

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Carl E. Haynes, Ph.D., President
DATE: January 20, 2016
SUBJECT: President's Report to the Board

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the spring semester at this time looks consistent with our budgeted expectations. As of the time of this report, enrollment is down 1.4 percent (-14 FTEs). While new student enrollment is showing reasonable increases (+19 FTEs), along with unexpected increases in our transfer and reinstate cohorts (+28 FTEs), our continuing students, nevertheless, are down from last year at this same time (-60 FTEs). However, at this time, I am cautiously optimistic that we will be at/or near our budget for our core fall/spring enrollment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/ACTION PLAN

The six Strategic Priorities Action Plan groups are under way with their respective deliberations to develop recommended specific short-term and longer-term initiatives to respond to the four Strategic Priorities. As a reminder, the four Strategic Priorities are: The First Semester Matters, On-going Support for High-risk Groups of Students, Marketing, and Enhanced Evidenced-Informed Decision Making. The Action Plan groups that are meeting are: Entry Level Processes, Basic Skills Courses, Residential Life Students, Analysis of High Risk Student Groups, Marketing – Recruitment & Communication Strategies, and Development of a Web-based Dashboard/Repository. I will briefly highlight the progress of their work as it matures in subsequent Board reports.

CHILDCARE CENTER

As you know, one of the major priorities for the College, along with support from our TC3 Foundation Board of Directors, is the development of a new Childcare Center. We have been fortunate in attracting a significant donation (\$2 million) from Arthur Kuckes, along with commitments from both Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton and Senator James Seward, where each will have committed to \$500,000 under the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM). As you know, we are finalizing details on a capital project request to SUNY that would support this building, along with sufficient resources to re-purpose the existing Childcare Center. Additionally, our intent is to launch a fund raising campaign this spring to provide additional resources that would support not only the construction of the new facilities, but also help provide an endowment to support the ongoing operations of the Childcare Center.

MIDDLE STATES REACCREDITATION

We are in the very preliminary stages of our Middle States Reaccreditation process. Under the leadership of Provost Conners, we have selected two people to co-chair the self-study committee (Dr. Kris Altucher and Dr. Travis Vande Berg). More recently we selected the co-chairs of each of the subcommittees that are prescribed according to the Middle States Characteristics of Excellence. In preparing for this process, both Kris and Travis attended the Self-study Institute to be more fully informed about the expectations of the self-study process and Provost Conners attended the annual Middle States Conference in early December where he, too, learned about the process and procedures to be followed.

On March 10, 2016, Dr. Ellie Fogarty, Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, will visit the campus to meet with the various stakeholder groups, including members of the Board of Trustees. The primary purpose of her visit is to help guide the steering committee and College leadership with respect to the reaccreditation process. The self-study process will begin this spring and conclude with the submittal of our report in December of 2017. Following that will be a Middle States Team visit sometime in the spring of 2018. There is much work and additional details that will unfold during the next two years. Periodically, I will provide the Board with information and/or pertinent updates to keep you fully informed of the process.

OTHER MATTERS

On December 4, I participated as a judge in the “CANstruction” event put on by student life. This event is done annually in conjunction with our donation to the Dryden Food Pantry. We are proud to report that this year we raised \$550 in donations and 2,075 food items (the equivalent of six TC3 campus van trips).

On December 9, I attended the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce annual Holiday Party.

On December 10, Provost Conners, Deans Ryan and Taetzsch, Susan Dewey, Director of Budget and Finance, and I hosted Chris Newell, newly elected Cortland County Legislator, on campus for an orientation to TC3. Legislator Newell was also interested in learning more about our farm, so he met with Todd McLane, Director of the TC3 Farm LLC, and me for a discussion of this initiative and tour of our facilities.

On December 11, we held our annual December Graduate Recognition Ceremony honoring 199 graduates. There were more than 350 people in attendance, including 61 graduates, their guests, and faculty and staff. Deep Patel, SGA President, spoke on behalf of the students. Amy Trueman, Dean of Student Services, was selected by the SGA to provide keynote remarks. Both did an outstanding job. Roxann Buck brought greetings from the Board of Trustees. Olu Roberts also attended from the Board of Trustees, together with Michael Lane, Tompkins County Legislative Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

On December 16, Provost Conners, Deans Ryan and Taetzsch, Susan Dewey, Director of Budget and Finance, and I hosted Anna Kelles and Richard John, newly elected Tompkins County Legislators, on campus for an orientation to TC3.

From December 24 – January 1, the College was closed for the winter break.

From January 4 – January 11, I was on a family vacation.

On January 19, we held a Board Member Orientation for new TC3 Foundation Board members which was attended by new members Lisa Whitaker, Brian Fuller, and Tom VanDerzee. A previous meeting had been held on October 20, 2015, for new members Laurie Linn, Dale Davis, and Matt Morgan.

On January 21, we will hold our “Welcome Back” meeting for all faculty and staff.