

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025
GILMAN CENTER, LIBRARY
MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Weddell called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

- A. *Pledge of Allegiance*
- B. *Invocation by Chair Weddell*

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 February 19, 2025
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for February 2025
- C. Approval of Appointments

Motion to approve, Ralph Martucci, seconded by Wilbur Higgins. Passed unanimously.

III. **REPORTS**

- A. Special Presentation: Auditor's Report of Financial Statements, Bonadio Group
 - The auditors from Bonadio Group reported no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies.
 - The Federal auditor report issue on whether the financial statements are presented in accordance with GAAP, which are generally accepted accounting principles. That's unmodified. That's the highest level of assurance we can get and the best report you can get.
 - There was no noncompliance material to the financial statements noted.
 - There were no audit findings that were required to be reported.
- B. Special Presentation: What Is ESports? Mike Albright & Madeline Torres-Diaz
 - ESports is described as video games that gamers get together and can play competitively in a number of different environments, a number of different games, from first person shooter games to games that replicate physical sports like soccer, FIFA, Madden.
 - What's important here is ESports can be attractive to a wide variety of students in our population. It is believed that esports can be an inclusive feature of higher education, bringing students together in a lot of ways, for engagement, ways that will hopefully connect with a lot of institutions, institutional goals, strategic goals, whether it's retention and engagement, certainly enrollment pieces to it, academic and career prep.
 - There can be academic connections as well for students who are interested in eSports. And then again, the biggest piece probably is building an inclusive and diverse community on college campuses.
 - eSports can generally be one of two categories a club sport or what's considered an intercollegiate program
- C. Special Presentation: College Key Performance Indicators: Dr. Jean Leandre and Christine Work
 - KPI: Overall Enrollment Trends - Tracking enrollment trends helps the college forecast future revenue, allocate resources effectively, and assess outreach efforts. Understanding shifts in full-time vs. part-time enrollment, demographic changes and program demand informs recruitment & retention efforts.
 - Enrollment has rebounded since Fall 2021 seeing a 7.7% increase
 - Growth is also seen in our FTE indicating an increase in credit hour taking
 - Enrollment continues to trend upward, approaching our projected SEM Fall 2024 target
 - Focus will continue on sustaining recovery – with attention on both recruitment and retention efforts
 - KPI: Enrollment Demographics - Closing equity gaps in enrollment, retention, and completion is critical for ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and support services. Understanding where there may be disparity helps guide targeted interventions and program improvements.
 - Gender: While female and male enrollments have shown recovery, female enrollment continues to surpass male enrollment

- Race and Ethnicity: White student enrollment is declining; down 33% from Fall 2019; this aligns with national demographic changes
- Both Black and Hispanic enrollment has begun to recover; Black enrollment is growing since its lowest level in Fall 2021; Hispanic enrollment saw a sharp drop from 2019 to 2021 and still remains lower than the College would expect/want
- SEM – Met projected goal to increase Hispanic student enrollment by exceeding our Fall 2024 projected enrollment of 905
- FT and PT - Enrollment of full and part time students have shown growth over the last three (3) fall terms
- In Fall 2024, part-time enrollment grew by 5.6%, outpacing full-time growth at 3.9%
- First Time: First time student enrollment saw an increase of 13.4% from Fall 2022 to Fall 2024
- SEM – New student enrollment for Fall 2024 surpassed initial projections
- Through our Strategic Plan as well as Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan, we will continue to refine strategies that enhance student outcomes and institutional growth including efforts focused on expanding career advising, strengthening recruitment and retention initiatives, as well as closing equity gaps with a focus on developing clear pathways from enrollment through graduation.
- Our KPIs will be aligned with the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan to enhance data accessibility, progress tracking as well as continued communication to our stakeholders.
- Future KPI's to include:
 - Financial Aid
 - Financial Health
 - Employee Demographics
 - Student Sense of Belonging
 - Admissions

D. President – Dr. Kristine Young

- Dr. Young offered an update on the US Department of Education from a letter send from Walter Bumphus, CEO/President of AACC:
 - U.S. Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon announced Tuesday the immediate layoffs of 1,315 Department of Education (ED) employees. These reductions come on top of the almost 600 employees that took buyouts earlier this year. Altogether, the Department now has only about half the personnel that it did when President Trump took office in January. Secretary McMahon called it a “significant step toward restoring the greatness of the United States education system” and aligns with President Trump’s desire to eliminate the Department of Education and “return education to the states.”
 - At this point, we have no details on which offices and personnel were affected. This unprecedented action leaves us all with many questions about the programs and services that your students and colleges rely upon daily. I can assure you that we are working to obtain information as quickly as possible to provide you with the answers you need. At this time, we know that ED will be closed today with most of the remaining employees teleworking.
 - Most importantly, we continue to advocate strongly for the nation’s community colleges. It is critical that the nation’s community colleges can continue to serve students, and there is no substitute for the federal government’s role in that support. We will continue to focus on federal financial aid, the numerous institutional and student support programs, technical training, and maintaining the availability of critical access data systems, along with their security.
- New York state one house bills came out:
 - It doesn't look bad for community colleges. The floor for community colleges was in the executive budget that was 100% of last year's funding floor within the executive budget, it was in both the Assembly and Senate. One house bills, the assembly added \$30 million to it. The Senate added \$9 million to it. Both of those said those additional dollars would be pursuant to a plan approved by the New York State Budget Director. Maybe there is additional operational dollars coming to community colleges.
- Thank Foundation for Support of SUNY Orange Plus:

- A total of \$107,946 was pledged by the Foundation to SO+. This represents fees for 9 students in the Certified Medical Coding and Billing class at \$4,997 each and 9 students in the Certified Medical Assistant class at \$6,997 each. This represents funds that were disrupted by brief pause in federal funding. For reasons we don't clearly understand, the way our Workforce Investment Board distributed typically assured funds to approved students was disrupted, jeopardizing the launch of two programs to a critical underserved population. We are very grateful to the Foundation for entertaining and unusual request and working with us to help maintain integrity to individuals while building reputational credibility in the community.

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

- Dr. Hackman shared that she is enjoying the AI 30-day challenge and has used chat GPT for some tasks.
- Student Christian Garcia has been awarded the Norman McConney Award.
- We have advanced our Newburgh project to expand our RadTech Program.
- We have received renewal of our military friendly designation status by meeting the metrics required.
- The Sojourner Truth Awards were held in our PE building on Friday, March 7th.

F. VP for Administration & Finance – Paul Martland

- Paul reported a plan to increase data speeds on both the Middletown & Newburgh campus with a lower monthly cost.
- Budget timeline:
 - Agnes and Paul are taking the first cut then refining the information with Agnes to then share with Dr. Young and the VPs.
 - A check in with Audit and Finance committee has been set for April 9th.
 - Budget will be presented in May for Board approval go to the county for approval. The legislature approves of the final budget in August.
 - The Association is experiencing a number of financial difficulties and losses at the Lab School. We are looking at 2 childcare options.
 - Paul shared that he has found the 30-day AI challenge to be very interesting and useful.

G. VP for Workforce, Strategy & Innovation - Dr. [Jean Leandre](#)

- SUNY Orange Plus enrollment this fall was 1030 students, which is a 16% increase from last year's enrollment. This spring enrollment is at 1132, which also increased from last spring.
- We have been working with employers to develop program curriculum. We are currently working with 26 employers.
- The GED testing center will have its first exam towards the end of March and run 1 – 2 tests a month.
- Grants: We have worked with the Foundation towards the RadTech expansion and have received the Dyson grant.
- We are supporting the NYS Life Guard Program
- We have applied for and received the adult learner grant for \$50,000
- We have applied to be a Center for Excellence

H. Governance President – Liz Carris

- CIDE – Committee for Institutional Diversity and Equity is holding a listening session on March 13 for staff and faculty to hear concerns regarding the “Dear Colleague” letter.
- Liz also shared her experience with the 30 day AI challenge and has found other tools that she is using and enjoying to use for a number of things

I. FCCC Report - Michelle Tubbs

- The FCCC continues to monitor what is happening at the federal level (without making any hasty reactions), as well as the guidance from SUNY and the State.
- The FCCC President remains in communication with the Presidents and CAOs to keep CCs as unified as possible.
- The FCCC Spring Plenary is April 3-5 and is being hosted by Columbia-Greene CC. I, along with our alternate delegate Katie Sinsabaugh and our Governance President (CGL), will be attending.

J. Student Trustee - Peter Bambino

- The Rules Committee met and found two individuals to become members at large.
- New Student Senator, Ryan Shein was sworn in.
- A shared drive has been discussed for data sharing within clubs.

- Meet the Senators Day is March 13th
 - Revisions are being made to the Student Senate Constitution.
 - There has been a GPA raise requirement discussed for Student Senate
- K. Foundation Board – Dawn Ansbro
- We recently received a \$150,000 Dyson grant for the expansion/move of the RadTech program in Newburgh.
 - We are in the process of putting together scholarship information for spring scholarships.
 - We currently have \$252,500 in commitments for the Gala and continue to advertise for fundraising
 - Tickets for the Gala are now on sale and can be purchased on the website.
 - May 15 – 17 75th anniversary event tickets are on sale now.
 - The scholarship application portal is now open and will close on April 8th.
 - The Home Show is this weekend.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion to Approve: Auditor’s Report of Audited Financial Statements
Motion by Ralph Martucci, seconded by Peter Bambino. Passed Unanimously.

V. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS – Thank you all who make this college successful. The NYCCT and community colleges have been working effortlessly on advocating for the budget for community colleges.

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

Audit & Finance – Chair, Ralph Martucci: Met today and will be working on budget preparation over the next few months. There will be a workshop on April 9th.

Enrollment & Retention – Chair, Maria Bruni: Met on March 4th. Recruitment and retention efforts will be placed on adult learners.

VII. 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.

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to enter Executive Session by Tom Hunter, seconded by Eli Hart at 7:42 pm. Executive session ended at 8:05 pm

X. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm, Maria Bruni, seconded by Tom Hunter.

Next Meeting
 Wednesday, April 16, 2025
 Great Room, Kaplan Hall
 Newburgh Campus