



EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes for Q2 University Council Meeting

June 7, 2024 – 1 pm

Publicly Noticed Locations:

- 353 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
- 4 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
- 2875 Union Road Suite 34, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Members in attendance:

Chairman John Maggiore
Donna Luh
Arlene Sanchez-Gonzalez
Patty Salkin (unable to participate in quorum/vote)
Roberta Reardon
Naomi Campbell (unable to participate in quorum/vote)

Non-members in attendance:

President Lisa Vollendorf
Deputy Chief of Staff Anthony Amiano
Administrative Assistant Rebecca Monaghan
Senate Chair Thalia MacMillan
CIO Marty Gang

Agenda Items:

- I. **Call to Order at 1:05pm** – Chair, John Maggiore
- II. **Review and Approval of Minutes – Quorum unmet**
 - a. August 25, 2023
 - b. October 13, 2023
 - c. December 8, 2023
 - d. March 15, 2024
- III. **Report of the University President** – Dr. Lisa Vollendorf *recording started
 - a. Three commencements occurred this May (3, 9, and 17)
 - i. Nearly 700 students participated in ceremonies in Albany, Rochester, and Manhattan
 - ii. Assemblymember Pat Fahy spoke in Albany
 - iii. Assemblymember Sarah Clark and Trustee Bob Duffy spoke in Rochester
 - b. SUNY Empire will likely reach 100,000 alumni in the coming year
 - c. New Provost, Dr. Rai Kathuria, joined us in April
 - d. SUNY Empire is up 14% year-over-year in total enrollment and are anticipating about 8% enrollment growth going into 2025
 - i. Average credit load has increased overall
 - ii. We still have about 10% non-matriculated students (not in a degree program)



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- e. We are grateful for the increases to the SUNY budget and to be in an environment where public institutions are supported
 - f. Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) reform included raising the income thresholds and the minimum awards. There is more to be done and we will continue to advocate for students' needs
 - g. The Town of Brighton is leasing some of our Rochester space beginning later this year
 - h. A bill passed the state Senate to remove the "combat" eligibility requirement for the Veteran's Tuition Award program. The Assembly is expected to vote on the legislation before the session ends today. We are excited how this change will expand access to higher education for more military-affiliated students across the state.
 - i. SUNY Empire is now marketing itself with the terms Affordable, Flexible, Online, and Fast-Tracked to better capture our value proposition.
- IV. **Report of the Senate Chair** – Thalia MacMillan
- a. Stepping down from Senate Chair; voting for a new chair and vice-chair in late June
 - b. Chair Maggiore thanked Dr. MacMillan for her service
 - c. New programs
 - i. Direct Service Professional micro credentials
 - ii. Hospitality Management
 - iii. Certificate in Environmental Sustainability
- V. **Report of the Student Government President** – Em Wasserman
- a. Report submitted to members and is posted online
 - b. Chair Maggiore thanked Em for their service
- VI. **Update from the Chief Information Officer** – Marty Gang
- a. In the process of getting Empire State University's own Brightspace (D2L learning platform) instance up and running
 - i. Previously part of a multi-tenant environment within SUNY
 - ii. Unique instance will add functionality and flexibility
 - b. Artificial Intelligence
 - i. AI boot camp this Summer designed for faculty and staff – full introduction to generative AI, free resources, covering issues of ethics/governance/policy
 - ii. Potential to better serve our students by automating work processes, augmenting communication with students, making processes more efficient (a tool, not a substitute for human touch/intelligence)
 - iii. Marty welcomes knowledge exchange with members of the University Council
 - 1. Patty will connect Marty to Touro's new AVP for AI
 - 2. University Faculty Senate is also looking at this from a SUNY-wide lens
- VII. **Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Events**
- a. University Council September Meeting and Reception: **September 20, 2024**
 - i. SUNY Empire, Saratoga Springs, 28 Union (Alumni House)
 - ii. NEW TIME: 3 pm
 - iii. Members present confirmed that this date/time would work
 - iv. Patty suggested inviting University leadership teams/boards if possible
- VIII. **Adjournment**

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.