

MINUTES  
SUNY CORTLAND  
COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE  
September 11, 2023

A meeting of the Council of the College was held at 4 p.m. in the Miller Administrative Building, Room 405.

Council Members Present: Liz Arnold, Lynn Brown, Robert Haight, Joseph Mascetta and Bruce Tytler

Council Members Excused: Linda Armstrong, Thomas Gallagher, Andrea Haenlin-Mott, Renee James and John Reagan

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

## **PROGRAM**

Prior to the meeting, Thomas Spanbauer, Former Head Men's Basketball Coach, presented "Reflections from a Head Men's Basketball Coach".

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### Call to Order

Bruce Tytler called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

### Approval of Minutes

Tytler asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of April 17, 2023. Mascetta motioned to approve the minutes as written. Haight seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

### Chair's Report

Tytler shared that the College Community Appreciation Award Dinner was well-attended and that Joe Raegan's acceptance speech was amazing.

Tytler publicly thanked Joan Robinson for her service on the College Council.

All present were asked to introduce themselves.

## President's Report

In March, President Bitterbaum received a call that the New York Jets may once again be interested in having their summer training camp at Cortland. Four executives came to campus to tour the facilities. Several days later, President Bitterbaum learned that the Jets would not be returning this year because the team was to play in the Hall of Fame Game which shortens the camp's duration. President Bitterbaum is hopeful that they return next year.

Cortland received more than 15,000 applications for 1,250 freshman spots. The large number of applications is likely the result of a free two-week application period.

Most SUNYs have record enrollment.

We have 98% occupancy in the residence halls.

A message regarding the recent alleged sexual assaults was sent to the campus community.

The Michael J. Cappeto '71 M '73 Team Room dedication ceremony was nice. The room is spectacular.

The dedication of the James J. Grady '50, M '61 Field is scheduled for October 7.

Cortland has been named the safest town in New York State and The National Realtor Association identified Cortland as the best small community in America to purchase a home.

Money Magazine ranked SUNY Cortland as one of the "best colleges for your money". Cortland ranked #1 among the comprehensives.

Washington Monthly ranked SUNY Cortland in the top 10% of master's universities for service, social mobility and value.

SUNY Cortland ranked #5 in the nation for getting a job following graduation.

The Sierra Club ranked SUNY Cortland in the top 100 for sustainability.

The freshmen retention rate in 2021-2022 was 80%.

97% of our graduates are employed or are in graduate school.

Pre-pandemic, almost 20% of our students went abroad.

Approximately 30 students were on campus this summer working on undergraduate research.

The telecommuting program was extended for another year.

Renovations to the Advisement and Transition Office are complete and the office looks spectacular.

Cortland received \$27M for renovations to the c-wing of Van Hoesen Hall and \$70M has been allocated for renovations to Corey Union.

#### Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Lawrence is working with the Chief of Staff to update the criteria and process for nominating chancellor's award recipients.

Lawrence is working with Human Resources on updates to the hiring process.

Review of Governance is due this year. Volunteers will be needed.

Faculty Senate has nine standing committees. There is a nomination process to join.

Faculty Senate will revisit the common hour.

Katherine Ahern will lead a committee to look at the impact of artificial intelligence on classes, etc.

#### SGA President's Report

This year's focus is to empower student-run organizations.

Cabinet members have completed training to better fulfill their roles. Cabinet positions are being reformed to better serve all constituents. Club representatives have received training to enable them to be better leaders.

The Club Fair was successful. Each club has a dedicated Cabinet Coordinator.

Cabinet members will work to try to prevent voice office clubs from going dormant when there are few or no members.

The Fall Festival is being planned.

#### President's Cabinet Reports

Academic Affairs: There are 32 new faculty this fall. There have been numerous comments on how energetic and engaged the new freshman class is.

Chief of Staff: The presence of College Council members at commencement is appreciated. Nominations for honorary degree recipients are currently being accepted.

#### Election of 2023-2024 Officers/Appointment of Committees for 2023-2024

Any College Council member who is interested in replacing Joan Robinson on the University Police Advisory Board should contact Tom Gallagher. All other committee memberships and representatives will remain the same for this year. Additional participation is encouraged. There are two external seats available on the Cortland Auxiliary Services Membership Board.

At 4:56 p.m. Brown motioned to adjourn. Mascetta seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Lori Porter  
Recording Secretary