



## **STRATEGIC PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 25, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.  
Brookhaven Gymnasium – Alumni Room**

### **In Attendance:**

*Joanne E. Braxton, Dr. James F. Canniff, William F. Connors, Jr., Dr. Amy Czura, Dr. Tina Good, Dr. Janet Haff, Dr. Allen Jacobs, Dr. John Jerome, Dr. Jeffery Kluewer, Christine Kulis, Dr. June Ohrnberger, Dr. Sandra Susman Palmer, Karen Pepe, Gary Ris, Mary Reese, Raymond Roses, Dr. Kate Rowe, Charles K. Stein, Dr. Phoebe Smith, Dr. Evon Walters, James Whitten*

Vice President Braxton welcomed the members of the Strategic Planning Council and also acknowledged Dr. Sandra Susman Palmer as a guest. Following the introduction of each SPC member, Vice President Braxton asked the members to regularly report back to their respective groups with information discussed at Strategic Planning Council meeting.

Vice President Braxton stated that the Strategic Planning Council was formed in 1986 and has gone through many changes and therefore, it is necessary to examine its function, membership and structure. The SPC sub-committee meets on opposite months of the Strategic Planning Council. The SPC sub-committee will be charged to look at the intent of the original SPC: the charges and the membership (membership needs to be consistent). The SPC sub-committee will bring their findings and recommendations back to the SPC, and then will be presented to the larger college community.

### **2008-2012 Strategic Plan and Institutional Goals Surveys**

Middle States recommended that SCCC separate its Institutional Goals and Strategic Goals. The SPC sub-committee worked to formulate both the 2008-2012 Institutional and Strategic Goals. The members of college community are now being asked to provide their input of the draft goals by responding to the surveys, which were issued on September 24 with a return date of October 27, 2008. Vice President Braxton stated that she will meet with various groups to present and answer questions about the two documents.

### **2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Operating Budgets**

Vice President Stein reports that the 2008-2009 budget has gone through excruciating changes. Over the summer, we were advised that there would be additional reductions from the state in terms of their support. We are still waiting word regarding the state's support, which probably will not be received until after Election Day. The 2009-2010 budget

process will begin shortly. The problems we face in the 2009-2010 budget are a continuation of no support from the county and the drop in state aid and the probability of further cuts in aid from the state. Updates on budget status will be provided.

Vice President Braxton asked which items of the Strategic Plan might be included in the budget. Vice President Stein said the work of the SPC is vitally important to the needs of this institution. Vice President Braxton suggested that the items in the Strategic Plan be vetted during the budget hearings.

### **Middle States Brochure**

One of the charges of this committee is to follow through on Middle States recommendations. A brochure is being developed for the college community outlining the status of the recommendations. The brochure will also be used for the periodic review by Middle States.

### **Foundations of Excellence (FoE)**

Dr. Walters informed the SPC that the Foundations of Excellence is an internal study that is focused on the first-year experience. The ultimate goal of the study is to develop a strategic action plan toward the first-year experience. The process will take one year to complete.

Dr. Jerome asked if this study was a recommendation of Middle States. Vice President Canniff advised that there is a link between the Middle States recommendations and the Mission Review II document to support the Foundations of Excellence initiative. FoE may provide a framework to look at the issues raised by Mission Review II and Middle States. We have to find better ways to support our students and their first-year experience.

### **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)**

Dr. Jacobs advised that there is a connection between the amount of engagement in the institution and outcomes in retention, graduation and GPAs. Vice President Braxton reported that in the spring 2009 semester, the college will administer a survey. One of the challenges of the survey is that it takes 45 minutes to complete and it must be administered in class. We are looking into whether or not we can administer the survey in another way, perhaps in class. We are doing an informational rollout campaign to inform the faculty that this will come out in the spring. Dr. Good advised that the SUNY BOT insisted that we have standardized measures.

Vice President Braxton will investigate to see if SUNY will pay for the administration of the CCSSE; we do not have the money to pay for it. Vice President Braxton asked Dr. Attinasi to look at the questions in the CCSSE documents to see which ones were in line with the SOS. Dr. Kluewer asked how often the CCSSE and Student Opinion Survey (SOS) are administered (SOS every 2 years; CCSSE every 3 years). Professor Czura asked if the CCSSE can be done as homework instead of class.

Dr. Good announced the upcoming CCSSE at the Senate meeting and was asked if the faculty would be given enough notice.

### **Agenda Items**

Vice President Braxton asked SPC members to forward any agenda items they may wish to discuss to Lorraine Chiapperino.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.

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