 8 of them being offered completely online
- Winterterm growing from 2 courses in 1999 to almost 400 in 2011, and Summer Session growing from 90 enrollments in 2002 to 1,400 in 2011
- the college's Small Business Development Center providing counseling to 189 small business owners and start-up companies totaling nearly \$4 million in 2010-11
- 92% of high-risk students meeting re-registration requirements after their first semester and 91% meeting re-registration requirements after their second semester through a block-schedule format program called Be Proud
- the college being a leader in and delivering college courses synchronously to up to 11 St. Lawrence County high schools
- the college embarking on a new project with Heuvelton Central School where all 46 seniors will be taking six English college credits during the 2011-12 academic year
- the college receiving a New York State Smart Scholars grant which will allow high school students in Ogdensburg and Massena to receive twelve college credits prior to graduation
- the campus has begun a new wellness campaign, which includes the goal of being a tobacco-free campus
- receiving approval for a new bachelor degree in Alternative and Renewable Energy Systems, which helped to secure NYSERDA funding for BPI training, a grant for the construction of an anaerobic digester, funding for energy efficiency upgrades, and funding for a pressure house
- the campus completing an energy plan which includes reduced dependence on fossil fuels, energy upgrades, reduced energy consumption, renewable energy projects, and promotion of recycling and energy usage awareness among faculty, staff, and students
- a slated construction date of Summer 2012 for a wind turbine on campus
- the construction of the \$46 million Roos House (convocation, athletic, and recreation center) and the new \$27 million Grasse River Heritage Suites residence hall
- the college community being very active within the local community
- serving approximately 300 veterans and receiving Military Friendly Campus status for two years in a row, which initiated the college's first military advisory committee
- Powersports courses being offered on the Fort Drum post in the Fall and other courses in Spring 2012
- Offering college courses on the Akwesasne Mohawk Indian Reservation

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SUNY Canton College Council strongly opposes any efforts to transfer Dr. Joseph L. Kennedy away from our campus; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the offices of the SUNY Chancellor, SUNY Provost, the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the State Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committees, the Chair and Members of the SUNY Board of Trustees, State Senators Joseph Griffo and Patricia Ritchie, Assemblymembers Addie Russell and Kenneth Blankenbush, and others that the College Council Chairman and Members deem appropriate.

Chairman Ronald M. O’Neill

Date Resolution Approved

On behalf of the

SUNY Canton College Council

Ms. O’Neil made a motion to accept resolution #1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Currier and carried.

Mr. O’Neill read Resolution #2 – Sharing Services to the group.

**RESOLUTION ON SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN SUNY CANTON AND SUNY POTSDAM**

**WHEREAS**, at the urging of the Chancellor, the SUNY Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the Chancellor to “direct the State-operated institutions to partner on a sector, regional or mission basis to identify and implement plans to share administrative functions now performed individually by each campus”; and

**WHEREAS**, the SUNY Canton College Council applauds the Trustees stated intent to “improve academic quality at the campuses,” and “minimizing costs for administrative functions to allow for enhanced spending on instruction and student services;” and

**WHEREAS**, SUNY Canton has been and continues to be at the forefront of innovation and has long been an active participant and leader in the Associated Colleges initiative which brings together the two State-operated campuses in St. Lawrence County, along with the two private institutions with a long history of collaboration and sharing resources; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the SUNY Canton College Council requests the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees create and charge a formal committee, including the core constituencies on the campuses of SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam, to undertake a one-year study to determine how the mutual goals of improving efficiency; generating cost savings, building capacity and increasing resources available to our core academic and student service missions through shared services with respect to administrative functions, procurement

opportunities, and re-alignment of academic program offerings can be achieved on these two campuses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the SUNY Canton College Council requests that no changes to our campus leadership and/or administration take place until the completion of the study and after full consultation with the College Councils and other core constituencies occur; and, be it further

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the offices of the SUNY Chancellor, SUNY Provost, the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the State Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committees, the Chair and Members of the SUNY Board of Trustees, the President and College Council at SUNY Potsdam, State Senators Joseph Griffo and Patricia Ritchie, Assemblymembers Addie Russell and Kenneth Blankenbush, and others that the College Council Chairman and Members deem appropriate.

Chairman Ronald M. O'Neill  
On behalf of the  
SUNY Canton College Council

Date Resolution Approved

Mr. Callan made a motion to accept resolution #2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sharlow and carried.

Mr. O'Neill read Resolution #3 – FOIL to the group.

#### **RESOLUTION TO FOIL SUNY SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**

Resolved that, the SUNY Canton College Council hereby authorizes and directs College Council Chairman Ronald M. O'Neill to file a formal Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request on our behalf with the appropriate authorities at SUNY Central; and, be it further

Resolved that, the College Council is requesting copies of any and all meeting minutes, resolutions, emails, memos, documents, studies, financial documents, reports, and any other materials relative to the discussions and decisions made by SUNY Central, regardless of the originator or recipients, regarding SUNY Canton and shared services, shared administration, consolidation, mergers, and changes to the presidency on this campus from January 1, 2011 to date.

Chairman Ronald M. O'Neill

Date Resolution Approved

On Behalf of the

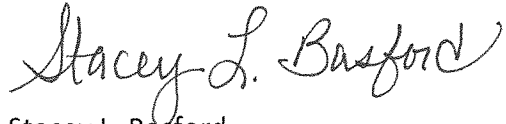
SUNY Canton College Council

Mr. Currier made a motion to accept resolution #3. The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Neil and carried.

***Adjournment***

Ms. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morris and carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey L. Basford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Stacey L. Basford  
Secretary to the College Council