

Binational Academic Leaders Meeting Minutes  
Brock University, Committee Room, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brock Tower, St. Catharines, Ontario  
Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance:           Dr. Jack Lightstone, President Brock University  
                              Dr. Dan Patterson, President, Niagara College  
                              Dr. Richard Jurasek, President, Medaille College  
                              Sister Denise Roche, President, D'Youville College  
                              Luba Chliwniak, VP Academic Affairs, Niagara County  
  Community College – for Dr. James Klyczek, President  
                              Mary E. Borgognoni, Assoc VP for Academic Affairs, Niagara  
  University – for Rev. Joseph Levesque, President  
                              Arlene White, Executive Director, Binational Economic &  
  Tourism Alliance

Also Invited:             Mr. Jack Quinn, President, Erie County Community College  
                              Dr. Aaron M. Podolefsky, President, Buffalo State College

Purpose of the Meeting:

To discuss the development of a binational academic consortium that would benefit all partners and the communities they serve, and help to better position our binational region as an international academic region of excellence. This would include determining best developmental approach, showcasing the strength of the post-secondary offerings of our binational region, identifying areas of weakness or potential growth, and agreeing to necessary steps in this development.

Background:

Dr. Jurasek and Arlene White met in 2009 through an invitation by County Executive Chris Collins to participate in a televised panel discussion on cross-border issues and relationships. Following that introduction, Dr. Jurasek and Arlene met to discuss potential binational academic development, after which Dr. Jurasek contacted his colleagues from other Erie and Niagara County academic organizations to determine their interest in becoming involved in a broader discussion with Niagara Region academic leaders. Recognizing that post-secondary institutions are a key component of the economic development of the region, that each brings different strengths and offerings to the marketplace, that all are interested in attracting international students, that funding for universities and colleges is limited due to the current global economic situation, and that being located in a binational region offers new opportunities for collaboration and growth, it was determined a meeting of the Presidents of each of the above-noted institutions would be invited to a meeting to learn more about each other and explore the development of a consortium to facilitate specific initiatives.

NOTE: The U.S. academic partners specifically requested that UB SUNY not be a part of this discussion because of the size and nature of that organization in the region and state and because they have interim leadership this year. They preferred to begin this exploration with the smaller private and public institutions closest to the border in the Binational Niagara Region.

Thanks: To Brock University for hosting this inaugural meeting, and to each President and their senior staff for their patience and flexibility in scheduling through a very busy summer and fall. Special note of appreciation to Senior Assistants Luaine Hathaway, Brock University and Kim Rose, Niagara College for coordinating the hosting of the meeting for the participants.

AGENDA:

- 1) Introductions - overview of other binational partnerships, desired outcomes for this meeting

Dr. Lightstone and staff welcomed U.S. colleagues to the 13<sup>th</sup> floor. Invitees patiently spent the first half hour making informal introductions and conversation waiting for Arlene to arrive to begin the meeting due to border crossing delays.

Arlene provided an overview of the BETA, role of the organization in facilitating this type of binational collaboration, history of meeting with Dr. Jurasek and discussions/meetings leading up to this gathering.

Dr. Lightstone and others commented on the economic development and innovation potential of this type of academic partnership, including research and new business creation binationally. Post-secondary institutions in the region are more focused on their role in local economic & community development and this type of consortium development could be a viable part of new mandates and leadership positioning for post-secondary institutions in this area.

- 2) Roundtable Information Sharing – history, strengths, priorities, key issues and target student markets

Sister Denise Roche, President, D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY (Private)

- 31 years at the college
- D'Youville founded by Canadian women from Montreal
- Strengths in Education, Health Care – occupational, chiropractic, pharmacy, physical therapy, nursing, International Business
- 3100 students, 2000 undergrads
- Attract Canadians for Education primarily, with rapid growth now in the Health Care sector

- Agreements in place with Humber, Niagara, Seneca Colleges for International Degrees
- Programs offered up to doctoral level – health policy, education and leadership
- Have transfer agreement with Fanshawe University
- Offer one of the few anatomy labs with actual human cadavers in this North East region

Dr. Rick Jurasek, President, Medaille College, Buffalo, NY (Private)

- Medaille founded by Sisters of St. Joseph
- Strengths in Education, Business, Applied Psychology
- Applying for license to offer programs in Ontario
- New campuses opening up in China
- 1,400 undergrads, 1,400 graduate students
- Approximately 15% of enrollment is Canadian

Dr. Jack Lightstone, President, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON (Public)

- Brock is 48 years old; began as a community project of Allensburg Women's Group
- Currently 17,850 students in 75 undergraduate, 40 graduate programs and 6 PHD offerings
- Large Business school with increased focus on Small & Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Innovation/Knowledge Industries like Digital Media
- Only Sports Management program in Canada
- Unique for long-outstanding Institute of Viticulture to serve wine industry
- Strengths in Applied Health Sciences, Public Health, Epidemiological Studies, Wellness and Lifestyle
- Looking at further development of Science Faculty: Bio Manufacturing, biology, biochemistry, dentistry
- Partnership development with Niagara College and economic cluster model servicing the Niagara Region

Luba Chliwniak, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs, Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, NY (Public)

- 7000 students served
- Rapid growth over the past few years and Master Facility Plan updated to reflect the changes; high school enrollment expected to decline which will impact college enrolment in future
- Offer 72 certificate programs; nursing, criminal justice, business, applied health – physical therapy, surgical technician, radiology
- Currently limited by the number of sites they are able to send their students to for practical experience – possible Canadian needs?

- Push on Alternative Energy and Wind Turbines development and necessary education; NYSER working with them to collaborate on new program development
- Original focus on providing certificates towards first 2 years of a degree is now shifting to full degree offerings
- Viticulture/viniculture course just approved to serve growth in the grape and wine sector in WNY; waiting for Culinary Center approval; leading to more offerings in hospitality and tourism

Dr. Dan Patterson, President, Niagara College, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Welland, ON (Public)

- Niagara is 45 years old
- Dan has been President for 15 years; Chair of Binational Gateway Project from mid 90s (Niagara Casino development)
- 9,000 students and 3 locations in Niagara Region
- Large adult education/evening program servicing 16,000
- International student development – 800 students from 60 countries
- Expertise in tourism, hospitality, culinary and viticulture
- International commerce with CIDA internships
- Health Sciences Institute currently in development - \$40 million project
- Technology programs in engineering, computers, laser and photonics
- Involved in Economic Development through academic courses and facilitation of Small and Medium Enterprises (on-campus service)
- Government funding for innovative collaboration between organizations is possible
- Niagara University/Niagara College MOU for academic partnership since June 2001 – Binational Scholarship provided by Branscombe/Glynn Family Foundations; Binational Speaker Series with funding from private sector sources (currently Casino Niagara Cares Foundation)
- Niagara demographic is rapidly aging – one of oldest in Canada
- Participation rate for post-secondary is increasing – lifelong learning and economic changes
- Binational degree positioning would be interesting to explore

Mary Borgognoni, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY (Private)

- Assists Bonnie Rose, VP Academic Affairs; regrets from Father Levesque and Bonnie
- Niagara is a private, Catholic University, 150 years old and one of three in the U.S. founded and run by the Vincentian Order
- Strong Arts & Science offerings – natural sciences, biology, chemistry
- College of Education, College of Business - social work, criminal justice theatre and performing arts, tourism and culinary specialties

- College of Hospitality & Tourism – first to offer Bachelor’s Degree and continue to expand this program with international internships and affiliations, new fields of sports management and spas
  - Hoping to break ground on a new Science building
  - 250 students at Toronto satellite location – Masters in Professional Studies
  - 15% of undergraduates are Canadian students – many in the education sector
  - Very interested in expanding partnership opportunities
- 3) Binational Academic Consortium – potential opportunities, challenges and desire to move forward collaboratively
- Arlene provided updates on the upcoming Binational Summit 2011 and existing collaborative efforts with UB, Brock, Niagara College & Niagara University on this March 10 & 11 event, as well as updates on the Binational Economic Development Consortium development, Border Remedial Action Plan research underway, and events like Binational Doors Open Niagara and Bicentennial of War of 1812/Art of Peace Gardens Trail – all examples of existing collaboratives that the academic organizations may wish to participate in or expand upon
  - Roundtable discussion focused on three specific areas of interest:

#### **Binational Internships & Co-Op Experiences**

- work on jurisdictional issues that impact everyone
- develop cross-border arrangements for paid and unpaid internships for students

#### **Joint Research and Ventures**

- small business incubation, IT, entrepreneurship, trade

#### **U.S. & Canadian Similarities & Differences**

- border impacts, lifestyles & wellness, policy & government
- cross-border regions can be learning laboratories that develop mindsets and value-sets that are useful differentiators

- 4) Next Steps in the Process – who else should be at the table, what steps are necessary to build the consortium

Everyone agreed this meeting was an important start to an exciting new consortium and new opportunities for all involved.

Focus will continue to remain on the immediate binational Niagara/border Region and Senior Academic/Business Leaders (decision makers who can take appropriate action).

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>LEAD(S)</u>
Determine who else should be at the table	ALL
Provide information about existing partnerships and articulation agreements	ALL
Follow-up with the other schools who could not attend today – Buffalo State College, ECCC & Canisius	RICK
Invite Niagara Region (Patrick Robson) and ECIDA (Maryann Stein) to attend next meeting to bring the lead Economic Development agencies into this process	ARLENE
Identify International Business School Leaders, VP Level Division Leaders and Entrepreneurial Club Leaders to invite into the process at the appropriate times	ALL
Link Brock Community Observatory and UB Regional Institute, as well as Community Workforce/Employment Boards into the process at the appropriate times	ALL
Next meeting will be January 2011 at D’Youville College, hosted by Sister Denise – date and location to be advised	ARLENE
Provide complete contact list to all participants for future reference	ARLENE