

**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021, 5 PM  
Via Zoom Technology**

Present: F. Watson, R. Martucci, F. Hannes, T. Hunter, B. Vacca, T. Weddell, N. Kanan (Interim Student Trustee)

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The following is a transcript of the recorded board meeting.

Chair Watson: Good Evening everyone. This meeting of the Orange County Community College Board of Trustees will now come to order.

Tonight, we welcome Mr. Nicholas Kanan to fulfill the role of student trustee on an interim basis. Mr. Kanan presently serves as the president of Student Senate at SUNY Orange. He was recently voted by the Student Senate to sit in the Student Trustee seat for our February board meeting so that the important voice of the student body was fully represented at this meeting, in our deliberations, and for any votes. Nick, I thank you for your service this evening and I will now administer the Oath of Office so that you may officially execute your duties. Nicholas are you there?

Nicholas Kanan: Yes, I am

II. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Chair Watson: Alright. Please repeat after me.

I, Nicholas Kanan

Nicholas Kanan: I, Nicholas Kanan

Chair Watson: Do solemnly swear.

Nicholas Kanan: Do solemnly swear.

Chair Watson: That I will support the Constitution of the United States.

Nicholas Kanan: That I will support the Constitution of the United States.

Chair Watson: And the Constitution of the State of New York.

Nicholas Kanan: And the Constitution of the State of New York

Chair Watson: And that I will faithfully discharge.

Nicholas Kanan: And that I will faithfully discharge.

Chair Watson: The duties of the Student Trustee.

Nicholas Kanan: The duties of the Student Trustee.

Chair Watson: SUNY Orange Board of Trustees.  
Nicholas Kanan: SUNY Orange Board of Trustees.  
Chair Watson: According to the best of my abilities.  
Nicholas Kanan: According to the best of my abilities.  
Chair Watson: Having said that I once again welcome you Trustee Kanan. Did I pronounce correctly?  
Nicholas Kanan: Kanan.  
Chair Watson: Kanan. Thank you and welcome aboard. Secretary Murray, please call the roll.  
Secretary Murray: Chair Watson?  
Whoops, Chair Watson?  
Chair Watson: Present  
Secretary Murray: Trustee Martucci?  
Trustee Martucci: Present  
Secretary Murray: Trustee Hannes?  
Trustee Hannes: Present  
Secretary Murray: Trustee Murphy?  
Trustee Murphy: Present  
Secretary Murray: Trustee Hunter? Whoops, there you go Tom.  
Trustee Hunter: Tom Hunter's present  
Secretary Murray: Thank you.  
Secretary Murray: Trustee Weddell? Whoops, okay. You can unmute. There you go.  
Trustee Weddell: Present  
Secretary Murray: And Interim Student Trustee Kanan  
Trustee Kanan: Present  
Secretary Murray: Thank you. All here and accounted for.  
Chair Watson: Thank you.

The first order of business is the Consent Agenda. All trustees have received documents in the items of the Consent Agenda. If any trustee wishes to have an item opened for discussion, it will be moved to Item D. The Chair will entertain a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda.

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Trustee Vacca: So moved.  
Trustee Weddell: Second  
  
Chair Watson: It's been moved and properly seconded. All in favor? Please indicate by saying "aye"  
  
All: Aye.  
  
Chair Watson: Opposed? Hearing none, the Consent Agenda carries.

Next order of business is reports. Our first report being the report of President, Dr. Kristine Young. Welcome Dr. Young.

#### **IV. REPORTS:**

##### **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dr. Kristine Young)**

Dr. Young: Thank you Chair Watson. Very good. Thank you, trustees, and welcome Nick and thank you for your service this evening. It is appreciated, not only by the trustees, by the College and certainly by the student body this evening.

Trustees, I start with very good news and breaking news. I believe I have the privilege, Mike Albright sanctioned, to be able to announce after an embargo that SUNY Orange has been named a Military Friendly school for 2020-2021 in the small community college category. I think today was the first day that we could announce this. This is a coveted, an increasingly coveted recognition awarded by the...it's called Victory...it's a, actually it's a service-disabled vet owned small business, but colleges increasingly seek and treasure this recognition that comes with a logo that we can put on our website and share. We received this recognition...they have a proprietary way that they compute quantitatively how we are recognized as military friendly. So, very quickly the components taken into consideration are academic policies and compliance, military student support and retention, our graduation and career outcomes, our admission and orientation, culture and commitment and financial aid and loan repayment and weighted more heavily our military student support, retention and graduation career and outcomes. So, we're very pleased to receive this recognition and I know Mike and his team will be sharing that news more broadly in the days and weeks to come. So, congratulations to the entire College for bringing that recognition to us and I'm very, very proud of everyone who contributed to the recognition.

Our advocacy...as you know, it's budget season in the State of New York and our advocacy work has begun. Yesterday, in the morning, we visited with Assemblyman Jacobson and thank you, Trustee Hannes for joining us on that visit. And, in the afternoon we visited with Assemblywoman Gunther; thank you Trustee Vacca for being with us on that visit. At each visit, we have a full contingent of the group that we like to have come and talk about SUNY Orange. So, we have a trustee, we have an Orange County legislator, which I'm not certain every community college does when they go out and talk about what's going on with their community colleges. We have a Foundation member. We have a representative of Shared Governance and or an employee and most importantly we have a student with us. And I would characterize those visits as...not only did we get to advocate for what we thought was important, but both of those state representatives were very...it's good to hear that they're engaged. They know about our College, complimentary of the College, and asked how they can help us. So, we continue tomorrow with Assemblyman

Brabenec, Friday with Senator Skoufis, and just like that we're more than halfway through our list. So, thank you all for participating.

Trustee Hannes: I would like, I'd like to jump in and say that, on behalf of the board, being present at Assembly member Jacobson's meeting with us, I assured him that the board was 100% behind our president and Administration. He was very pleased to hear that, not that it's a surprise at all. So, I wanted you all to know that I represented you at that meeting.

Dr. Young: Thank you.

Trustee Vacca: Kris, I think the young lady that we had with Assemblywoman Gunther was fantastic. I mean, she brought out so many good points and I think the Assemblywoman was even impressed with some of the things that she brought to the forefront.

Dr. Young: Thank you Bill. Nikaiya...her last name just escaped me, but you know we ask our students ...well we ask everyone who comes and advocates with us like just give them some prompts about here are things you know, you could talk about but no script. And Nikaiya is a student vet, so there we are with our military friendly conversation...but is a vet and spoke very candidly of her experience, and what its like to be a student, a student during COVID, a student...you know...being a mom. And just very real experience to what it means to be a community college student and that was...

Trustee Vacca: I could see in her delivery; she was very emotional about it and very...it was very sincere.

Dr. Young: Yup. Yup. And that's why I say in all earnest, yeah, the student is the star of the show. We're all there to support students and it's the student who tells the story better than every one of us. And all we are are servants to that student. And thank you for recognizing...bravery, right? It's bravery to tell that story when you're sitting in the state elected official's office to tell that story.

Secretary Murray: She's Nikaiya Godlevsky.

Dr. Young: Thank you Carol, thank you.

And actually, Carol, you remind me that she and I...we're setting up an appointment because she wanted to continue the conversation with me about what it means, what it's like to be a student, with all that she shared, with me and how we can talk about you know, even though she's graduating, how could she pass it forward, how can she inform the College about how we can continue to do better. I appreciate that opportunity. And, you know what, I have looked at this agenda. I know this agenda is a little bit longer. We've got reports this evening. We were purposely pithy in January so we will be making it up with reports this evening. And, knowing what's ahead in these reports, I think you will hear a lot about what's going on at the institution. And, I think, I'll stop there. I think you'll hear plenty about the institution and if I think something needs to be detailed you know I'm here and I know how to turn my mute...my microphone on and off. Well, at least Carol knows how to turn it on and off. So,

with that, I will just end my report a little bit early this evening Chair Watson, if it pleases the board. And you are...your microphone is off Fred.

Secretary Murray: Uh-oh.

Dr. Young: I know, I think we all have to keep our microphones open.

Chair Watson: Okay. It is back on. Dr. Young we thank you for that report. We'll look forward to hearing from you just a bit later. Next, on the agenda is Governance President, Professor Basinski. Paul?

#### **B. REPORT OF THE COLLEGE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM (Paul Basinski)**

Mr. Basinski: Thank you. Yes. Thank you, Chair Watson. Good evening Trustees, I hope you are all well. My Governance Report for the board tonight. First, echoing some of Kris' earlier remarks, I want to publicly thank our Shared Governance members who are participating this week and next in the State Advocacy for well-deserved SUNY Orange College funding. They are Michelle Tubbs, Pat Cal, Mercy Ebbert, Sharizad Latifi, Christine Leroux and Chris Thurtle. They represent a number of areas of the College, from Faculty, Professional Staff, and support staff. In effect, we've got combined experience, they explain their critical mission from their perspective and exactly what this College does to support our students and our community. And I'm glad they're a part of the team that are working hard to secure those necessary funds. Thanks to them and to the efforts of everyone in the advocacy group.

We have begun conversations in Shared Governance about remote operations which all of you on this zoom call have known, have been going on for nearly a year now. So, we're assessing the impact of those remote operations on our institution, on our College. We're looking at what might be carried forward with respect to those remote operations moving forward that can make us a better learning institution of higher education, what might need to be jettisoned. In other words, in effect, we know we're gonna be somehow different when we return for the coming academic year. We're trying to figure out what of those remote processes ought to be institutionalized and what should be jettisoned. So, SG is taking part in that conversation along with a number of other areas of the College.

I'll tell the board as well, that we always keep our standing committee membership rosters and committee charges current. We've been very busy with that the last month. Executive Committee has approved changes to either or both the membership or charges or process for two very critical committees, our College Safety and Security Committee and our Curriculum Committee. By keeping those charges and memberships current, it lets them do the College business with the right personnel and the right purpose in mind. It's a very important process there.

I can tell you that our Planning and Budgeting for Institutional Effectiveness Committee ably chaired by Professor Deb Chedister of the English Department,

is holding campus open forum February 25. This is an opportunity for everyone on campus to meet with our vice presidents to review these critical planning initiatives which have been loaded up on this common PIP site as we call it. Deb and her team on the PBIE committee are all over that process and we look forward to those forums occurring imminently.

Executive Committee was pleased to be invited to the KK & P presentation on Food Sector workforce strategy last week. We heard the presentation, we listened carefully to what that group had to say, and we did provide feedback as requested to Dr. Young and Administration at our subsequent Executive Committee meeting. We were glad to be partners in the initialization of that process and proposal.

I can tell the board we'll hold our elections next week for vacancies on our committees, that we have made the Middle States Self-Study, such an important process, a standing item on our monthly Assembly meetings. The first presentation happened just this past Wednesday.

And, finally, that I am so pleased that Dr. Ibram X. Kendi will be visiting SUNY Orange this coming Monday at 7 PM, that, we have nearly 500 folks from our student body, our faculty, staff, our community, I hope a few trustees as well, who will be part of what we feel will be one of the premiere events that SUNY Orange and Buffalo State College will be co-hosting in just the next few days.

Chairman Watson, that sir, is my report for this evening.

Chair Watson: We thank you for that report. Moving on to our Interim Student Trustee, Nicholas Kanan.

### C. **REPORT OF THE INTERIM STUDENT TRUSTEE** (Nicholas Kanan)

Trustee Kanan: Hello Board. Thank you all for having me. I'd just like to reintroduce myself again. I'm Nicholas Kanan. I'm the president of Student Senate here at SUNY Orange and also the president of the Apprentice Players Club here at the College as well. It's very nice to meet all of you and I look forward to working with you however brief it may be and continuing our partnership in the future. And, honestly, I'm honored to serve even if it's only on a temporary basis.

So, my first piece of information is the election for Student Trustee is next week; the special election on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. It's looking like it is shaping up to be a competitive election so that is good news. There are multiple people running. Hopefully, that means you guys will get the most able person possible to represent the student voice. We're also hoping that whoever it is that is elected will be somebody who is at the College next year and can run for the next academic year's position and get kind of a head start if you will, on the next academic year with you all.

This week was also the Involvement Fair for all clubs on campus Monday through Wednesday. I believe from all I have heard that it went very well but I

will expect to hear more tomorrow during the Senate Meeting when I can get my full report on it.

In that same vein, we just formed a parent's club here on campus. It is for students with children, of course, and it had lots of interest. Twenty people immediately responded that they were interested, and the first meeting has gone off and was a success from what I have been told. So, that is very good.

The Apprentice Players also had their first meeting yesterday. It went very well. I can speak to that, it went very, very well.

Further, the Board of Activities had their Valentine pick-up event last week. It was very successful; over 60 students attended and picked up Valentine's kits.

And, on Friday, the Board of Activities will be hosting a black history month trivia. Oh, that's tomorrow, sorry, not Friday.

Also, there will be a cooking class with kids to be distributed that will also be conducted by the Board of Trustees, er, Board of Trustees...Board of Activities in the coming week. Well, it's news to you all, right?

Lastly, I just want to touch on what the Senate has been working through. We have several new senators who have been recruited to the Senate over the last couple weeks. So, we've largely been focused on committee assignments and growing the student voice among Shared Governance. I believe we have built 4 or 5 committee seats from the general student body and from student government in the last week or two. So, that has been very good. I think it'll help in representing the student voice to the general inner workings of the campus, that many are not exposed to. So, the more the merrier.

And, Chair Watson, that concludes my report.

Chair Watson: We thank you for that report. Next report...

Trustee Weddell: Fred, I have sort of a question and I'm not sure if it's here that I ask this question or not. Nick just went through the activities that were on campus or starting up to be on campus with the activities and all of that. Where is our...and I don't know who to ask this question to...is the sports programs? What's happening? Are they gonna kick off, not kick off, or are they gonna start or not start?

Dr. Young: I'll respond because I'm available. And, for this year, Wayne Smith, our Athletics Director is reporting directly to me. So, I guess I'm responsible for handling this and Gerianne I might look to for extra special help here if I mangle this a little bit. But here's where we are. The winter sport season, that is considered high risk, so for us that means women's and men's basketball was cancelled. As we advance toward spring, we have softball and baseball and golf to consider. And SUNY Orange is opting to keep dreams alive here under the guidance of, starting with NJCAA Region 15 and you know, all the regular cast of characters after that. And Wayne Smith is a very seasoned Athletic Director in leadership roles and then working of course internally with our COVID Response management team including you know Paul Martland on the infrastructure side, Gerianne Brusati on the testing side. Wayne has submitted an infrastructure plan and a

safety plan for all three of those teams. So, at this time, March 1<sup>st</sup> is a pivotal date, and we're trying to return to practice first for baseball and softball. If our gymnasium is still available, making small groups inside, in the gym. This winter is not cooperating. Wayne had hoped we'd have a winter like past winters that they can get outside, that would be more amenable. But, you know, combination of inside and outside plans, with testing and cleaning and distancing and masking and everything you could hope for that had been approved, all would start later in the season. You maybe saw the recent news article that Sullivan was on the path and Sullivan just made the decision to withdraw from baseball. So, Wayne is continuing to monitor, will there be any teams to compete against and trying to keep a competitive schedule so at least these teams will be able to practice, stay in competitive shape. That is what...a goal that we hope to continue to try to reach if COVID conditions cooperate and the maximum goal would be, can they get in some sort of competitive schedule. Ulster is still trying to field a team. Our Region 15 includes some teams further downstate closer to the City and on Long Island that they hope to fill the schedule out with. So, at least 20 games I think is where Wayne was with baseball. I don't know where he is with softball. So, that's where we are, trying to support that, but obviously only if we can do that safety...safely and I have to compliment...you know, I've always known Wayne as a quality AD but getting to work with him directly, I am so, so very impressed with him. He is detail oriented and has been so in tune with safety first. So, that's where we are.

Trustee Kanan: I might add onto that just to dispel any confusion. The...with exception to the Board of Activities pick up events which are drive up and getting a kit basically, all of the events that I did just describe are being conducted virtually.

Trustee Weddell: Thank you Nick.

Chair Watson: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Next on the agenda is the College Association, Vinnie Cazzetta.

#### **D. REPORT OF THE COLLEGE ASSOCIATION (Vinnie Cazzetta)**

Mr. Cazzetta: Whoops, where's my...there's my picture. Hello Board, it's good to be with you tonight.

Dr. Young: I did okay with the sports update Vinnie?

Mr. Cazzetta: Oh, Kris, you're ready for prime time now. I can see you on WABC at...doing the 11:00 sports.

Dr. Young: Thank you, I forgot you were there, now I'm nervous.

Trustee Hannes: Vinnie, before you begin, I have a question. It's Flo. Does the blank background represent transition from SUNY to where you are now?

Mr. Cazzetta: No, Flo, you know me well enough. I'm just blank. No this is just a different site. I didn't have a background up when I got started so I just used the blank wall today. But...again, I am situated. We closed on our home in New York yesterday so that was good, because I was holding two mortgages for about



three weeks. That was a little nerve-wracking, but all is well. But thank you, thank you for noticing my un-background. But anyways, good to be with all of you tonight. A few things to report on.

For the spring semester, the bookstore did a walk-up pick-up window for pick-up service of books and of 1,097 orders, 379 or 35% used the pickup window. So, it's a pretty good start. It's providing a good service and if needed it will be there for next fall or the summer session as well.

With respect to the lab school, they've gone under some shutdowns because of COVID, positive COVID cases of staff, some staff, and some close contact situations of the staff and the students. So, there's been a couple of shutdowns both in the Newburgh Lab School and the Morrison Lab School and there's currently one right now, but they should be back up in a couple days. So, they're doing their best to operate under those circumstances. The other thing that they're also doing with the other children that are there, they're observing social distancing and capacity numbers as set by the State and the County, so they're observing those. So, the classrooms are much smaller for those reasons as well.

Myself and three board members had an opportunity to sit on the presentation by KK and P and we will have more discussion about that program at our board meeting which is this coming Monday. So, that's my fourth item, is the board, the College Association Board will meet Monday, this coming Monday, February 22 at 8 AM.

And, the last thing is, to Nicholas...I....Nicholas is on our College Association Board. And, I noticed in our orientation, I found him to be A. very astute and asked astute questions, B. a very quick study so Board, I know he will serve you very well in this interim basis. So, Nicholas congratulations, and you'll do a great job.

And, unless there's any questions, that will conclude my report for tonight.

Trustee Hannes: And it's so nice to see you.

Mr. Cazzetta: Same...nice to see all of you too.

Chair Watson: And we wish you well in your transition. Next, Foundation Board, Dawn Ansbro. Dawn, are you with us?

#### **E. REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD (Dawn Ansbro)**

Ms. Ansbro: I am here Chair Watson. Thank you very much. Even though it does say Michael Martucci under my face. It is me. Couple of...actually a bunch of things to report to you guys.

Just...scholarship applications, the application process as you know is open, it's been open since January 10<sup>th</sup>. We right now have a total of 92 submitted applications which isn't great...if you...just in comparison last year at the end of the process, which we extended into May last year if you recall because of COVID, we had actually a total of 374 submitted. Now I know that a lot of

students wait 'till the last minute, so not terribly worried, but if you do know of a student who has not yet submitted a scholarship application, please do encourage them to do so. Lots of great scholarships available and for all kinds of students, need based, merit based. You guys know most of them, but we've communicated with the department chairs, with the high school guidance counselors. We're working with Admissions and with Academic Advising to get the word out about them. Just wanted to give you an update on that. We're tracking that very closely.

I'll be on Barry Cheney's radio show tomorrow morning at 9:30 if anybody is interested, on WTbQ. I will certainly talk up the College but also the Foundation and it's just a nice thing to be asked by the guys. It's Barry Cheney, John Vero and Paul Ruskiewicz host that show every...I think once a month. So, I'll be doing that.

We do have two new board members who just joined us, Johnnieanne Hansen who is the Vice President of Operations and Workforce Development for the Council of Industry, just joined the Foundation Board. We expect that she will be very helpful and a great asset as we continue to work towards workforce development at the College. Also, Janie Bricourt, who is an investment advisor, has just joined the Foundation Board as well. So, we're excited to have them both.

And just speaking of investments, our Investment Committee actually just adopted a new spending rate policy. So, our new spending rate policy actually will...it's actually based on a three-year average rate of return for all of our funds. It actually will allow us to...especially given the market performance recently, will allow us to increase our spending rate to about 7% on our funds this year. Just for argument's sake, normally we're just under 5% so it will allow us to considerably increase the amount of scholarship dollars that we'll be able to award this year. So, we're very excited about that. And, let me just see if we had anything else.

Oh, and our Alumni Committee just...normally you know we would be...we would be organizing a bowling event right about now for early March and obviously that's not gonna happen this year. The Alumni Committee is actually trying to organize something to replace that, kind of a community type of event. It will be virtual. They're looking to do a music event online using SUNY Orange alumni as the performers. And I know that Jen is working diligently with the Alumni Committee to pull that together. So, more on that shortly. We're also working with the Human Services and Education Department on an Alumni Career panel. So, we've got about 4 or 5 alum who will be speaking to students about their career experiences, their journey in SUNY Orange, outside of journey...ah, SUNY Orange...what that looks like for them. We had a very successful one last semester if you recall with the Business Department, so we look forward to doing this with Human Services and Education this semester.

And that concludes my report unless anybody has any questions.

Trustee Vacca: Dawn, just a comment. Johnnieanne Hansen is a fantastic catch. She's a great worker.

Ms. Ansbro: Isn't she wonderful. We're excited.

Chair Watson: Dawn, we thank you for that report and as usual, you always have surprises, and more scholarships is a great thing. So, continue the great work at the Foundation. We most definitely appreciate it.

Ms. Ansbro: Thank you so much.

Chair Watson: You're welcome. Next, we have our first report of the evening. It is from the Middle States Self-Study team. We'll call this an update. We have with us Christine Work and Dr. Dena Whipple.

#### **F. MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY UPDATE**

(Christine Work, Dena Whipple, Michele Iannuzzi-Sucich)

Ms. Work: Okay. Just unmuting. So, thank you. Welcome. I just wanted to thank Chair Watson for allowing us to be able to come and share with you all the updates that we're making in our self-study process and also, to Dr. Young especially for all of the support she has given us. And, Dr. Hackman, we couldn't do it without you either. Your feedback and guidance along the way is excellent and we're just happy to be able to share that we've made a lot of progress.

So, I will begin by showing you first the agenda, as to what to expect.

Next slide please Carol. I was gonna try to throw in some funny sports commentary about here's our line up, but I don't have any of those. But what we are going to do is share with you where we're at with our self-study organization and introduce to you the leadership that has committed to this very important, also lengthy process. And also, where we're at in finalizing that membership. And we also want to share with you an update too on how...on where our thoughts are and what our plan is to engage students in the self-study process. The next section of our presentation is to give you an update on our self-study design particularly with the section called intended outcomes. So, what do we want to achieve through our self-study process? And, finally, we'll conclude with some information about our self-study preparation visit with Dr. Starkey who is our Middle States Liaison.

Next slide. And this is our lineup. I do know we have three self-study co-chairs, myself, Dena and Michele and we have 18 steering committee members. And I believe that you probably are aware that we finalized our steering committee membership, but we do want to take just a little bit of time to acknowledge their names and what standard their supporting and leading. So, we will do that in just one moment. Also, to acknowledge that we have three ex-officios and we're...I'm sort of looking at all of them right here...Dr. Erika Hackman from the College, Vice President of Academic Affairs. And, we have our favorite Flo Hannes, trustee member who we are thrilled to be able to reunite with and work with so that's fantastic so thank you again. And, also Dan...or Dawn

Ansbro, you are a pleasure to work with at the College and I think that what you can contribute in regards to your connection to alumni will be really fantastic especially as we're through the self-study process really, really trying to bring forward our strategic priorities within our...embedding it into our self-study process. And, then finally, what we have are eight working groups. So, there's going to be one working group for each of the seven standards of accreditation and we're going to have one working group.

Ah, next slide please Carol. Okay, so now I'd like to just announce to you this is our steering committee membership. This is the first page so not all...we'll get to all seven standards. But our first standard is Mission and Goals and leading that standard is Christine Leroux and Likkia Moody. And, our second standard, Ethics and Integrity, we have Sam Dillon and Maynard Schmidt. Third standard is Design and Delivery of the Students Learning Experience and we have here Katie Sinsabaugh and Liz Carris-Swan. Number four, Support of the Student Experience, and leading this standard is John Rion and Anthony Scalia. The next slide. So, our fifth standard is Educational Effectiveness Assessment and two fabulous people to lead this standard is Sheila Stepp and Terree Angerame. Our sixth standard, Planning Resources and Institutional Improvements, we have Angela Elia and Josh Lavorgna. And finally, our last standard, Governance Leadership and Administration and this standard will be led by Donna Frazier and Michelle Tubbs. So, next slide.

And just to round out, maybe that's a little bit of a term...to round out our team...we have...I just wanted to acknowledge two or three ex-officio members here, Erika, Flo, and Dawn. And then also very important and not last but not least, our student representation. They're really an integral part of the self-study process and feedback and input are going to be regularly sought out and incorporated. So, we're excited to be able to include them in hopefully what you think is a unique way as well. Next slide. And Michele.

Dr. Whipple: Carol, we just need to you unmute Michele.

Dr. Iannuzzi-Sucich: I got it Dena, thank you very much. I appreciate that. Good evening everyone. So, first I'd like to update you on the process of the working group membership status. So, in terms of recruiting members for our working groups that represent each of the seven standards, we put out a call for volunteers both at general Assembly and using the College Grapevine so that anyone who wished to be part of the process could nominate themselves or nominate a colleague. We then, Dena, Christine and I drafted a sort of a membership draft that we shared with both Dr. Young and Dr. Hackman that when we put together the draft we were taking into consideration not so much individual names as what would each person bring to the table, what groups did we want represented, what was the history and experience of those individuals, what was their leadership and perspective and their roles and responsibilities across campus both in Middletown and Newburgh. So, then as I said, the draft composition was reviewed by both President Young and Dr. Hackman. And we met with each of the co-chairs for each of the working groups and had them also review the membership, have the opportunity for feedback, finalized the lists and our

invitations finally went out this morning. And, we already had a rather robust response given it's only been a few hours since those folks received their invitations. But, for the most part, the folks who were invited are extremely enthusiastic and so we're really looking forward to working with them.

Next slide please. I'd also like to speak about the student working group. As Christine mentioned, students are an absolutely integral part of the work that the self-study is gonna be... the self-study team is gonna be looking at and so in order to bring the student voice forward in a substantial way, rather than assigning an individual student to each of the seven standards and risking the idea that because this is a two-year process, it would be very challenging to identify seven students who are going to be present for the precise two years during which the self-study takes place. We instead decided to model a scenario that we had seen used by one of the other institutions that was attending the Middle States Self Study Institute this past fall. Where you have a separate group of students and that group of students is then asked to...they're sort of an advisory committee to the seven standards. And, so they will be charged with providing feedback both on documents that are produced as well as on an as needed basis attending perhaps meetings of one or more of the different working groups. And, so we are very much looking forward for them to provide their perspective and insight about the SUNY Orange experience, share their feedback on the draft documents, as well as engage other students in the self-study process. We are using the same criteria for participation in the student working group as are used for other student involvement on campus including the criteria for the student trustee which is an overall GPA of 2.0 as well as a 2.0 for the most recent academic semester. So, by convening the students in this fashion we will hopefully be able to keep a working group assembled for the entire two-year time span of the self-study. And, if a particular student is unable to serve and they represent, for example, Board of Trustees...I'm sorry, the Board of Activities then we will ask another representative from the Board of Activities to step into that role. So, the...we are looking to engage a diverse group of students including representatives from Student Senate, the Honors program, Board of Activities, Phi Theta Kappa, TRIO and EOP, Athletics, Alumni as well as the student body at large. And then, in addition to all of that, student focus groups may be convened on an as-needed basis throughout the process. Next slide please. Dena.

Dr. Whipple:

Okay, thank you Michele. Good evening to everyone. One of the key components of the self-study design is the documentation of the College's Intended Outcomes. The Intended Outcomes will demonstrate how the institution plans to achieve the things that the institution plans to achieve through the self-analysis process and should result from conversations with campus constituents for how we meet our mission, institutional priorities and overall effectiveness. Intended Outcomes really serve as an umbrella for how the College will not only utilize the self-study process to demonstrate compliance with the standards of accreditation will really plan out how we approach and plan for continuous improvement and innovation. We have begun this process already. The bullets here identify a number of ways that we have already started gathering feedback on these intended outcomes. There has

been a discussion with the core team which has involved the president, the vice presidents and attendees of the Self-Study Institute that occurred during the fall semester. We have received feedback and had dialog with the full steering committee on these intended outcomes. And, we now have a College-wide survey that has gone out that is asking for feedback on the draft outcomes that we have put together based on the previous discussions. There's a link on this particular slide. We invite the board to also participate in this survey and Carol will be sending out this link after the meeting today. We welcome your participation on these intended outcomes.

The survey document, the draft Intended Outcomes as you see here and as evidenced by the feedback that we've received so far. This slide presents what the College community is currently reacting to. And, the intended outcomes as stated here, demonstrate how the College will meet these standards of accreditation as well as the fifteen requirements of affiliation and verification of compliance relevant to our federal regulations. They will connect and collaborate with all constituents in order to identify communication strategies that are engaging and effective. We will evaluate the College's policies processes and practices pre- and post-pandemic in order to enhance, improve and innovate for our future. And we will equip the College with sustainable strategies for improvement and innovation that best support our incoming, current, and perspective students. You can see clearly that there is a strong emphasis on improvement and innovation. This is a focus area from Middle States that's been threaded throughout the new seven standards as well as the Self-Study Institute that we attended.

The spring semester is guided by two major events. The first is the submission of our self-study design document. The second is our self-study preparation visit with our liaison Dr. Paul Starkey. The liaison visit will be virtual of course. What we plan to do...the Self-Study Design is currently being drafted. The Steering Committee along with the co-chairs are currently putting that together. We're going to be receiving feedback in terms of that document and that will be shared out with the College community at large. And, the Self-Study Design, it really outlines about twelve components that Middle States puts out to every single institution for the components that will allow us to look at the self-study process and set ourselves up for success as we approach that process. So, the design really outlines how we plan to go about the entire self-study process.

The virtual visit, as you see here, has been set for April 8. This is a Thursday. This is the agenda that we will have with Dr. Starkey. Dr. Young will meet with Dr. Starkey first thing in the morning. The Steering Committee then has an opportunity to talk with Dr. Starkey. There is an open forum for all campus stakeholders as well as representation from the board in the afternoon, from Trustee Hannes and Chair Watson. So, thank you so much for your participation there. And, then it concludes with a final meeting at the end of the day with the self-study co-chairs to sort of wrap up and provide some feedback from the day's events.

Last, just to sort of give you a couple of other items that will be happening this spring. We have ongoing meetings with the Steering Committee as well as an upcoming orientation for the working group members. We will be administering the Community College Survey of Student Engagement this semester. That happens every three years. And this particular tool will provide some very timely and important information as we approach our self-study. So, the timing of that is quite nice. Again, just to reiterate, the Self-Study Design document is now being put together. We will have many options for reviewing that document and we must submit that document two weeks prior to our self-study visit on April 8, which backs us up to about March 23. So those are the major events that are going to be happening this spring semester and that concludes our Middle States update and presentation.

Chair Watson: We thank you all for that report. Michele, I apologize for not introducing you. I didn't know you would be presenting this evening. But, once again we're excited about the entire self-study process, looking forward to it and it's apparent that we are in good hands. So, thank you for that report.

Next, our second special report of the evening is a Strategic Planning implementation update and that will be given by Dr. Young.

#### **G. SPECIAL REPORT – STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

(Dr. Kristine Young)

Dr. Young: Great. Thank you Chair Watson and I will captain the presentation but my colleagues in the vice-presidential ranks particularly Dr. Hackman and Paul Martland have been warned that I may need them for details. And I don't leave Gerianne out of anything and so Carol you may need to unmute all of them or be ready to do so. And Carol will be operating the slide deck on my behalf and with my gratitude here this evening.

So, as we set for this board, I'll remind you...yes, there we go a full deck. Again, COVID time is funny, but you'll remember back in May you approved the Strategic Plan for 2020-25 and over the course of the summer we agreed, well over the course of 5 years we should implement that entire plan. But, given the special circumstances in the first year of this plan, namely that it was a COVID year, that it would be appropriate to tease out a reasonable and very, let's call it curated subset of goals to execute in this first year that would move the College forward in this plan but respond to the reality that we were faced. So, we also promised you that we would give you an interim report here in February to let you know how we were doing in execution of this plan. So, that's what this is this evening. So, we can move forward with the slide, thank you Carol.

And what we did was pull out...we wanted to have a comprehensive coverage of this plan. There were three themes, three major themes, in the overall Strategic Plan and with your endorsement we pulled out one objective from each of those themes and said, let's attack it in the current academic year. And so out of that first major theme, which was Empower Student Success Equitably Link Students with their Aspirations, we focused on Goal 3 which was increase flexibility for the students of today and tomorrow. And not surprisingly the

College community recommended to you and you agreed that we should be strengthening our resources in technologies for online learning. And, here we, you know, online twelve months ago had a particular meaning but here we take this to mean, not just remote, all virtual enterprise that we find ourselves in now. And I think now that we're into this for eleven or twelve months, we realize this is going to be a lasting characteristic of SUNY Orange. That this is not going to...we're not ever going back to Fall 2019 so how do we get ready for that. Next slide please.

This is very small print. Don't worry about it. We're gonna take it goal by goal but...I should say metric by metric, the board has emphasized that goals are nice, objectives are nice, but how do you measure that you've made some progress. So, early on in the fall, we agreed to having seven ways to identify that we are making progress on this particular objective this year and that is the complete set of metrics and I endeavor to have...now give you the report, metric by metric here about how we are doing. So, Carol if you'll help me go slide by slide with an update. Now, there's not much on each slide, but I can give a little detail and then if the board wishes for more details, I have got my colleagues to help me out.

So, one of the first metrics that we want to look at is leaning...the first set really leans on our Center for Teaching and Learning to deliver a lot of professional development. And, here, with the board's commendation, I want to take a quick aside because I've come to appreciate something very profoundly in recent weeks and months and a lot of the parties are here tonight and I'd like to recognize them. And, we may be unique, and this may start unlocking some of the answers about SUNY Orange right now and something about our enrollment and student satisfaction with what's going on in the remote stance and some of the early feedback we're getting about continuing in a remote stance. And you've met, board, you've met Dana Salkowsky in helping us get comfortable with Zoom in the board...preparing for board meetings. And Dana is our Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. And it's the CTL and her staff, including Maureen Larsen who is gifted with...understands Blackboard and how to use Blackboard to support student learning. But it's CTL that really stepped into the breach here and is available to our faculty and staff in a time of COVID and to talk about teaching and learning in general, but certainly in a virtual environment. And it's over the past couple of years that the College made the decision to stay invested in having a vibrant CTL, to have a full-time director to hire well and invest in having an inhouse professional development enterprise for faculty and staff. And Dana has been exceptional, has given leadership to Maureen and others in that unit, and of course we've had faculty and staff who've responded to that in this time. And, what makes SUNY Orange unique that has really hit me...is Dana reports to Dr. Whipple, who I can see on my screen, at least her name, who is the previous director of CTL who is now Associate Vice President, who understands the value of that center and how it fits into a larger scheme of support in her role, and Dana reports to a Vice President of Academic Affairs, who in a previous...in her previous postings ran a center for teaching and learning at a different institution. So, we have aligned Academic leadership that gets this work. And I've started playing with the idea



of that may be unique among community colleges and a really salient feature of community colleges. And tonight, seems like the right time to share that with the board as a real.... boy, couldn't have planned a pandemic but the support that we have coming in and the investment that we've made in that, so thank you for your support of that. Carol, we can roll back. I know I just went on a tangent, so I didn't even get to cover all the slides that I talked about previously.

So, what did the CTL deliver, going back to the one that has the number one on it. This CTL has delivered a lot and a credit to our faculty and staff for taking advantage of it because participation in CTL is completely voluntary. No one says you have to do it. So, the CTL is putting out a good product that our faculty say yes, I'd like to do that. Because our faculty and staff believe in students. So, one of the objectives we had put forward is to certify additional faculty to teach online. That's a rigorous process, certification is more than just taking an hour class in the CTL. And, that goal is accomplished. We have over, I think the sum total is 91 individuals have become certified in a time since COVID. Now, I'm gonna qualify board, I let you down a little bit this evening. Our goals here are expressed as deltas, change, some of these are in changes from year to year and I have raw numbers. We will clean that up by the final report but that's a pretty impressive number. I'm sorry I was just on this sheet...we had a goal of 10 individuals who would be trained. It was actually 42 individuals who were trained. So those are raw numbers. So, 10 was the goal, 42 were trained, so this goal was absolutely accomplished, who more than just attended the workshop but were actually certified. So, this goal has been accomplished. Carol, we can now... you can finally move forward thank you.

A second objective was to increase the number of faculty who completed blackboard training relative to a normal semester and the inclusion of this academic year. And even though this academic year is still underway we have already met this goal. In raw numbers, we have already had at least 91 individuals who have completed blackboard online training. So, we will get the Delta eventually, but this is an exceptional number of individuals who completed blackboard training. And, again if you do have any detailed questions, please just indicate and Erika can help me out with these or Dena, she is here as well. Next slide.

Another goal...another goal was to increase the number of faculty who completed instructional technology workshops, a different sort of workshop. You can see the goal there was to increase a normal semester to the end of this year by 40. It appears we have had something like hundreds, literally hundreds of people have participated this year. I'm roughing it out to like 800, over 800 people have participated this year. So, the Delta is going to bear out that we have met this goal as well. Next slide.

Again, another really CTL driven objective. Increase the number of participants who complete CTL workshops overall by 80 people. This Delta is going to be over...this is an accomplished goal as well...we have over 900 people who have participated just in this year. Clearly, Zoom.... this is one of the benefits of Zoom. These numbers are astounding. I think some of our goals were set

thinking kind of old school, like coming into a place and participating in a training together. Zoom has enabled more people to participate and the willingness to participate is high, so again we will get the Delta, but the point is that hundreds of people are availing themselves to the training and the CTL is a valuable resource at the College. Next slide please.

And, finally, the last CTL based goal is increase the number the sessions, another way of...a metric associated with the value of the CTL to have at least 20 more types of sessions. And apparently, we had something over 200 sessions of those and 300 sessions in the current year in raw numbers. So, again, this goal is accomplished. So, the CTL is a standout resource right now. So, my tip of the cap to Dana and Maureen, Dena and of course up through Academic Affairs. This has been a resource for our times in executing this.

Continuing down this strand, please Carol, two more objectives under this first goal. Evaluate and recommend preferred instructional and conferencing software. This is underway and on track, so this is more of a collaboration between Academic Affairs and ITS, but this is.... especially with a nod toward students so there isn't a cornucopia of different sorts of software that students might be asked to use. So, this is...these conversations are ongoing. We gave ourselves the entire year so the information I have...I am satisfied that these conversations are taking place amongst the right people who are on track to have a deliverable in the time frame.

And the last slide in this section. The last one has to do with installing, testing, demonstrating, evaluating, tech equipped classrooms of the future. So, this was with a mindset toward what some people might call the ability of having a classroom that responds to what is our future state. What are the actual hardware, software that you need in a classroom? And this conversation is also underway and on track. There is a demonstration classroom that is I think fully constructed, I think as of yesterday, a collaboration between Academic Affairs and ITS. And, faculty will be asked into the classroom to start playing around with it and teaching in it, and seeing how it feels, to modify it and then if we can standardize a classroom you can think of all the benefits of having a standard classroom that can be replicated into multiple buildings on both campuses into our future. So, this is underway and on track as well.

Carol, we can move into the second major theme of the Strategic Plan. This is the one that had to do with strengthening our region's economic future, teaching and training for a brighter tomorrow. We recommended to the trustees that we focus on expanding workforce development in emerging and innovating fields. But we were really lasered in on was the objective that responded to COVID which was identifying responding to evolving business industry and cultural trends and community needs. One that seems to speak next to what was an employment crunch this summer where we went from 3% unemployment to 12 %, 14% which is where we were this summer, so we were really drawn to this one.

Here's where our progress was, Carol please. We have five metrics on this one. Again, small print, but we'll go one by one. Carol, move to the next slide please.

The first one as you've heard mentioned a couple times this evening. We have a consultant thanks to the generosity of the Foundation that we were able to retain and talk with us about how to move into food, beverage and hospitality using what we had in the Tower basement and it would be delivered by January. And bingo we got there so mission accomplished on that one.

Related, the second goal, Carol please. I'm sorry the second objective here related to it then is moving forward the implementation of that objective that is actually doing something with this right, is actually getting moving with that. So, I would represent to you underway and on track. There has been no sleep on this matter for Dr. Hackman and I. You heard Vinnie refer to meetings we're having with the Association. I assure you; you'll hear Paul Basinski talk about it in Shared Governance. So, we are moving forward with the ideas, Foundation to get moving on this. So, I am confident we are moving forward with this as the metric hoped for. Next slide.

The next three in this category had to do with more like non-credit enrollment workforce development, in what you may associate with CAPE or more traditional non-credit offerings. So, the first had to do with create, offer and enroll at least three new non-credit, workforce pipeline development courses by Summer 2021. I'm pleased to report that CAPE unit has taken this objective and challenge to heart and is looking at some creative ways to take some things that they've already done and to bridge them into high school...high school environment for students who may have left high school early, to bring them into the College or prepare them for the workforce in different ways. We have some examples we can get into if the board is interested. But that's...that's largely been the focus, to take areas where CAPE already has some expertise and bridge it into some different areas where there may be interest with high school non-completers with the high school equivalency. So, I would say that this is underway and on track to have three new programs to take advantage of that which CAPE already does. Next slide please.

The fourth metric and objective that we are looking for is increasing the number of individuals completing training for industry partners to 200 from 51 in a normal year. And this one I just...I took from underway and on track to just underway. That is not for want of work. I do have a list of details if the board is interested here with cooperators, businesses, where we have things in the que, where we have training that we are ready to deliver. And the hold up here is one of the casualties of COVID era funding from SUNY is workforce development monies. So, that has flowed for years and relationships that we had or relationships that we were making, lacking the money from SUNY to actually discount or absolutely make the training happen from the employer's side and our side, it hadn't happened. Further complicated by the COVID, where we are learning that employers greatly prefer in-person training which we really have to be very mindful about how we feel about bringing our own people into different environments and are they safe and so forth. So, I can represent that the right conversations are happening, but this is a tough one in COVID year. One thing that we look forward to is Dave Kohn from CAPE, Dr. Hackman and I are, I think it's next week, we are featured analysts, co-hosts with the

Montgomery...Town of Montgomery IDA where we have been very much invited to be front and center with a group that they've brought together in Montgomery, like with Pharmacon, Volume 8, McKesson and others were there looking for workforce solutions. So, this is a nice entrance into another round of conversations so we hope that that's another way that we can get to work on this particular goal. But this has been a little bit of a challenge here because of COVID. Thus, and so, the final objective in this series, Carol, next slide please, that is closely related which has to do with the number of seats is also just an "underway" on this one because these two are very, very close.

And, finally Carol, next slide please, this is the last of the three major themes in our Strategic Plan which is Sustain and Invigorate our planned future, Reimagine Human Financial and Physical resources. The goal that we chose to emphasize was very important to our internal College community, just to improve the effectiveness of all of our internal resources, to really focus on ourselves here and foster a culture of collaboration and communication and civility. And in the next slide, ways that we would...ways we would measure that is something we've been working on very hard in so many different ways as are witnessed with different sorts of communications, open forums, all sorts of communications. The way that we measure this is really through surveyed tools largely. And, the very next slide, I got all fancy and found these stenciled fonts and learned how to slant it this morning. And just to say, all this is underway and on track, every one of these surveys that you see on here, including CCSSE on the screen that the Middle States group just referenced. These are all surveys that are all issued in the spring. So, I would say that this is all underway and on track. We're doing the work in terms of trying to communicate and collaborate better, but the proof will be in the pudding, mostly issued these surveys in the spring and be able to report back afterwards. So, I feel we're on track there. And, that would conclude, your...hopefully giving you evidence that on top of everything else we are working this plan. What we agreed to do then is to give you a final report this means...particular objectives I believe September, at your September meeting because by then you folks wouldn't have closed on this fiscal year, on this academic year, but also would have given us opportunity to maybe catch our breaths and come up with a larger implementation plan for the remaining four years of the Strategic Plan over the summer. So, with that if you have any questions or feedback, we've certainly... we've got a lot of capable administrators here available to detail anything here.

Trustee Weddell:

I did have a question Dr. Young. The first part of your presentation dealt with the technology and getting, more or less, the College up to par where it needs to be with the technology and then be able to do more online classes. And that fits really well with the enrollment thing that we put together because we were identifying that we have more or less have two types of customers. You know some that are gonna want to be in the classroom and some that Zoom is gonna fit more into their work schedule. One of the things that...have you...I guess best practices on this...have we communicated with any other college or a business that uses this, these programs? Is this the best practice or is this the best programs that we...I mean I'm famous for stealing ideas so...I never had a visual thought in my own head. I told everybody else that that was a good idea.

So, I was just wondering, is what we are about to use, or implement is that easiest and the best practice that's out there and to how we communicate with anyone else that's using it. And, to me, like how is business doing it now? So, if I go get a job now, how are they communicating with their...you know, their teams and how they're doing their trainings and what resources they're using? Has there been any thought on that or any...I'm just curious?

Dr. Young: No, excellent, excellent question. So, you're talking about...probably about like what is those quasi-standardized tools for teaching and then moving into maybe what is the standardized classroom. And, for that I'll have to appeal very quickly to Erika Hackman, and you can start there. So, maybe Erika can be...her microphone can be opened to talk about how do you go about identifying those? How do you know? Erika, this is in your wheelhouse.

Dr. Hackman: Yes, thank you Dr. Young and thank you for the question, Trustee Weddell. The College has a really strong and pretty rich and longish history with regard to training and teaching folks to be effective in an online environment. In fact, I would just represent to you that community colleges at large have done a better job at that than the four-year schools and the K-12 schools over time. So, we have had, Maureen Larsen, in particular, as our director of academic technology has been in that position for many years teaching our faculty, using the best practices that have been identified nationally. So certainly, we turn to SUNY for their leadership through, you know, their Center for Professional Development for resources, for the SUNY online resources that are available. So, it goes far beyond the walls of SUNY Orange. But we have been modeling our internal training after those national models for a very long time. So, I feel very good about the quality and integrity of the ways that we're teaching folks to be effective online. The...the...the thing that's changed so much obviously that you can see in the data is that COVID forced folks to teach online and so we saw a ground swell you know of our faculty who may not have every chosen that as a modality availing themselves of learning those best practices to teach effectively online.

Trustee Weddell: Well, again, what I see happening in my own profession...the technology...we're never going backwards from this Zoom thing, okay, we're only gonna go forward with this. So, again, it's great to be on that path, but how do we stay always.. I don't have to say leading edge but cutting edge with technology in College? Because let me tell you when I have to hire a student right out of College that is able to handle the technology with real ease, okay, they go faster, than a certain student who has kind of been left behind a little bit with the technology. They have a little experience, they can do emails and all that stuff, but really getting into the technology, they can move along a lot faster okay. And again, so we do a lot of training in house on the technology, and I was just wondering again, but...I stole all that from somebody else. I didn't come up with any of that, but I used the best technology that I can find out there, because it does save me time and effort. And I don't see us ever realistically going back and never doing this Zoom stuff ever again. Matter of fact, it's gonna be part of what happens within my accounting firm from now and forever, I'm sure of that. And most banking is gonna be done the same way...I can see similar type processes. So, I think it is

important that we get to that. And, we also, with the Enrollment committee, we kind of defined that the older an individual may be, there may be more of a need, because they do have a full-time job, to do an online course than to actually appear at the campus to go through a program, that just fits in their day at a better time, particularly if they have children, they have to be home and or have someone babysit while they're at College. So, we see that again in Enrollment side, being an important thing and I see that this may be something...I was just curious.

Dr. Hackman: We certainly are preparing ourselves for more hybrid operations in the future and we'll look forward to sharing with you, you know, if there is desire to understand the feedback that we're hearing from our students. So, we've been surveying faculty and students. Trustee Kanan, I see the nod of the head there, that we've been putting surveys onto students to ask them what their preferences are in the future. And surprisingly, we've seeing many more students indicating both a desire...they've built confidence in learning remotely, they've learned some skills and feel effective in doing remote courses. But also, just the opportunity for hybrid for the same flexibilities that you're noticing in your industry, we are too.

Trustee Weddell: Yeah, but there's always gonna be that...I mean to me...the under twenty-one student...I want to be on campus, I want to know what's going on, not the Zoom. And I'm probably gonna sleep 'till 10:00 in the morning and then go to class in the mid-afternoon. But I'm gonna want to be on campus when things are happening around campus and enjoy that so. But, again, if I'm...you know...I'm 35 years old and I got a full-time job, I can't afford to be on campus, okay so I need to be able to work somehow into that...the online courses into the program. So, alright, thank you.

Dr. Young: At the risk of receiving Dr. Hackman's steely glare, because she is a researcher at heart, I know, and the survey result is not complete, but our survey results are suggesting that that may not be the case.

Trustee Weddell: Really.

Dr. Young: So, we'll wait 'till the evidence is in but I think we have some early surprises about student preference right now. Age...you know...that the stereotypes we might have about age of student may not be holding here. So, I just want to...to be continued.

Trustee Weddell: Well, I'm just thinking of time, I'm just thinking availability time...the younger may not be having a full-time job...I may have a part-time job but not a full-time job.

Dr. Young: Yeah. It's very interesting. This is rocking...this is truly...when we say that this is a seismic event, no joke, we're not going back to fall 2019. And I think we are just at the outside of learning, truly, what does that mean. Paul Martland is raising his hand so that means spending more, spending less or spending the same.

VP Martland: No, I just wanted to add the other perspective to Tom's question which is that, you know, the IT people involved in the selection of this equipment and the testing of it, particularly our Interim CIO, Leland Hach, is very attuned to the latest practices in this area, both in the academic world and other areas. But he has a natural interest in it himself. And this is an area where being part of SUNY is helpful because the CIOs meet regularly and there are some very high-powered IT folks involved in the SUNY system, so they are keeping...keeping current with the technology. Because I understand the thrust of your question, being that you know we're not just going out and getting something that does the job today. We're looking...we're trying to position it so that it will be a useful platform going forward and that can be built upon as the technology improves over time.

Trustee Kanan: I had some things I wanted to address there as well. I did have a question for clarification. One of the metrics talks about online certification for professors being distributed by the Center for Teaching and Learning. What exactly does that certify the professors for? Is that asynchronous virtual campus instruction? As, I know the majority of our faculty is teaching online.

Dr. Hackman: Yeah, certainly, and if I could ask Carol to unmute Dr. Whipple as well. So, the certification that we have done for many years is definitely designed for the more traditional asynchronous distance learning, so fully online courses. But what we've certainly done quite a bit more of is trying to provide faculty with training and development around the format that we're calling blended right, which is a mix, right, a blending of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Dena is there anything else you'd like to add to the that certification process?

Dr. Whipple: Yeah. I would just add that the instructors who go through that are actually putting together a practice shell. So, they're going through getting the best practices, applying those best practices, and working on that practice course for quite some time. We also utilize a rubric, a national rubric, that SUNY endorses as well, that has metrics in place, that not only discuss best practices with online learning but our best practices with any course, any format, utilizing a blackboard shell. So, it's not only the online piece but it could be a hybrid, it could be a face-to-face class. So, there is a strong rubric that we measure those courses...before they're actually availed to students and approved through their department chair.

Trustee Kanan: Thank you. Thank you for that. And, I did have another question there in a similar vein to Trustee Weddell. There was something discussed relating to finding what would be the best practices for software use through this, which software would be best for instruction. How is that being quantified? Because I would see that the vast majority of classes are using Zoom or Blackboard, and/or I should say. So, how are we measuring other means? I only know of a few professors that are using other means of instructional methods.

Dr. Hackman: So, Academic Affairs and IT Services are beginning our study in coordination with Shared Governance. We have an Academic Technology Committee. And what we are trying to do is to reduce confusion for students in particular and trying to recommend the use of a particular platform. The vast majority of our

instruction that's being done remotely is being done via zoom which you know I think we're finding is working quite well, especially now that the closed captioning is embedded into the tool. That's a huge, huge accessibility issue that was unresolved. Whereas, other competing products, such as Microsoft Teams had that functionality built into it. So, we are still looking at the alternatives, of using Google Meet, using Zoom, using Microsoft Teams. And we just want to make sure that we're providing support for that recommended platform so that there is consistency. Because we really want to not complicate student's studies by having you know, you having to learn 3 or 4 different platforms in order to take 3 or 4 classes, so...

Trustee Kanan: Thank you.

Chair Watson: Well, before we move on, I would like to just sit on the side of trustee Weddell for a moment. I took part in the National Legislative Summit that AACCC and ACCT gave last week. And, what I'm hearing is that in order for us to educate our students, we are going to need to provide them with more and more services. Services like Mental Health, Emergency Services and I'll talk about this when I give my observations on the summit. But don't close the campuses yet, we're going to need to touch these students, we're going to need to feel them, we're going to need to encourage, coach. We're going to need to provide them with a lot of ancillary services that you can't get them through an online platform. So, I'm kind of in agreement with Trustee Weddell, that we still need to have our campuses open, that the students are going to continue to gravitate to campuses. Of course, there's going to be students that online learning and online communications sits very well. Matter of fact, I have one that I raised, my daughter, she's doing almost everything virtually, she's done internships virtually, she has two more internships coming up, she's working an internship...now all this is virtual but there are going to be students that need us to touch them on an ongoing basis. I'll just end there.

Dr. Young: No doubt, Chair Watson, and I didn't mean to imply you know, we're all enjoying our spare bedrooms and kitchen tables and we're never going back. But the...there's...we're seeing early signs of reluctance, COVID fear...we saw that on in the fall survey, actually now fall is several months in the rear view at this point. And Gerianne thought she was getting away, Ms. Brusati, you thought you were getting away without having to speak in this section so if you don't mind Gerianne, could I invite you to talk a little bit about like the Mental Health and some of...you know there are some things that we might think about, like how could you possibly do that virtually, that we are delivering.

VP Brusati: Sure, and I agree with everything that you've said. I don't think it will ever be campus, no campus. There are some students who want a fully distant kind of educational experience. There are enough places out there. I wouldn't want us to morph into that place because there are people who...that's their bread and butter and that's their niche so to say. We are offering mental health services and support groups using the equivalent of Tele-health. We've been doing that literally since last April, once we went offline and once, we got people comfortable. But our...Maureen Flaherty, who is our mental health counselor



also talks to students on the telephone, like as old fashioned as that is, that's another option. But I expect that as soon as we can get back to campus, we may still continue to do some of those...provide some of those services virtually but in conjunction with onsite services for students who want them. And that's gonna be our challenge, is maintaining a high level of both of those delivery systems which we have not really had to grapple well until now.

Dr. Young: That's very well put Gerianne, no, it's a great observation. Thank you for that scary remark. Go ahead Dr. Hackman.

Dr. Hackman: I just wanted to reassure the board as well that we recognize and we are hearing from students, some of them that are desperate to get back, who are desperate to come for the first time. You know, many students who joined us in the fall, had not set foot on our campuses. So, I had directed the department chairs to plan for in-person on campus instruction across our programs for some of those what we call gateway courses, so critical courses in the majors so we are cognizant of the various audiences that we do serve for sure.

Trustee Kanan: If I may make one additional comment. I think that it is important to recognize...I think this is partially by design that, more students are becoming in tune with online learning. I mean I think there is many students who wouldn't have never taken an online course if it was available to them and now, they have and they like it. But I also think on the other half of that coin, on the other side of that coin, we have had an enrollment drop. And I think part of...there's probably a percentage of that enrollment drop that have left that can't answer that survey that have left because they cannot take online classes because they are part of that desperately wants to get back to campus mindset. This was something I wanted to note because I know it's been talked about in Shared Governance and in the Senate, so it felt appropriate.

Dr. Hackman: Absolutely.

Dr. Young: Nice words.

Chair Watson: Great discussion. Great report. We thank everyone for their participation and if there are no other comments from the trustees, we'll move forward into Old Business. Trustees, if you have comments raise them now. If not, we'll move to the report of the Enrollment Task Force. Trustee Weddell.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS:**

### Report of the Enrollment Task Force (Trustee Weddell)

Trustee Weddell: Well, we have met a couple times and I think we're having some really great debate on what's happening with enrollment and I'd really like to thank Gerianne and Maynard for their help and all that they do as part of that, they've been really great. And, also, I want to mention Paul Basinski and the Shared Governance side has been at every one of those meetings, so I appreciate him being there. Although, I just want to point out to Paul that he didn't mention that in his report that he attended the Enrollment Committee meeting, so I just

wanted to point it out that not to forget that you're an important part of that. And, really seeing the future here, I see our Enrollment Committee is gonna be a very important committee for the growth of the College. And, we have a lot of opportunity right now to really focus in on a few things and try new things. And I think just like you're talking about the online classes and not going back to 2019, it's the same with the enrollment. We can't go back and use the old system to get students to come here. I think we have to reinvent ourselves and relook at how that's all structured and how we're gonna actually go out and recruit for clients. So, one of the suggestions that I thought I would challenge every one of the faculty here at SUNY Orange is that their responsible to bring in one more student than they brought in last year to the College. So, if they brought two, they gotta bring in three, if they brought in five, they gotta bring in six. So, I think that they could look for one more student for us, that would be a great help to add to our base here. But the College has....and fortunately, we're in the top 75 percentile with our enrollment as compared to some of the other colleges there. Although in the Hudson Valley, we're right like right in the.... you know we have Rockland and Dutchess, they're behind us but they're very close. They're at 15%. We're at 13.3% of a drop in enrollment. You know, I think that fortunately, we did have a good....better enrollment than most of them. The worst one on the list was 27% decline in enrollment. So, what I think we have the opportunity here, if we really start to really figure out what we want to do. And, I think, the.... our department that really recruits for the College has to be relooked at as to how many people we really may need in there to really go forward and help recruit. That's I mean if every one of the faculty helps us recruit, we could get that many more and more hands-on deck that we have I think would be...And that includes the trustees cuz I know Bill Vacca you haven't recruited anybody so far this year, so I'm looking for one or two people.

Trustee Vacca: I'll come back.

Trustee Weddell: I think it's important. It's everybody's job here to help us get the College...I mean it affects...if we increase our enrollment it solves a lot of the issues that we have with the finances side of it and every year and I think we gotta figure out a way how we gotta get more students, our fair share. Let's just put it this way, our fair share and I'd like to say our fair share of Orange County students in particular. I don't necessarily worry about any other county but right now to me it would be our fair share of the Orange County students at our Orange County high schools that we have here. So, we have met. We've got some things in motion already and like I said I really appreciate Gerianne and Maynard's help and what they're doing and helping to get things rolling. But, again, if every one of the trustees could get us one more student for next year, sell them, get them there so that they can be there. It would be of great help. Anything else Dr. Young that you think that we discussed that I left out of that? I think we did...we've had some really good discussion and debate and I've just gotta see...get the action plan going, that's what we need. Because right now we're recruiting for the fall. You know, spring is really, recruitment's over. Summer is probably is you know not as big as the fall will be. But I think the important thing is to how we get those numbers up. Because hopefully we're a little bit

more beyond this COVID problem that we're having which is a kink in the bend in everything that we got here. But I think by the fall we should have a good handle...hopefully we can get our enrollment back up to the healthy numbers that we need to be at to continue the process at the College.

Dr. Young: I echo this...it's a small but mighty task force and it's an intersection of people who it seems so genius bringing the people together who are in that room. It's a small group but it's the right group that should be talking about it and a lot of...the right ideas are falling out of it. So, I appreciate you giving it leadership and the people who are showing up are showing up and we're moving forward so thank you.

Trustee Weddell: But how do I get Trustee Kanan to get on this committee with us? How do I get him to get on the committee?

Dr. Young: All you gotta do is ask him.

Trustee Weddell: Alright. I'm gonna ask him.

Chair Watson: I too Trustee Weddell, compliment you on your leadership of the Enrollment Task Force. I think we have an opportunity to really do a bang-up job in terms of recruitment and attracting new students and you and I somewhat think alike in terms of we need to let every high school student in Orange County know that we're here, we're available to them, what the pricing is, and that the door is open. We want you here. Now, Maynard I think has heard us in that regard and has his marching orders so let's try to keep it moving and if we have others that might be interested or have input in terms of the enrollment task force, send them to us, send them to Dr. Young. Please participate in some way if you have ideas.

Trustee Weddell: Well, even to hear from Dawn. We only have 92 applicants for scholarships. That's very disappointing to hear that and I mean I.... we have opportunities for our students here in Orange County and I think we gotta really help her get those applicants and get students interested in that. I mean I'd hate to lose that opportunity to do that for our students.

Chair Watson: Yeah. That's a disappointment. There's more money for scholarships and there's fewer applicants.

Trustee Weddell: Yeah.

Chair Watson: Alright, once again we thank you for your leadership in that regard on the Enrollment Task Force. And, moving forward, to New Business. Trustees, if you have new business, we'd ask you to introduce it now. Hearing none, we'll move to the Chairman's Comments.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS: N/A**

## VII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chair Watson: As we said earlier, I attended the Community College National Legislative Summit that was given by ACCT and AACC and it was virtual as most everything is now adays. And I did not know what to expect, but I must tell you that I attended last Monday through Wednesday and did not miss a session. I was pleasantly surprised by this particular legislative summit, the quality of the sessions that were presented, the individuals that they invited to the summit, the legislators from the House and the Senate, that came and took time out of their busy schedules. If you remember beginning of last week, there was a lot going on. So, they made it a point to come. The second day of sessions, we heard from our first lady, Jill Biden. And, the quality of the presentations, what was said in the sessions, it was just tremendous.

Now in your packets this week, you should have received what AACT and AACC called the green sheet which is a condensed two-page document where they talk about their community college federal legislative priorities. I would ask that all of the trustees take a look at that document at your leisure. If you have any items that you would like to discuss with me or discuss in some form, we can make arrangements for that. And also, you received in your packet, the background briefing information that supports the green sheets. So, I'm asking that you take a look at it.

Trustee Weddell: It wasn't green though.

Chair Watson: It was not green Tom, but it's called the green sheet. I choose my words carefully that time. So, take a look at....

Trustee Hannes: Tom, print it out on green paper.

Chair Watson: Thanks Flo, I appreciate that. So, last week in the sessions, there were some recurring themes that came out basically through all the sessions. But the one that I most want for you to hear about is that the legislators know about community colleges. From the discussions, they see community colleges as a way to get our population working again. They see community colleges as the place where people will re-tool to re-enter the workplace. They see community colleges as a way to get women and minorities working again. And they see community colleges as a place that needs to be funded. Most of the legislators that spoke, spoke about either personal interaction with community colleges, attending community colleges, they knew how community colleges work, they knew about the kinds of programs, the kinds of services that community colleges provide. And they also spoke to their commitment to community colleges. And the first day of the sessions was basically where our lobbyists that work for both of the organizations interacted with members of the press, talking about what they saw in terms of movement for legislations, which ones would move, which ones would not move. I guess the highest point is that...and I spoke to Dr. Young about this...there is a significant commitment and there is a great deal of enthusiasm about free community college. Now we don't know exactly

how free community college is going to work. We don't know if students will complete a semester and then apply for a refund. We don't know if it will be funded in advance through some mechanism but there's a great deal of optimism that community colleges will be free. Much to the contrary, we and the feelings around the hill is that we won't get a new higher ed bill in this calendar year, possibly next calendar year but much of the emphasis, and much of the movement and direction and enthusiasm is going to be towards free community college. Of course, it's a major opportunity for us. If community colleges become free, we have to be on the forefront of attracting those students to our community college. Especially, those from our communities because we've got a tremendous population here in Orange County, a tremendous amount of need, a tremendous amount of opportunity but you have to have programs for it. You have to have technical kinds of programs that they can move into, academic programs that they can move into. So, what I'm saying...this is a tremendous time for community colleges, so we need to prepare ourselves. I'm hoping that our classrooms fill up and kind of burst at the seams at some point. Whether their virtual, whether their in-person, it doesn't matter. I'm hopeful that we will find a way to navigate this opportunity and we will come out on the plus side of all of this arrangement.

So, there were some recurrent themes and I guess the first one is that we are going to have to coach our students and we're going to have to mentor them. And what everything is going to hinge upon is student success. We need for our students to come into our community colleges, and we need them to complete, we need them to be degreed, we need them not to just enroll. They need to finish the program. I don't care if it's a micro-credential, if it's a technical kind of situation, all of what's going to happen in funding is going to be based around completion.

Now there was another theme. Entrepreneurship is going to be big in terms of what is being looked to community colleges to promote. We're gonna have to put people in the mindset of starting their own business, being entrepreneurs and the hill is seeing community colleges as the place for a great deal of that to happen.

Federal grants are going to be created around growth and student services.

There's a great deal of discussion around student emergency funds. Students will need help to be able to complete and there will be obstacles for students in terms of financial obstacles. Flat tires, these are all important concepts. Now, keep in mind, SUNY Orange is probably way out in front comparatively speaking than many of the colleges around the nation because a lot of the programs that were discussed, we already have. For instance, Childcare. They're saying childcare is going to be extremely important. There are gonna be tons of funds available for providing childcare services. As you know we have a lab school on each one of our campuses. One of the things that was discussed was the need for childcare in the evenings while working parents

can go to class. So, when I say that this particular 3-day session was tremendous, there were so many ideas.

They also spoke about second chance scholarships, where a student may have come to our institution and left with an outstanding bill. Perhaps we need to have a second chance scholarship. Say there's a thousand dollars that a student owes, we might scholarship and pay for that thousand dollars so that a student can get back into the institution, followed by a scholarship, some kind of financial aid. So, we have to think outside of the box.

And as I said earlier mental health counseling is going to be very important to our students as we come out of this COVID situation. So...one thing that was discussed is that our new president believed that there should be in excess of \$40 Billion dollars put into higher ed and I would imagine that a good percentage of that, in excess of \$40 billion dollars would come to community colleges.

So, there is going to be a tremendous opportunity for us to write and/or apply for grants, attract additional funds to our institution, expand our offering for our community. So, everything I heard is that this is a tremendous time for community colleges. So, we as trustees need to get our minds moving that these students are coming back, and I would hope that more students are going to come back to our institution if we in fact have the services and the programs to provide to them.

One of the speakers was Representative Clyburn, South Carolina. He spoke passionately about community colleges, his family members that attended community colleges, how their lives were changed by it. And he also used his opportunity to speak to our group about black history month. I would just...as Paul Basinski said earlier, this is Black History month, and we have a special offering prepared for our community. I would ask the trustees that they take the time to participate, log in in advance, make a reservation for yourself to hear Dr. Kendi. And, if we as trustees cannot support than we should not expect everyone...so I encourage you to participate in the programs that we have out in front of you.

The other thing that Representative Clyburn spoke about was Black History month and how so many important contributions were made by Black Americans. And that...he gave a particular account of one of them and I won't try to tell the story that he told, but he told the story of Thomas Edison sitting in New Jersey having discovered basically the light bulb but having some particular issues with the filament. He could get the light to come on, but he couldn't get it to continue. And he said that one of Edison's contemporaries said that there is a gentleman in Massachusetts that is doing work with filaments. And Thomas Edison sought out Louis Lattimer from Massachusetts and through discussions with him made modifications to the filament which enabled it to continue to burn and not come on and go directly out. So, I just want to say I thank you all for this opportunity to acknowledge some of the contributions by black

Americans. And I'm glad to serve in the community that I serve, and it's been an honor to work with you. I know I'm coming towards the end of my chairmanship, but it's been tremendous. The group of trustees that we have right now and the group of trustees that we've had, it's been an extreme pleasure for me to be a part of what's happening at Orange County Community College. So, I just thank you all and with that we'll move on to our committee reports.

Trustee Hunter: Well Fred, I think we want to thank you for all you do. I mean the time you put to go to that conference was three days and that's only a tip of the time and effort you put toward the College and thank you.

Chair Watson: Thank you Tom, it's been an honor, tremendous. So, moving forward, Trustee Vacca, I happened to have gotten news in advance that you have a report. You are next up for Academic and Student Services.

Trustee Vacca: Yes. No, you're saying no, Kris?

Chair Watson: Okay, I thought you had a report.

Trustee Vacca: I do have a report.

Chair Watson: I was told that.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Academic and Student Services: Trustee Vacca**

Trustee Vacca: Just before I get into the report, I want to say that I think Carol had sent this out to all of us. It was some material I received a couple weeks ago. And it's "How to Survive the Enrollment Bust." It's the Chronicle of Higher Education printout here and it's really...if you haven't gotten it or you haven't read through it, it's very interesting about...they give the trends by geographic location in the states as to community colleges and other college enrollments going out to 2034 and what we can expect in the Northeast or what we can't expect. And they outline some different colleges in here on what they're putting in...into their programs to try and combat that. So, if you haven't read it, it's very interesting.

This report, Fred, is one that should've been given in January so some of this is gonna be rearview mirror. Because I know when I heard Erika talk, she and Gerianne are already starting to move forward on some of these things. We reviewed a survey that was sent out by SUNY to all of the fall 2020 students. The survey was emailed to each student just before Thanksgiving break. It consisted of 18 questions about the students' fall 2020 experiences. We had 276 responses. They were 44% Freshman and 56% Sophomores. And, out of the 276, I think that was a pretty good response considering the time when it went out, on the break period. And the data that is already being used to enhance

our planning for the spring 2021 semester. I'd like to go through each of these and a lot of it is going to play into things that were discussed already about online versus in person, what their feelings were at this particular juncture, so...if you will.

The first item was "the instruction mode of my classes this semester is" and there were five categories: totally online or remote, mostly online remote, equal mix of remote and in-person, mostly in-person, and totally in-person. 81% of the respondents were either online or mostly online. Only 5% were in person or totally in person. So, you know...like I said, this was done in the fall.

The first question was "how satisfied are you overall with the current mode of instruction for your classes?" And again, five categories: very disappointed, disappointed, neutral, satisfied and very satisfied. 46% of the people were very satisfied. 32% were either dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. And so, we get further into this, you'll hear some direct responses from the students themselves.

"Going into the fall semester, how well did you understand the plan of how your classes would be held: online, remote, hybrid or in-person?" 45% of them said they clearly understood what was expected. Only 10% said we didn't understand at all. I don't know how that happened but that was the response for it.

"If you had clearly understood how your classes would be held this semester, would that have changed your decision on attending?" 53% said, no, it wouldn't have changed their mind even though they knew what it was all about. Now some of that again may be COVID related because we were right in the throes of things. And there were only...there was 29% that said yes, unsure was about 18%.

How aware are you of the new SUNY guidance surrounding COVID, i.e., regular testing, masks at all times, later spring start date, no spring break, but wellness days instead?" Again, you had 82% were aware or somewhat aware of it. So, when we talk about this a little bit, we thought well...if there's some way...because I know Gerianne, and Erika said that they were getting messages through email or what have you. But maybe if we could come up with a coding, albeit color coding or whatever, where if something...or is something you must read, or you should read as a student it would be classified and I'm using colors. Things that you may be interested in would be another category and just an FYI would be a third category. So, they couldn't come back and say, well I didn't know that that was important, at least it's out there.

"How supportive are you of increased COVID safety measures such as regular testing, masks, etc.?" 83% were extremely supportive of it. It was only...we had some that weren't unsure but 83%...55% of those were very supportive.



“Do you plan on attending this College in the spring semester?” 4% said no, but there weren’t any reasons as to why. 83% said yes, they were planning on coming back for this semester.

“If health and safety permits, I would prefer the following instruction mode for my spring 20-21 classes?” And, again, these go down by four categories: totally in person was 14%, mostly in person another 14%, mostly online 16%, and online or remote totally, 35%. So, again we discussed this a little bit, certainly COVID had something to do with this. But then we also thought, you know, and I think somebody alluded to it earlier, as a student...well, if their doing it online they don’t have to rush to the next class on campus or wait for a half an hour or an hour. They can do it at their convenience. You can get up 15 minutes before time and you’re right in class. So, these were some of the things we think might have played into that 51% saying it mostly or totally online.

I’m concerned about attending in person classes in the spring 20-21 semester. 53% agreed or strongly agreed. And, again, they wanted to stay online based on some of the things we already mentioned. But whether it was scares of COVID or they just felt more comfortable doing that because they...you know it might have been somebody that did have a job that they were doing part-time, and again, the running back and forth between home and the classes.

I have the following concerns about attending in person classes and they said select all that apply to you. Out of the total, there was a...198 were regarding COVID out of the 276 respondents. You had 32 of them that said well it’s closer to home, 37 said because of financial matters, and 50...ah, these aren’t percentages, these are numbers, I’m sorry. And 50 said family responsibilities kept them from wanting to come.

“What’s the...your biggest overall concern about the spring semester”and this is the top six that they gave us: contracting COVID was one, lack of support was two, tech issues, access faculty/staff responsiveness. Three was paying full tuition for reduced services, access to resources. Four was added stress, surveillance testing, juggling roles and workload, cramming. Five was uncertainty and inconsistency, possible switch from remote to in person in mid-semester, inconsistent remote experiences like live Zoom meetings and what have you. And, number six was academic performance is suffering, and they go in to talk about that a little bit.

The next one was “what is your biggest overall concern about the spring semester?” These are some quotes: “teaching and learning in the online environment” In the online environment students say they feel like they are teaching themselves, asked to read the textbook or watch videos, they miss regular interaction with faculty and fellow students. Quote: “I would not mind coming to an online Zoom class every day. At least the material would be taught by a professor. It feels like I am teaching myself. I don’t know how to teach myself.” These are some comments that they made.

“What is your biggest overall concern about the spring semester?” This is pace of delivery of course materials, space out of our timeline for lectures and exams, our professors really wanted us to finish the semester earlier due to fear of school closing and mashed everything altogether all at once. It completely overwhelmed everyone, and that’s not learning, it’s shoving information in our brains.” This is a quote from one of them.

“What could we have done differently to improve your experience this fall?” Offer resources for students to meet virtually with their classmates, make social connection easier. This seemed to be...this came up in a couple of different areas, that they missed the socialization. They would like to have...again, a couple of quotes: “I would hope that a way to reintroduce in some form the collegiate, student to student, aspect of university study be designed for online mode.” “Perhaps making one to a half an hour to an hour zoom chats available per class, per week, where students can interact amongst themselves discussing questions they may have. Pre-COVID students could just go over to the other students to ask for a few minutes of their time or have a cup a coffee to get help with understanding.” Another one said “provide more peer-oriented services.” Students feel isolated and could benefit from more clear ways to interact with fellow students in an academic setting.

And the last one is, “what could we have done differently to improve your experience this fall? Or what could we do?” Give faculty the support/training they need to become more comfortable teaching online. Preparing instructors to be able to use the necessary tools to make the remote teaching a better experience. Communication. Provide information in one place, send repeat reminders about resources and use infographics.

That’s what they’re telling us. Now I know that Erika and Gerianne....as Erika and Gerianne...as Erika alluded to earlier, I think that some of these are being implemented. They’re working on different things that will resolve some of these issues but that’s the way the picture looked when they got the survey in the fall of 2020. And that’s my report.

Chair Watson: Bill, a couple of questions. Did the survey meet your expectations?

Trustee Vacca: I was surprised in the online...the online responses. I thought they were a lot higher than I would have anticipated. But then once we started to break it down as to why.... I mean running around the campus if you had to wait an hour or so, if you did it online you could do other things, if you add family matters, if you had a part-time job. So, then it kind of made sense to me, but initially that’s what I was thinking. The other thing that came out was...I was amazed that there was any number of people that had no total idea of what to expect with COVID. You know, did you know any of the...the regulations that we would have to put in to make you safer, and to have 10% say no we didn’t know anything about it, I found to be, you know, almost bizarre.

Chair Watson: When the survey was taken, we were in the midst of COVID. Things were just moving so fast. If the survey were taken outside of COVID...I know we're in it...do you think the responses would have been different and if so, in what way?

Trustee Vacca: I think the understanding would have been there as to why...well let me back up a minute. I think that the responses would have been relatively the same, but I think that they would be looking now...should be looking now for more interaction on the virtual aspect. You know, again, the biggest one...of the big items there was the lack of contact between students and students, the interaction, the social aspect of it, which is very important to them.

Chair Watson: Trustees, were there any other questions?

Trustee Hannes: Thank you for an incredibly, thorough, thorough report. Wow.

Chair Watson: Tremendous, thanks Bill.

Trustee Vacca: You're welcome, thank you.

#### **Audit and Finance: Trustee Weddell**

Chair Watson: Next committee report, Audit and Finance. Trustee Weddell.

Trustee Weddell: Okay, once again we've been having some great meetings at our Audit and Finance Committee meetings and we've...we've extended the time frame we needed to have those meetings because of that. And we are currently working on the 21-22 budget and setting up what we know from the 20, the 19, or what was it the 2021 budget, trying to figure out where we're gonna end up with that. And I think we're on a good track right at the moment, with all...and I'm actually grateful to the CARES Act money that the College received, and it's like a lot of my clients are in the same way, it was that added monies that they needed to really complete the year and to be at least at a break even or at a minimal loss, so it wasn't as damaging. So, we did get a good sum of money from the CARES Act to really help us carry us through this school year. So, I think that we're gonna be alright by the end of the year. And I'm hoping to find out in the next month here how it's gonna be handled by the State and by the Federal Government and what's gonna happen to the community colleges, all the colleges that are you know in the State of New York, so it's kind of gonna be very interesting. But we've been working really diligently, and I thank again, Paul Martland and Agnes for helping us do all the stuff that they do, getting the reports and stuff out to us so...but I'm feeling pretty confident that we're gonna have minimal problems with this year end. And I'm not as convinced yet as the next year until we really kind of find out what happens with the State of New York. I hope we get that resolved in the next sixty days

here for our budget so we can report that to the trustees too. Any other parts Ralph, you got any parts Tom?

Trustee Martucci: Nope, you said it all, thanks Tom.

Trustee Hunter: I totally agree.

Chair Watson: The committee has done some great work and I'd like to thank Agnes and Paul as well, for staying on top of things. And we've developed tools that are working tremendously and thanks to all of the trustees adding their input and the committee is functioning as it should. So, once again, Trustee Weddell, thank you for your leadership in your regard.

Trustee Weddell: Thank you.

Chair Watson: And thank you for that report. I see that Trustee Hannes could have a report for the Policy Committee.

#### **Policy: Trustee Hannes**

Trustee Hannes: I do indeed. I am incredibly happy and grateful to Iris for bringing us two proposals for legal counsel to review our policies. In our long quest for someone of legal counsel to help us, I think we have hit the jackpot. The proposal looks good, one of them especially and it is backed up by input that Kris has heard from other....from her colleagues in the president's circle of the New York State community colleges. So, the committee has agreed and voted to have Iris look into further details with them and hopefully we can start soon in this review. So, we are very pleased about that.

And we will be bringing you a policy for amendment at the next...at our next meeting and that is policy number.... I'm taking my glasses off so I'm struggling to find it. I want to...it is the policy that...are you out there Mike? I seem to have...I also want to thank Mike Albright for everything he does to pull everything together. And it is a policy for....hmmm.

Mr. Albright: I can jump in Flo if you'd like some assistance.

Trustee Hannes: Thank you. Yes.

Mr. Albright: It's BP 2.13, Graphics and Publications and really, it's just a simple edit. It references the Vice President of Institutional Advancement which is not a post that we have right now that is filled. So, I just thought we'd be able to make a quick edit on that and then you know just to check while we're editing to see if there's any additional pieces that need to be inserted or adjusted. So, relatively straight forward process but I

just, it was in my review with some of the other policies I saw that that might be one for us to tackle.

Trustee Hannes: Thank you, I just found that page. And that concludes our report. I will see you next month with more.

Chair Watson: Thank you Trustee Hannes for that report. Moving forward that completes our committee reports. Next Comments from the Public. Secretary Murray, do we have any reservations for this evening?

Secretary Murray: Actually, we had Michelle Tubbs but then she couldn't make it, so Paul Basinski is going to give the report for her tonight.

Chair Watson: Thank you.

## **IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Basinski: Thank you Carol. Thank you, Fred. Well, look folks, we all know how seriously Michelle Tubbs takes her responsibilities as our current faculty council state rep. And so, there was one particular item of importance that she wanted me to share with you since she cannot be at your meeting this evening. It is as follows, it comes from Chancellor Malatras and SUNY and it is a SUNY For-All program, initiative that the Chancellor hopes to imminently launch. Known colloquially as Big Dreams, Small Steps. And the bullet points, very quickly: the attention of this program is to try and close the College equity gap for high school seniors by implementing a comprehensive outreach campaign to high school students who could benefit the most from a College degree. Data shows that students from economically disadvantaged households are less likely to earn that College degree and will continue to be at a disadvantage throughout their lives in the absence of it. This program would focus on locations where applications to College campuses are down most. Particularly in our region, the Hudson Valley. It would have a significant impact on us. And resource investment seems to be planned for it mostly at the high school level and includes additional resource for guidance counselors, students, including applications, support etc. SUNY will also partner with local youth bureaus, New York Public libraries, New York Counselors Association, and other state and county agencies as well as reach out to high school seniors directly. So, again, Malatras, Big Dreams Small Steps, to try to assist in particular economically disadvantaged students who wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to come and study with us at SUNY Orange.

Chair Watson: Is there an implementation plan on that or do you have an idea on how the implementation will work?

Mr. Basinski: Kris, do you know anything about it? Fred, let me find out more information from Michelle Tubbs since she received this from Faculty Council.

Dr. Young: No, I mean, it's just a press release.

Chair Watson: Okay. We don't have any information at this point?

Dr. Young: It's a press release.

Chair Watson: Got it. Okay. Alright.

Trustee Martucci: Wait, Dawn's got a question.

Chair Watson: Hi. Okay.

Ms. Ansbro: I just wanted to add to that that we received notification from the SUNY Impact that they're asking us to reach out to Alum to help support the same program. So, we're actually looking for Alumni ambassadors if you will, for the program, so we're on that too.

Trustee Weddell: Dawn, I got an idea. If every Alum could bring us one student...

Ms. Ansbro: I was waiting for that.

Dr. Young: This is an odd place for me to ask, but I said it was a press release carefully so can we coordinate, if you've received something, can we coordinate as a College first, how we participate? Thank you.

Ms. Ansbro: Sure.

Chair Watson: Alright, we're thankful for those comments from the public. Next, board discussion. Trustees? So, the section where if you have comments for the good of the body or comments for the good of the College, you can introduce those at this point.

#### **X. BOARD DISCUSSION**

Trustee Hannes: I love Tom's approach to increasing enrollment. I'll get on it right after the meeting Tom.

#### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION N/A**

#### **XII. BOARD ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Watson: Commitment from the trustees, good. Anyone else? That said, I apologize for going long tonight. We thank you for your attention and we're grateful for your participation. To our student trustee, our Interim Student Trustee, you have been well received and I would just like to let you know that we always have a section in our meeting for comments from the public. Feel free to come back at any time. Trustee

Kanan, we appreciate you and we wish you well as you proceed.  
There's no Executive Session tonight so if all matters are clear...there's  
no one else that wants to introduce anything, the Chair will entertain a  
motion for adjournment.

Trustee Hannes: So moved.

Trustee Murphy: Second

Chair Watson: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor indicate by saying Aye.

All: Aye

Chair Watson: Meeting adjourned. Thank you everyone. Tremendous meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 PM

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,  
Carol A. Murray  
March 9, 2021