



**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 6, 2024, 4:00 PM MINUTES**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In person**

Chair Linda Dobmeier  
Mr. Charles Naughton  
Mr. Robert Zak  
Mr. Pete Grum  
Ms. Patricia Farrell  
Mr. Donald (DJ) Hardwick, Jr.

**Virtually via Zoom:**

Mr. Mo Sumbundu

**Excused:**

Mr. Kevin Horrigan  
Mr. Gary Siddall

**FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT (in person):**

Interim President Bonita R. Durand  
Interim Provost Amitra Wall  
Interim Vice President for Management and Operations, Lisa Krieger  
Interim Vice President for Finance and Controller, Jim Thor  
Vice President for Student Affairs, Tim Gordon  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Jim Finnerty  
Vice President for Enrollment Management, Randy Bowen  
Dean, School of the Professions, Carol DeNysschen  
Interim Chief Diversity Officer, Lisa Morrison-Fronckowiak  
Interim Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Kelly Frothingham  
Director, Career and Professional Education Center, Denise Harris  
College Senate Chair and Head of Information Commons, E.H. Butler Library, Ken Fujiuchi  
Secretary to the University Council and President's Chief of Staff, LeVar Burke  
Temporary Administrative Assistant 2, President's Office, Kristine Kaminsky

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dobmeier called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She welcomed and thanked everyone both in-person and virtually to the first Buffalo State University Council meeting for the spring 2024 semester.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023, meeting and the November 28, 2023, meeting. Mr. Zak moved that the minutes be approved with modifications; the motion was seconded by Ms. Farrell. The motion to approve the minutes with modifications was carried by unanimous vote.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reflected on the past semester and the activities surrounding the presidential search. She mentioned that this semester, there is a need to refocus on regular business.

Chair Dobmeier expressed that it is crucial that committee meetings are convened in accordance with the Council's respective charges and that reports are provided in a timely manner. The engagement and updates are essential in maintaining the flow of information, in furtherance of the legal mandate, and ensuring that everyone is working towards the shared goals for Buffalo State University.

The Chair pointed out that on April 8, 2024, Buffalo and Western New York are poised to experience a total solar eclipse, which will be seen all over in Buffalo. It will be a sixty-mile-wide spectacle, often hailed as "the greatest celestial event you can experience." There is an anticipation that this will not only be an awe-inspiring event for the residents of Buffalo, but that it will also attract several hundred thousand visitors to our area. The Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium has a series of events planned leading up to this celestial phenomenon, and she encouraged everyone to visit their website to learn more about how to safely witness this event. Additionally, solar eclipse glasses will be setting aside for the Council members. She asked that everyone be on the lookout for their invitation via email.

The annual Foundation Scholarship Gala, Bengala, is scheduled for April 13, 2024, and will be hosted by Interim President Bonita R. Durand and VP James M. Finnerty, and our alumni chairs Judy Elliott, Ph. D, '82, and Tracy Sawicki, '84. This year's theme is "Connecting our Past with our Future." The Gala will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the E. H. Butler Library, both live and virtually. Chair Dobmeier urged all Council Members to join in the celebration of Buffalo State University's legacy and future.

Chair Dobmeier announced that the 152nd Commencement of SUNY Buffalo State University will take place on May 18, 2024, in the Sports Arena. The ceremonies will be organized according to academic school:

- 9:00 a.m. - School of the Professions Ceremony
  - Bachelor's, Master's, and Advanced Graduate Certificates

- 1:00 p.m. - School of Arts and Sciences Ceremony
  - Bachelor's, Master's, and Advanced Graduate Certificates
- 5:00 p.m. - School of Education Ceremony
  - Individualized and Multidisciplinary Studies Bachelor's, Master's, and Advanced Graduate Certificates

The Chair encouraged all council members to attend at least one ceremony. Furthermore, she noted that she will designate a convenor from among the council members for at least one of the ceremonies. It was pointed out that their participation is of utmost importance to ensure the success of this momentous event.

As Buffalo State moves forward, we are to continue to work together to uphold the values of Buffalo State University and to make this academic year a remarkable one.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Denise Harris, Director of the Career and Professional Education Center, gave a presentation on the CAPE Internship (see attached.)

Interim President Durand discussed the losses that the campus community has endured over the past few months. She asked that a moment be taken to honor these community and family members. It was mentioned that all are grieving in some way, but work is still being accomplished.

The total enrollment for the spring 2024 semester has increased since the previous year. The total enrollment for spring is 5,723 students, which is an increase of 74 students from last year. Buffalo State is moving on a slight upward trajectory which is what Buffalo State and SUNY want to see.

The total credit hours increased by 2,669, and full-time enrollment equivalency (full time and part time, all students) has increased from 4,759 students from this time last year to 4,934 students.

Interim President Durand mentioned that she participated in an affirmative action panel with the presidents from Villa Maria College and Canisius University. The topic was the impact of the Supreme Court's decision on the incoming freshmen class. After discussion, the following points arose:

- SUNY does not use race-based admissions for incoming students.
- Chief Justice Roberts wrote a response to the SCOTUS ruling, giving an opportunity to evaluate students. This process has been used by Buffalo State University for a while. Now that it's a United States Supreme Court decision, the process can be used by all colleges and universities.
- At Buffalo State University, students' abilities to overcome hardships that may have been attributed to race are considered. Currently there is a study of the circumstances in inner city schools and rural schools that have limited opportunities, a lack of advanced placement courses which puts the students at a disadvantage and are also limited by tax dollars.

- There is a calculator that advises Buffalo State about students who may be coming from these types of environments.
- This information can be factored into Buffalo State's acceptance decision, leading to a diverse student body.

It was suggested that race-based scholarships may be challenged. For this year, Buffalo State University is refraining from awarding these until more direction is given from SUNY legal counsel, or the United States Supreme Court.

It was pointed out that this is a disadvantage, as Buffalo State will not be able to use these scholarships to support the students. Other ways are being examined to fulfill this need; the most prominent source is through donors. It was mentioned that if race is included in the scholarship's criteria, that is based on the donors' intent.

It was mentioned that the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Jim Finnerty, is currently working with Enrollment Management to ensure that students are given the scholarships that they are awarded.

It was pointed out that students who had already received scholarship funds will be able to keep what has been distributed but may not be able to receive the same funding in the future.

One semester of data has been collected regarding some of the programs' ROI (return on investment). The baseline data shows an increase in commuter student retention. Their scholarship status is being analyzed.

There has been no change in residential students, which is good.

It was mentioned that a more thorough report will be shared at the next meeting. Progress is being made. This information will give a sense of direction on future and capital fundraising.

A discussion was had previously regarding changing processes. Institutional Research and Data Analytics is working closely with Finance to analyze the numbers to determine if there's a financial gain as well as persistence to graduation.

## COMMITTEES

- **President's Community Advisory Committee (Bonita Durand, Interim President)**  
Will be meeting Friday, February 9, 2024.
- **Naming of Buildings and Grounds (Robert Zak, Chair)**  
Will be meeting in February 2024.
- **Facilities (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**  
See attached.
- **Government Relations (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**  
See attached.
- **Nominations & Presidential Advisory Committee (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**  
No report.
- **Budget (Robert Zak, Chair)**  
No report.

- **Student Life (Charles Naughton, Chair)**  
See attached.
- **Strategic Initiatives (Robert Zak, Chair)**  
No report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

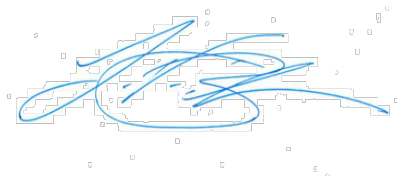
Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to move into Executive Session: Pursuant to Article 105 of the New York State Open Meetings Law. Mr. Zak moved that the Council enter executive session. Mr. Hardwick seconded.

Chair Dobmeier announced that the Council was now back in an open meeting session. During the executive session. No action was taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Farrell moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hardwick approved. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.


**Respectfully Submitted,**



**LeVar Nathaniel Burke, JD, MPA**  
**Secretary to the University Council**

# Career and Professional Education Center

## College Council




**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York } *believe. inspire. achieve.*

Denise M. Harris, Director  
Career and Professional Education Center  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/denisemharris/>

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## CAPE Mission



Committed to empowering students, their career education and professional pursuits, through a supportive and inclusive environment.

Goals

List of goals and objectives

Programming Calendar 2023-2024

List of events and dates

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## Goals

- Goal 1:**  
Engage faculty and staff to support student persistence rates
- Goal 2:**  
Create engaging and interactive programs, workshops, events that educate and empower our diverse populations
- Goal 3:**  
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## Programming Calendar 2023-2024

**Fall 2023 Events**

- August 28 Career Development Day
- August 31 Part Time Job and Internship Fair
- October 3 Mentee/Mentor Kick-Off Event
- October 24 Graduate School Fair
- October 26 Major Fair
- November 9 Corner Office

**Spring 2024 Events**

- January 10 WNYCFE
- January 29 Spring Career Development Day
- February 7 Headshot Happy Hour
- February 8 Professionalism Workshop
- February 29 Corner Office
- March 7 Job and Internship Fair
- April 11 Graduation Celebration (Cap and Gown pick-up)
- April 16 Teacher Recruitment Day
- May 2 Mentor/Mentee End of Year Celebration
- May 9 Internship Celebration

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## SUNY Incremental funding

**Expand Internship Opportunities**  
This funding would be used to provide an overall stipend to meet the financial needs of the students.

**Spring 2024**  
250 students will be supported by receiving \$500.00 stipend, \$200 transportation subsidy, \$250 professional clothing allowance.  
Total: \$237,000

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75 students will be supported by a \$500.00 stipend, a \$750 housing allowance, \$200 transportation subsidy, and \$250 professional clothing allowance.  
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**Expected impact/audience size:**  
This funding will enable SUNY Buffalo State University to expand the number students participating in internships by 75 students

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## Increasing Engagement

- December 20, 2023 - initial email sent out to 2,856 students
- Student Applications
  - 34 submissions on the first day
  - 86 submissions as of this morning
- Social media engagement
  - First day 31 people interacted with our Instagram post and 22 on LinkedIn
- On-Campus Internships
  - 14 Offices, 20 Sites, 34 Opportunities
  - 26 Students serving in on-campus internships

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## Increasing Engagement

- Held on-campus supervisor training, January 22
- Professionalism Workshop, Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Hired Graduate Assistant
- Marketing for Summer Internships
- Sunday, February 4
  - 226 Submissions
    - 180 Approved
    - 40 Pending
    - 3 Denied
    - 3 Self-Selected out of the Process

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**Facilities Committee Report to the College Council**

**January 11, 2024**

<http://facilities.buffalostate.edu/>

The Facilities Committee of the College Council met on January 11, 2024, to review progress on the following projects:

<i>Projects in Planning and Design during Fall 2023-Spring 2024</i>	
	<p><b><i>Mechanical Systems Upgrade at Butler Library</i></b></p> <p>The air distribution system in Butler Library, built initially into cavities in the floor slabs, needs to be replaced. This project will provide new ductwork, controls, and HVAC hot water piping needed to correct the system.</p>
	<p><b><i>Renovation of Moore Hall for Student Services</i></b></p> <p>Moore Hall was built as a dining hall to serve the Moore Complex and the Towers. Currently, the building is used by the custodial services, property control, and sustainability programs offices, which will relocate to the University Police and Campus Operations Center (Building 50) once that facility is renovated. The facility and housing master plans indicate that Moore Hall should be returned to student life use. The campus has performed a program study to determine the best uses for this building. These may include food service, multipurpose programming space, lounge space, and a convenience store. Moore Hall design commenced in the fall of 2022. Construction will begin after Karner Hall construction is complete.</p>
	<p><b><i>Replacement NCAA and Recreation Field</i></b></p> <p>While constructing the Science and Math Complex, the campus temporarily gave up an outdoor competition field. Buffalo State has recently conducted a comprehensive study to determine the best location for the NCAA regulation replacement field. The broader objective of the study was to envision a destination outdoor athletic and recreation complex.</p> <p>Phase 1 construction will replace the lost field. It will include a scoreboard, sound system and lighting. The project is getting ready for bid, and construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2024.</p>

<i>Projects in Planning and Design during Fall 2023- Spring 2024 (continued)</i>	
	<p><b><i>Bengal Walk and Social Justice Project</i></b></p> <p>Bengal Walk is the main pedestrian spine from the center of campus west to Grant Street. Since its completion in 1997, surfaces and utilities have deteriorated beyond repair, and trees have been lost to ash bore infestation. This project will reconstruct the walkway, improving the hardscape, softscape, lighting, and seating.</p> <p>Bengal Walk has been chosen as the location for the President's outdoor social justice initiative. Buffalo State's past, present, and future social justice work will be displayed along this walk. Design is underway. After a thorough bidding process, a contract was awarded for the Bengal Walk project. On-site construction is to begin summer of 2024.</p>
	<p><b><i>Buckham Hall Study</i></b></p> <p>The college is partnering with Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) to study Buckham Hall to determine the feasibility of using part of that building as a public high school location. The spaces considered for BPS will only be those not occupied by Buffalo State College faculty, staff, and students.</p> <p>The study, paid for by Buffalo Public Schools, will consider programming and project concepts and will include a survey of existing conditions and probable costs for the project. It will address New York State Education Department (NYSED) requirements and "aid ability," considering the potential for the project to proceed and receive funding.</p> <p>Once the study is complete and NYSED conducts a review, the college and Buffalo Public Schools will determine how best to move forward. A lease agreement outlining terms, responsibilities, and costs would guide any resulting relationship with BPS.</p>





**166-170 Dart Street**

This project to reimagine 167-170 Dart Street has been paused to align with the Region Central process led by the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC).

This project has been paused to align with the [Region Central process](#) led by the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC). Although no plans have been endorsed by either the City of Buffalo or Buffalo State College, and no funding has been identified at this time, we look forward to continued engagement with the campus, local community, and stakeholders and alignment with the Region Central process.



**Civic and Community Engagement Center**

Originally an attendants' home at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, NYS Office of Mental Health Building 15 is mothballed. Ideally located near Rockwell Road and the Burchfield Penney Art Center, it is envisioned as the future home of Buffalo State's Civic and Community Engagement Center.

The college has developed a business case and program scope for the civic and community engagement building concept; the next step is to determine how the concept would fit in Building 15. A study will determine project scope and costs for renovations.



**Parking Study**

The most recent comprehensive Buffalo State parking study was completed during the facility's master plan process in 2010. The campus has begun a parking study to assess current and future needs. It will include an operational assessment and recommendations and consider impacts from adjacent neighbors.



**Reconstruction of Parking Lots R-12 and R-13**

This critical maintenance project will remediate the poor condition of the paved areas, site lighting, and drainage in parking lots R-12 and R-13. Modern LED lighting will be added, reducing maintenance and utility costs. This large-scale renovation will require trenching throughout the two parking lots. Design is underway.

**Projects in Construction during Fall 2023- Spring 2024**



**Elms Hall (Classroom Building)**

Elms Hall, built in 1972, retains most of its original systems and space configuration. These no longer meet the needs of our students and faculty. All occupants have been relocated to Cassety or Buckham halls to allow renovations to proceed.

This gut renovation project, estimated at \$78 million, will transform the building and provide modern classrooms and labs to meet our students and academic departments' future teaching and learning needs. The building will have a spacious central entrance lobby, extending three stories, with a generous student lounge and study space. A high-performance building enclosure and efficient lighting and HVAC systems will reduce the building's carbon footprint and create the most energy-efficient building of its type on campus. Phase 2 design – interior fit-out – is in construction.



**Karner Hall (Building 50/University Police and Campus Operations Center)**

Karner Hall was built in the 1950s and acquired by the campus in 2003. It was constructed for manufacturing but has been used by Buffalo State as a storage facility. This 92,000-square-foot building needs rehabilitation.

This renovation will provide appropriately designed space to accommodate the University Police Department and the custodial, grounds, moving operations and property control and sustainable programs units; renovate warehouse and dock space to add much-needed storage for several departments; and create a better link to the main campus pedestrian spine and designated visitor parking areas. Completing this \$14.8 million project will make possible the reuse of Moore Hall for much-needed student life and dining functions. Phase 2 is under construction and will include interior renovations and fit-out for University Police and Central Services.



### ***Central Heating Plant Reconstruction, Phases 1, 2 and 3***

Buffalo State's steam plant is at the end of its life cycle. This project replaces boilers and associated equipment with new and more efficient versions. This will save costs for fuel, operation, and maintenance, reduce harmful emissions and potential for harmful fuel leaks, and provide a more reliable source of heat and hot water for the campus. Underground fuel oil tanks will be removed in favor of natural gas for fuel. Phases 1 and 2 are complete; Phase 3 is currently out for bids.

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
TO THE BUFFALO STATE COUNCIL  
January 2024**

The Governmental Relations committee met Friday December 22, 2023 at 8:30am to discuss the status of state and federal advocacy and to briefly outline a plan for the coming year. Attending the meeting were Chairman Linda Dobmeier and Council members Mo Sumbundu and Kevin Horrigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dobmeier at 8:33am. Following brief discussion of the results of the recent local elections, the discussion turned to the SUNY budget request and the upcoming state legislative session.


It was a brief, high-level discussion of the upcoming state budget process and advocacy for campus priorities. A more detailed plan of action will be completed following an upcoming meeting of SUNY statewide government relations.

Next steps involve reviewing the upcoming SUNY proposed budget including any special items and budget requests that may be added and possibly advocating for inclusion in the budget adopted by the legislature. In addition to budget priorities, we continue to identify legislation that could aid the campus including expedited program review, regulatory relief, etc.

Submitted by Linda Dobmeier, Chair

# Career and Professional Education Center

## College Council: Student Life Sub-Committee




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