A regular meeting of the University Council was held on September 15, 2016 in the Dora Maxwell Auditorium at SEFCU. Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; Nancy Burton; Robert Balachandran; James Clancy; Mark Eagan; John Fallon; Abner JeanPierre; Marc Cohen (Elected Student); Karin Reinhold (Faculty Representative); and Stanley De La Cruz (Graduate Student Representative). Joining via teleconference: James Jackson and Joseph Garba, Alumni Representative. Also present were President Robert Jones; Interim President James Stellar; Jim Collins (former Council Member); Vice Presidents Joseph Brennan, Fardin Sanai, Jim Van Voorst; Laura Schweitzer; Michael Christakis and Simeon Ananou. In addition, John Reilly, Counsel’s Office; Leanne Wirkkula, Chief of Staff; Sheila Seery, Government Relations; Kim Comproski, President's Office and Ann Marie Murray, Office of the Provost.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the membership present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The Chair introduced new members (Reinhold; De La Cruz) and requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (JeanPierre/Fallon), which passed unanimously. He then turned the floor over to President Jones.

In the President's report, Robert Jones thanked the Council for their service and dedication to the University. In a brief overview of his tenure at the University, he witnessed a cultural shift that was unprecedented. He highlighted areas of academic expansion; enhancing the student experience; focus on retention and a reaffirmation of the University’s core values critical to both its mission and the region. In closing he indicated that the University is at a critical juncture, where the commitment of the leadership team and Interim President will drive these strategic initiatives forward. He then introduced Jim Stellar as Interim President who was, just the day before, voted into position by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Chairman Castellana then opened up the floor to questions. Words of thanks and support were exchanged between the membership and President Jones (Fallon; Balachandran; Eagan).

Jim Stellar spoke briefly, reiterating the strength of the leadership team, the commitment to President Jones’ vision and the investment in seeing those strategic initiatives started through to fruition.

Chairman Castellana then introduced Provost Cartwright from SUNY System who discussed the presidential search process. Cartwright reviewed the SUNY guidelines which govern presidential searches with the group (including committee formation; challenges/opportunities, steps and timeframe). At the conclusion of his remarks, Chairman Castellana provided a brief update to the group on the status of UAlbany’s search process. Discussion followed regarding nominations and elections associated with committee formation (Collins; Cartwright; Castellana). Further conversation ensued regarding timeline and participation (Burton; JeanPierre;Cartwright and Castellana).
Chairman Castellana then discussed annual officer elections for the University Council. A motion was made (Fallon/Clancy) to eliminate the officer position – Secretary. With no opposition the vote carried unanimously. The second position was for Vice Chair. Pat Caldwell (not in attendance) asked the Chair to put forward John Fallon’s name to the group as a nomination. With no other nominees a vote was taken and Fallon was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

Ann Marie Murray, Associate Provost for Program Development presented an update to the Council on the Albany Law School Affiliation including a visit to Michigan State University to use their affiliation as a case study to help guide a deeper relationship between both institutions. Conversation ensued (Castellana; Balachandran, Stellar and Murray). Fallon requested the possibility of having Albany Law School representatives engage the Council in a discussion at a later date.

Chairman Castellana then introduced Fardin Sanai, Vice President for Development. He provided the Council with an update on the University at Albany Foundation’s development efforts including a campaign update and overview of its projected timeline.

The Chair then introduced two recognition of service resolutions for former Council members: James Collins and Caitlin Janiszewski. Motions were made by JeanPierre/Balachandran and Fallon/Clancy respectively. Each resolution passed unanimously.

With no additional business to discuss, Chairman Castellana invited all in attendance to join him in a farewell reception immediately following the meeting. A motion to adjourn the session was approved at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council