



I was glad this week to welcome several international visitors to SUNY Fredonia and to learn about the impression that all of you made on them. Sandra McCune came here from England, where she is the Scientific Leader of Human-Animal Interaction at the WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition. World renowned for her research, she has collaborated with Nancy Gee and had a chance to see the important work being undertaken by Nancy, Justin Couchman, and their students. She also donated three books on human-animal interaction to Reed Library.

Also visiting last week were Elena Sergeeva and Alexandra Solonenko, here from Tomsk University (Russia) at the invitation of Ann Deakin, who met them during her Fulbright there. They met many people across campus and left with many positive impressions of the students, faculty, and staff they met here. Because they are from Siberia, the snowstorms didn't daunt them at all, and they enjoyed Pink the Rink along with many visits to classes and campus events.

I'm grateful to those who invited and hosted these visitors and to all of you for having them leave with such good memories and dreams of what we might do together.

With best wishes,

Nigeria S. Howard



Welcome to Matthew Cettin

Welcome to Matthew Cettin, who will begin as Fredonia's new Assistant Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment and Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness. This position, which has been vacant since Marissa Cope moved last summer, is critical to the IRPA office and for the data and research needs across campus. Matthew will be working with IRPA Director Xiao Zhang on the many data requests for internal assessments and external reporting, and he will be collaborating across divisions in assessment and accreditation efforts.

The IRPA office is on the seventh floor of Maytum Hall. Their efforts, however, benefit the campus as a whole, reflected in the current organizational structure; IRPA reports to the President, and Director Zhang meets with the entire Cabinet at least once each month.

He comes to Fredonia from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA), where most recently he held the position of Director of Institutional Planning, Assessment, and Accreditation. He has also worked as a data analyst and production assistant, and he has experience with grant writing and

budgeting, specialized accreditation, Middle States, and strategic plan implementation and measurement.

Matthew earned a B.A. in economics from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in Higher Education, with a focus on institutional assessment and planning, from Drexel University. He is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Organizational Learning and Leadership at Gannon University. He is a member of the Association of Institutional Researches (AIR) and the North East Association of Institutional Researchers (NEAIR). I look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.

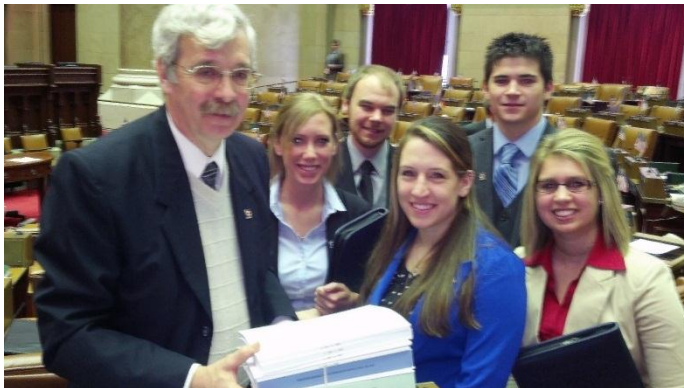
SUNY Day in the Capital

On Monday, February 11, five SUNY Fredonia students joined David Tiffany and me as we met State Senators and Assemblymen from our campus' district and from the students' home districts. Also representing SUNY Fredonia was Tracy Collingwood, who set up and staffed an information table that featured Fredonia's internship and student teaching programs.

We visited the offices of these legislators:

- Assemblyman Andy Goodell
- Senator Kathleen Marchione
- Senator Michael Ranzenhofer
- Senator Catharine Young
- Senator Patrick Gallivan
- Senator George Maziarz
- Senator Ted O'Brien

Assemblyman Goodell gave students a tour of the Hall of Governors and the Assembly Chamber and engaged them in weighing some of the pending issues. Senator Catharine Young talked with us about



Assemblyman Andy Goodell shows the Governor's proposed budget to Fredonia students in the Assembly Chamber. Left to right: Assemblyman Goodell, Kayleigh Cole, Alex Stone, Erin Dorozynski, Michael Buziak, and Chelsea Patterson.

her previous work with the Incubator and her commitment to assisting with this initiative. With all legislators and their staff, we urged support for the students across SUNY and the value of the rational tuition plan in ensuring the quality of academics and support services.

This was a good chance not only to build on the strong relationships Fredonia has with Senator Young and Assemblyman Goodell, but also to be sure that other legislators know about us and what we do with students and for the region. Whenever we had the chance, we urged support for restoring critical maintenance funding for SUNY in the Governor's budget, as these

funds are essential for maintaining aging facilities on our campus. We also encouraged support for funding the second round of NYSUNY2020 grants. In addition, we encouraged legislators to remember baccalaureate education as an important part of workforce development in New York, as those

educated in liberal arts fields as well as professional fields are essential in advancing and sustaining communities and contributing to the vitality of the state.

Thank you to Tracy Collingwood, Dave Tiffany, and the Student Association leaders who traveled to Albany to represent us. They were all impressive!

SUNY Budget

Over the last weekend, Chancellor Nancy Zimpher announced that the central administration is delaying the implementation of the new Resource Allocation Model that has been in development and discussion for the past year. I highlight these key points from the message she sent to SUNY presidents on Sunday:

- “. . . feedback [from various constituencies] is telling us we are not quite there yet. In addition, we have some real concerns with how the crisis at Downstate Medical and the insufficient state funds for our hospitals are going to affect the system and campus budgets and the overall funding formula.”
- In her testimony to the Joint Committee of the Senate and Assembly Fiscal Committees on Monday, February 11, Chancellor Zimpher noted that we are “not quite ready to implement the new model as we had hoped.”
- She also stated a goal “to redefine enrollment growth to ensure that our campuses are growing enrollment to meet New York’s job demands.”
- The Chancellor also urged increasing state support based on enrollment: “. . . as enrollment is a critical part of any new model, we have decided to ask the Legislature to right size our funding so that the over 9% of SUNY students who currently do not receive state support will be appropriately funded.”
- She also asked “the State for performance-based funding, similar to the Governor’s recommendations for community colleges.”

Here at Fredonia, we have been through several iterations of the 203-2014 budget, based on the formula in the new resource allocation model. So at this point, we are again waiting to see what the next budget looks like, now that we know it won’t be based on the proposed model and that the impact of Downstate Medical and SUNY Administration have not been factored in. The State University Business Officers’ Association (SUBOA) meets on Thursday to discuss this; Fredonia will be represented by Karen Porpiglia, who will be working with Budget Director Ann Aldrich and Vice President for Finance and Administration Steve Schillo on the details of the allocations for Fredonia. I’ll provide an update in the next President’s Letter.

Fredonia Fitness Friday: February 22

After all of the planning and construction, the new Fitness Center in Dods Hall is now open! This facility welcomed the first students last week, and nearly 1,000 students each day came in to try the cardio equipment, weights, and other exercise equipment. To celebrate this new space for students and to encourage their health and fitness, we’re having a ribbon-cutting at the Fitness Center on **Friday, February 22 at 11:00 A.M.**

We’re calling the day Fitness Friday—a chance for all of us to think about becoming more active and increasing strength, coordination, and cardio-vascular health. At the ribbon-cutting, you will have a

chance to see the Center and learn about healthy habits that the Center might inspire. Faculty and staff who attend can enter their name into a drawing for a complimentary one semester membership. I hope to see many of you there!

Cabinet Retreat

Now that Steve Schillo is on board and very quickly settling in at Fredonia, the Cabinet took a full day to discuss a number of issues in depth. We met off-campus on February 6 to provide context for some of the big ideas that we'll be addressing in the next few months. Here are some of the topics on our agenda that day: SUNY Report Card and its implications for Fredonia, metrics and progress on the Power of Fredonia strategic plan, Carnegie Engagement classification criteria and process, supporting first-year students, coordinating efforts in public relations, naming/branding processes, naming opportunities on campus, university website, and processes for personnel-related decisions.

In the Next Letter

These are some topics I expect to address in the February 26 letter:

- Additional information about the budget
- Reports from visits with directors and department chairs across campus
- Updates on searches

Please send your ideas, questions, and comments to me at president.office@fredonia.edu.