



EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes for Q4 University Council Meeting

December 6, 2024 – 1 pm

Publicly Noticed Locations:

- 2 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- 4 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
- 2875 Union Road Suite 34, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Members in attendance:

Chairman John Maggiore

Donna Luh

Roberta Reardon

Non-members in attendance:

President Lisa Vollendorf

Deputy Chief of Staff Anthony Amiano

Senate Chair John Lawless

SGA President Gabby Lerner

Interim Dean of Nursing Maureen Kroning

Student Brady Stewart

Agenda Items:

I. **Minutes not approved as quorum was unmet**

- a. 2023: August 25, October 13, December 8
- b. 2024: March 15, June 7, September 20

II. **Report of the University President** – Lisa Vollendorf

- a. Just reached landmark of 100,000 alumni. Lorraine Williams has been noted as 100,000th alumna as she graduated with her bachelor's degree in nursing. She is now pursuing her masters with SUNY Empire.
- b. Spanish Language BBA was approved by State Ed. We will have a Fall 2025 cohort.
- c. Winter 2024 Commencement is Friday 12/13/24. We added a second ceremony and learned that a 1pm ceremony is more inclusive than we anticipated. Assemblymember Woerner and Trustee Burke will be in attendance.
- d. We are in the process of hiring our inaugural Dean of Education.
- e. Ten banners celebrating veteran SUNY Empire students were put up near our 111 West location and a small ceremony was held to honor their service and celebrate their accomplishments.

III. **Report of the Senate Chair** – John Lawless (see agenda materials)



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- a. In the Senate meeting earlier today, 12/6/24, two new programs were approved: the ASBS partnership with Rockland Community College and the BS in Human Services Management
- IV. **Report of the Student Government President** – Gabrielle Lerner (see agenda materials)
- a. SGA is hoping to have continued conversations about decision-making processes and student leadership.
- V. **Nursing Partnerships Presentation** – Maureen Kroning (started August 2024)
- a. Northwell Health is the largest healthcare organization in NYS and growing
 - i. Northwell eager to skill-up and provide further education for their 81,000 employees to meet healthcare demands in their facilities
 - ii. SUNY Empire was chosen as a partner because we are nimble and quick to produce quality programs in the healthcare sector
 - b. We are looking at working with BOCES and other high schools to get students into the LPN pathway
 - i. Students can then work as an LPN as they pursue their RN (and beyond)
 - ii. We applied for funding for the “pathway aligned early credit sequence” - SUNY is excited about our innovative, out-of-the-box thinking
 - c. Center for Discovery (Sullivan County) is also looking to skill-up their 1,700+ employees and pays 60-100% of staff education costs
 - d. In August, Hochul announced the selection of three workforce investment organizations (listed below) that would administer a total of \$646,000,000 in funding for workforce training and educational support as one component of New York Health Equity reform.
 - i. Caring Gene Health Career Pathways
 - ii. Finger Lakes PPS
 - iii. 1199 Training and Education Fund
 - e. We are working on marketing the multi-award nursing program with SUNY Orange* and Nassau Community College. Similar conversations have begun with Columbia-Greene Community College and Westchester Community College.
 - f. Programs in the approval process:
 - i. Respiratory Care
 - ii. Nutrition & Dietician
 - iii. OCC multi-award*
 - iv. LPN to RN
 - v. BS in Healthcare Science
 - g. University of Vermont Health Network is recommending SUNY Empire to their employees
 - h. District Council 37 Education Fund is seeking a collaborative training partnership for the Master of Science in nursing
 - i. SUNY Empire is considered the educational provider for the UnionPlus benefits
 - j. Roberta Reardon mentioned a similar, looming workforce deficit in building trades and education and therefore the need for further partnerships that will stabilize and benefit the current workforce



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VI. Notice of Upcoming Events

- a. Winter Commencements (Albany): December 13, 1 and 6 pm, at Empire State Plaza
- b. Proposed dates for 2025 University Council meetings:
 - i. Friday, March 7, 1pm
 - ii. Friday, June 13, 1pm
 - iii. Friday, Sept. 19, 1pm
 - iv. Friday, Dec. 12, 1pm

All University Council meetings are webcast live and archived for viewing on the Empire State University website in accordance with a December 2015 mandate from the Office of the Governor of New York.