

**Buffalo State College**  
**State University of New York**  
**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 17, 2011, 4:00 PM**  
**Cleveland Hall 518**  
**MINUTES**

**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Howard Zemsky; Mrs. Melissa Brinson; Mr. James Brandys by conference call; Mr. Charles Naughton; Mr. Alphonso O'Neil-White; Mr. Gerald Saxe.

**COLLEGE FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT:** President Aaron Podolefsky; Provost Dennis Ponton; Vice President for Student Affairs, Hal D. Payne; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Susanne Bair; Chief of Staff and Secretary to the College Council, Bonita R. Durand; Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Kevin Railey; Interim Dean, School of Education, Paul Theobald; Interim Dean, School of the Professions, Kevin Mulcahy; Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Mark Petrie; Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Charles Kenyon; United Student Government Treasurer, Joshua Lipka; Staff Assistant, Melissa Slisz.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Zemsky called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Zemsky welcomed all to the final meeting of the council for the 2010-2011 academic year. Mr. Zemsky thanked Charles Naughton and Melissa Brinson for serving as conveners at Commencement this past Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked Alphonso O'Neil-White and Melissa Brinson for representing the College Council during Governor Cuomo's visit to Buffalo State on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Zemsky called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2011 meeting. Mrs. Brinson moved that the minutes be approved; Mr. Naughton seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Podolefsky thanked Mr. Zemsky for his report and thanked the council for meeting with the colleges Middle States liaison, Dr. Barbara Loftus earlier in the day.

The President reported on the following items:

**Commencement:** On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the college celebrated the 139<sup>th</sup> Commencement at Buffalo State. Nearly 2,000 students graduated with bachelor's degrees, and 650 graduate

students received their master's degrees or certificates of advanced study. In addition there were many students, alumni and friends of Buffalo State recognized for many outstanding achievements. President Podolefsky was especially delighted and honored to recognize Council Chairman John Hoskins and Susan Hoskins with the President's Distinguished Service Award. A copy of the Commencement Program was included in the council folders.

**State Budget Update:** There appears to be positive momentum on the rational tuition bills introduced in the Assembly and the Senate. President Podolefsky has been meeting with members of the Western New York Delegation over the past weeks asking them to become sponsors of the bills and many have agreed to do so. A 5 ½% increase in tuition would mitigate the additional budget cut of approximately \$2.9 that Buffalo State faces. There is also language in the bills regarding maintenance of effort that would keep funds generated by the tuition increase in SUNY.

**Buffalo Public Schools:** Buffalo State has been investigating the possibility of becoming involved with one of the initiatives being discussed across the region to address the persistently lowest achieving schools in the Buffalo Public Schools System. Over the past several weeks, members of the Buffalo State administration have met with constituents ranging from state education officials, private foundations and the Buffalo Public Schools administrations and board. There are several options being presented and at this time there has not been a final approach identified. Provost Ponton will take the lead on this initiative.

**Buffalo Cradle to Career Network:** Buffalo State continues to take a lead role in the development and implementation of a network that will coordinate and leverage the efforts, strategies and resources from several areas of the Western New York community to address student learning from cradle to career in our region.

The Buffalo Cradle to Career Network is modeled after "STRIVE", a Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky program with goals of ensuring that every child will be prepared for school, be supported in and out of school, succeed academically, enroll in college or career training and enter a meaningful career. SUNY and Chancellor Nancy Zimpher are in full support of this initiative in Western New York and in other areas of the state. A copy of the "STRIVE" 2010 report Card was included in the council folders.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Zemsky called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Saxe moved for adjournment of the meeting and Mr. O'Neil-White seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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