

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025
GREAT ROOM, KAPLAN HALL
NEWBURGH CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

Present: Chair Weddell, Peter Bambino, Eli Hart, Tom Hunter, Ralph Martucci, Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm.

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. CONSENT AGENDA (Items A through D)

Note: Consent Agenda items held for discussion will be moved to Item C

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2025
- B. Approval of Faculty Tenure Recommendations

Motion to approve, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Tom Hunter. Passed unanimously.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Marketing Strategy: 2021 - 2025 & Into the Future - Mike Albright, Executive Director of Communications

- Mike presented an overview of the marketing plan which was aligned with our strategic plan. The college developed a strategic plan with specific targets for new students, transfer students, and other demographics.
- The marketing team conducted research on messaging and audience segments, including potential students and influencers.
- The team defined broad messaging to appeal to a wide audience, focusing on affordability, convenience, student success, quality, and financial aid.
- Various platforms were used to generate awareness, including billboards, digital ads, social media, and creative differentiation based on the platform.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) were set, with revenue being the most important, followed by website traffic, applications, and impressions.
- The team emphasized the importance of digital marketing, leveraging data to measure the effectiveness of campaigns.

B. Grants Successes 2024-25 & Future Grant Strategies - Dr. Jean Leandre, VPWSI

- Jean shared that the college has significantly increased grant awards, winning 38 grants totaling \$6 million over the past two years.
- The grants office team focuses on federal, state, and foundation grants, leveraging partnerships to maximize funding.
- The grants office supports various departments, ensuring compliance and managing grant-related tasks.
- The college aims to expand its grant strategy, potentially increasing grant awards to \$16 million in the next few years.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Kristine Young

A. Facilities Master Plan: Philanthropic Strategy and Funding Proposal

- Dr. Young offered an overview of the Facilities Master Plan and the proposed financial strategy.
- The Facilities Master Plan aligns with the college's strategic plan, focusing on creating patented neighborhoods for student support.
- The plan is divided into three phases, with the first phase starting in 2026.
- The college seeks to enable relocations and improvements in the first phase, including science

- and technology, education, and criminal justice programs.
 - The county is expected to contribute \$30 million to the first phase, with the college raising additional funds.
 - The plan aims to create a comprehensive strategy to support the growing number of students and programs.
- B. Electronic Board Book Task Force
- Charissa Gonzalez introduced the idea of an electronic board book to reduce paper usage and improve document accessibility.
 - A taskforce will explore top platforms, consider costs, and demo at least five platforms.
 - The taskforce will include shared governance representation and other interested members.
- C. General Report
- As follow up from last board meeting: Dr. Young acknowledged that a resolution is not needed for Veteran's Tuition for Spring 2026 semester as it has no impact on our tuition/fee structure right now, and that the BOT can expect a resolution in Spring along with all other proposed changes to tuition and fees for AY 26/27.
 - Senate Bill S4685:
 - Provides for the inclusion of a faculty or staff member on the board of trustees of community colleges
 - The College is in the early stages of planning a pair of "Legislative Breakfasts" where we'll invite members of the Orange County Legislature to each one of our campuses based on their personal preference for a presentation and tour. We are tentatively planning for events to be held Tuesday, Jan. 27 (Newburgh) and Wednesday, Jan. 28 (Middletown). Exact times are still being determined but are breakfast time. We hope that you can save one or both of these mornings on your calendar. More details will follow as we lock in the logistics of the breakfasts, presentations and tours.
 - Dr. Young congratulated our Academic and Student Services team which has had its presentation proposal accepted for the League for Innovation conference in March in Indianapolis. This presentation will highlight SUNY Orange's thoughtful and creative implementation of Orange Connect, in partnership with several stakeholders across the College. Dr. Angela Rios, AVP for Learning and Student Success, and the team will be able to share their collaborative success on the national stage. The League for Innovation in the Community College is a nationally respected consortium of leading two-year colleges known for showcasing high-impact, forward-looking practices, so having one of our projects accepted for presentation signals that our work meets the field's highest standards and positions the college as an innovator among its peers.
 - Our DSP III micro credential curriculum has been approved and will be offered for the Spring 2026 semester. On Dec. 16 (4:30 p.m., Gerry Forum), we will be celebrating the Fall completers for DSP I and II. We've also learned that Willow Baer, the Commissioner of the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), will attend the upcoming ceremony.
 - Dr. Young shared that Alexandra Kay, our Department Chair for English has been selected as an Accessibility Allies and Advocates Fellow with SUNY for the 2026 calendar year. Alex works at a critical point of student contact, since nearly every SUNY Orange student takes at least one English course. Her participation in the fellowship will help strengthen the learning environment in classes that span all majors and academic pathways. This is a great learning and leadership experience for Alex and we look forward to learning with and from her as she shares her growing expertise with our college community.
 - Business Department Accreditation:
We learned on Dec. 3 that our Business Department's accreditation has been reaffirmed for the next 10 years by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. The ACBSP accreditation process recognizes seven standards of excellence, based on the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence. By evaluating aspects of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials, and

educational support, ACBSP assesses whether or not business programs offer a rigorous educational experience and commitment to continuous quality improvement. The SUNY Orange Business Department first applied and successfully received accreditation through ACBSP in 2005. They successfully received a 10-year reaccreditation in 2015. The Business Department just completed a third self-study and site visit, receiving another 10-year reaffirmation with no notes or conditions!

V. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT - Student Trustee, Peter Bambino

- Peter reports on the Student Senate's efforts to advocate for the Bronson bill and the common hour initiative.
- The common hour initiative aims to improve student engagement and accessibility on campus.
- Peter mentions the challenges of gathering data for the common hour initiative and the need for actionable data.
- The Senate approved the formation of a Turning Point Club on campus.

VI. BOARD DISCUSSION I

- A. Responses to Submitted Reports from Administration, Shared Governance, & Foundation - None
- B. Updates from ACCT and/or NYCCT - Chair Weddell and/or Trustees at large
 - Chair Weddell provided updates on NYCCT and ACCT activities, including legislative day in Albany and the ACCT conference in Washington, DC.
 - The Bronson bill's status is uncertain, with a 30-day period before it dies if not signed.
 - NYCCT is supporting advocacy efforts.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Academic and Student Services	Karen Mejia
Audit and Finance	Ralph Martucci
Enrollment and Retention	Maria Bruni
Governance and Nominating	Tom Hunter
Policy	Flo Hannes
Presidents Performance Review and Compensation	Ralph Martucci

Audit & Finance Committee - Ralph Martucci, Chair

- Ralph reported on the completion of financials for November and the upcoming audit presentation in February.

Policy Committee – Flo Hannes, Chair

- The policy for posthumous award was discussed, with a focus on clarifying the language and ensuring flexibility.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of BP6.14 Posthumous Award of Degree or Certificate
 - The board approves the policy as is, with plans to clean up the language before commencement.

Motion to approve, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board of Trustees Bylaws
 2. Board Committee Charters
- *Discussion postponed for January 2, 2026 meeting.

X. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

A. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting. Each member of the public wishing to address the Board will be granted 2 minutes to speak, at which time, the Board will ask you to have a seat to allow others to speak.

XII. BOARD DISCUSSION II - Open Discussion – None

XIII. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:57 pm, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams. Passed unanimously.

*Start time of Executive Session, 8:06 pm, end time, 8:28 pm

XIV. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Tom Hunter. Passed Unanimously.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Gilman Center, Library Middletown Campus

