

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025
GILMAN CENTER, LIBRARY
MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

Present: Chair Weddell, Peter Bambino, Flo Hannes, Eli Hart, Tom Hunter, Karen Mejia, Kristine Young, Charissa Gonzalez

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 8:13pm.

- 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 E

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2025
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for October 2025
- C. Approval of Appointments
- D. Approval of Retirements

Motion to approve consent agenda, Flo Hannes, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed Unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Kristine Young

- Dr. Young highlighted SUNY's 2.9% enrollment growth and the success of the SUNY Reconnect program, which enrolled 5,600 New Yorkers.
- The TRIO program's integration with the Department of Labor was discussed, emphasizing its impact on first-generation students.
 - ED and the Department of Labor will be jointly managing several Higher Education Act programs — including all TRIO programs. This is part of a national push for better alignment between education and workforce systems, especially given the country's annual shortage of over 700,000 skilled workers.
 - Here's what will change:
 - TRIO programs will begin using Department of Labor grant and payment systems
 - DOL will now offer technical assistance and training.
 - TRIO staff nationally may eventually shift away from ED's G5 platform.
 - Guidance may begin blending education and job-training expectations.
- Dr. Young announced Earlier this month, our Director of the Newburgh campus, Likkia Moody, completed the Black Leadership Institute. Her capstone — the Newburgh Campus Activation Project — lays out a thoughtful plan for shifting Newburgh from an operational site to a regional hub for academic and workforce innovation.
- Dr. Young reported that we've made strong progress on the proposal for philanthropic and public investment in the first phases of our Facilities Master Plan.
- We now have the structure: the case for investment, alignment with workforce and academic priorities, a three-phase project framework, and naming and donor opportunities. We are refining it now to create a donor-ready narrative. Bio-Tech and Harriman remain our cornerstone projects, and we're preparing a clear slate of standalone capital items aligned with the County's six-year plan.
- Athletics Update:
 - Men's Basketball: 5–0
 - The men's team has opened the season with five straight wins, including a victory over 16th-ranked Monroe this weekend. That performance pushed them into the NJCAA Division II national rankings at #20.
 - Women's Basketball: 0–4
 - The women's team has had a tough opening stretch, facing one of the strongest early-season schedules in the region — including nationally ranked Fulton-Montgomery. They fell to Westchester last night.
- Awards & Recognitions:
 - Tarah Miller, Occupational Therapy faculty — Merit for Practice Award (Service in Academia).

- Laura Kahle, OT student — Student of the Year (NYSOTA).
- Dr. Mayda Gonzalez-Bosch, AVP for Health Professions — selected for the NYS Community College Leadership Academy.
- Suzanne Lindau, Nursing Simulation Coordinator — named to this year’s SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellowship.
- Dr. Douglas Sanders, Psychology — Frank W. Masterson Distinguished Services Award.
- And our own Board Chair, Trustee Tom Weddell, appointed to ACCT’s Audit & Finance Committee.

III. **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT** - Student Trustee, Peter Bambino

- Peter shared that the play Ganet run by the Apprentice Players is having its final show this weekend in the theater in Orange Hall.
- Peter announced that members of Student Senate attended a general assembly at SUNY system, where several resolutions were passed.
- Peter attended the ACCT Annual Conference in New Orleans with Chair Weddell and shared that he learned a lot about the role of the student trustee and would like to work on developing a mentorship system for new student trustees.

IV. **BOARD DISCUSSION I** - Responses to Submitted Reports from Administration, Shared Governance, & Foundation

- Dr. Hackman shared details about the Bellwether Award:
 - We are a finalist for the Bellwether Award in the instructional programs and services category.
 - The math department's innovative placement process and co-requisite model are highlighted as key factors in the nomination.
 - The department's work during COVID-19 to rethink placement and develop a guided self-placement process is praised.
 - The team is working on a digital binder to present their case at the competition in February.

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Meeting Schedule</u>	<u>Report Schedule</u>
Academic and Student Services	Karen Mejia	October, December, February, April	November, January, March, May
Audit and Finance	Ralph Martucci	Monthly	Monthly
Enrollment and Retention	Maria Bruni	Monthly	Monthly
Governance and Nominating	Tom Hunter	June	September
Policy	Flo Hannes	Monthly as called	Monthly as needed
Presidents Performance Review and Compensation	Ralph Martucci	May	September

Academic and Student Services Committee, Chair, Karen Mejia: Karen shared a preview of the new Program Fee resolution we will be approving later in the agenda.

Policy Committee, Chair, Flo Hannes: There will be a policy on Posthumous Award of Degree coming in December.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Resolution to Approve Of The Transition from Course-Based Fees To Program-Based Fees

Motion to approve, Karen Mejia, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed Unanimously.

2. Resolution to Offer Military Tuition Rate for Active Service Members

Motion by Tom Hunter to table this resolution, seconded by Karen Mejia. Resolution not approved.

3. Approval of BP2.49 Recreational Device/Equipment Operation

Motion to approve Flo Hannes, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board of Trustees Bylaws
2. Board Committee Charters
 - There was a discussion regarding the role of a Board of Trustee member as well as a Board Committee member. There was a review of the current board committees and possible future committees that may be formed.
 - The board debated the effectiveness of the enrollment and retention committee, suggesting a focus on strategic enrollment management (SEM) and continuous improvement.
 - The need for an advocacy committee and advisory groups was emphasized to better align with student success and institutional goals.
 - The discussion focused on defining goals and roles for board members to support the college's success.
 - The conversation noted the board's role in AI and advocacy, and the need for more detailed information sharing and strategic planning.
 - A proposal was made to use a shared Google Doc for committee chairs to outline their goals and priorities, ensuring alignment with the college's strategic plan.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS - None

X. 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.

XI. BOARD DISCUSSION II - Open Discussion - None

XII. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XIII. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm, Karen Mejia, seconded by Flo Hannes,

Next Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
Great Room, Kaplan Hall
Newburgh Campus