The meeting was called to order at 1512 in Science & Engineering Room 2-49.

The minutes of the Faculty Meeting of 18 November 2009 were approved without amendment.

President’s Report

The President indicates things are going along very well for this semester. We have “not quite” record enrollment – being the highest number of students for a Spring Semester at the Maritime College. We have a waiting list for engineering programs and those wanting to come into the Regiment of Cadets. The Admiral states that he does not have any new news regarding the budget for next year, noting that the Governor has proposed to reduce SUNY budget by one hundred million dollars. In place of this, he has put in act called the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. This will let SUNY act on a more autonomous basis, it allows the Board of Trustees to set tuition on a more rational basis, all tied the Higher Education Price Index. Will allow campuses to be more innovative in how we make ends meet. The Admiral indicates that he is very supportive of this act and hopes it gets passed.

The campus was cut another half million dollars from last year, operating on a state support level equal to 2007. We are still in good shape, on a “glide path” to a balanced budget. We need to watch every penny to be able carry us forward to next year. The Admiral asks if there are any things we can do to help us save money, please let him know.

Construction still goes on, coming from two different pots of money, which we cannot “mix and match”, coming mostly from bonds.

Speaking with the Athletic Director, Dick Hack, the Admiral has heard that a Division I school has eliminated five varsity sports. We, fortunately, have not had to eliminate any athletic or academic programs. The data indicates to us that student-athletes do better in the classrooms. The Admiral recognized the swim team as conference champions this year, coached by Peter Vecchio, who was also honored as the Skyline Conference Coach of the Year. Also recognized is Aaron Rowen as assistant coach.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs (VPAA)/Provost Report

The Provost introduces new faculty members and staff for the Spring semester 2010:

- Dr. Michael Cappeto – Director of Institutional Research and Assessment
- Leonard Mellusi, P.E. – Vice-Chair - Engineering Department
- Jessica Bigelow – Engineering Department
- Michael Mandich – Engineering Department, Naval Architecture

Middle states co-chairs Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Sturges attended a Middle–States self-study institute in Philadelphia. The first step has been completed, putting together the Steering Committee. There are fourteen standards to be assessed – we are using the Comprehensive Model. This model groups like-standards together. Every committee has a chair consisting of one faculty and one administration.

- Chapter One will be institutional effectiveness – co-chaired by Dr. Hoffman and
Constantia Constantinou.

- Chapter Two is resource allocation – co-chaired by Keith Murphy and Dr. Hartley Spatt.
- Chapter Three is Governance – co-chaired by Dr. Burke and Capt. Tom Greene.
- Chapter Four is Students – co-chaired by Eric Kneubuehl and Alison Romain.
- Chapter Five is Assessment – Dr. Cappeto and Dr. Sturges
- Dr. Traub is a member-at-large

- First part is to come up with a self-study design, and the first part of that is to come up with research questions. The faculty was solicited for input for questions on the five chapters.
- The school will be using existing committees, wherever possible, as sub-committees to address the 14 standards.
- Dr. Barbara S. Loftus, Vice President, Institutional Field Relations, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, will be visiting the Maritime College campus. She will meet with the President, the Steering Committee and other campus members.
- Summer Ashore and Summer Sea Terms - 2/c and 3/c will do 45 days - 1/c will do 90 days, changing out in Dublin. There is a $550 transportation fee for the plane fare, being strict on collecting the fare. The FSA is “footing the bill” for this, and they cannot lose money.
- There is a separate SST / Cadet Observer registration period – which will run for 2 weeks, which will have the transportation fee due at that time.
- Class schedules will have a full program for Summer Ashore I and II.
- The SUNY strategic plan is an ongoing University-wide initiative, where we have much representation from Maritime, including Dr Markoe, Dr. Burke, Eric Kneubuehl, and Tom Magliocca. Dr. Hoffman is on the SUNY Provost Search committee.
- Dr. Hoffman indicates that Dr. Traub (who is not present) would like to inform us that Summer Ashore 2010 – if you have any additions or deletions, please let us know. Fall 2010 schedules are due from the Chairs by 05 March 2010.
- Prof. Rowen asks how precedence being determined for cadets selecting either SST 1 or SST 2, to which Dr. Hoffman replies it will be first-come, first-serve.
- Responding to Dr. Olszewski, Dr. Hoffman replies that students will be bumped off first cruise for non-payment, opening slots for cruise II. Payment secures your registration.
- Dr. Sturges asks about cruise fee refunds if one is not allowed on cruise academically. Dr. Hoffman replies that after settling up with the FSA, we will look into refunds.
- Dr. Hoffman indicates that there is a late fee for those who do not pay on time; there will be a $550 late fee.
- Carol Roth indicates that PINS will change later in the month.
- Prof. Mellusi asks about 90 day cruises and those on the GI Bill. Dr. Hoffman says that we will write a letter indicating this is full-time status and his GI Bill payments should continue.

Presiding Officer

Prof. Burke

- Dr. Burke opens the floor to the reports on the standing committees. (Dr. Burke makes his remarks later in the meeting)

Standing Committees:

- **CAP** - Committee on Appointments and Promotions: Prof. Mathieson
o Dr. Mathieson indicates that CAP is in the process of evaluating re-appointments, promotions, and sabbaticals – planning to have a report for the Admiral by the middle of the month

- CONE - Committee on Nominations and Elections: Prof. McMillan
  o CONE chair Prof. McMillan announces that departmental elections are taking place now, please cooperate.
  o The Chancellor’s awards application packets have gone in successfully.
  o The Executive Committee has appointed Larry Howard as Interim Faculty Athletic Representative to the Athletic-Academic Review Board.

- CC – Curriculum Committee Prof. Levy
  o Curriculum Committee has no report. The Presiding Officer asks: what is the latest date for submission of curriculum materials to the CC for action at the last faculty meeting of the semester. Dr. Levy replies that it is technically today.

- FAC – Faculty Assessment Committee Prof. Sturges
  o The Chair congratulates Dr. Linda Sturges on the completion of her doctoral program.
  o A report was received from the assessment committee on our student exit survey – a standard procedure for all of our graduation seniors. Dr. Sturges asks if there any questions on that data
  o Dr. Sturges asks that we participate in the Middle States survey. Students received a similar survey, emphasizing the importance as it can affect accreditation from the school and financial aid issues. Please mention this in class.
  o Prof. Romain asks how our data on degree completion time compares to other schools. Dr. Sturges replies we have not yet evaluated trends, having started the process in 2006.

- FPC – Faculty Policy Committee Prof. Massano
  o FPC has no report

- SPC – Student Policy Committee Prof. Romain
  o Prof. Romain states the SPC has been making progress on the student course evaluation form. There is urgency on this issue due to the upcoming Middle States and ABET evaluations, this being a part of both those. A survey is needed which collects quantifiable data, and having that data analyzed is an important benchmark for these evaluators. There will be a Likert Scale – focused on evaluating teaching effectiveness and learning goals. There will also be some open-ended questions on the back of the form. The data will be collected by the office of institutional effectiveness.
  o It is the Presiding Officer’s view that this issue should be acted upon by the end of the year and SPC delivers a proposal which the faculty might vote on by the last faculty meeting of the semester.
Presiding Officer’s Remarks

Dr. Burke

- Dr. Burke states that he did attend the University Faculty Senate Meeting Plenary Session at SUNY Cobleskill some weeks ago. As part of that, campus governance leaders meet as a group and the President of the University Faculty Senate, Ken O’Brien came in and commenced a long discussion on PHEEIA – the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. The general consensus was, at that point, more information was needed. Generally, Dr. Burke feels that the group may be in favor of it. The group was interested in seeing the written policy on tuition. The Provost, Vice Chancellor and Chancellor spoke in very encouraging terms of passing PHEEIA.

- A large portion of SUNY is up for accreditation and some discussion took place on that. Assessment was discussed in terms of not only academic, but administrative and other kinds of activities.

- Dr. Burke is also on the SUNY committee of 200 members dealing with the strategic plan, which has met several times already – culminating in the final meeting in Albany which will come up with the final version to be presented to the public.

- Dr. Markoe speaks on our very enthusiastic Chancellor, who regularly attends all of the above mentioned meetings, and is very active. Dr. Markoe encourages us to look at the SUNY Strategic Plan website. Some of the interesting things on this endeavor involve students. For example, students at SUNY Stony Brook are having competitions among the dorms to see who can conserve the most energy. Another interesting suggestion was from the President of SUNY Alfred State College – suggesting that the University become a smoke-free institution. Concluding with encouraging us to look at the website, www.suny.edu/StrategicPlan; Dr. Markoe yields the floor.

Faculty Senator

Prof. Keefe

- Dr. Keefe shares with us the proceedings of the University Senate, having also been at SUNY Cobleskill. Interim Provost David Lavalle spoke to the committee, indicating to Dr. Keefe’s committee that SUNY will help us with assessment. For example if a campus has gotten “really good marks”, the University will share with your campus what lead to those marks.

- Regarding transfer students taken into 4-year programs, the universities should specifically evaluate those students’ credits before one makes their deposit.

- Dr. Keefe reports that the Interim Provost also spoke positively on the empowerment act, indicating that control of our tuition will allow us not to be an expense of the State.

- This point, Dr. Keefe continues, was an issue at another meeting in Albany, where the executive committee met with union representatives, and among those gathered there were “top-notch” financial people, who were very much opposed to the empowerment act, although the reasoning was not clear. Dr. Keefe suspects that the fear is if we go ahead with this FHEEIA, there may come a point where the state will no longer support SUNY in any way. This can result in loss of programs, and subsequently, union jobs.

- Dr. Keefe remarks that the committee also heard from Monica Rimai, senior vice chancellor and chief operating officer, who is also in favor of the empowerment act.

- The question still remains, to which no answer is apparent, is FHEEIA good for the university.

- Dr. Hoffman contributes that we are working with a two million dollar grant with the
NYC Department of Education, which must be approved by the State, and demands that we follow their contract format. Now you have the City and the State not agreeing and grants are lost. The one hundred dollar tuition increase – the State took ninety of that – State support for the University is dwindling. The State was “eyeing” our IFR accounts, which the State cannot touch. Seeing these, the State subsequently cut funding to the school.

- Dr. Hoffman continues – there are many good things in FHEEIA, allowing greater control of tuition. We do need to work out what “rational tuition” will be, however. Can or should we charge different tuition for different programs, campuses, etc.
- Prof. Frederick asks if there is the possibility that this would lead to Maritime or other campuses being self-sustaining. Dr. Hoffman states that they have never specifically discussed that, remembering that this FHEEIA is a joint proposal from the Governor and the Chancellors of SUNY and CUNY.
- A question is asked regarding what percentage of our tuition dollars is underwritten by the state. Dr. Hoffman replies that the tuition we get to keep. The Admiral continues that it is about half, receiving about ten million dollars from the State.
- Dr. Burke asks Dr. Hoffman to describe what an IFR account is. Dr. Hoffman continues that it is an “Income Fund Reimbursable” Account. Every department has an IFR account where the money goes in. So the summer course work that we do teaching ashore here, that goes into a summer tuition IFR. So that every salary that is paid over the summer is paid out of that account, so that it doesn’t get drawn against an individual department’s academic year budget. It also gives money so that if, for example, we need some chairs in a classroom, it can be paid out of that IFR. Some IFR’s are just “holding pens”. One of our biggest IFR’s is the Student Health Fees. We collect the fee from the student, then turn around and pay the fee to the insurance company. The biggest IFR is the ship, including the ship’s tuition and expenses.
- The Admiral continues that the leadership of SUNY and CUNY are all in favor of this including the campus presidents. The last thing, the admiral continues, that he wants to do is something detrimental to this campus. There are questions still, and encourages us to read all of the information. Continuing, the admiral comments on Greece, and noting that what happens worldwide affects us because of our location here in NYC and Wall Street. Again he encourages us to read the information
- Dr. Levy comments that over many years the legislature has never voted this type of thing, noting that the state does not want to give up control

**Old Business:**

- None outstanding.

**New Business:**

- The Registrar, Carol Roth, thanks us for turning in our SEVIS reports and emphasizes the importance of this information.
- In March there are several key dates
  - 03 March – last day to change an incomplete – the form is not on the web
  - 04 March – Mid-semester grades due for undergraduates – gives a good picture of where the student stand
  - 17 March – PIN’s will change
Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of 24 February 2010

- 18 March – the PIN list will be in your department office
- 22 March – advisement week begins
- 25 March – Last day to withdraw from a course
- 28 March – Registration begins

- Dr. Yahalom comments on a few functions in which the faculty is invited to participate – if interested contact him for the forms necessary. “Faculty Conversations” will continue, once a month, on Wednesdays, the topic list is available. The next will be on 03 March with Jim Drogan, 24 March with Joe Williams in the library on Maritime College History - including some archive items. The last one will be with Dr. Barbara Warkentine on “a non-native species, new to these waters”.

- Dr. Hoffman comments on the passing of Dr. Aaron Kramer, and appreciates the mentoring he provided.

- Dr. Hoffman comments on the passing on Professor Emeritus Charlie Thor and his contribution to the Maritime College.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:28

As submitted by,

Peter Vecchio
Faculty Secretary