

MINUTES
SUNY CORTLAND
COLLEGE COUNCIL
November 6, 2023

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, Renee James, Robert Haight, Thomas Gallagher, and Joseph Mascetta.

Council Members Excused: Liz Arnold

Also Present: Erik Bitterbaum, Rich Coyne, Kathleen Lawrence, Lorraine Lopez-Janove, Ann McClellan, Fred Pierce, Greg Sharer, April Thompson and Mark Yacavone

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. Haight seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chair's Report

Gallagher shared that the Annual Award Dinner had a record attendance.

Gallagher thanked President Bitterbaum for hosting football game.

All present were asked to introduce themselves.

President's Report

Cortland received over 10,000 applications as of Nov. 6 for 1,250 first-year spots. The large number of applications is likely the result of a free two-week application period. Yacavone created a contract with students not brought into fall semester. They can attend a community college, obtain a 2.5 GPA and be admitted to the spring semester.

Brockway Hall Jacobus Lounge has turned into a welcome area for Admissions Office tours.

New York State is doing well financially.

The Van Hoesen Hall renovation will consist of new space for the Communication and Media Studies Department, radio and television stations and Conley Counseling and Wellness Services.

Yacavone met with the Construction Fund to discuss the remodel of Corey Union. The university has secured funds for an \$80 million renovation. Corey Union will receive a new roof and geothermal wells.

New land has been purchased near the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex. Future presidents will have to decide what to do with it.

The university's Middle States reaccreditation process was the cleanest it has been in years. Carol Van Der Karr, vice provost for academic affairs and institutional effectiveness, would like to visit with College Council regarding the outcome.

The SUNY system has a new chancellor, Dr. John B. King, Jr. He is the former U.S. Secretary of Education and ran for governor of Maryland.

The university's "All In: Building on Success" capital campaign was a great success. Over \$30 million raised, bringing the university to \$62 million in its endowment. Mini campaigns will follow in the future.

A major campus-wide exterior signage project led by Corbin Design, a wayfinding design consultant, was a major success and it has received many compliments.

New majors brought to campus include the following: media production, environmental geoscience, healthcare management and tourism and recreation.

SUNY Cortland's athletics program has enjoyed unprecedented fall success, with four conference championships earned on one day and others still possible.

The iconic Cortaca Jug game will be hosted at Ithaca College on Nov. 11, 2023.

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Lawrence states the semester has been very positive. Classrooms are coming alive again — very interactive and classes are getting outdoors to interact.

Katherine Ahern, associate professor of English, started an AI discussion group. Faculty and staff are very interested. Some departments are actively using AI to collect data. Ahern is interested in presenting a spring presentation for the College Council.

The Faculty Senate's big project is a select group reviewing the policies and procedures in the College Handbook. It is required every three years.

SGA President's Report

The Fall Festival and Cortaca hat giveaway were successful events led by SGA.

There has been more feedback from students regarding academic advising. Students are struggling with advisor relationships. They would like the university to consider an evaluation style review like course instructors receive. Mascetta would like to brainstorm an idea similar to teaching assistants, where they help students prepare for their meeting with advisors. Provost McClellan referenced new hires for the School of Professional Studies. This will lessen the load of students on some advisors. Some departments already request feedback on their advisors.

Students have been more engaged at Senate meetings. A detailed presentation took place regarding SGA's role on campus and its functions. SGA officers document important details throughout the year to provide a better transitioning package for upcoming club officers. SGA's chief of staff is ensuring that student government is being compliant. SGA will be updating its website.

Mascetta will be attending the SUNY Student Assembly.

Mascetta also suggested additional training on writing professional emails for police officers and students. Career Services and the Writing Center could assist students on how to engage with conflict.

Cortland Auxiliary Services Board of Directors meeting motioned for the addition of Dunkin Donuts in Corey Union.

University Police Department Chief Mark DePaull and the Campus Safety Advisory Committee discussed the improvements being made to the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Pashley Drive.

President's Cabinet Reports

Academic Affairs: More students are getting outdoors, getting involved and engaging in the classroom. Still seeing some recovering from effects of teaching and learning COVID-19.

Chief Diversity Officer: The 13th Annual Diversity Leadership Conference was held, and it included great speakers and workshops. Latine Heritage Month featured excellent collaboration across campus. We have a very engaged student body.

At 4:36 p.m., Gallagher motioned to adjourn. Mascetta seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.