

**MINUTES OF THE SUNY COBLESKILL
COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 2012**

Members Present: Olive Scott, Linda Cross, Tom Greenlees, Phil King, Ginny Kintz, Susan Rightmyer, Lisa Salzman

Excused: Barbara Bartlett, Cliff Hay, Jeanne Kane

Guests: Deb Thatcher, Steve Ackerknecht, John Kowal, Lois Goblet and Amy Healy

Olive Scott called the meeting to order at **8:30 A. M. The meeting was recorded.**

PART I

Members were emailed the April 18 agenda and administrative reports prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Phil King and seconded by Linda Cross to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting. The motion was carried.

Faculty Governance - John Kowal announced that the Governance Executive Committee gave significant attention to the Middle States Standard 4 recommendations and the SUNY Faculty Senate Visitation Team recommendation 6 involving the governance structure and the process of shared governance. Some key accomplishments for 2011-12 include: The Governance Executive Committee developed, proposed and gained faculty approval for a “Governance Policy and Bylaw Change Form” for increasing efficiency and transparency. A proposed bylaw change that would establish term limits for all elected standing committees was developed and approved by the Faculty and has been submitted for Presidential approval. Additional bylaw change proposals that focused on committee reporting, minutes posting, and amendment change proposal processes were developed and approved by the Faculty and have been submitted for presidential approval. The Academic Personnel Policies Committee completed its work on a proposal for changes in criteria for reappointment, tenure and promotion (RTP), submitted the proposal to the Governance Executive Committee, and to the Faculty for approval. The Faculty-approved RTP proposal was submitted for presidential approval. The Faculty approved an academic policy change involving grade change authority, and the proposed change has been granted presidential approval. The Governance committees, Executive Committee, and the Faculty continue to address critical issues affecting the core functions of our college – teaching and learning, and continue to emphasize the importance of meaningful, well-informed, and highly inclusive engagement affecting the college.

John Kowal discussed that despite some mechanical and electrical issues, the gasifier project is moving forward with an expected operational date of fall, 2012.

Student Government Association - Lisa Salzman reported that the Student Government Association has had a very busy year. SGA recently hosted and won the 2nd annual volleyball tournament at SUNY Cobleskill. SGA will match donations to a local charity. The blood drive was held yesterday with the expectation that the goal was met. SGA is looking into ways to improve student participation in the blood drive. Every two years on each SUNY campus, an all-student vote regarding the Student Activity Fee is held in conjunction with the annual elections for student government. Elections are being held today at SUNY Cobleskill. SGA will be involved with next week’s student assembly, the spring fling and earth day clean up.

Provost – Provost Debra Thatcher represented Officer-in-Charge Candace Vancko who was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Thatcher announced that the Middle States Evaluation Team announced at the March 30 exit interview with faculty and staff that SUNY Cobleskill passed Standard 7 on Institutional Effectiveness though we must await the MSCHE final report this summer for the official ruling on compliance. The team made particular note of the tremendous changes that have taken place over the last year. Provost Thatcher, Faculty and staff worked together to demonstrate that processes are moving forward as they relate to the strategic plan. Dr. Thatcher discussed that Admissions has held the first Accepted Student Days of the season. There were 180 students in attendance. Application and acceptance rates are trending upward, both 5% higher than last year. The Academic Prioritization Task Force began its work in January and will conclude its work in late May. The goals of the process are to identify those areas in which we can excel and to set priorities for future investment in the most effective mission-critical programs. Dr. Thatcher also reported that SUNY and the NY State Education Department approved the BS in Applied Psychology; new and transfer students will be accepted into the program in Fall 2012. The Early Childhood Studies B.S. degree completion at Jefferson Community College was approved by the Jefferson Higher Education Center administration and governing council. “Weekend College”, previously named Saturday College, is being redesigned and will take on a new look and provide expanded opportunities for the non-traditional population. Dr. Thatcher reported that a committee has been established which is discussing various ways to honor student/faculty/staff achievements. The Student Award Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 20 in Bouck Theater.

Foundation - Included in Vice President Regina LaGatta’s administrative report was an update of the College Foundation. Regina reported that the Foundation’s financial position is strong despite the slow economic recovery period. The Annual Fund continues to grow although a decision was made to remove many past donors residing in the zip code areas that were affected by the fall floods. The Foundation Golf Event will be held at the Cobleskill Golf and Country Club on Friday, June 22. Special thanks were made to the Advancement Staff, the Culinary Department and the members of the Foundation Board for the recent success of the Inaugural Culinary Extravaganza which was held on March 30.

Alumni Association - On behalf of Jennifer Regelski-Rotman, Assistant Vice President Lois Goblet reported that the Alumni Association and Administration have decided on the site of the new apartment-style dorm. The location will be on Schoharie Parkway North, opposite the lower equine barn with a projected completion date of July, 2014. The Alumni Association has established a 501C2 Corporation which will be managed separately from the Alumni Association 501C3 Corporation. Lois also announced that Homecoming 2012 will take place on September 28 & 29. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Veteran’s Courtyard in Knapp Plaza will be held on Friday, November 9. Also, the Alumni Association is partnering with the College Foundation to put up banners along Rte 7 with the hope of continuing the banners onto the campus.

Office of Student Affairs - Vice President Steve Ackerknecht announced that the start of the second semester was refreshingly smooth. A sampling of current programs, initiatives, and services include: All students have safely returned to their assigned floors and all buildings have been repaired. Twisted Whiskers, the former Sandella’s Café, has proven to be very popular with the entire campus community. Prentice Hall has experienced a major facelift - the service area was improved, the area was painted, new lighting was installed and a “Grab and Go” food service area has been added. There is a current plan in place for refreshing Champlin Hall for the fall semester. Steve announced that this year’s annual Winter Wonderland Event was a great success, over 250 students participated. Also, the 4th annual Commiversity Event honored various community leaders for their roles in the flood recovery efforts. Staff continues to focus on offering appropriate student development opportunities, leadership initiatives, and student educational training activities that serve to assist students with their overall development.

PART II – College Council Members:

Chair’s Report:

Dr. Scott reported that she and several College Council Members were at the Middleburgh Fire Department on Wednesday, April 11 where Governor Cuomo announced that the state will absorb the local governments’ share of flood related recovery costs. Schoharie County will receive approximately \$12.5 million from the state. The Governor stated that he was humbled by the community’s camaraderie, citizenship and perseverance during the disaster. The fire house was filled to capacity and residents were relieved and thankful upon hearing the Governor’s announcement. Dr. Scott announced that she and several Council Members will attend upcoming advisory council meetings. Dr. Scott mentioned that she finds *CobyNow* very informative and helpful.

Committee Reports:

ACT - Cliff Hay was not present at the meeting. Dr. Scott reported that this year’s ACT conference will be held on Oct. 12-14 at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid. Additional information will follow. Dr. Scott will send the application and guidelines for the ACT Scholarship to Council Members. Scholarships will now be awarded according to groupings of “like colleges” instead of regions, which is a change from previous years. This change will give students from the tech sector colleges an opportunity to compete with other tech colleges, which should increase their opportunity to be chosen for a scholarship awards.

CAS - Phil King reported that Coby’s continues to lose money. A committee has been organized to analyze its operation and will bring new ideas/initiatives to the attention of administration. An independent auditor submitted a report regarding the bookstore. Administration has reviewed the consultant’s report and is discussing ways to increase revenue. To date, no decision has been made about the future of the ski lodge, which is owned by CAS. A Task Force has been created to research feasible options. Director Jerry Stacy has announced that he will retire at the end of May.

Faculty Governance Executive Board - Tom Greenlees reported that he attended the last two Executive Committee Meetings. One suggestion discussed was to include a student member on the Executive Committee. This would require a bylaw change. The Faculty approved a bylaw change involving the merger of the Fiscal Affairs Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee and was submitted for Presidential approval. Committee vacancies were discussed, as was the difficulty of securing new members.

New Agriculture Building – Phil King reported that bids are in, but over budget, for the new agriculture building. However; after many phone calls to Albany and changes in how/where equipment is purchased, the project is moving forward and all five floors will be completed.

Professional Development Committee – Linda Cross stated that the professional development committee has been meeting regularly via email. Many requests have been received. The applications have been thoughtful and meet necessary criteria.

Use of College Facilities by Community Groups - Ginny Kintz reported that she and Vice President LaGatta are working on lines of communication concerning applications for proposed not-for-profit events to be held at the campus.

Old Business: - Administration is continuing its review of associate degree out-of-state tuition rates.

New Business: - A motion was made by Linda Cross and seconded by Tom Greenlees to rescind the College Council resolution for a new apartment-style dorm at the Ski Lodge Location that was approved

on April 13, 2011. The motion was carried. A motion was made by Phil King and seconded by Linda Cross to approve a resolution for the construction of a new 156 bed apartment-style dorm on Schoharie Parkway North, opposite the lower equine barn. The motion was carried--copy of resolution is attached. A motion was made by Ginny Kintz and seconded by Susan Rightmyer to approve new members to the Culinary Advisory Committee and the Fisheries & Wildlife Advisory Committee. The motion was approved and carried.

A motion was made by Linda Cross and seconded by Phil King to adjourn to executive session. Following the executive session, a motion to adjourn the council meeting was made by Ginny Kintz, seconded by Linda Cross and carried.

The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy K. Healy

Distribution: College Council, Vice Presidents, Deans, Department Chairs, Presiding Officer of the Faculty, The Alumni Association, The College Foundation, Van Wagenen Library.