



EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes for Q1 University Council Meeting

March 15, 2024 – 11:00 am

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

Attendees: Chairperson John Maggiore, Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, Patricia Salkin, Donna Luh, Anthony Amiano, Leigh Yannuzzi, Rebecca Monaghan, Desiree Drindak, Diane Conard

Agenda Items:

- I. **Introductions** – Chair, John Maggiore
- II. **Review and Approval of Minutes** - Unable to approve due to lack of Quorum
 - a. August 25, 2023
 - b. October 13, 2023
 - c. December 8, 2023
 - See attachments to outlook invitation or University Council webpage
- III. **Report of the University President** – Dr. Lisa Vollendorf
 - Four provost candidates in finalist interviews this week
 - Enrollments:
 - Spring enrollments up 13% in comparison to last Spring
 - Up 25% in new students (applications and enrollment going up)
 - Should be up 9% overall in comparison to last year
 - Other SUNY campuses designated as financially distressed and facing enrollment declines
 - Due to the current FAFSA challenges, we are bridging the delay in financial aid for our students and extending the deadline for payment; no one will be de-registered during Summer
 - Launched virtual food pantry to address food insecurity with direct deliveries to students
 - President has met with many government officials recently
 - Frequently discussing expanding eligibility for the Veteran’s Tuition Assistance program
 - Submitted letter of commitment to participate in Rochester area TechHub
 - Annual Meeting will take place next week focused on Student Success
- IV. **Report of the Senate Chair** – Thalia MacMillan

- See attachment to outlook invitation or University Council webpage
- V. **Report of the Student Government President** – Em Wasserman
- See attachment to outlook invitation or University Council webpage
- VI. **Veteran Military Resource Center Update** – Desiree Drindrak, Director
- Empire is the largest-serving 4-year military-affiliated institution in SUNY
 - Reduced tuition and mandatory fees waived
 - Transfer of military training credit
 - Military Veteran Opportunity Program
 - Support from recruitment through commencement and alumni events
 - Partner with NYS Division of Veteran Services (co-located at VRMC)
 - Ribbon-cutting for new center at 111 West in November 2023
 - Private entrance, virtual game room, conference room, three large screens, work and DSST testing stations, work-study support and community events
 - Developing peer-to-peer program, adding a Veteran Career Counselor, and expansion of community events, virtual, and in-person programming
 - Approximately 300 military-affiliated students will graduate this academic year (Winter 2023 and Spring 2024)
 - Support of the institution has been vital: more accomplished in the last year with Dr. Vollendorf and VP of OEMM Andrea Hennessy than ever before
- VII. **111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs Redevelopment Project** – Diane Conard
- “The Center at Empire State University”
 - Empire purchased the building (through the Foundation) in 2003 and renovated in 2004 – the idea was to have a coordinating and distribution center (mailroom, business offices, student accounts, etc.)
 - 2015 additional renovation to include 1Stop services
 - Realignment to student needs over the past 5 years: decrease from 35 to 14 locations and acknowledging interest in in-person events/community relations
 - Future focus:
 - Central gathering place and campus feel on West Ave
 - Home for experiential learning programs
 - Reducing costs on facility rentals/event services
 - Current: Request For Qualifications (RFQ) went out February 9 and is due today
 - March/April 2024: review and selection of design firm
 - April-June 2024: Schematic Design Phase
 - July 2024-January 2025: Construction Document Phase
- VIII. **Notice of Upcoming Events**
- Albany Commencement: May 3, 2024, 6 pm, at Empire State Plaza
 - Rochester Commencement: May 9, 2024, 6 pm, at the Kodak Center
 - NYC Commencement: May 17, 2024, 6 pm, at the New York City Center
 - Cocktails with the President: June 2024, at SUNY Empire

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.