

## **Leadership Forum November 15, 2011**

### **President's Report**

President Schwaller followed up on the recent President's Notes by mentioning the revisions to the Bicentennial Plan, which are posted on the web site for comment and will be presented to the College Council on Friday. The President's Council took the report from the Goals and Planning Committee and worked over the summer to prioritize those goals identified by the Committee. In September, the President's Council and members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee refined and completed the Draft 2011-13 Biennial Goals which are also available for review and comment on the web site.

Slow progress is being made with regard to the Campus Alliance with SUNY Canton. There are two joint searches now underway, one for a joint Chief Financial Office, and one for a joint Veteran's Educational Counselor. The two colleges have contracted together with Dr. Jim Samels, a consultant who has worked with the campuses in the past and who will assist with initiation of shared services.

### **Provost's Report**

Provost Madden shared copies of the 2011-12 Goals for the Academic Affairs division, which are also available from the Provost Office web site.

<http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/plans.cfm>

She also announced the dates of the Middle States visiting team meetings for the spring, which will occur between March 25 and 28, 2012. Maggie asked that those who serve on Leadership Forum make themselves available to meet with members of the visiting team most specifically during Monday and Tuesday, March 26 and 27, and asked that the campus leadership try not to be away from campus during those dates.

### **Business Affairs**

Vice President Lewis reported that we are well underway on our balanced financial plan for this year, and the projections made by his team seem to be on target. As is typical at this time of year, SUNY System Administration is beginning to have conversations about next year's budget. State revenues are down and there is talk of a possible mid-year correction. It is expected that SUNY will be held harmless from a mid-year correction as part of the rational tuition policy. Mike is hopeful that the annual \$300 tuition increase will help, but reminds that it is a long way from filling the budget gaps from the cuts of the last few years.

SUNY System Administration continues to look for a model on which to base the financial allocations to campuses. They can find many models that work well when there is an increase in revenue, but none which seem to translate well in times of budget cuts.

The Business Affairs staff is working to develop a project that will include reports of all financial activities of the College. They are hopeful that this document will be ready in December and will be available in hard copy and on the web.

### **Faculty Senate**

Faculty Senate Chair, Jan Trybula, announced that the full faculty meeting for the fall semester will be this Thursday, November 17, and will include an informal question and

answer opportunity with members of the administration, including the president and provost.

The last Faculty Senate meeting of the year will be on December 1, at which time they hope to approve the revised Academic Dishonesty Policy. Also a joint minor with SUNY Canton between our geology department and their environmental technology program was approved in October.

Also at the October meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the document outlining the review process for the academic deans.

### **Update on Racially Motivated Incidents**

Dean of Students, Chip Morris, reported that, in light of a series of racially motivated incidents this fall, a small group of faculty and staff have been meeting to discuss and address the issue. This groups has included Sheila Marshall, Jennifer Mitchell, Chip Morris, Shaili Singh, Susan Stebbins, Louise Tyo, Lonel Woods and John Youngblood, with guests Deb Dudley and John Kaplan participating in some meetings as well.

This group is initiating or recommending several measures. Among them are:

- A rewriting of the Student Code to include stronger language regarding harassment as well as examples of behavior in the areas of racial harassment, sexism, homophobia and disability - both physical and learning;
- A video project being created by Deb Dudley and tentatively titled "This is my SUNY Potsdam;"
- The rollout of a new civility initiative, Be Ethical and Responsible at SUNY Potsdam (BEAR@ SUNY Potsdam);
- Safe place stickers for departments and offices;
- Stop the Hate dance;
- Restarting the bias response hotline;
- Reactivation of MANNY (Multicultural Association of Northern New York) which originally served professionals in the region, but would now have a greater emphasis on students;
- Several speakers on campus who will address racial harassment.

Jan Trybula noted that, in conversations with other faculty, they felt it important to realize that there are other groups on campus who are commonly discriminated against, and asked that the College not overlook these other minority groups.