

**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021, 5 PM
via Zoom Technology**

Present: F. Watson, B. Vacca, T. Weddell, M. Murphy, R. Martucci, F. Hannes, T. Hunter

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.

Secretary Murray: Chair Watson, it looks like we everyone. I just don't see Trustee Hunter.

Chair Watson: Okay, as soon as we see him, we'll call the roll.

Secretary Murray: We'll watch for him.

(Trustees had informal conversation about vaccinations while awaiting Trustee Hunter.)

Secretary Murray: There we go, he just arrived. He is here now. Just arrived.

Chair Watson: Okay, Good Evening everyone. Happy New Year and it's good to see all of you doing fair and well in COVID.

I could discuss what happened in Washington today but we've got a lot of business before us and we want to get you home so you can see the reports from that as early as possible. So, without further ado.

This meeting of the Orange County Community College Board of Trustees will now come to order. Secretary Murray, please call the roll.

Secretary Murray: Okay, here we go.

Chair Watson?

Chair Watson: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Martucci?

Trustee Martucci: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Hannes?

There you go, Flo.

Chair Watson: Secretary Murray, we did not hear you call the next name.

Secretary Murray: Ah, Flo Hannes. Trustee Hannes? She's unmuted now. Okay, present.

Trustee Hannes: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Murphy?

Trustee Murphy: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Hunter? Tom, you need to unmute.

Trustee Hunter: There we go, oh yeah, I wasn't allowed yet. I'm here.

Secretary Murray: Trustee Vacca?
Trustee Vacca: Present
Secretary Murray: Trustee Weddell?
Trustee Weddell: Present and accounted for, sir.
Secretary Murray: Very good!

Secretary Murray: Okay then, we have quorum.

Chair Watson: Thank you. Next item on the agenda is the Consent Agenda. All trustees should have received the items in their packets. The Chair will entertain a motion for approval.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Murphy: So moved
Trustee Martucci: Second

Chair Watson: It's been moved and seconded. Any discussion? Having none. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Chair Watson: Opposed? Motion carries.

Item number three, reports. First reporter: Dr. Young.

III. REPORTS

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

Dr. Young: Great, thank you Chair Watson. Good Evening Trustees. I am very grateful for a peaceful transition of power in Washington D.C. today. In keeping with Chair Watson's wishes for an efficient meeting on Inauguration Day, I present for my President's report only three items and in the last minute realized there should have been a fourth. So, I'm doing a quick, last minute add and adding Erika Hackman and Dena Whipple in real time for a 2-minute add on at the conclusion of my remarks. So, I've got three items and then Erika and Dena will be added on at the last second. So, Carol and Susan Boyhan, please assist me with that at the conclusion.

So, as quickly as possible, Trustees, are three things, Trustees, three major things that emerged in the last 24 hours that I feel the need to share with you. So, I will move very rapidly but with great importance.

First, as anticipated for the past several days, the Office of the Chancellor of the SUNY system communicated yesterday afternoon that the spring semester on-campus students must be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis: not a bi-weekly basis. Our combined Emergency Management COVID-19 response teams are meeting early tomorrow morning to review the memo and take quick action to revise our Spring COVID-19 plan and implementation scheme and communicate that to our College community and even more importantly to the approximately 1000 students who will be impacted. Our first testing date was scheduled for the week of February 1st, the first week that most of our on-campus students begin their studies on campus, so I am comfortable leaving our initial testing dates right where they were. But we are going to have to move forward adding double the rest of the testing dates that we had planned so stay tuned.

Trustee Weddell: Do we still test the same way though with the 12 or whatever, the same way?

Trustee Martucci: The pooled testing?

Dr. Young: Yeah, the saliva pooled testing that runs through SUNY Upstate. That is correct. Although we are thin in terms of our personnel availability and so we did put out an RFP to seek help in administering that. And that's going to end up being a wise choice because now we're doing it three days a week between two campuses. So, hopefully we can nail that down before this...this takes off.

Second, in the past 24 hours, the 2021-22 Executive budget was released yesterday, the first step in the New York State budget process. Qualifying that no one in the orbits in which I operate had a chance to look for the devil in the details yet, I have learned that the 20% state pause we've endured this fiscal year was not propagated into the next fiscal year or made permanent. Again, this is the Executive proposal. This is, of course, welcome news. Community College reimbursement rate, I'm told, was reset to last year's rate which is also good news, except of course for the ongoing enrollment collapse we are experiencing. In addition, I am now given to understand that we may have restored to us the 20% haircut we experienced in the current fiscal year during our 4th quarter payment in March. But we would simultaneously be hit with a 5% permanent one-time cut during that 4th quarter payment. So, this is all very new news and a first interpretation of the budget proposal so we will stay in close communication with the trustees as this settles down. And, of course, as we progress in building our own 2021-22 budget in the weeks to come.

And, a third thing that happened in the last 24 hours, I would share with you that at 3 PM today, members of my team gave a tour of our

Middletown gymnasium to representatives of the State for the third time since Friday. My role can only be to speculate but I believe it looks increasingly likely that SUNY Orange will hold a mass vaccination site for the State as their interest in the Edward Diana Physical Education Center persists. I've started alerting key personnel on campus about impact on operations for reasons of preparedness to respond if the State pulls the trigger and of course I will keep the board informed. This will move quickly if it goes.

And, so finally, again trying to be as efficient and quick as possible, now I'm putting Erika and Dena...surprise, two minutes to prepare and two minutes to speak. But, if you could let the board know very quickly, Middle States progress since our December meeting, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Dr. Whipple: Absolutely. I'm happy to be here. Good Evening everyone. Well, I assure you the co-chairs have emerged from the winter break well rested, ready to go. And I just want to share a couple of, just brief updates. The Steering Committee has been officially announced to the College. That happened actually just today through the College Assembly meeting. And, on that Steering Committee, I just want to thank...Trustee Hannes is part of that Steering Committee, Dr. Erika Hackman and Dawn Ansbro. So, I'd like to just publicly thank each of you for your leadership and support of the self-study process.

I also just want to maybe highlight a couple of items that are happening this spring, just for your awareness. We actually have a call with our Middle States Self-Study liaison tomorrow morning. It's Dr. Paul Starkey. We will be discussing a number of items with him that he had requested. You know, some basic topics that we cover at the very beginning of the self-study process to make sure that we have everything ready to go. So that is happening tomorrow.

We are currently setting up Steering Committee meetings for the semester. We have our first this Friday. We are working on working group membership and we are actually soliciting volunteers from the College community to be part of that process. So that will go out in the Grapevine and that is going to be...the deadline for that is later this month on the 28th.

The other item that we need to work on is the Self-Study design document. This is the document that really outlines our process going forward and how we plan to put it out, this self-study process. And it helps us to draft that plan and get College feedback and your feedback as well.

We also...the final part of the spring semester involves a Self-Study preparation visit from our liaison, Dr. Starkey. That will happen later in the semester, likely around the middle to latter part of April. So, all of those updates will be coming your way as we have them finalized. So, I will stop there and Dr. Hackman if I missed anything, please, please jump in.

Dr. Hackman: I just want to say thank you for showing the work that's being done and that you could give the impromptu update so thoroughly and professionally.

Dr. Young: Great, thank you Dena and trustees, this gives witness to how much is being asked of the College right now, that your president would just, like whoops forget that you wanted a Middle States report every board meeting. That's about as colossally important...so I'm...again, efficient meeting tonight, I end there, but certainly entertain questions or comments if you have them, about anything I've said, they've said or is on your mind right now.

Chair Watson: Questions Trustees? Hearing none, thank you for that report Dr. Young. We also thank the Middle States team, we're excited as they are.

Moving forward, next Paul Basinski, Governance President.

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

Mr. Basinski: Thank you Chair Watson. Good Evening Trustees. As requested, I will be brief with my Shared Governance report as well. As Dena noted just a moment ago, the spring semester has officially kicked off as of today at 9 AM with our College Assembly, our town hall meeting of the SUNY Orange community is the traditional and actual start of our academic terms. And, I can say, Trustees, that these zoom meetings present a pleasant dilemma for me. Our virtual Assembly's continue to be about double the attendance of the actual physical meetings. Today, we topped out at around 220 in fact. And that means obviously more members to hold binding votes, more members to share important information with, to have debated discussion with and to conduct Shared Governance business. But it can't go on forever, so the dilemma obviously is how we get those folks to the physical meetings when we're back to campus eventually. Or it will continue, some of it, via zoom as well. But that's a pleasant thing to have to work out, to figure, just how we can get the maximum amount of members participating in Governance and the affairs of SUNY Orange.

I can tell you as well, that our committees begin doing business next week and that I look forward as always this semester, entering what my 5th year as Shared Governance President, working with Administration, College

Association, Board of Trustees, Policy Committee, the EMT group, as well as the Executive Committee. My friends, that is my report to you for this evening. Thank you.

Chair Watson: We thank you for that report. Moving forward, College Association. Mr. Vinnie Cazzetta.

C. REPORT OF COLLEGE ASSOCIATION (Vinnie Cazzetta)

Mr. Cazzetta: Good Evening Board. Good to be here with you tonight. This time of year, the bookstore is very busy in providing services to faculty and students. What's new this year in the bookstore, given the situation of the continuing pandemic is the bookstore has begun, last week, a customer pickup program as a way to expedite both delivery service during this pandemic and it also alleviates mailing costs related to books and supplies. With the support of the College's Security group in enforcing social distancing precautions as well as Follett's own social distancing protocols, this support program has been working out well. I will keep you posted in future meetings on how this is going and how it went, and I will have a fuller report for you in February. Thank you very much.

Chair Watson: We thank you for that report. Vinnie, it's good to see you. Excellent.
Foundation, Dawn Ansbro.

D. REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD – Dawn Ansbro

Ms. Ansbro: Hi. Good Evening everybody. Just a few quick things to share with you. Fred, you've got...I've got Trustee Scholarship on the brain now from our last meeting so just a quick date for everybody. You all are up to \$18,600...I'm sorry, \$18,771 in the Trustee Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the trustees who contributed this year. You guys are getting really close to your \$25,000 endowment goal, so thank you for that.

We did open the Scholarship portal on January 10, so the scholarship application process is open and available to students between now and April 1st. We're notifying high school guidance counselors in any way we can and by using many forms of electronic communication to make sure that students know that this opportunity is available to them.

The Foundation is embarking on its own Strategic planning process. It was really a gift to be able to be involved in the College's Strategic planning process. So, we asked at Cabinet for some volunteers to work with the Foundation on ours and we're happy to report that Anne Prial, who I know

is here tonight, and Madeline Torres-Diaz both enthusiastically volunteered to be part of the Foundation's Strategic planning steering committee. So, I thank them both so much for their time and their interest. I know they're very, very busy and so I feel very fortunate to have a small amount of their time in the process. We will be surveying the rest of the Cabinet as well as our Alumni just to collect that feedback and incorporate it into our process.

And, then finally I just wanted to mention that we are working with Paul Martland and Keara from his office on two SUNY match opportunities. You may remember awhile back, we had an extra \$100,000 that Alan Gerry had given us when he donated the money to start the New Media program. Originally, the \$100,000 was earmarked for a gaming program which, you know obviously things have changed over the years. So, Mr. Gerry did give us a letter allowing us to use that money for upgrades to New Media. We're applying for a match for that money. And, I understand, from Keara, that the money....SUNY still has the money. So, we're just going through the process right now of getting all of the forms in place. But I'm excited that we'll have that money to help the New Media Department. And we are also working with them on a match for a SIM patient for Nursing. You'll recall that the Leadership event in October was used to raise money for the SIM equipment. The College...the Foundation also had about \$22,000 in a fund for SIM equipment and the retired nursing faculty has actually been wonderful in providing additional donations to that. So, I hope to have roughly \$68,000 to put toward a match, which would give us a fair amount of money to purchase a brand-new SIM person. So, I'm excited to share that with you and that is my report. If anybody has any questions?

Chair Watson: Trustees? Hearing none, Dawn we thank you for that report.

Ms. Ansbro: Thank you very much.

Next, Old Business. Trustee Weddell do you have a report?

IV: OLD BUSINESS

Report of the Enrollment Task Force (Tom Weddell)

Trustee Weddell: I don't have anything on the Enrollment Committee. We didn't meet over the last month because of the holidays and the school being down. So, we'll be back on schedule for February's meeting.

Chair Watson: Any other old business Trustees? Hearing none.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Watson: New business? Hearing none. We'll move to the Chairman's comments.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chair Watson: Trustees, NYCCT is going to have a professional module on student enrollment. They're calling it a round table. You should have received an invitation and we're hopeful that you will add that date to your schedule and attend. You should receive the zoom thing at a later date; I'll make sure that you receive it. Other than that, I'm going to keep my comments brief as well so we will move on to committee reports.

Chair Watson: Trustee Vacca, do you have a report under Academic and Student Services?

Secretary Murray: You should be able to unmute Trustee Vacca. There you go. Whoops. You should be able to unmute yourself.

Trustee Vacca: Okay, now it just did.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic and Student Services: Trustee Vacca

Trustee Vacca: Fred, we did meet in December. I have a report. It's a little...maybe a little more lengthy than you'll want tonight. It's in regard to a survey that came out from the...from SUNY itself to survey some of the students. It was done in the fall semester, consists of about 18 or 20 questions. There's some very interesting information in it, some statistics. If you would like, I'll hold this until February and go through it in more detail.

Chair Watson: We'll look forward to that report. Thank you, Trustee Vacca.

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

Audit and Finance Committee: Trustee Weddell

Trustee Weddell: Okay, we are currently working on our annual audit and we expect that to be done sometime in the middle of March, which is a little bit behind the schedule but that's more due to COVID issues and stuff that we have there. So, we're working on that currently, Agnes and Paul.

The good news is, we're sticking to our budget. We're close on our budget that we projected for the 20-21 year so that...we're pretty close. We were less than 1% off our budget, so I think that's really great news.

And we've already started to work on our 2021-22 budget, and I can tell you right now it feels a whole lot better after hearing Dr. Young's report on that the State will be coming through with the 20% from last quarter of last year and the first two quarters. So, again, that's really good news, because that's a real fight to try to make that up in our budget. But, overall, at this point, I feel really encouraged that that's gonna happen in the next couple months here for us, so we get that money, and we don't have to remodify our budget again. So, I think we're in pretty good shape at this point and that's really all I've got to report.

Chair Watson: Okay, Trustee Weddell, we thank you for that report. If I could, I might make a suggestion that we possibly add a half hour to your meetings because they're always so exciting.

Trustee Weddell: We can do that!

Chair Watson: And we're always running up against our time limit on your meetings.

Trustee Weddell: We will take that. That's a good point.

Chair Watson: Okay, thank you. Next, Trustee Hannes. Do you have a report?

Policy Committee: Trustee Hannes:

Trustee Hannes: Well, the Policy Committee decided to forgo a meeting this January due to heavy workloads on members of the committee. And, also to take a pass in the sake of an abbreviated board meeting. And, we did not have anything pressing. We're still collecting information.

Chair Watson: Okay, we thank you for your report just the same.

Chair Watson: Okay, next. I think we have one reservation under Comments from the Public and that would be Michelle Tubbs. Welcome Michelle.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Tubbs: Good Evening. Hope everyone is having a good New Year so far. I do have just a few items to share from you that really stem out of a...what we call winter committee meeting that myself and our alternate delegate, Katie Sinsabaugh, attended for the Faculty Council of Community Colleges last Tuesday as well. So, some of you may be aware that...I did mention in our...or at our December board meeting that there were some

expected changes at the SUNY level, in particular personnel changes. And that did ring true in the month of December and so, the updates there is that Provost Todd Laursen who came aboard with our last Chancellor, has left SUNY and is now serving as the acting president at SUNY PolyTech. Acting means that he would be eligible to apply for that position if he were to choose so that's where he is residing at this point and has left SUNY to fulfill that roll. As a result, Dr. Fatima Shaikh, and I'm kind of pronouncing her name in an abbreviated matter, from SUNY PolyTech actually is going to be serving as the Provost in Charge at the SUNY system level. And her background is mainly in research and in teaching graduate and PhD level courses. So, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges is feeling that we may have to kind of educate her a bit on the mission and purposes and services of community colleges, within in the system.

And, lastly, and I'm not sure exactly when this was, but I believe it was in December sometime, the Chief Operating Officer of SUNY retired and he has been replaced with Beth Berlin, who comes from Empire State College which is where our new Chancellor hails from. It was not clear or shared whether there was a search for that position or not but there has been a promise from the SUNY Board that there will be a full national search to fill the vacant Provost position. So, we're hoping that this practice of appointment and not holding searches is something that is not permanent and that we'll be getting away from. And, Christy, our council president, has requested to serve on that search committee.

There...we are beginning work, as I think President Young alluded to in her report a little bit, on budgets for this upcoming year. And the plan is for community colleges to ask for no change in funding in comparison to what was appropriated for them in last year's budget. Especially because of such a significant loss in comparison to state ops in that budget as well. And the Governance committee of the council is working on a resolution with respect to that.

A few updates on initiatives. There is no sense currently at where things stand with respect to GenEd reform, general education reform, because Provost Laursen was the system administrator that was leading the efforts with respect to that initiative. So, hopefully we'll learn more over the coming months as to where things stand with respect to that. The Prodigy program is something that's been around for a few years now. It was a program initially aimed at increasing underrepresented faculty and staff on Colleges within the SUNY system. But that's morphing a bit to include increased access for underrepresented minority students. So, they're looking to improve and increase grant and financial assistance for underrepresented and minority students.

And, then lastly, Student Health and Wellness initiative at the SUNY level has ramped up a little bit in our COVID operations. The SUNY Board is also pushing to move that at a faster pace than it currently is moving at. But there has been a creation of what's called the SUNY Student Voices Action committee which is bringing together students from various backgrounds and institutions to discuss the difficulties that they are having with respect to their academics but also, I think personal and professional lives during COVID and as we switched to remote learning.

And the council is planning to have its Spring Plenary shortly after Easter Holiday, April 8 and April 9, and that will be taking place in a virtual format. So, that concludes my report and Council update for this evening unless there are any questions.

Chair Watson: Hearing none. We thank you for that report.

Chair Watson: Moving forward. Board Discussion. Do any of the trustees have any items they would like to bring up for board discussion.

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Hunter: Fred, Tom Hunter here. This isn't directly College related, but I was able to get the vaccine yesterday and Cathy today. And I kind of wanted to let people be aware of a program that worked very well for us. It's a website that's called My Connect: myconnectnyc.org and it's connected with Columbia Presbyterian. And what you do is you go to that site and it asks you a bunch of questions and then it goes to the end where you have an opportunity to book an appointment. So, you're not thrown on some long list that says hey we may get back to you whenever. You have the ability to book an appointment and its for the next day. So, the way it works is... I would suggest you go through the site like tonight or whatever and then pull it up first thing in the morning and they throw out whatever appointments are available for tomorrow, it would be for Friday. So, what you have to do is keep clicking on it. I mean Cathy pulled it up at 8:30 this morning or yesterday and there wasn't anything for her. She pulled it up at 9, there wasn't, 9:30 she was able to book an appointment today at 1:15. It is in the Armory that's right next to Columbia Presbyterian. I mean, it's easy to get to; it's just, you know, you go across the George Washington Bridge and it's a couple of turns. But this worked really well for us and I just wanted to make people aware of it.

Trustee Hannes: Thank you, we were just talking about it before you got on Tom. Thank you very much.

Trustee Hunter: But it is myconnectionnyc.org and it's a very...I mean, I went down last night, I got there 45 minutes before my appointment and I was walking out at the time of my appointment. It's really efficient. It worked really well.

Chair Watson: Trustee Hunter, we thank you for that information. Before we move forward, Secretary Murray, can you unmute Dr. Williams for me.

Dr. Williams, I just wanted to take a moment and say how excited we are to have a Chief Diversity Officer once again. We look forward to growing accustomed to hearing your voice. So, I just wanted to give you, I'll call it a moment, to once again say hello to the trustees. And I want to welcome you once again sir.

Dr. Williams: Thank you. I appreciate it and hello, good evening everyone. Thank you for just giving me a minute and as excited as you may be to have a CDO is maybe a miniscule amount of the excitement I have about the weeks that I've had so far meeting everybody. So, it's been fantastic. So much to learn but so much to look forward to and to have such a great staff to be working with that are all eagerly anticipating not only having a CDO but just kind of moving in this way towards excellence, towards achieving these goals, towards a new day and we can all be grateful with the inauguration coming in and this new administration. So, thank you again. It's been fantastic and it's inspiring because it's only gonna get better.

Chair Watson: Thank you very much sir.

Alright, Trustees, there is no executive session tonight so if there are no other matters to come before this body, the Chair will entertain a motion for adjournment.

Trustee Hannes: But, before we do, I just tried it and want to make sure with Tom, about...because this went to a "Go Daddy"

Trustee Hunter: Shouldn't have. Yeah, it's "My Connect" I pulled it right up from my website.

Trustee Hannes: I know. You know, once I retired my mind went to mush. Is it not capitalized or anything?

Trustee Hunter: The first M may be but yeah, it's myconnectnyc.com

Trustee Martucci: Oh, you said .org

Trustee Hunter: Nope, no, no I apologize it is .org

Trustee Hannes: But you left out the nyc before, right?

Trustee Martucci: No, he said it.

Trustee Hannes: Oh, I missed that.

Trustee Hunter: Yeah, myconnect might take you to an interesting place Flo.

Chair Watson: Oh, you learned that in the classroom, the student fact checked the professor all throughout the period.

Trustee Hannes: You know, I have to add a little bit of humor here and there. Thank you, Tom. Thank you all for your indulgence.

VI. BOARD ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Hannes: And now I make a motion to end the meeting.

Trustee Martucci: Second.

Chair Watson: It's been moved and properly seconded.

All those in favor of adjournment.

All: Aye.

Chair Watson: We thank you trustees. Happy New Year. It was a pleasure gathering with you again.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectively Transcribed and Submitted, February 5, 2021
Carol A. Murray