



**STRATEGIC PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 10, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.
Brookhaven Gymnasium – Alumni Room**

In Attendance:

Dr. Louis Attinasi, Joanne E. Braxton, Dr. Marvin Bright, Dr. James Canniff, Dr. Philip Christensen, William Connors, Jr., Andrew Fawcett, Jill Gleason, Dr. Allen Jacobs, Dr. Jeffery Kluewer, Christine Kulis, Dr. Shaun McKay, Dr. June Ohrnberger, Dr. Sandra Susman Palmer, Gary Ris, Mary Reese, Dr. Kate Rowe, Charles Stein, 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. Vice President Braxton asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 14, 2008, meeting; there being no corrections to be made, the minutes were accepted.

Dr. Christensen provided an update on the tracking of the Mission Review II commitments.

- SCCC has committed to increasing faculty diversity. Money has been included in the operating budget to support a more active approach to diverse recruitment and additional advertising venues have been identified.
- SUNY recommends that the grants office be developed as a full-service office covering pre- and post-grant functions.
- Improve first-year retention rates; SCCC's retention rate has been flat, and should be increased.
- Graduation rates are another item of concern.

Vice President Stein provided an update on the 2008-09 budget and began by stating that the this year's budget presentations made to the Budget Planning Committee were outstanding.

Vice President Stein stated that he has been advised that both New York State and Suffolk County are in very bad financial shape; revenues are not good with the economic slowdown and there is a tremendous fiscal problem. The college has been advised by the county legislators who have always supported the college, that there is no money. SCCC must take into consideration the increased costs of salaries, health insurance premiums, and energy. NYS passed a law that individuals with 10+ years in the retirement system are no

longer responsible for contributing 1.3%; the college must pay this additional \$1.2M expense. In 2008-09, SCCC will have a total of \$6M in additional costs with no increase in funding from NYS or the county. If SCCC planned to cover these additional costs by increasing tuition, the tuition rate would be too high; therefore, the college will operate with a bare bones budget and will add no new positions. It is anticipated that there will be a 3.78% increase for the 2008-09 budget, which will cause an increase in tuition to \$160 per year; fees will not be increased – however, some adjustments were made to fees. Vice President Stein reported that there is a reserve fund of \$5.6M. SCCC is anticipating a 2% increase in enrollment, but we have been advised that there will not be a police class this year (until October 2009).

Following Vice President Stein's report on the 2008-09 budget, discussion returned to the Mission Review II commitments. Mary Reese stated that there should be a national conversation to change the definition of student success; it should be more than graduation rates. Vice President Braxton stated that SCCC gave SUNY lower graduation rates, but SUNY refused to accept those rates and required higher rates. Dr. Pippins has scheduled a meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 to discuss Mission Review II commitments .

Dr. Bright asked if we have a definition for first-time, full-time student and is SUNY using our definition. Vice President Braxton stated that SCCC is using the SUNY definition and she will bring the definition to the June 12 meeting.

Vice President Braxton shared the draft college brief and the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan and Institutional Goal surveys that will be rolled next week.

Dr. Jacobs reported that he attended a Middle States conference in which the focus was on the strategic plan and planning for assessment. A major emphasis was made by Middle States that it is not enough just to have the plans, they must be implemented. Dr. Kluewer asked how we can implement the plan as an on-going process; can we outline the process for a clearer understanding. A lively discussion ensued. In response to Dr. Kluewer's concerns, Dr. Walters suggested that a timeline and process be developed. Dr. McKay stated that this process has to be a part of the departments and divisions and recommended developing a sample to show the relationship of operational goals to strategic and institutional goals. Dr. Jacobs stated that the Comprehensive Assessment Plan for Institutional Effectiveness is doing what is being discussed. Dr. Attinasi offered that the assessment workshops work with units to develop goals and to assess goals that are a part of the Institutional Goals. Dr. Rowe suggested encouraging individuals to imagine how their area meets the Institutional Goal and how they would co-opt the goal for themselves. There is currently discussion about presenting the 2008-2012 Strategic Goals and Institutional Goals at All College Day 2008. Dr. Ohrnberger suggested that adjunct faculty be invited to participate in All College Day. Vice President Braxton stated that we need to move this strategic plan out to get the feedback from the college community. It is planned to have the roll-out of the 2008-2012 draft Strategic Goals and Institutional Goals, along with the surveys on Tuesday, April 15.

Vice President Braxton stated that the next Strategic Planning Council meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 12 noon; lunch will be provided compliments of Vice President Braxton.

The meeting concluded at 5:15 p.m.

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