

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025  
GREAT ROOM, KAPLAN HALL  
NEWBURGH CAMPUS  
5:00 pm**

*Oath of Office: Wilbur Higgins, County Appointed Trustee (administered by Chairman Weddell)*  
Congratulations to new trustee, Wilber Higgins on his appointment

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

- A. *Pledge of Allegiance*
- B. *Moment of Silence*

II. **CONSENT AGENDA (Items A through C)**

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

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2025
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for January 2025
- C. Approval of Appointments
- D. Approval of Retirements

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

III. **REPORTS**

- A. Special Report: Auditor's Report of Financial Statements, Bonadio Group – Auditor's Report has been deferred to March Board meeting.
- B. Special Report: Strategic Planning Update - Jean Leandre & Christine Work & Liz Carris
  - Strategic Planning Activities for Fall 2024:
    - Completed - The College's Vision, Mission and Values Review Team facilitate a comprehensive review and revision of our guiding principles during AY 2023-2024
    - September - Understand the extent to which we've accomplished our current strategic goals
    - September – Administered the Faculty and Staff Opinion Survey - consideration of AI focused questions
    - October - Facilitated focus groups [AI emphasis] to identify and discuss the College's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with faculty, staff, students
    - November - Welcomed community panel members to SO strategic planning; facilitate panel to provide input to our planning activities, including engaging in a SWOT
    - December - By the end of the Fall 2024 semester, the Team identified Strategic Priority areas as well as objectives
  - Facilities Master Plan and Strategic Planning Team Alignment:
    - Co-Chairs, Dr. Leandre and JMZ met at the end of November to discuss JMZ's preliminary priority areas for the FMP
    - JMZ continues to seek input from College at FMP SC meetings
    - JMZ and SPT will continue to coordinate on template and timing of final plans
  - SUNY Orange's Community Panel for Strategic Planning:
    - Provide insights into workforce trends, demographic changes and local industry needs to assist the College in aligning programs with community needs.
    - Offer ways in which AI is being utilized within the County's business and industry communities
    - Evaluate whether proposed objectives resonate with and serve the community effectively.
    - Share perspectives on potential collaborations between the college and community organizations, identifying opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.
  - Strategic Planning Activities for SPRING 2025:
    - January - Developed a standardized template with clear and defined terminology to ensure consistency and shared understanding across all elements of the plan
    - JAN/FEB - Identified emerging priority areas of strategic plan and preliminary objectives

based on SWOT feedback, FSO survey data community panel input, current plan and MSCHE review.

- FEB/MAR - Engage faculty, staff, and students to review and refine the draft priority areas and objectives ensuring campus and stakeholder collaboration
- April - Ongoing incorporation of edits and refinements based on college-wide feedback. Ensure the plan is clear, cohesive, and ready for final review and endorsement
- TBD - Secure approval from college leadership and governance bodies, leading the way for implementation

C. President - Dr. Kristine Young

- Dr. Young gave an overview of the 30 Day AI Challenge with Todd McLees. We have a first cohort of 19 individuals identified in key roles or interest in AI, including all trustees who are participating in the challenge. A second cohort will be formed soon.
- Jean Leandre will be working with Todd McLees on community revenue sharing plans and opportunities.
- An off cycle Middle States report was triggered by enrollment & retention. Middle States was looking at dated data from the COVID era which explained the decrease in enrollment. We have since then seen enrollment & retention increase.
- The “Dear Colleague Letter” came through late last Friday. We have been in communication with legal council and have been seeking clarification on what this means for our institution and our students.
- Athletics – Men’s Basketball
  - 23-4 (ranked 20th in latest NJCAA Division II poll)
  - Will be the top seed in the upcoming Region 15 Tournament, March 1-2 at Westchester
  - We beat Rockland 88-77 last night in the final home game of the season. Sophomore guard Marquis Gill is now the program's career leader in three-point field goals made.
  - Coach Tom Rickard earned his 250th career win at SUNY Orange with the team's victory over Westchester last Tuesday
  - Jabari Phillip was the Mid-Hudson Conference Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 3
  - The team entered the week averaging 92.8 points per game (ranking sixth highest nationally), 44.7 rebounds per game (11th best nationally), 13.6 steals per game (2nd best nationally) and 20.2 assists per game (9th nationally)
  - Sophomore guard Dan Lans entered the week with 93 steals, the most of any D-II player in the country
- Athletics – Women’s Basketball
  - Final game of the regular season will be Thursday night at Dutchess
  - Team expected to face Sullivan in regional championship (only 2 D-II teams in Region 15)
- Baseball Team expected to face Sullivan in regional championship (only 2 D-II teams in Region 15)
- Softball: opens season during the week of Spring Break
- Golf: announced new golf coach will be Rich Giordano, replacing Daryl Williams (retired due to some health concerns). Rich is a SUNY Orange alum and is presently the Director of Golf/Head Golf Professional at the Town of Wallkill Golf Club.

D. Provost - Dr. [Erika Hackman](#)

- Erika provided an update on spring 2025 enrollment, noting a 6.5% increase in head count and a 10.2% increase in part-time student credit hours.
- Enrollment increased by 6.5% with significant growth in part-time students (11.4%) and first-time students (9.9%)
- First-time students and transfer students saw significant growth, with returning students showing a strong increase of 15.7%.
- Female student enrollment grew by 9.1%, while male student enrollment remained stable.
- Hispanic and Latino student enrollment increased by 6.3%, and Black and African American student enrollment grew by 10.5%.

E. VP for Administration & Finance – Paul Martland

- Morrison Hall renovations expect to be completed by the end of March
- The installation of the announcement system for security is nearing completion, with both external and internal pieces scheduled to be done by early March.

- The business office is finishing up the audit process and starting the first iteration of the new budget process.
  - The Human Resources Information System and payroll system implementation is ongoing, with training and testing processes in progress.
- F. VP for Workforce, Strategy & Innovation - Dr. [Jean Leandre](#)
- Jean shared the success of the CDL program, with a 90% completion rate and 90% passing rate on the CDL exam.
  - Jean announced the launch of the EMT program in January and the tentative start date for the paramedic program in September.
  - The partnership program with Choice Films has 23 students enrolled.
  - The new Food Safety Quality Control program started in the spring semester and is highlighted as a niche program with significant employer interest.
  - Jean provided an update on the \$900,000 grant for the Rad Tech program, with funding from Dyson and matching funds from the state in the process.
  - Jean noted that we will potentially be hosting a regional meeting for the Continuing Education Association of New York at the Newburgh campus
- G. Governance President – Liz Carris
- Liz acknowledged the concerns of faculty and staff regarding the Dear Colleague letter and the changing federal government interpretations.
  - Liz shared that the ongoing work of the shared governance system, includes the review of credit for prior learning policies and the planning for budgeted priorities
  - Liz will follow up on the bookstore situation.
  - Liz shared that plans for the expansion of the Excelsior scholarship and the increase in funding for DEI programs, noting a recent letter from Trump about the potential shutdown of DEI programs.
  - Advocacy meetings have been scheduled and Dr. Young along with others have been meeting with local legislators.
- H. FCCC Report - Michelle Tubbs – Liz shared report in Michelle’s absence
- Highlights from Governor Hochul’s 2025 State of the State (some items that the FCCC feels positively impacts CCs)
    - NYS Opportunity Promise: Free CC for adults ages 25-55 who do not have a college degree and who pursue an Associates degree in high-demand fields
    - Expansion of ASAP/ACE: Retention & completion programs launched in SP 2024 that currently serve 4300 students across 25 SUNY campuses (The expansion will support 10K students within the system)
    - College-in-High-School Opportunity Fund: A new fund that will expand intensive dual enrollment through innovative programs (like our PTECH program)
    - Laying Groundwork for Universal Childcare
  - NYS Executive Budget Highlights (for CCs)
    - Maintains 100% funding floor, equated to the greater of 24/25 approved budget levels or per student funding levels at \$2,997 FTE per student (protects the CCs from approx \$76 million in lost Direct State Tax Support)
    - NYS Opportunity Promise (mentioned earlier)
    - Scaling up of the ASAP/ACE programs (mentioned earlier)
    - Continued capital investments (\$130 million for CC capital funding match)
    - Includes the following percent increases in Direct Support:
  - Four-year campuses: 9.8% increase
  - Community Colleges: 0.3% increase
    - The FCCC continues to support the joint advocacy efforts of NYCCT (Trustees group) and NYCCAP (Presidents group)
  - Transfer Taskforce Report
    - Work has begun to carry out the recommendations within the report
    - The following four groups are currently being or have recently been formed:
  - Transfer Advisory Council
  - Student Transfer Services Subcommittee
  - Transfer Path Subcommittee
  - Transfer Data and Communications Subcommittee
    - Most groups include an FCCC member and/or a faculty as part of its

membership.

- A number of the “SUNY Transfer Paths” are in need of updating (The Transfer Path Subcommittee will identify which paths are most in need of updating and will work with campus leadership on campuses offering the degrees to identify disciplinary faculty to serve on the update teams)
- Messaging from FCCC President Candice Vacin during this this time of uncertainty:
  - What follows is part of a communication that President Vacin recently sent out to the FCCC membership: While Candice may not be able to communicate as frequently as she would like, her silence should not be taken for inaction. She and her Executive Team (which Michelle and I are a part of) remain fully informed, actively engaged, and deeply committed to addressing the challenges ahead. She promises that we are closely monitoring developments and taking thoughtful steps to advance our shared priorities.
  - Candice is staying in communication with the Presidents and CAOs to keep CCs as unified as possible (I think President Young & Provost Hackman can attest to this)
- I. Student Trustee - Peter Bambino
  - A few new clubs are seeking approval.
  - Dr. Young and Dr. Hackman will visit Student Senate and that elections for the seat left by Mark are open with two applicants.
  - Members from Student Senate attended Student Senate Advocacy Day
- J. Foundation Board – Dawn Ansbro
  - 75th anniversary event has raised \$238,000 in verbal support and is awaiting a \$550,000 grant from the Dyson Foundation.
  - There has been an increase in scholarships awarded this year and the efforts to get more funding for community colleges through the NYCCT Trustees Association continues.
  - Dawn noted support for free tuition for students aged 25 to 55 and the efforts to get a bill for \$25 million to support nursing programs.

#### **IV. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

- Chair Weddell has been working with NYCCT on advocating for funding for community colleges and has written a bill for funds for Nursing programs as well as a bill to increase floor funding for community colleges.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Meeting Schedule</u></b>	<b><u>Report Schedule</u></b>
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

Audit & Finance Committee – Ralph Martucci, Chair:

- A & F must have an annual joint committee meeting with the Academic & Student Services Committee to discuss student needs
- The committee is working on finalizing an investment policy for review and approval.

Enrollment & Retention Committee – Tom Weddell, Chair:

- Met this month and discussed extended registration due to COVID and the yield rates from different locations.
- A \$50,000 grant is being worked on for adult students
- There will be no additional funding for new SEM plan from SUNY.
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#### **VI. 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.

#### **VII. BOARD DISCUSSION - None**

**VIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:12 pm, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 8:01 pm.**

**IX. RETURN to REGULAR BUSINESS – Motion to return to regular business at 8:01, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Peter Bambino. Passed Unanimously.**

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Motion to Approve: Auditor’s Report of Audited Financial Statements

**The Audit & Finance Committee did not recommend a motion to be made. Motion to approve Auditor’s Report of Audited Financial Statements has been deferred to the March Board meeting.**

2. Resolution No 5: Resolution To Approve of the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Legislature of the County of Orange, Orange County Community College, and the Orange County Community College Faculty Association

**Motion to approve Resolution No 5, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Eli Hart. Passed unanimously.**

**XI. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Peter Bambino. Passed unanimously.**

Next Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
Gilman Center, Library  
Middletown Campus