Members Present: Ms. Calobrisi, Vice President Dimkova, Dr. Foxworth, Dr. Hill, Dr. Leidig, Dr. Loochtan, Dr. Ramsammy, Dr. Sachs, and Acting President Schiavelli.

Guests: Ms. Diana Cline, Budget Director

Enrollment Report

Dr. Schiavelli distributed the weekly enrollment report which showed a continuing college-wide down turn and negative 2.8 percent when compared with the same time period last year. Two campuses again contributed with positive figures: Loudoun (3.4%) and Manassas (3.3%). ELI grew by 5.4 percent.

Adjunct Budget Discussion Continued

Budget Director Diana Cline provided the current status on the adjunct budget, separated by campus, and reported that a series of training sessions would be offered to enable Deans and Provosts to better understand the usage of this budget. Spring projections will be provided at the next Administrative Council meeting.

VCCS has established new, more rigid financial standards that restrict community colleges to two or fewer audit discrepancies per year and if more discrepancies are found they could result in financial penalties for the college.

Dr. Schiavelli cautioned Council members on the need for more stringent management of the adjunct contract process to include strict monitoring of all adjunct faculty contracts to ensure that payments correlate with the right courses and correct number of teaching credits.

NCSI Round Two Update

Dr. Ramsammy presented NOVA's college-wide STEM initiative and the financial requirements to upgrade the campuses and establish the college as a premiere STEM institution within three years. The initiative will promote and support current research initiatives at NOVA; provide internships for SySTEMic students; coordinate research with George Mason University; and, become more viable for grant support.

The STEM initiative will take place in three stages with immediate objectives of increasing hands-on SOL based STEM lessons; growing collaborative Robotics; providing STEM challenges and competitions; expanding early college credit through dual enrollment aligned with STEM programs; providing career exploration opportunities, job shadowing and internships; expanding STEM professional development for teachers; and, showcasing industry-aligned certifications.

Numerous innovative STEM research projects are currently underway at several campuses:
Alexandria:

- Functional Expression Studies in Pulmonary Fibroblasts
- Alcohol-Induced Defects in Hepatic Transcription Factor Nuclear Translocation

Annandale:

- Scientific Exploration of Microbial Communities and Ecology of Rain Gardens
- Macroscopic and Petrographic Modal Analyses of Coastal Plain Basement Rock from the USGS Bayside Core, Chesapeake Bay Impact Structure
- Lifetime of Cosmic Ray Muons in the Standard Model of Elementary Particles
- Development and Analysis of GigaPan's Gigapixel Panoramic Imagery to Produce Virtual Field Experiences

Manassas:

- Investigating the Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms Involved in the Giardia lamblia Infection and Life Cycle
- Identifying Bacterial Strains Using Molecular Biology Techniques
- Analysis of Water Quality of the Streams in the Manassas Battlefield
- Exploring Molecular Gastronomy as a Scientific Approach to Enhance STEM Student Engagement outside the Classroom
- Bacteria identification by using Sequencing, Bioinformatics analysis and Molecular Biology techniques
- Surface Structure Characterization and Analysis of Electrode Samples

Three workshops are being developed to teach faculty to use the new and latest equipment and science clusters will be meeting on specific campuses on the initiative, the implementation, and to explore ways to include it in and broaden the curriculum.

Dr. Schiavelli summed up the presentation by saying that these initiatives should be included in every science program as they are critical in providing synthesis learning experiences that result in competency – learning how to get something done.