

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCIL

296th MEETING

APRIL 2, 2024

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Present: | Ronald O'Neill, Chair Jennifer Stevenson | Kathleen Dodge Evan Velasquez | Joseph Rich |
| Zoom: | Marie Regan | | |
| Absent: | Toni Kennedy | Brian Plonka | |
| Others: | Courtney Bish Peggy De Cooke Travis Smith Lenore VanderZee | Tom Burl Shawn Miller Zvi Szafran Michaela Young | Matthew Burnett Stephanie Petkovsek Tracey Thompson |

Call to Order

Chairman O'Neill called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m.

Introductions

Chairman O'Neill welcomed Evan Velasquez to the Council as the student representative and SGA President.

Chairman O'Neill also thanked Joe Rich for filling in for him at last April's meeting.

President's Report

The following information was shared as the President's Report, which included campus leaderships' input as well.

It was reported that this year's State Budget looks hopeful, with the most recent budget projection showing an increase in revenue by \$1.35B. The process by which the budget is approved was shared – the Governor puts forward an Executive Budget, the Assembly and the Senate react to it with the One House Budget, and the final budget is usually a compromise between the two. If approved as is, the following key points would impact the College:

- The Executive Budget has \$54M in it of additional (permanent operating) funds for SUNY, as was promised last year, which is money to replace what the various SUNY campuses would get from a 3% tuition increase. Therefore, if this is finalized, there will be no tuition increase, and we'll get some additional operating aid instead.
- The Executive Budget is also promoting Universal FAFSA (which would require students to fill in a FAFSA form as a requirement for graduating from HS).
- The Assembly and Senate requests in the One House Budget include an additional (beyond the \$54M mentioned before) \$100M in operating aid, and an additional \$86M

for the state operated campuses (to help cover the cost of the negotiated salary increases). There's also some additional capital funding.

It was shared that the Chairs of the Higher Education Committees, who Zvi and Lenore met with in March, are both strong supporters of these efforts. Also noted, the budget increases are all "Monopoly Money" until they are accepted into the final approved budget.

FAFSA: Due to the problems associated with the national FAFSA rollout, SUNY and our Financial Aid and Admissions offices are following this closely. Most campuses in the country, including us, have moved their enrollment deposit deadlines back because of this, and our current deadline is June 1. This delay will not provide final enrollment numbers until much later than usual. To help students and families, we have established a page on our website to provide the most up-to-date information. It was also reported that the March 23 Admitted Student Day had a strong turnout.

Chancellor's Visit: On March 15, the campus hosted another successful visit with the Chancellor. Among those that participated were Assemblyman Scott Gray, Chairman Ron O'Neill, and a reporter from the Watertown Daily Times. The visit focused on talking with students; meeting with faculty/staff involved in the new funding areas/projects/initiatives – Mental Health, Accessibility Services, ACE Replication, Internships, and Entrepreneurship areas; a short tour - annual Professional Clothing Fair, new Sensory Room, the nearly-complete renovations behind French Hall, and the Pavement Testing Center; and a brief one-on-one with the President to discuss some of the campus's top "wants" including Childcare Center funding and additional funding for the Student Emergency Fund.

Academic Affairs: It was reported that the ACE Replication effort is going very well, as are international student efforts. Administration is also working with all academic programs to identify areas for growth and for greater efficiency.

Dr. De Cooke shared that the campus is participating in both the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) and Advancing Completion through Engagement (ACE Replication), which are programs designed to increase graduation rate completions by removing academic, financial, or personal barriers. The programs have some beneficial key features such as consolidated-wide scheduling, small class size, required fulltime study, comprehensive career development services, and financial incentives. These are similar to the other student-centric programs such as Jumpstart, TRiO, CSTEP, etc., but it takes it up a notch with the advising and graduation requirements (ASAP – 5 semesters; ACE – 9 semesters). The programs kicked off this Spring with a group of transfer students and expect to add about 100-110 first-year, associate-degree students in the Fall. Approval was just received to enroll a group of incoming freshmen in the baccalaureate program. SUNY contacted us about our total cohort, as they received some additional funding from the Robin Hood Foundation for students in the NYC area, and we agreed to take on more. SUNY Canton's total Fall cohort will be between 185-195 students, with additional students being accepted on a semester-by-semester basis as funding allows. A planning team was solidified, and they worked throughout the Fall to develop the program. The

funding also allowed for the hire of two key personnel – a Program Director and an Academic Advisor. Dr. De Cooke shared and explained a handout related to these programs – *see attached*.

It was reported that there are a record number of international students from Cameroon (16) whom have been a great addition to the campus community, as they are very involved through serving as student ambassadors and working in presidential internships. Consideration is being given to expanding enrollment in this area next year, as well as hosting a study-abroad trip and forming other partnerships such as the one we have with a school in Ghana.

It was shared that conversations have been held with each School regarding program review. These conversations began last Fall and recently concluded. Each School was provided a planning grid and cost analysis for each program with the intent of looking at various aspects – how often courses need to be offered, course enrollments (historically and what could be done to increase enrollments) – to determine how to help programs lose less through optimizing efficiencies and enrollments. A key focus is investing in programs that can grow.

Mr. Rich asked what areas the 54 ACE students were having trouble in. It was shared that issues are stemming from the pandemic – personal challenges, academic challenges, non-experienced homeschooling, study skills – and there is not a one-size-fits-all fix. The two new hires for the programs bring skills to the job that will help, and they are working to meet the students where they are. Joining this model will also help us to improve what we already do for student support, so we can help all students.

It was added that SUNY has also joined Complete College America, which is another program that serves to help students succeed and complete graduation. And, there is the hope that the State will fund the ACE program for more than a year. The current funding will support those in the Spring and Fall cohorts through completion.

A question was asked and answered about who was involved in the School program review meetings – the Dean, Department Chairs, and Curriculum Coordinators.

Finance and Facilities: It was shared that the French Hall and Chaney Dining Center projects are nearing completion, with Payson Hall next on deck. Ms. Miller was asked to provide an update on her area.

Ms. Miller reported that there was a lot of conversation about budget and money at the recent SUBOA meeting, but it is unclear what the final budget will end up being. It was also shared that several campuses were required to present a 5-year plan to SUNY; thankfully, we were not one of the campuses. Currently, the campus' budget is stable, and steps are being taken to improve efficiencies and savings.

The group was reminded that Construction Fund dollars are separate from operating costs, and when funds are awarded, we are not required to pay it back. Having shovel-ready projects leads to larger award amounts.

The following construction projects' information was provided:

Started in Fall

Covered Walkways – between the dorms and Payson
New Roof – Chaney Dining

Completed

Accessibility between Nevaldine North and South
Roof on MacArthur Hall
Renovated portions of Newell
Fire Alarm System - CARC

In Design

Payson Hall Renovations
Accessibility and Site Improvements around CARC
Rehabilitation of Academic Plaza
Nevaldine North Electrical Systems
Nevaldine Hall Renovations – program study
Childcare Center – program study

Future

Accessibility of Cooper Service
MacArthur Hall Envelope
Telecommunications Infrastructure Study

Ms. Miller offered a tour to all the members.

It was added that French Hall is nearly complete and will be off the grid and generate power through geothermal wells and windmills. The hope is to move staff/offices back in over the summer.

Student Life: It was reported that two students have won the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, and we are gearing up for the next big event – a total eclipse of the sun.

Ms. Bish shared that Sebastien Paquette and Samuel Diffo, both international and December grads, were the recipients of this year's Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Sebastien, a Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology major, and Samuel, a Finance major, were both very involved in campus life and were athletes.

The Council members were provided with eclipse glasses and invited to join in the planned activities that start at Noon on Monday, April 8.

It was shared that housing numbers (614) are at about 20 more students than last year. The staff are looking at living and learning environment options that would help to grow the housing numbers and incentivize students to want to live on campus.

In athletics, the decision has been made to transition from the NAC to join SUNYAC this Fall. They are also working to move parttime coaches to fulltime and bring in new hires.

In terms of team play, Women's Basketball was the most successful finishing with a record of 21 and 6. Freshman Sierra Pabo was named NAC Conference Woman's Basketball Rookie of the Year and First Team All-Conference, and Sophomore Hope Aniceto was named Second Team All-Conference. It is anticipated that Women's Lacrosse will have another NAC Conference Championship and NCAA bid this year. Men's Soccer traveled to Iceland, and Men's Baseball traveled to FL; both had great experiences.

Lastly, it was reported that there are currently 71 deposits for perspective student athletes.

Stephanie Petkovsek asked to provide her report next due to needing to leave for class. She reported that UUP recently had their advocacy day, which she attended. She indicated that they were able to meet with Assemblyman Gray and Dan Stec and advocated for the State to fund approved raises and for EOP; they also talked about Tier 6 retirement. She shared that on campus UUP would advocate for more non-contingent faculty, as they do not receive permanency and there are other drawbacks with regard to service on committees and advisement.

There was a brief discussion about the various retirement tiers and criteria.

There was a question about the terms of contingent faculty and how they are renewed. It was noted that there are provisions in place to notify these faculty in advance.

Advancement: It was shared that our Advancement Office is having another excellent fundraising year.

Ms. Thompson shared various ways that her area and Student Life work together to support the College and students:

- Kennedy Hall is owned by the Foundation and has a first-fill agreement. The Residence Life staff works to help meet the requirements of this agreement. In addition to that, there are plans to renovate a half a floor each year for the next few years, and they will be turning the classroom into a mini E-sports arena, as well as creating some sport's wings.

- The Foundation serves as the “banker” for individuals/groups who are awarded funding through what is known as campus support accounts. The financial process to get the Men’s Soccer team to Iceland was an example of this service.
- And, lastly, this year was the fourth successful year for the Athletics Week of Giving, which has improved due to the software they now use. After three times of setting and surpassing goals, they raised over \$145,000 from 1,073 donors. It was shared that Men’s and Women’s Hockey and Women’s Basketball were the biggest fundraisers, with Women’s Basketball raising over \$11,000 due to the leadership of Chris Klassen and the use of the peer-to-peer fundraising option to get donations.

Ms. Thompson went on to report that this year they increased most of their fundraising and donor goals – overall giving was raised by 15% and restricted and endowed giving were raised by 25%. They also raised the goals for total number of donors, total alumni donors, and total new donors by 10% each. They are three-quarters of the way through the fiscal year, with 150% of endowed giving reached, 108% of restricted giving reached, and overall giving at \$1,124,484. They are confident that they will reach their goal of \$1.2M. Total donors are at 105% and new donors are at 117%. She explained the importance of increasing all donor levels and what that reflects on.

Ms. Thompson went on to report that seven new endowed scholarships were approved:

- Bruce Petrie Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- College Association Management Team Endowed Scholarship
- Women in Engineering Endowed Fund
- Dr. Diane Para Outstanding Senior Internship Award
- Rita Hoffman Endowed Scholarship
- Alex Reed Automotive Equipment Scholarship
- Edward W. Bedell Engineering Endowed Scholarship

Lastly, she reported that they are still working through the estate of Raymond G. Modell ‘62. They have received \$1M and are awaiting another \$600,000 this Fall, which will mean an additional \$300,000 for the Canton Fund to start the next fiscal year and \$300,000 for his family scholarship. She explained that this is a good example of why planned giving needs to be the focus.

Matt Burnett asked to provide his report next due to needing to go to class. He reported that governance committee elections were recently held and had greater participation due to better communication, organization, need for service opportunities, and desire to be part of the decision making. The following name changes – Faculty Assembly to College Assembly and Faculty Affairs to Steering Committee – have been approved and made. He shared an issue regarding the inability to secure student representation on committees, and Matt was asked to email Evan, Courtney, and Priscilla about this. And, lastly, he reported on a College Assembly concern that came up a while ago – faculty felt that the administration is making decisions

without their input – i.e., credit hours vs. course hours discussion – and has since led to some constructive conversations.

Dr. Szafran added that we always try to involve people as much as possible.

Strategic Relations and Communications: It was shared that the College is doing well in implementing new micro-credentials, expanding entrepreneurship on campus, and increasing our involvement in dual enrollment.

Dr. VanderZee reported that the Center for Workforce Community and Industry Partnerships was recently formed and is growing thanks to the leadership of Dr. Liz Brown. Dual Enrollment is one of the initiatives, which was recently approved to be offered at no cost to students in St. Lawrence County and is expected to increase dramatically in Fall '24. Over the years, the College has offered a number of these courses to area high schools, with us charging more than other colleges, but not enough to make any real money. As this was a disadvantage to those students and was not of any benefit to the College, it was decided to offer it at no cost, with a few other criteria and incentives. To qualify as a dual enrolled course, a faculty member of ours certifies a course curriculum and a teacher, so students receive college credit. Those students are required to visit campus once a year during their dual enrollment. Students who successfully complete the course have the opportunity to take a college course through us at a reduced rate, and if they enroll, the rate paid will be credited to their tuition.

Additionally, Liz has been working to grow both non-credit and for-credit microcredential course offerings. And, the CDL program has grown significantly and is booked through next year, which was noted by County leaders as an area need. Thanks was given to Tracey and a donor for helping the College get a new truck for the program, now giving them two training trucks. They are looking to hire a parttime instructor to help with the increased program needs.

Lenore shared that the College works to understand and meet the needs of the area, and they recently met with County leaders about this. They shared the following needs: bus drivers, people with CDLs, code enforcement officers, and sewer/water treatment workers. Their input has been helpful in developing new microcredentials that could address these needs and get exposure for the campus.

Additionally, the College will host at least six new summer camps for children in grades 1-12, with most being STEM related and a couple in the area of creative writing and comic book creation. It was noted that faculty and the community have been very responsive, as it gives children something to do during the summer.

Lenore's area is also working on updating the policy and procedure for prior learning assessment, so adult learners can get credit for professional experience, military experience, etc. and get to degree faster.

The Downtown project is still in progress; they continue to work through the steps to complete the environmental review, with hopes of starting demolition this year, and construction in 2025. The Village put out a call for proposals, and they expect to receive proposals from new developers, as well as developers that they have routinely worked with.

The SBDC is hosting their yearly training for statewide staff in Lake Placid, which is good for the SBDC's and the College's visibility.

It was reported that they are also working through the grant that they received from the National Science Foundation – the EPIIC grant. SUNY Canton was chosen as the lead institution among six northeast institutions and are working to build capacity and infrastructure through entrepreneurship, innovation, and research to make the College more competitive for other NSF grants. She shared that there have already been discussions and some ideas that are being explored. One example given was to use the paid internship program to allow students to work as consultants in their area of expertise; they will be overseen by the SBDC.

Dr. VanderZee noted that she is working on the second and third congressionally directed spending applications that will be for the College's childcare center. It was also noted that this fits well with Senator Gillibrand's priorities and makes this opportunity hopeful.

Also, on the government relations side, they continue to build relationships, as there are new North Country representatives for both the Governor's Office and Department of Labor. They also hosted SUNY GROW, which is a new initiative through SUNY to help facilitate initiatives and compete for larger and more impactful research grants. The SUNY GROW staff were very impressed with our campus and the research that is being done.

Lastly, the Direct Support Professional microcredential was just announced. This microcredential will help to educate and train people who are interested in working directly with disabled people.

Evan Velasquez reported that SGA held their spring leadership conference last weekend, in which they brought back two previous SGA officers and two faculty members to speak.

He reported that they have had a number of new clubs recently recognized and a lot more are in the works, but there has been a lack of involvement for the SGA meetings. The officers are looking for ways to incentivize involvement.

The Rooclipse event planning is coming together. Classes will be cancelled from Noon – on, and Chaney will be closed to help promote attendance at the Roos House BBQ. There will also be live music, give aways, and other activities. Online students were given the opportunity to participate and were mailed goodie bags; 205 students took part.

Lastly, Evan shared that they are planning to honor graduating seniors at the Senate meeting, and the SGA E-Board will be attending SUNY SA later this month.

Tom Burl provided the following update as the Faculty Senator. He noted that he attended the Winter Plenary and shared a listing of the resolution topics that were discussed:

- Discrimination – looking for supporting efforts so discrimination does not happen.
- Changing to Rules
- Asking for more guidance on AI from SUNY System
- Reviewing the Excelsior Scholarship
- Request to not use certain vendors – specifically Corcraft. It was shared that the Student Assembly passed a similar resolution a few years ago.
- Development of a professional promotional track for people to go from level to level. It was noted that this is something that has been discussed here.

It was added that a lot of AI is being done at SUNY, and it is thought that there will be a center in Buffalo. There are a number of committees looking into AI applications, with some being in the areas of advising and tutoring. It will be interesting to see where it all goes.

Travis Smith reported that PR is implementing an AI chat bot, called Joey, on our website. The planned launch is next week, and the goals are to increase interactions with students/parents who are visiting the website, alleviate stress on functional offices, and gather information about prospective students.

He shared that SUNY has been interested in featuring us recently and asked us to produce an E-sports tour video and a video to highlight our forensics lab. Additionally, the SUNY Research Foundation featured one of Greg Kie's photos from the solar installation shoot.

Travis shared the following US News Online Program Rankings with the Council:

- #104 nationally – an 11-way tie
- 4th among SUNY schools for our online bachelor's degree programs
- 60th for online bachelor's degrees for Veterans and the only SUNY school ranked for Veterans

It was noted that we are also among the Military Friendly rankings, which are coming out soon.

The College also received two other notices from Forbes and Pfizer as the Best Online Degrees of 2024 for Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

PR also rolled out two new commercials – one for our US News rankings and one student life promo.

Additionally, the Chronical of Higher Ed reached out to PR as they are interested in our E-sports programs, particularly how we integrate extracurricular activities with academics. The project has been pitched to them as a short documentary, where they will follow a student or two around, with details still being finalized.

Lastly, Travis reiterated that the Rooclipse will be on Monday, April 8; there are a number of branded items from glasses to t-shirts, as well as numerous activities.

Additionally, it was reported that Brandon Baldwin is being considered for Instructor of the Year by PB Blaster.

New Business

Chairman O'Neill introduced the item under new business – **the Bruce Dartt Engineering Science Classroom Resolution (see attached)** – and noted that everyone received it by email. He asked if Tracey had any comments. Tracey noted that the donor who is requesting this naming has been a generous donor in the past, and it is wonderful to have alumni want to honor faculty who have changed their lives.

Council Member Stevenson made a motion to approve the Bruce Dartt Engineering Science Classroom Resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rich and approved.

Old Business

Chairman O'Neill noted the following previously approved e-votes:

- #05-020 Volunteer Policy Final Draft 9.22.23
- Code of Conduct amended language change
- #05-012 Subpoena Policy
- #05-025 Royalty Distribution Policy Final Draft
- College Council Awards

Adjournment

Council Member Dodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rich and approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaela Young
Secretary to the College Council

WHO IS SUNY CANTON

ACE?

SPRING 2024



STUDENT MAJORS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Cybersecurity | 16 |
| Forensic Criminology | 8 |
| Applied Psychology | 6 |
| Legal Studies | 5 |
| Health Care Management | 7 |
| Criminal Investigation | 4 |
| Finance | 2 |
| Funeral Services Administratn | 1 |
| Homeland Security | 1 |
| Law Enforcement Leadership | 1 |
| Early Childhood Care & Management | 1 |
| Emergency Management | 1 |
| Esports Management | 1 |

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

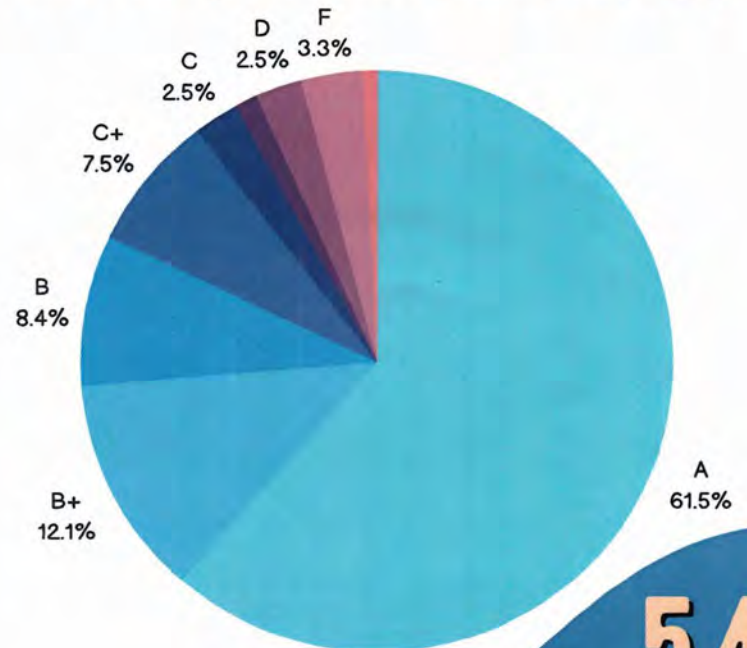
| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| ONLINE STUDENTS | 40 |
| ADULT LEARNERS | 38 |
| ROBINHOOD FUNDED (NYC RESIDENTS) | 11 |
| CARES FOR DEPENDANTS IN THE HOME | 18 |
| WORKS FULL TIME OR MORE | 26 |

RISK LEVEL BY MIDTERMS

- 39** Low Risk
- 6** Medium Risk
- 8** High Risk



NUMBER OF MIDTERM GRADES BY LETTER (240 MIDTERM GRADES)



54

STUDENTS

The Bruce E. Dartt Engineering Science Classroom

Brief Biography of Honoree & Justification:

Bruce E. Dartt served as a professor of Engineering Science at SUNY Canton from 1964 to 2000, retiring with emeriti distinction. Raised in Bainbridge, New York, Mr. Dartt attended Clarkson University for his bachelor's and master's degrees, graduating in the early 1960s.

Joining SUNY Canton, then named Canton Agricultural and Technical Institute, in 1964, Mr. Dartt developed and implemented the Engineering Science curriculum, which focused on preparing students for study in four-year engineering programs. During his tenure, Mr. Dartt saw more than 700 students graduate from this program, many of whom went on for additional education and built successful careers across the country.

Edward W. Bedell '68, a graduate of the College's Engineering Science program, was particularly influenced by the education and mentorship provided by Dartt. Mr. Bedell went on to study at Syracuse University and Stanford University, with the principles taught by Mr. Dartt guiding his journey. Recently retired from an impressive career in civil engineering, Mr. Bedell wishes to honor the professor that launched him on his path to success.

Naming the classroom located at Nevaldine Hall North 115 is an appropriate honor for Mr. Dartt. This classroom houses classes from a variety of engineering curricula, including Engineering Science. The courses taught in this classroom provide the theoretical underpinnings that complement the hands-on education for which SUNY Canton is known. It is fitting to permanently affix Mr. Dartt's name on a classroom, cementing the legacy of the professor who helped build the Engineering Science program that has now existed for 60 years.

Resolution

The Bruce E. Dartt Engineering Science Classroom

WHEREAS, Bruce E. Dartt served SUNY Canton as Professor of Engineering Science for 36 years, including many years as chair of the Engineering Science Associates of Applied Science program, retiring with emeriti status in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Bruce E. Dartt is renowned for developing and growing the College's Engineering Science curriculum, ultimately providing more than 700 students with a valuable foundational education to achieve success in a wide variety of engineering fields; and

WHEREAS, the classroom at Nevaldine Hall North 115 provides students enrolled in the Engineering Science curriculum, as well as many other Engineering-related curricula, a space to learn the theory that is later applied in the College's laboratories and students' careers; and

WHEREAS, Edward W. Bedell '68, an early graduate of the Engineering Science program who attributes much of his future success to the education and mentorship provided by Bruce E. Dartt, has pledged \$50,000 to name the Bruce E. Dartt Engineering Science Classroom; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the College Council of the State University of New York, College of Technology at Canton, designates the Bruce E. Dartt Engineering Science Classroom in Nevaldine Hall, this sixteenth day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Ronald M. O'Neill
Chairman, College Council

Zvi Szafran
President