

SUNY Cobleskill College Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

College Council Members in Attendance: Eric Stein, Hannah Case, Anna Blinn Cole, Linda Cross, Erik Hage, Martin Messner, Tracy Purcell, Susan Rightmyer, Marilyn Wyman

College Council Guests:

Cabinet Members - Marion Terenzio, Derwin Bennett, Nick DeCaprio, Anne Hopkins-Gross, Gus McGiver, Darcy Medica, Anna Miarka-Grzelak, Cynthia Zinzow

Apologies: Wendy Gilman, Jason Politi, John Zacharek,

Eric called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

Confirmation that the meeting was live-streamed in accordance with NYS Open Meeting Law.

Erik motioned to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025, meeting, and the motion passed.

Part I Information Sharing with On-Campus Contingencies

President's Update – Marion Terenzio

Commencement

- Saturday, May 10, 2025
- We will hold a rehearsal at the May 7, 2025, College Council meeting
- Council will participate in the procession, please let Cynthia know if you need Regalia
- Honorary Degree Recipient: Tom Porter of the Mohawk Nation (attending with 16 children).
- We are hosting a Reception in Tom's honor on Friday, May 9, at 5:30 at the Iroquois Museum (Council invited). Invitations forthcoming.
- Pre-Commencement Breakfast will take place in the Unity Center at 8:30 a.m. (Council invited). Invitations forthcoming.

Institute for Rural Vitality – Scott Ferguson, Chief Economic Development Officer

- Focus on economic and workforce development, including entrepreneurship and agri-business.
- Programs include business bootcamps, product development labs, micro-credentials, and shared-use kitchens.
- Major grants received and pending: \$2.6M Empire State Development, \$3M farm-to-table initiative.
- The first business plan competition will be on May 1, with cash prizes.

- Third Annual Entrepreneur Expo: May 2, 11 am–2 pm, Upper Prentice. Council members are encouraged to attend

Budget Summary Report – President Terenzio

- The NYS Budget has not passed, no changes or updates to report
- Those who attended the Dinner Workshop found it very helpful

Enrollment Management Plan – *Anna Miarka-Grzelak, VP Strategic Enrollment and Innovation*

- Fall enrollment is on par with last year; major progress has been made in catching up on deposits.
- Increase in out-of-state student deposits.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Update - *Derwin Bennett, Chief Diversity Officer & Exec Dir of Edu Support Services*

- Focus on accessibility and inclusive learning through campus-wide UDL initiatives.
- Strategy includes professional development, physical/digital environment audits, and faculty incentives.
- Launch training by the end of the semester with full implementation in Fall 2025.
- Continue development of training modules and accessibility assessments.

Faculty Governance Update – *Erik Hage, Presiding Officer of the Faculty*

- Revisions approved for:
- Credit for prior learning policy (includes formal appeal process).
- Attendance policy (excused absences for college-sanctioned activities).
- Draft AI usage policy distinguishing assistive vs. generative use.
- Academic Integrity Policy and governance structure under review.
- Curriculum workflows now use Adobe Sign.
- Shift toward dual governance model (Faculty & Institutional Governance) underway.
- A vote will be scheduled on the AI policy draft; governance changes are in progress.

Advancement, Foundation, and Alumni Updates – *Nick DeCaprio, Senior Director of Development & Corporate Partnerships, for John Zacharek,*

- Advancement approaching \$3M fundraising goal—potential record-setting fourth year.
- Key focus: unrestricted scholarships and experiential learning opportunities.
- New corporate scholarship campaign and alumni engagement strategies underway.

Student Government Update – *Hannah Case, SGA President*

- Rebranding “Grad Week” to “Coby Countdown” for broader student engagement.
- Events planned May 4–9: bonfire, pizza & police games, resume/headshots, slime making, craft nights, and grad lunch.
- Full E-board slate confirmed for 2025–2026 academic year.
- The SGA Budget was passed and submitted for presidential review.

Part II – Council Reports, Discussion and/or Actions

Chair's Report:

- Reviewed the
- Commended the college's innovation, agility, and leadership in economic development and education.

Upcoming Key Dates:

- May 1 – Business Plan Competition
- May 2 – Entrepreneur Expo
- May 7 – Meeting & Commencement Practice
- May 9 – Honorary Degree Reception
- May 10 – Commencement

A motion was made to go to executive session.

The reporting part of the meeting concluded at 9:55, and the attendees went into executive session. Linda made a motion to end the meeting, the motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned.