

**MINUTES OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
GILMAN CENTER, LIBRARY
MIDDLETOWN CAMPUS
5:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation of Trustees Slate of Officers for 2025-2026 (presented by Chair Weddell)

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Trustees Slate of Officers for AY 2025-2026

Motion to approve Trustees Slate of Officers for AY 2025-2026, Flo Hannes, seconded by Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams. Passed unanimously.

III. CONSENT AGENDA (Items A through C)

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

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2025
- B. Approval of Financial Statements for May, June, July, August 2025
- C. Approval of Appointments

Motion to withdraw August financials, Eli Hart, seconded by Maria Bruni. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve consent agenda, Eli Hart, seconded by Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams. Passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIR'S WELCOME

- Chair Weddell welcomed former Trustee Fred Watson (who was in attendance) and congratulated him for receiving the Anne Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement at this year's NYCCT Annual Conference. Unfortunately, Fred Watson was not in attendance for the Award's Banquet. Chair Weddell presented Fred with the plaque awarded by NYCCT.
- Chair Weddell, Trustee Whaley-Williams, Trustee Peter Bambino, Erika Hackman and Paul Martland all attended various sessions of the NYCCT Annual Conference and Awards Banquet held at the Saratoga Casino Hotel from September 10 – 12, 2025.
- Chair Weddell announced that he will be attending the ACCT Leadership Congress in New Orleans from October 22 – October 25, 2025.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Welcome AD Brian Burns

- Dr. Young introduced Brian Burns, the new Director of Athletics at SUNY Orange. Brian assumed this role on August 18, 2025 succeeding Wayne Smith, after 21 years as Athletic Director at our college. Brian is an Ellenville native. He was the Assistant Athletic Director at Onondaga Community College for two years.

- b. Report

- Dr. Young welcomed newest Trustee, Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams, who attended her first scheduled Board meeting of the academic year. Trustee Whaley-Williams is a long time Hudson Valley and New York City educator and administrator. Yaa Yaa currently supervises Instructional Services with Ulster BOCES and founded Middletown's first black owned bookstore, Sadie's Books and Beverages, and brings a strong commitment to equity and community.
- Dr. Young also congratulated former Trustee Fred Watson on receiving the Anne Bushnell award.
- Dr. Young previewed a different agenda structure for the evening following the idea of enacting some strategies from the Board's summer retreat. With Dr. Young's suggestion to Chair Weddell; Committee reports were moved up towards the top of the agenda to better reflect the Board's governance responsibilities
- The VPs are working with the Board's Governance Committee to help structure additional committees and the way the committees work to help with Board deliberations

and governance.

- Dr. Young announced that; thanks to \$500,000 in New York state funding from Senator James Skoufis, SUNY Orange, will be in partnership with CUNY LaGuardia to launch a 12-month accelerated Paramedic Training Program in November.
- The college has begun working toward complying with a new federal Title II ADA compliance regulations. The federal government has established an April 24, 2026 deadline. This impacts the accessibility of websites, intranets, digital content, third party content and platforms, social media, postings and kiosks. It also impacts IT and Procurement. Our Center for Teaching and Learning has been working with our faculty on awareness. We are strategizing staff's approach to compliance.
- The US Department of Education has ended funding to racially discriminatory discretionary grant programs at minority serving institutions.

VI. SPECIAL REPORT: Preliminary Fall 2025 Enrollment - Provost Erika Hackman

- Dr. Hackman reported that overall, our head count is up 6.1% since last fall, and so we are just under 4,400 in terms of head count. That's up from 4142 last fall.
- Full-time enrollment grew modestly (+3.3%)
- Part-time enrollment saw strong gains (+9.4%)
- Newburgh headcount grew to 732, 6.4% growth over fall 2024
- Virtual headcount grew to 2,170, 12.3% growth over fall 2024.
- Total credit hours and annual FTE rose by 6.6%
- Average credit loads for FT students remained steady while PT students increased by 2.7%
- Student type (headcount):
 - First-time +6.6%
 - Continuing +7.8%
 - Returning +11%
 - Transfers -8.2%
- Race and Ethnicity:
 - Hispanic / Latino +11.8%
 - Black / African American +9.5%
- Reconnect Program Enrollment
 - We have a total of 191 Reconnect eligible students. In order to qualify, a student must be:
 - Aged 25-55 at the beginning of the semester
 - Enrolled in a qualifying program
 - Working on completing their first bachelor's or associate's degree
 - In addition, an eligible student must have applied for TAP and qualify for in-state tuition. We have an additional 33 students who will qualify pending a completed TAP application.

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*

*Pending approval of the consent agenda.

Policy Committee, Flo Hannes, Chair:

- Mike Albright announced that there will be 2 policies forthcoming this fall:
 - A new policy; 2.49 which is the "Recreational Vehicle and Equipment Policy". This new policy has just recently received some final feedback from Shared Governance and the Executive Committee, so we'll be able to bring that to the board here in the fall.
 - This summer, SUNY put out some guidelines on posthumous degrees and the awarding of those

and certificates. We have an existing policy; 6.14 which is awarding of posthumous degrees and certificates. We have some criteria in that policy, so the committee will work to blend those criteria together, share them with shared governance, and then run it with the committee with some legal review. We are operating on a December 31st deadline to get the policy before this body to approve.

VIII. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Student Trustee - Peter Bambino

- Student Senate ran their elections; three out of the four candidates have accepted to be Senators.
- Student Senate bylaws were reviewed and revised in June. These revisions were a continuation of updates aligned with previous constitutional edits. Members reviewed and voted on changes article by article, most revisions passed unanimously, reflecting a shared understanding of the need to clarify operational procedures.
- Senate proposed to pass several reforms, a clear registration deadline before spring break was set for returning club status.
- Student Senate donated \$12,000 to mental health and wellness and another \$12,000 to facilities. Student Senate is to thank for the new benches outside.
- The new Student Senate officers will be invited to a future Board meeting.

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

- Dr. Hackman reported that we received continued accreditation approval from CODA, our Dental Hygiene program accreditor with no reporting requirements.
- We have an accreditation site visit coming up for our business programs. They will be here September 29 through October 1.
- Our Associate Vice President for Health Professions, Dr. Mayda Gonzalez-Bosch, has been selected for yet another thing, the New York State Community College Leadership Academy. This is a leadership development program that SUNY does for emerging leaders who are interested in advancing within the organization.
- There was a lot of work that was done this summer to focus on implementing SUNY Reconnect.
- Our Center for Student Involvement and student services does a really good job of really welcoming students with ice cream and pancakes with the Presidents and goat yoga!
- Members of the Audit & Finance committee and also the Academic and Student Services committees of the board have jointly been working on reimagining our academic program fees. The final model will be brought to the Board for approval.

C. VP for Administration & Finance – Paul Martland

- The Board approved the budget in May. The county audit presentation took place in July. The county legislature approved our budget in early August, then it went to SUNY, and I'm thinking SUNY approved it yesterday.
- Paul shared that we have a new Purchasing Director, Cynthia Rolon, and she's really tightening up a lot of our procedures. And she's been involved in making sure that we've done the proper amount of putting things out to bid, proper number of RFPs, etc, making sure that the procedures we're using in those processes are accurate. She's been educating a lot of departments over the summer and also investigating a new software for use in the purchasing area called Uni Market, which we have just approved the purchase of.
- You may recall we had an IRS issue where we were subject potentially to a fine of approximately \$560,000. Agnes worked with our auditors who worked with the IRS, and we got confirmation recently that we will not be fined at all. Our account has been cleared, and the issue that was raised has been addressed both for the immediate next year.
- Both Facilities and IT had a number of projects planned that were part of the capital budgeting process that goes through the county and the state, and normally that process frees up the funding for the approved projects around late May, early June, at the latest this year, the state budget was late, so that delayed things like computer upgrades and offices and classroom equipment update upgrades on the computer side and all of the major facility projects that we had planned for this summer.
- Morrison was complete just at the beginning of the summer.
- Horton Hall renovations and roof are just about done.
- Patrick Martin, our project manager, has been serving as the interim head of facilities while we consider what we want to do to that position.
- One of our facilities employees sadly passed away at age 48, Joe Mazza, who worked in our grounds crew.
- A variety of fire inspections were done over the summer with some follow up activity required for

some of them. All of that has been addressed, and we now have a clean bill of health from the State Fire Marshal's Office.

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

- Exciting news, we are launching the paramedic program.
- We were fortunate enough to win a healthcare AI grant during the summer, and as part of the healthcare AI grant, we are responsible for creating awareness of AI across all sectors within Orange County, specifically for the businesses. We have worked with the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, and were able to reserve Todd Mclees for an AI Event on October 6 on our Newburgh campus to help businesses understand how they could use AI to become more efficient.
- Dr. Leandre shared that we have purchased two software systems to manage data:
 - Argos is the tool that takes the information from Banner and actually allows you to analyze it
 - Invoke is a data lake and is more or less the brainchild and allow us to use multiple data tools to put them together to be able to spit out an analysis
- We were fortunate enough to open up a GED Testing Center the latter part of spring, starting into the summer. We have tested over 100 individuals.

E. Governance President – Liz Carris

- Liz introduced herself as Shared Governance President.
- SG has 14 standing committees. We are a recommending body to our administration.
- The first Assembly was at the start of the fall semester.
- Nominations to fill committee vacancies have begun.
- At Monday's upcoming assembly, we're hoping to vote to approve new academic policy regarding credit for prior learning, bringing in more opportunities for students to get credit for prior learning using a portfolio, or creating a portfolio showing their experience from their previous jobs.
- Liz has started meeting with folks to revisit ideas for increasing enrollment.

F. FCCC Report - Michelle Tubbs

- Michelle introduced herself as the colleges delegate to the Faculty Council of Community Colleges.
- The continued goal for the Faculty Council is to continue to try and strengthen the relationships between the different groups, the trustees and the presidents and chief academic officers, especially to poise us better to meet the challenges that we're getting from different levels.
- Valerie Dent has been appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges.
- The FCCC has been attentive to SUNY Rulemaking a proposal from SUNY to make it a permanent practice regarding three areas, the feedback the chancellor receives on presidential finalists from the local level, presidential contracts and temporary leadership. There is some concern and opposition from the Trustees group.
- The UFS is the equivalent of faculty at the community college level, but at the four year schools. So the executive teams of those two bodies did endorse and submit a joint statement in support.

G. Foundation Board – Kristin Jensen

- Remembering Dawn Ansbro – the Foundation Board established the Dawn Ansbro Memorial Scholarship to honor Dawn's memory.
- 75th anniversary wrap-up – nearly 500 people participated in the weekend's events, with the highlight being the Saturday evening Gala at West Hills Country Club. More than \$380,000 (gross) was raised toward the Transformation campaign for learning space upgrades.
- New gifts – past President William Messner has established a grant-in-aid fund to assist adult students with a financial need so that they can maintain their educational path. He has pledged \$100,000 over four years, plus \$5,000 to award this year.
- Strategic Planning – the Foundation has begun the process for a new strategic plan. A board retreat will be held on Friday, September 19.
- 2025 Scholarship Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, at Paramount Theatre. All are welcome to attend. The Foundation is awarding more than \$500,000 in scholarships.
- Trustee/Foundation dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, at West Hills Country Club. More details to come.
- Holidays return to the Mansion – party with College, Foundation, and Vision Hudson Valley will be held on Wednesday, December 10.
- Foundation will be welcoming two new board members and the new student representative at Monday's meeting.
- Settling in – Kristin has been meeting new people, getting to know college community.

IX. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

NONE

X. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

XI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- Chair Weddell announced that he'd like to try to keep future meetings down to two hours, if we can.

XII. 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.

XIII. BOARD DISCUSSION

- There was a discussion about an AI Policy that we are working on.

XIV. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to enter executive session at 7:56, Flo, seconded by Maria Bruni. Passed unanimously. Executive session began at 8:07 pm and ended at 8:31 pm.

XV. BOARD ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn, Eli Hart, seconded by Yaa Yaa Whaley-Williams. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Great Room, Kaplan Hall
Newburgh Campus