



Buffalo State
State University of New York

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Dear Buffalo State College Council Members:

I am looking forward to meeting with you on Tuesday, September 14. The following is a brief summary of the items I will report on at that meeting.

Activities to date (July and August 2010)

I spent much of July and August meeting Buffalo State faculty, staff, neighbors, and friends. With the campus out of session, I focused my attention on the college's external constituencies, including legislators and local government leaders, community leaders and groups, alumni, and neighbors on Elmwood Avenue. And, as you know, I had the chance to meet with many of you!

My first major speech was to the New York State Higher Education Chief Information Officer conference, which took place in Buffalo. This was a terrific introduction to CIOs from across the state, and gave me a chance to speak, early in my tenure, before a diverse and engaged audience.

As the school year geared up, I had opportunities to meet with many parents (transfer and first-year orientations; Move-In Day) and students (orientation activities, First-Year Convocation, Kenzie Scholars Picnic, "Meet the President" event with free lunch for students). I have also been meeting with boards important to the college, including those of the Burchfield Penney Art Center and the H.H. Richardson Center Corporation.

I also met frequently with the college's senior staff, and learned a great deal about the current state of Buffalo State—and where we want to go in the future.

Plans for fall semester

With the college now back in session, I am turning my attention inward and working to meet as many students, faculty, and staff—individually and in groups—as possible. My office is in the process of setting up a multi-tiered slate of meetings with internal constituencies:

- *Transition team.* I have asked the members of the presidential search committee to serve as an advisory group through the first year of my presidency.

- *Open meetings with faculty and staff.* These will be scheduled with various topics that affect the entire campus; meetings will be first-come, first-served.
- *Meetings of specific/invited faculty and staff.* By invitation of my office and the provost's, selected individuals will meet with me and Dr. Ponton to share their insights.
- *Meetings with students.* VP Payne has recommended several student constituencies beyond the student government with whom I should meet; these meetings will be by invitation.

Beyond plans for making connections across the campus, we have a couple of major campus events to celebrate this fall: First is our annual Academic Convocation, on September 16; second is the presidential inauguration, on October 29.

SUNY committee appointments

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher has asked me to co-chair one SUNY-wide committee and serve as a member of another. I will be co-chairing the Seamless Education Pipeline Innovation Team, exploring ways to improve and expand access to higher education throughout New York (a crucial component of the new SUNY strategic plan). I will also be serving on the Member Resource Allocation Committee. I look forward to fulfilling these appointments, both in terms of helping to answer the important issues they address and assisting Chancellor Zimpher and in terms of meeting more of my SUNY colleagues across the state.

I will speak further on each of these items (and more) at the College Council meeting. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and answering your questions as well.

Sincerely,



Aaron Podolefsky, Ph.D.
President

AP/lmg