A regularly scheduled meeting of the University Council was held on September 28, 2018 at the University at Albany University Hall, Room 306.

Council members present included: Michael Castellana, Chair; Nancy Burton; Patricia Caldwell; James Clancy; Mark Eagan; John Fallon, Vice Chair; James Jackson; Abner JeanPierre; Zina Lawrence (Faculty Representative); and Tom Robertson (Graduate Student Representative).

Also present were President Havidán Rodríguez; Provost and Senior Vice President James Stellar, Vice Presidents Todd Foreman; Michael Christakis; James Dias; Sheila Seery; and Fardin Sanai. In addition, Bruce Szelest, Chief of Staff; Mark Benson, Athletic Director; Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, Government and Community Relations; Tamra Minor, Chief Diversity Officer; Amelia Barbadoro, Director of Equity & Compliance; Karen Chico Hurst, Registrar; Shylah Addante, Graduate Student from Sage Colleges, and Howard Architzel, SEFCU.

Mr. Hyde confirmed that the membership present constituted a quorum and Chairman Castellana called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda items, Caldwell moved the motion and Clancy seconded. With no discussion on the consent agenda items, the Chair introduced President Rodríguez for his report.

The President began by highlighting collaborations with SUNY and the Governor’s Office on work and relief to Puerto Rico. Discussion ensued regarding institutions that participated, number of our faculty and students on site and future efforts. The President then briefly discussed development, faculty and staff and engagement events that have occurred. His report then focused on enrollment, targets met, diversity and SAT scores of the incoming class and future strategic recruitment efforts. Discussion (Eagan) ensued about optimal sizing, impact on budget and services and quality of education delivery. The President wrapped his report to the Council be briefly addressing Middle State accreditation, executive searches underway, major gifts and thanking Provost stellar for his body of work throughout the course of his tenure as both Provost and Interim President.

The Chair opened a conversation regarding board composition, member’s expiration terms and the need to develop a process for which to compile a list of candidates to recommend to the Governor’s Appointments Office for consideration for future openings. Council agreed to create a subgroup to address the issue. Discussion (Caldwell; Sanai; Chair)
The Chair then introduced Vice President Michael Christakis and Sr. Vice President and Provost Stellar to discuss Strategic Plan Implementation. They provided the Council with an update on the process; accelerators identified and the proposed funding model to see initiatives identified over the year implementation phase.

Vice President Todd Foreman then discussed strategic budgeting with a focus on strategic plan implementation and work force planning. Conversation followed (President; Chair; Caldwell)

Upon conclusion of question and answers, the Chair introduced Karen Chico Hurst, Registrar who discussed proposed academic calendar changes to align with our peer institutions, compliance with the state regarding days of instruction and to allow us to plan well in advance future calendars for students, parents and faculty.

This report was followed by Vice President for Advancement, Fardin Sanai who briefly highlighted plans for unveiling the branding campaign "Unleash Greatness". He then provided an update on the capital campaign status. Discussion around gifts ensued (Caldwell; Fallon; Chair; Sanai)

The Chair then recognized James Mower through a resolution for his year of service which was passed unanimously (motion – Clancy / second – JeanPierre).

At 3:00 pm, with no new business, Chairman Castellana called for a motion (Lawrence) to adjourn, Eagan seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Hyde
Liaison to the University Council