April 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M.

**General Announcements:**

- Staff Picnic will be held Wednesday, June 10. There will be raffles
- This year Jonah Safris, Service Committee Chair, will be conducting a food drive at the picnic of non-perishable food items, which will be donated to a local food pantry. More details to follow as we get closer to the date.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Opening budget $5,800 Expenditures to date: $298.49, Encumbrances: $100.00 Balance: $5,401.51

**Guest Speaker:** President Stephen J. Friedman

President Friedman expressed feeling extremely gratified to see the Pleasantville campus at its current state after years spent looking at renderings and plans. He stated that he realized it would take more than new buildings and campus changes to make a difference. Bill McGrath has been charged with overseeing the Pleasantville Project which is ensuring that every school has goals that will increase enrollment. Quarterly reports are submitted to the Pace Community and he hopes that we are aware of this initiative as Faculty Council was not.

An example of what is being done –

- University Relations retained a separate public relations firm from the Westchester Fairfield County regions
- We have an arrangement with the Daily Voice a local new organization, to be a content partner, where 10-15 stories a month are being published about the Pleasantville Campus
- There have been many changes to the website to easily access PLV campus links.

Enrollment - It is too early to get a reading, we look for red flags this time of year and at this time there are none for Pleasantville. Although the numbers are higher the enrollment is still low. Hopefully once the landscaping is done and the athletic fields are done the physical changes will be impressive and impact will be a positive improvement in enrollment of new students and retention. This was experienced in NY once the new dorms went on line, retention was greater.

Retention is a most frustrating issue so tremendous effort is being made to address this. Pleasantville has always done better than New York.
There has been a huge effort in growing alumni relations. Historically we have done a terrible job. New York Alums were not as attached due to the student body being part timers. Once he became president he learned we had a large number of successful alum that has not been contacted by Pace in over 30 years. A great example of this is Joe Ianniello, CBS Chief Operating Officer. Joe is a Pace football alumnus ‘90. Pace reached out to him for the first time a year ago, he is making a $2 million commitment for the construction of a new athletics field house. Within the last year, President Friedman has met with many influential alumni that are CEO of major companies, and banks. There is an Advisory Board of alumni has been formed and they meet twice a year to discuss major issues facing higher education. This has been a successful venture where as some are now on the Board of Trustees.

We have a $10 million fundraising goal for construction which is a small amount for a $120 million project.

- Alumni Hall called so because every room, suite, classroom can be dedicated for $25,000 a piece
- Mr. Harvey Stein - $100,000 (Multipurpose Classroom, Alumni Hall)
- Mr. Donald Boudreau - $250,000 (Kessel Student Lounge)
- Mr. James Fernandez - $541,440 (Kessel Dining Hall)
- Mrs. Peter Finnerty - $100,000 (Finnerty Baseball Field)

We are creating new programs for this campus to attract students and the President feels like we’re at the beginning of an exciting phase here at the Pleasantville campus.

The next couple of years will be challenging financially –

- The depreciation of the new dorm.
- Experienced significant drop in applications at the law school, due to the recession of 2008. On the bright side, law school graduates this year will have no problem getting jobs.
- The fixed cost of faculty compensation and benefits as student size shrinks.
- Seidenberg is stronger in NY then Pleasantville

President Friedman stated that he felt terrific about the future of this University. So many people have contributed to its success. We have 40 -50 new faculty members that will determine the future of the University. He then stated that he loved working with everyone.
Q: Regarding fundraising, have you considered trying Kick Starter?
A: We have the Annual Pace Race for a month that asks for monetary contributions for student projects, Pleasantville projects, etc.

Q: Budgeting departments were asked to go to square on and create zero based budgets, why?
A: We anticipate 2015-2016 to be a challenging year; we believe this exercise will help departments save money.

Q: Should we expect restructuring in Seidenberg and the Law School, given the issues?
A: Seidenberg is in the process of restructuring by reducing costs and reallocating faculty. The Law School is seriously engaged in doing an examination of their options.

Q: What relationships have we established with Community Colleges?
A: We do extensive recruiting at Community Colleges and work to make the transcript process seamless. We try to ensure credit transfer.

**Update on the Strategic Plan:**

Cara Cea - Goals are in redrafting stage after feedback from all committees. There will be Town Hall Meetings in April on both campuses for further feedback, and then a final revision will be done and we will have a Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Faillace