

**Buffalo State
State University of New York
COUNCIL MEETING
April 21, 2015 4:00 PM
Cleveland Hall 518
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ms. Linda Dobmeier; Mrs. Melissa Brinson; Mr. Jim Brandys; Mr. Gary Brost; Mr. Allen “Pete” Grum; Mr. Charles Naughton; Mr. Robert Zak and Student Representative, Mr. Muhammed Sumbundu.

FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT:

President Katherine Conway-Turner; Provost Dennis Ponton; Vice President for Finance and Management, Mike LeVine; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Susanne Bair; Vice President for Student Affairs, Hal Payne; Chief Diversity Officer, Karen Clinton Jones; Interim Chief Information Officer, Brad Fuster; Chief of Staff and Secretary to the College Council, Bonita R. Durand; Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate School, Kevin Railey; Dean, University College, Scott Johnson; Dean, School of Education, Wendy Paterson; Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Ben Christy; Interim Dean, School of the Professions, Rita Zientek; Associate Vice President for Student Success; Daniel Velez; Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Erin Alonzo; Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Charles Kenyon; Associate Vice President for College Relations, Tim Walsh; Buffalo State College Senate Chair & Distinguished Service Professor of History & Social Sciences, David Carson; Director and Head Football Coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, Jerry Boyes; Head Track and Field Coach, Eugene Lewis; Assistant Track and Field Coach, Markus Allen; Staff Assistant, Melissa Slisz; Students: Marquis Artis, Diamond Briggs, Cory Cox, Chelsea Davidson, Jazmin Dunham, Stephanie Kahn, Ted Mallwitz, James Martin, Amy Marciniak, Rich Pete, Jazlyn Porter.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dobmeier called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Dobmeier welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that Governor Andrew Cuomo had appointed Allen “Pete” Grum as a member of the Buffalo State College Council for a term to end June 30, 2015. Mr. Pete Grum is President and Chief Executive Officer at Rand Capital Corporation and a former member of the Buffalo State College Foundation Board. She said the Council was delighted to have Pete join their ranks and mentioned that Pete has already started working. He represented the Council with Muhammed Sumbundu on Thursday, April 16th at the Honors Convocation.

She also congratulated Charles Naughton who was reappointed by Governor Cuomo as a member of the College Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

Ms. Dobmeier indicated that she was honored and humbled that the Governor has appointed her as chair of the Buffalo State College Council. Buffalo State holds a very dear place in her heart and she cannot think of a finer place for her to spend time. She went on to say that the students are wonderful and the college has a dedicated and talented faculty and staff. She also said she is delighted to work with Kate Conway-Turner and her administrators as we all do our very best to move this institution forward serving our students and our community. Ms. Dobmeier considers it a high privilege to have this opportunity to serve her alma mater and she thanked her predecessor, Howard Zemsky for the tremendous time and talent that he shared with Buffalo State.

Ms. Dobmeier reported that this was our student elected representative, Mr. Muhammed Sumbundu's last meeting. Muhammed will graduate in May from Buffalo State with his Master's Degree in Public Administration; his second Buffalo State degree. Mo has been the student elected representative of this Council since 2012 and it has been a pleasure to work with him. He has represented both the undergraduate and graduate students of Buffalo State in an outstanding manner. Ms. Dobmeier thanked him for his exceptional service on behalf of the entire Buffalo State College Council.

Ms. Dobmeier reported that commencement ceremonies will be held on May 16th in the Sports Arena at the College. She thanked Todd Brason and Melissa Brinson for serving as conveners for the 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. ceremonies. Ms. Dobmeier will convene at 10am. She also congratulated Jim Brandys will receive the President's Distinguished Service Award at the 2 p.m. ceremony.

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Dobmeier called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2014 meeting. Mr. Zak moved that the minutes be approved; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Brinson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Conway-Turner congratulated Ms. Dobmeier and thanked her for all that she does for Buffalo State; she also welcomed Mr. Grum and also congratulated Mr. Naughton. She offered a special thanks to Ms. Dobmeier and everyone who supported the Scholarship Gala.

Summary of the President's Report (see full report attached)

- Comments on State Operated Budget
 - Rational tuition was approved by the state legislature.
 - Limited funds were issued for salary increases.
 - SUNY received \$18 million dollars in new funds.
 - EOP was ultimately increased by \$4.4 million and Buffalo State is seeking additional funds to support its EOP Program.
 - Buffalo State received \$7 million for critical maintenance funding, a small fraction of what we have received in previous years.
- President Conway-Turner participated with other SUNY Presidents in Washington, DC last week.
- Three administrative searches have been completed or are nearly completed
 - Provost: an offer has been made
 - CIO: an offer has been made and accepted
 - Dean of the School of the Professions: the finalists are on campus this week
- President Conway-Turner provided an update on administrative goals and shared divisional updates.
- President Conway-Turner provided the following information about Commencement
 - a. Three alumni will be recognized with awards at Commencement on May 16, 2015:
 - Roger Wood – Distinguished Alumnus Award: Mr. Wood is President and CEO of Dana Holding Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company. He earned his Bachelor of Technology in Engineering Technology from Buffalo State in 1985 and went on to receive an MBA from Syracuse University.
 - Jacqueline LoRusso – Distinguished Alumna Award: Ms. LoRusso earned her Bachelor of Science in 1962 and Master of Science in 1964, both in Elementary Education. A long-time teacher, Ms. LoRusso is now a successful business woman and philanthropist. An ardent supporter of

Buffalo State, she provided funding for a state-of-the-art sound booth/recording room in Rockwell Hall, and has committed a substantial lead gift for the new Alumni House and Visitor's Center.

- Rodneyse Bichotte – Young Alumnus Achievement Award: Ms. Bichotte graduated from Buffalo State in 1995 with dual degrees – a Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Mathematics. She went on to receive her MS in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management. Rodneyse has dedicated her life to public service, serving as a District Leader in the Bronx, lobbying for affordable housing, increasing the minimum wage, and promoting affordable healthcare, among other worthy causes. She was recently elected to the NYS Assembly, representing the 42nd District. Assembly member Bichotte will deliver the commencement address at 10 am.
- The commencement speaker for the 2 p.m. ceremony was our own Jim Brandys
- Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul delivered the commencement address at the Masters Ceremony at 6 p.m.

Dennis Ponton and Hal Payne introduced the Academic Presentation: Students Award Recipients (academic and athletic).

President's Medal for Outstanding Student

James Martin, Undergraduate President's Medal (also Chancellor's Award Winner)
Ted Mallwitz, Graduate President's Medal

Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Diamond Briggs, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
Chelsea Davidson, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
Stephanie Kahn, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
Amy Marciniak, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
James Martin, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (Also President's Medal Recipient)

All Americans

Marquis Artis, Football
Cory Cox, Men's Track and Field
Jazmin Dunham, Women's Track and Field
Rich Pete, Men's Track and Field
Jazlyn Porter, Women's Track and Field

Committee Reports

Naming of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Bob Zak presented a resolution to name the Ilene R. Fleischmann Writing Program and Publications Suite, located on the third floor of Ketchum Hall. Mr. Zak called for a motion to approve the proposal. Mrs. Brinson moved that the resolution be approved; the motion was seconded by Mr. Brandys. The motion carried by unanimous vote (see resolution attached).

Executive Session

Ms. Dobmeier called for a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters: In accordance with Section 105 of the New York State Open Meetings Law to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Naughton moved that the Council enter into executive session; the motion was seconded by Mr. Zak. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The actions taken in executive session:

In executive session at the April 21, 2015 meeting, the Council approved a change in the language describing the College Council Medal. The rationale was to include a larger service area than Buffalo in the criteria for future nominees. This change is effective as of 4/21/15. The new language is indicated in **bold** below:

*The College Council Medal was established by the Buffalo State College Council to honor distinguished individuals for their leadership and service to Buffalo State College and the ~~Buffalo~~ **Western New York** community.*

- College Council Medal Nomination Gary Brost, Chuck Naughton and Melissa Brinson was discussed in executive session. The Council voted to award the College Council Medal to Howard Zemsky.

Ms. Dobmeier asked for a motion to move out of Executive Session. Mrs. Brinson moved to end executive session and Mr. Zak seconded the motion. The council moved out of executive session back to regular meeting status.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Brinson moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Zak seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonita R. Durand". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D.
Secretary to the Council