A regularly scheduled meeting of the University Council was held on May 12, 2017, at the University at Albany, University Hall, room 306.

Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; Nancy Burton; Robert Balachandran; Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; Mark Eagan; James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; Brian Fessler (Alumni Representative) Karin Reinhold (Faculty Representative); and Stanley De La Cruz (Graduate Student Representative).

Also present were Interim President James Stellar; Interim Provost and Senior Vice President Darrell Wheeler, Vice Presidents Joseph Brennan; James Van Voorst; Leanne Wirkkula; Fardin Sanai; Simeon Ananou; and James Dias. In addition, Alice Oldfather, President’s Office; Sheila Seery, Government Relations; Howard Architzel, SEFCU; and James Mower, incoming faculty representative were in attendance.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the membership present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The Chair requested a motion to adjust the order of the agenda (Jackson motion, Clancy second) and then commenced introductions to welcome new members: Fessler and Mower.

After introductions, there was a motion (Balachandran) to approve the consent agenda items which was seconded (Clancy). The Chair then turned the meeting over to Interim President Stellar for his report. Stellar thanked his leadership team for their efforts this term. In addition, he highlighted both strategic initiatives and achievements during his tenure. He also announced the new CHCS Dean, Robert Griffin, and an update on the timelines for both the School of Business and School of Public Health Dean searches. Question from Abner surrounding the Excelsior scholarship program and subsequent conversation ensued (Castellana; Stellar; JeanPierre).

Chairman Castellana then introduced Darrell Wheeler, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Leanne Wirkkula, Vice President for Planning, Policy, and Compliance to present on strategic planning. Commentary and conversation followed the presentation regarding measures in place to ensure success, campus buy in, the plan’s impact on the incoming President as a leader v. caretaker, and the Council’s lack of role in the process. (Castellana; Reinhold; Caldwell; Balachandran; Eagan)

The Chair then introduced Vice President for Marketing and Communications, Joseph Brennan. Brennan’s presentation was a follow up on his branding assessment project, including next steps. Discussion surrounding the University’s “brand”, perception and a recommendation that Joe engage smaller subset of the Council for further debriefing and input. (Caldwell; Balachandran; Eagan; Castellana; Reinhold)
Chairman Castellana then introduced Fardin Sanai, Vice President for University Development, who provided the Council with a brief Development update including the status of the campaign.

Upon completion, the Chair introduced three recognition resolutions (Garba; De La Cruz; and Reinhold) for members completing their term on the University Council. Motions by Clancy; JeanPierre and Jackson; seconded by Fessler; Caldwell and Eagan. All passed unanimously.

The Chair then requested a motion to enter executive session to speak about the Presidential Search, specifically with regard to inquiries surrounding Interim President Stellar’s candidacy consideration. Motion by Balachandran and seconded by Caldwell.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, Clancy made a motion to return to the public meeting, seconded by Fessler. At that time the Chair, seeing no further new business, adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council