A rescheduled meeting of the University Council was held on January 13, 2017, University Hall, room 306. Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; Robert Balachandran; Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; Mark Eagan; John Fallon; James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; Karin Reinhold (Faculty Representative). Joining via teleconference: Stanley De La Cruz (Graduate Student Representative).

Also present were Interim President James Stellar; Vice Presidents Joseph Brennan, Jim Van Voorst; Laura Schweitzer; Michael Christakis, Simeon Ananou, James Dias. In addition, Bruce Szelest, Chief of Staff, Office of the President; John Reilly, Counsel’s Office; Mark Benson, Athletics; Alice Oldfather, Office of the President; Sandra Starke, Office of the Provost and Howard Architzel, SEFCU.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the membership present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda items, (Fallon motion, Balachandran second) and then turned the floor over to Interim President Stellar.

In the President’s report, Dr. Stellar discussed the Governor’s recent visit to campus, as the University hosted his State of the State address. He then discussed the rise in retention rate, up 3%, or a six-year high due to the collaboration between Academic and Student Affairs. Stellar then provided an update on searches for critical leadership positions including the Deans for School of Business and Public Health. Dr. Stellar then provided a brief update on the status of the Strategic Planning Process. Finally, he highlighted the University’s legislative agenda, including a Center of Excellence in Atmospherics; CEHC Operational bridge funding; and Capital support for the CEAS/Schuyler renovation. At the conclusion of his remarks, conversation ensued (Caldwell/Fallon) regarding public/private partnerships.

Chairman Castellana then introduced Sandra Starke, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management who discussed the University’s strategic enrollment initiatives. She highlighted that fall of 2016 saw a freshmen class enrollment record of 2,725. Applications were up 2% and reiterating Interim President Stellar’s point that we experienced a six-year high freshmen to sophomore conversion rate. Starke, when discussing recruitment and markets, indicated that the University’s enrollment is reflective of the state population. Conversation ensued (Castellana; Eagan; Balachandran). She then highlighted initiatives to grow the University’s enrollments including provisional messaging; first-year experience and new student program initiatives.
With no additional business to discuss, Chairman Castellana called for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Presidential Search and to conduct interviews of executive search firms. Motion was called for by Fallon, JeanPierre second.

Upon completion of interviews, the Chairman called for a motion to exit executive session and (Fallon/Caldwell) to adjourn the session which was approved at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council