

Minutes

Undergraduate Committee

Meeting Date: 10/20/25 3:00-4:00

Location: ZOOM

Present:

Meeting called to order at: 3:00 PM

1. Approval of Minutes from 9/8/25
2. Old Business:
 - a. Meeting was arranged with Richard Beatty earlier in the semester

Summary of Richard Beatty's discussion:

This was a scheduled meeting to which Richard Beatty was invited. He provided an overview of Stony Brook University's enrollment strategy and current challenges, including plans to achieve a balanced student body composition and changes to financial aid policies, while also discussing demographic challenges facing the institution and its efforts to maintain diversity and affordability.

Mr. Beatty provided an overview of Stony Brook's enrollment strategy and current challenges. He explained that while the university exceeded its target of 3,800 incoming freshmen, the class composition was more in-state than desired due to visa issues and market shifts. He outlined plans to achieve a 70-30 split between in-state and out-of-state students in future years, while also expanding enrollment in underprescribed majors. Changes to financial aid policies noted that while Pell grants and direct student loans remain unaffected, Parent and Graduate PLUS loans are facing new limitations.

The Undergraduate Council discussed admissions policies focusing on concerns about admitting students based on intended majors. Mr. Beatty explained that admissions decisions are based on set criteria, including academic performance and program capacity, and that students can change their majors throughout the application process. He emphasized that the university aims to admit a well-rounded academic pool while considering factors like lab space and faculty availability. Concerns were raised about the restrictive nature of the process, particularly for students who may not know their exact interests upon admission.

It was explained that while SBU allows students to change their major after acceptance, they have restrictions in place to prevent abuse, particularly in high-demand fields like biology and computer science. Students who initially declare a general degree can later switch to specific majors, but must still meet GPA requirements for those programs. Mr. Beatty highlighted concerns about space limitations and the need to maintain a balanced student body across different majors. Concerns were raised about the impact of these policies on high-achieving students interested in STEM fields, while it was acknowledged that some students who are denied entry into their preferred major may transfer to other programs in an effort to transfer into the initial major by another means.

Stony Brook is facing demographic challenges due to declining populations in upstate New York and the Northeast, while the Southeast is experiencing population growth. We are facing increased competition from Australia, Britain, and China, and Mr. Beatty shared that it is predicted that as many as 450-650 institutions could fail in the next five years, particularly in the Northeast. Housing policies were discussed indicating that despite a 30-mile housing radius policy implemented two years ago, all students on the waitlist received housing, so the policy was softened this year to a "housing radius policy" that won't be strictly enforced.

Federal scrutiny of our faculty diversity revealed that we have increased recruitment efforts in New York City and upstate regions through new hires and partnerships with SUNY.

Mr. Beatty reported that we have higher retention and graduation rates for Pell-eligible students due to our affordability, but stated that there are challenges with funding gaps between Pell grants, scholarships, and on-campus housing costs. He mentioned the creation of a new general scholarship account to address these gaps and noted that students typically graduate with less debt than the national average. He highlighted the increased student diversity of SBU, with less than 20% of applicants being white Caucasian, and discussed changes in marketing strategy to target specific regions and promote our comprehensive offerings.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Follow-ups for Richard Beatty:
 - i. Richard to continue working with Jen on addressing the high number of students in Areas of Interest in the School of Engineering.
 - ii. Richard to work with Health Sciences on better phrasing for student populations and addressing concerns about nursing AOIs.
 - iii. Richard to hire a regional recruiter in Buffalo to better cover Western New York.
 - iv. Richard to continue efforts to increase representation from all 18 currently unrepresented New York counties.
 - v. Richard to continue developing strategies for leveraging 4+1 and combined degree programs.
 - vi. Richard and Peter to work on identifying pre-college program participants to include them in the enrollment pipeline.
- b. Hannah and GEAC to finalize decisions on civic discourse and communicate via email before the next UGC meeting.
- c. Madeline to review the minimal requirements sheet assembled by Diane for the next meeting.
- d. Shelley to present on testing at the next meeting.
- e. Amy to present on the AI Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at: 4:15 PM