

**ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020, 5 PM  
via Zoom Technology**

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

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

Secretary Murray: Sure.

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?

Trustee Hunter: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Vacca?

Trustee Vacca: Present

Secretary Murray: Trustee Weddell?

Trustee Weddell: Present

Secretary Murray: And Trustee Stanley?

Trustee Stanley: Present

Secretary Murray: Okay. Full quorum.

Chair Watson: The second order of business is the Consent Agenda. The trustees have received the Consent Agenda in their packets. Any consent agenda items held for discussion will be moved to item "E". The Chair will now entertain a motion for approval of the consent agenda.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Martucci: So moved.

Trustee Vacca: Seconded

Chair Watson: All in favor?  
All: Aye  
Chair Watson: Opposed?  
There are none.  
Chair Watson: Abstentions?  
There are none  
Chair Watson: Motion Carries. Consent Agenda is approved.

Chair Watson: Item number 3. We will move to reports. The President, Dr. Kristine Young.

### **III. REPORTS**

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

Dr. Young: Alright, thank you Chair Watson and good evening trustees. If you are like most of the participants in meetings at the College, you would wish that the meetings I start were not so COVID-centric however it is my duty and responsibility I feel to put that front and center as it is incredibly front and center of our operations of staying safe at SUNY Orange right now and as we always say, permitting the integrity of our Academic operations in support of students.

And tonight, I would say this is...I'm not going to call it breaking news but developing since about this time last night. What has become part of my routine and you know the routine of some of my vice presidential and associate vice president peers...we look at SUNY Upstate dashboards, we look at Orange County dashboards, we look at other sources. And, we have made watching our County Executive and his nightly Facebook updates part of our daily routine, so we understand what's happening in our county with COVID positive testing rates. And, you know, I applaud every night, the Executive, the County Executive commits to doing that update and that is a resource that is very very valuable. And, at the very end of last night's update, he did preview that it is very likely the cities of Middletown and Newburgh as well as other areas of Orange County are very likely to be classified into those cluster zones that the Governor established maybe about a month ago; those yellow, orange, and red zones that you've heard discussed. So, it is probably very likely...I was half expecting it today, so probably tomorrow that Middletown and Newburgh both will be classified, I expect into a yellow zone. So, I spent part of my day today, both double checking my understanding of what these zones were, talking with other credible officials about this, making sure I understood it and then doing a quick touch base with the vice presidents about our approach should this happen. And, telling Carol not to cancel that Emergency Management team meeting tomorrow morning as I had originally intended and to keep that Emergency Management team

meeting for tomorrow at 9 AM. So, I wanted to put that on your radar, trustees, that we're prepared should that news come tomorrow. Like, if it is a yellow zone...a yellow zone, you know both of campuses are in those two cities and the yellow zone would permit schools, and higher education is considered a school for purposes of the zone...does permit schools to remain open so long as the individuals who enter the school, both students and employees combined, that 20% of them are tested weekly for COVID-19. So, two things there. One: we are only occupying our two campuses in person through Tuesday. Recall that for a very very long time, we have intended to only be in person until Thanksgiving and then the rest of our semester was going to be remote. So, we have only intended to be in operation, physically, until Tuesday. So, should we go yellow, I, unless there's some translation of these documents that would be very very strict, reading the dates, or something that I'm missing here, I believe that we could complete our semester, in person, as planned, if we were placed into a yellow zone...that there should be no disruption in operations. If we were in an orange or red zone, however schools are not permitted to continue operations in person. You have to go fully remote, so that would be different. So, we're watching, we're waiting, we have a plan. And, like I said, EMT will meet tomorrow morning and certainly we'll stay in touch with trustees should this come to pass. So, that's how I start my report.

Continuing on the COVID bead, trustees you saw, I guess it's, oh, is it a week and a half at this point ago? Shared with you, SUNY's, well winter and spring 20-21 guidance, the...it was about eight pages, direction from SUNY that we are required to comply with...along with our 63 sister schools. Certainly, administrative function to go ahead and respond to that document. I will share that last Wednesday, so one week ago, I spent my day, three meetings...meeting first with Cabinet, then with EMT, the Emergency Management Team and then finally with the Executive Committee of Shared Governance, in a planning stance. Not necessarily going, not actually...not necessarily. We didn't go line by line with this guidance document but instead talked about how we would attack this as a college community to make sure that we had clear leadership for each of the aspects that we needed to respond to. But, also to make sure that all relevant voices were heard and could weigh in, including Shared Governance, including our bargaining units, and including Student Senate. So, we created a way to put all voices into that process and make sure we hit SUNY's deadlines. There were two places that our individual college could ask for exceptions to those guidelines. One has to do with a required, face to face, start date with spring semester of February 1. The second would be the way that spring break was prescribed; the short of it is SUNY said no spring break. So, if we were going to ask for exceptions to either of those, there is a December 1 deadline for exceptions to be requested. And, if we're not asking for exceptions, we do have to write

how we're operationalizing these guidelines by December 10. So, we are collectively working on that as a college community. Apart from those two big ones that I just mentioned, I would also one more time just draw to the trustees attention, a little bit of a later add to the guidance, was that students and staff and faculty who would be coming to campus on February 1<sup>st</sup>...so again, not our remote students and employees but those that would be coming to campus on February 1<sup>st</sup> would have to quarantine for 17 days before coming to campus. So, again, operationalizing that, communicating that, creating documents that permit our college community to attest to that, that is what we are working on. So, that is a large lift right now, that we're working on. So, that's, that's the COVID, the COVID lead. I'll do one bit of bad news and then go to good news and conclude my report.

The bad news is...Chair Watson as ever says "how's enrollment going" for these semesters?" and I'm sorry to say that's the bad news...beg your pardon, Trustee Vacca I do have my Ricola here so I'm ready. The winter term, this will only be our third go at the winter term I believe, Erika? Or other Academic? Dena, okay, Dena's got the head nod, yup third go, thank you Academic Affairs. So, our third attempt at the winter term...this has always been online only so hooray, SUNY does not have to give us too much guidance on being online only there. So, that's pretty good news that we have...oops, somebody is unmuted, so whoever might be unmuted now and is speaking right now, might want to mute please. So that is going fairly well. We have 96 students enrolled presently for the winter term, so that's only down 8 students right now, relative to last year so not so bad, not so bad. Spring enrollment unfortunately...that's where the bad news is. We have 1,440 students enrolled for the spring term but that is down 26% relative to last year at this time, or 20; well, did I say 26% already? I already blocked it because I don't want to remember the number. So, it's early days, especially if we're not starting face to face instruction for a while. We had to wait longer to be able to articulate to students what we were doing so that these guiding...guidance from SUNY and as we saw in the fall, we started from a huge deficit position with enrollment in the fall and we climbed and climbed and climbed so at least we have a framework that we used to communicate with students and advertise and get the word out. So, I hold hope that there's real estate between now and the spring semester and of course you know we're working earnestly at this. But the early report is disheartening...and as you know I spent time with the AACC board last week and I'm telling you this is not an uncommon story. This is incredibly troubling for higher education and beyond troubling for community colleges, but we will keep at this. A positive note to end on is despite the workload, the unending workload, faculty, staff, students, administration is lifting right now, we have not taken our foot off the gas with respect to our work on creating a better world especially with respect to racism in 2020 in our country. So, I

want to solute, I don't know if Paul Basinski, I know he's here to speak always about Shared Governance but a tip of the cap, with his department chair cap, that he has organized a panel of professors and staff members, and administrators and students and I would invite all trustees...and we can get it to you, I'm sure Carol can follow up with the information. I'd like to invite the trustees personally to attend the virtual panel on race and racism on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 at night. Paul has promised a robust and excellent discussion led by our very own SUNY Orange family on the topic. And, I have concluded my listening tour with those students, faculty and staff of color. I had my last session this past week; powerful, humbling stories and recommendations and suggestions were shared with me and a changed leader for having asked and listened to those questions so I will be doing my form of qualitative processing of that in the weeks to come and I intend to reflect that out to the college community and certainly the trustees in the future about how we can be a better SUNY Orange from the voices of the people who go to school here and who work with us every day. So, those are positive things I would say. So, I will end there and certainly entertain questions and or cede the floor to future reports. Thank you, Chair Watson.

Trustee Weddell: Dr. Young, what about the spring sports, has that been cancelled as well? They're not going to have any spring sports at all?

Dr. Young: Yeah, excellent question Mr. Weddell. I would say it's very much up in the air right now. I thought there was...so there's two major divisions of NJCAA among the SUNY schools, SUNY community colleges, in New York. We are in Region 15. So, I thought Region 15 had a kind of a group understanding and then Region 15 talked to Region 3 and now there's a little bit of...we're adjusting and trying to all go together. So, I'm going to buzz this up a little bit to say, there is a general appetite to try to get students, student athletes, to what's called a return to play which might be better titled, return to practice. Particularly, for what are termed, like a low risk and medium risk sports; outdoor sports that are non-contact. There's also an appetite, it seems, that students who are in indoor winter sports, so your basketballs, wrestling...we don't have wrestling but wrestling to also, if we're not going to have those sports, to declare that very very quickly because I'm told that those students may have opportunities to play in Texas and other states that might not be so restrictive. So, it's a real mixed bag right now, so I would say our position at SUNY Orange is we're trying to leave the door open to outdoor, to have our student athletes return to practice particularly for those lower risk sports but we have not made any declarations because the presidents of these colleges would like to make a uniform declaration together.

- Trustee Vacca: Dr. Young on the 26% that you said we were down, not that it makes a difference to us, but where do we stand in the spectrum of the other schools? Are they all about the same?
- Dr. Young: That I don't know. Gerianne, is it too soon to have that kind of chatter in your world?
- VP Brusati: I can tell you we don't have anything definitive yet but there is a directors meeting on Friday, a SUNY-wide and so I have to believe it will come up at that. At least we'll get some informal intel from the other directors that Maynard will report back to us.
- Dr. Young: Thank you.
- Chair Watson: Dr. Young, thank you for that report. If there are no further questions, we will move forward. Next on the agenda, Governance President, Paul Basinski.

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

- Mr. Basinski: Thank you Chair Watson and good evening trustees. I want to thank, say a thank you to Dr. Young as well for the shout out. Ah, yes, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM, the College will be hosting a panel on Race and Racism. We have not forgotten at SUNY Orange, how difficult a year it has been in America, as we continue to struggle in so many ways over issues of racism. So, we felt, we needed an institutional response to that, which wasn't gendered by Dr. Young and it references a SUNY-wide initiative on that matter. It will be a real confrontation with issues of racism, and we'd love any of the board members who would like to attend to be with us December 1<sup>st</sup> for that event as well.

Okay, so my report. Shared Governance will finish up operations for the fall semester in just a few weeks. I can remind the trustees that all of our operations have been virtual going back to March 13<sup>th</sup> now of the spring semester past. It's a challenge, communication is a challenge, avoiding miscommunication among our membership which is large, is always a struggle. We don't have the in-person cues and dynamics that are so typical of human connection and contact. Some zoom fatigue has set in as the weeks and months have progressed with us operating remotely. But I am happy to report that the state of Shared Governance at SUNY Orange is still strong. We continue to conduct all our normal operations virtually as we finish up fall term and we will continue to do so as we move ahead into the new year and spring semester.

Lately, we have been providing feedback to Administration regarding SUNY guidance for spring start, especially with respect to remote

learning. We want to ensure that the quality of remote learning operations at Orange County Community College maintain our standards of excellence. To that affect, Executive Committee will meet next week with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Hackman and with Dr. Young, who is an Ex-Officio member of that committee to discuss remote operations to get a clear sense of precisely where we are with them as we finish the fall semester and moving on into the spring. We continue to work with various committees on a recommendation for more uniform Blackboard shells. The trustees will recall that Blackboard is the way we deliver online learning content at SUNY Orange. And, we've had a number of robust discussions, about that particularly arcane topic and we'll reach a determination shortly with regard to what Shared Governance would like to do as far as that proposal for great uniformity at least in terms of the platform of the Blackboard shells that deliver our learning content.

I am pleased to announce to the trustees that we have worked with the Associate Vice President, Anne Prial, to extend the time that students have dealing with academic probation issues at the College and how they interact with the College-wide Review Board. We hope that extra time the students have to respond to the Review Board will give them an opportunity to get everything they need to in order to put the best foot forward with those folks that are responsible for dealing with matters of academic probation. That will be a help, Shared Governance feels, for students that are dealing with some difficult issues there.

We are working to amass information from faculty regarding why students choose, as well they should, our College over others, to share with the Enrollment Management Task Force which is run by Trustee Weddell. I believe we might've even started sharing that information. Dr. Young tells me yes and we will continue to do so. If that gives us a clearer handle on why students come, on how we can recruit students in the future at our College, especially when we're dealing with enrollment declines, we're so pleased to be working with Trustee Weddell and the other members of that task force.

I only have one other thing to add and that of course is to wish all of our Board of Trustee members a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. Enjoy it my friends.

Trustee Weddell: Paul, I personally want to thank you for being enrolled on our Enrollment Task Force. I appreciate your help with the task force and some of the stuff you and Gerianne are doing, I really appreciate your involvement there so hats off to the Governance Committee for what they're doing and what they've stepped up to really help us out and figure out some of these issues. So, I really appreciate your support out there.

Chair Watson: Paul, we thank you for that report. We also look forward to your December 1<sup>st</sup> discussion on racism. I plan to be in the audience for that and we thank you for those efforts. We're hoping for an enriching discussion.

Moving forward, next on the agenda is Student Trustee Jacques Stanley.

### **C. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE – Jacques Stanley**

Trustee Stanley: Good Evening everyone. The trustee report, Student Trustee report, for November 18, 2020.

The Apprentice Players held a haunted car event on Friday, October 30 at that Middletown Campus. Over 200 cars attended the drive-through event and \$1300 was raised for the Westchester Children's Medical Hospital.

The Student Senate met with Chancellor James Malatras on November 5, via Zoom. The meeting covered many topics that concerned our students during this social distancing learning era.

We are in the process of promoting the SOARS conference. The 20-21 SOARS conference will take place virtually via Zoom and will be held on Saturday morning, March 13, 2021.

That is all to report for the Student Trustee Report.

Chair Watson: We thank you for that report, Trustee Stanley.

Next report, College Association, Vinnie Cazzetta. Welcome Vinnie.

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

Mr. Cazzetta: Good Evening Board and hi former colleagues, it's nice to be with you again tonight.

So, a couple things from the College Association.

The next board meeting is December 7<sup>th</sup> and at that board meeting, RBT will be doing the audit presentation for the board. Prior to the board meeting, on December 4<sup>th</sup> the Audit Committee meeting will take place with representatives from RBT. And, also related to the board; the board



Conflict of Interest forms are going out to the board to sign those to make sure they're in compliances.

The second item I have for you tonight is a report on the Lab School in terms of some numbers and, they're not encouraging numbers. So, with related to the Morrison Lab School, the one bright spot is our infant program is on par with last year's infant program in terms of number of children. The toddler program is operating, a total number of kids in various blocks is 38 where last year it was 107. In the pre-school, we're operating at 104; last year it was 168. And, in the UPK program it's 31 as opposed to 46. And that's the Morrison Lab School.

In Newburgh, there is no infant program. There're two programs. The toddler program has 50 children. Normally it has about a 100. The pre-school has 82 and normally that's 109 so that one's not doing too far off.

And then the inclusive classroom that we host with Inspire, three out of our six spots are filled. Inspire has had trouble filling their spots. So, we're actually doing a little better in the room...that room, then they are.

So, that concludes my report for tonight unless there are any questions of me.

Chair Watson: Questions trustees? Hearing none, we will move forward. Vinnie, we thank you for that report.

Mr. Cazzetta: Thank you very much.

Chair Watson: Next Foundation Board, Dawn Ansbro. Dawn, are your there?

## **E. REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD – Dawn Ansbro**

Ms. Ansbro: I am here, thank you Chair Watson. It's nice to see everybody tonight.

Couple of things I'd like to share with you. Our first virtual Leadership event took place on October 23. We actually net \$44,542 at that event. I never want to do another virtual event again, but I suspect I probably will. I thank Dr. Young and all of the people who participated in the event. We did have a \$10,000 anonymous donor as you might have heard, who contributed and of course all of the money that we raised at that event is going towards the purchase of a new SIM patient for the Nursing program. So, we're adding this money to approximately \$22,000 that we have in a SIM patient fund already. And the hope is that we can apply for a SUNY match that will enable us to purchase a new SIM patient and my understanding is that they run roughly \$100,000 a piece or thereabouts.

So, we're very excited about the outcome of the event and I thank all of you who participated in it.

Just a quick note, we just started a new scholarship. I don't know, some of you may have heard that William DeBlock who was a distinguished alum of the College passed away recently and his family included the SUNY Orange Foundation as, in the obituary as in lieu of flowers. So as we started to bring in donations, I called Chris DeBlock, Bill's widow and asked her what she thought she might want to do with this and they, the family determined that they would like to start a scholarship in Bill's name. So, we will have a new \$500 a year Criminal Justice scholarship called the William J. DeBlock Memorial Scholarship. We're very happy and thankful to the family for thinking of us and making that decision.

I did just have a call today with members of the Art Department. My understanding is that we have a donor who is interested in giving a \$10,000 gift to our Art Department. We're currently in the process of determining how that gift will be used. It sounds to me right now, like we will probably use part of it for scholarships and part of it, perhaps for some equipment purchases. But that is being determined but we were thrilled about the gift and very happy that the Art Department turned to the Foundation and asked us to participate in this process with them. So, that's exciting news as well.

And then just a note that the annual fund mailing will be going out within the next week. This is our end of the year appeal. I hope that you all will consider participating. I don't have to tell you that it's been a tough year of fundraising as well as for the College. Many events have been cancelled. Lots of opportunities that we might have had to raise money did not happen. So, we're thankful for this opportunity at the end of the year and hope that you all will participate and that concludes my report. Happy Thanksgiving to everybody.

Chair Watson: Dawn, we thank you for that report. Question for you. Are you prepared tonight to tell the trustees where we stand with our trustee scholarship?

Ms. Ansbro: I do not have those numbers with me, I'm sorry to say Fred, but I can certainly get them for you first thing in the morning or even tonight and send you an email.

Chair Watson: No, it'll be fine if you could report to the trustees at our next meeting. It comes up rather quickly on December 8.

Ms. Ansbro: I will make sure I have that information for you.

Chair Watson: Thank you so much.

Alright, moving forward, as we normally do, we have a special report tonight and it's going to be in regards to Middle States Accreditation kickoff. And I normally introduce but tonight, I am going to ask Dr. Young to introduce this special report.

## **F. SPECIAL REPORT:**

### **MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION KICK OFF:**

Dr. Dena Whipple, Associate Vice President for Learning and Student Success

Dr. Michele Iannuzzi-Sucich, Professor

Christine Work, Institutional Planning Assessment and Research Officer

Dr. Young: Great, thank you Chair Watson. And, I asked for the privilege of making the introduction because this is a big one, trustees and I sense you know this already, that being accredited as an institution is no small affair and the walk, the journey we take as an institution to our accreditation is I think far more important than...the actual...okay, accreditation is really really important, but the journey that we take to the accreditation is as important. Let me say it like that. The process of studying ourselves and asking ourselves who is it that we say we are and then gathering the evidence about are we who we say we are and having those internal conversations is some of the most exciting work that we can do and if we find out we aren't who we say we are, resolving to do something about it. This should be some of the most exciting and fulfilling, challenging and honest work we do. To lead that work, you need people you trust. And, I wanted to personally present to you, trustees, the team that my colleagues and I trust very very much to lead this College, and trustees included, through this process, to accreditation and begging your pardon, I wanted to...I know you know them already, but wanted to honor them by sharing formally their credentials with you, their academic credentials and what they've been doing at the College and then give them the floor for the next three years as they lead us all to accreditation. And they will talk with you about how you too will also be involved in this journey. So, in alphabetical order, let me introduce you to our three co-chairs for our Middle States Accreditation.

First, Dr. Michele Iannuzzi-Sucich, who is already...okay good she has her camera on already...Michele could you wave? Thank you. Dr. Iannuzzi-Sucich is a physician by training and has taught Anatomy and Physiology at SUNY Orange for 13 years, achieving the rank of Professor in 2019. Congratulations on that recent accomplishment. Dr. Iannuzzi has...she received her BS in Biology from Siena College in 1994 and an MD degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University in 1998. She completed a residency in Family Practice through Virtua Health System in Southern New Jersey, and a fellowship in Geriatrics at the University of Connecticut. Her fellowship research entailed work on falls in the elderly

and Sarcopenia, loss of muscle mass with age as well as innovative use of technology in medical education. In 2003, she returned to her hometown in the Hudson Valley and worked for four years in private family practice office providing patient care. Having found education to be one of the most rewarding parts of her career, she joined the SUNY Orange Biology Department in 2007 as a full-time faculty member. Since then, her goal has been to help students gain a greater understanding and appreciation of human anatomy and physiology while simultaneously cultivating a desire for life-long learning. During her time at SUNY Orange, Dr. Iannuzzi has embraced numerous leadership opportunities including establishing the annual SUNY Orange Achievements Research scholarship, you know it as SOARS, serving as co-chair of the undergraduate research task force in charge of planning the annual SOARS conference in 2012, collaborating with former vice president for Student Services, Dr. Paul Broadie, to establish the College's Wellness Center, as well as most recently serving as a steering committee member, working as group co-chair for the development of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. In addition to teaching and committee service, in 2012 Dr. Iannuzzi assumed the role of managing special projects for the Vice President of Academic Affairs which ultimately led to her involvement in managing the logistics for the 2014 Middle States Self Study site visit. For the past three years, Dr. Iannuzzi has served as a peer reviewer for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, participating in three site visits to other institutions engaged in their self-study process. So, our corporate spy in the group.

But we have a second in the form of Dr. Dena Whipple, whom I will introduce now. Dena Whipple currently serves as the Associate Vice President for the division of Learning and Student Success, LSS at SUNY Orange. Dena, who has led the division from its inception in July 2017 oversees an array of departments within the Academic Affairs division, including Library, Office of Educational Partnerships, Center for Student Success, Cultural Affairs, Academic Technology, Grants and Center for Teaching and Learning. She also provides College oversight to grant funded Liberty Partnerships program, collaboration with the Newburgh enlarged city school district and the Newburgh Boys and Girls Club as well as successful Newburgh P-TECH program partnership between Newburgh School District and IBM. From 2011 to 2017, Dena led the College's Center for Teaching and Learning; you know it as CTL. The program delivered through CTL is designed to enhance faculty teaching methods and practices in order to enrich student learning while at the same time offering professional development and enrichment workshops for employees across all departments. Under her leadership, CTL offered 100 events and workshops each year and implemented a number of initiatives including the faculty tablet program, annual on-campus graduate course offerings, a college-wide leadership conference, lecture capture technology, live-streaming capabilities and virtual reality. Dena initially

joined the SUNY Orange faculty in 2005 as an adjunct instructor within Arts and Communication Department where she taught both traditional and digital photography courses along with Introduction to Art Class. She developed the College's first digital photography courses in 2008. Dena earned a Bachelor of Art, in Art, from the Pennsylvania State University, Master of Science in Educational Media Design and Technology from Full Sail University and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University and that was fairly recently. Dr. Whipple. But, also a Middle States evaluator as well, so our second corporate spy.

So, two corporate spies and then a veteran co-chair of a previous self-study is Christine Work. Christine, as you know, is the Director of Planning Assessment and Research at SUNY Orange and has she come onto the screen? There we go, Christine, ah, at SUNY Orange. She has 15 years of community college experience beginning as Assessment Coordinator. The privilege and benefit, she says, of overseeing the institutional planning assessment and research, the IPAR Office is being able to interact and collaborate with faculty, staff and students, college-wide on a variety of initiatives to support the success of students including assessment initiatives, survey development and administration, as well as data analysis efforts. Christine is consistently involved in college-wide efforts and activities including having served as a member of the Executive Committee, facilitator of a Guided Pathways cohort as well as participating in the development of the Diversity and Inclusion plan, as well as most recently the Strategic Plan. Christine received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in recognition of her role in co-chairing the institutions last self-study as well as the Strategic Plan. By leading these college-wide improvement efforts she was able to collaboratively work to shape the future direction of the College. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Loyola University, Chicago and her master's degree from community...in community, I'm sorry...her master's degree in Community Social Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

So thank you for granting me permission to read...we don't usually do these extended things but these are three incredibly impressive individuals who generally don't let themselves be hailed publicly but I believe they should be and I appreciate them coming forward with this terrifically demanding time for the institution to take on this project on our behalf. And tonight, they will be presenting to you, trustees, what is this project? What is the pathway to accreditation and how do they recommend us together getting after it? So, with my gratitude, Dena, Michele and Christine the floor is yours.

Ms. Work:

Thank you very much Dr. Young. That was very kind and unexpected. So, good evening and I wanted to say thank you to Dr. Young. Again, also for the introduction, this is her third introduction of the month, and just as enthusiastic and kind and informative. So, I appreciate that, and we'd also like to thank Chair Watson. We know that there is a lot to discuss on the board's agenda and we do appreciate very much being able to be a part of that tonight. And, also to the board members, thank you for your listening and your attention. And, also just wanted to say hi to Vinnie, miss you and to Flo, you have an accreditation guru in the house and so if nobody else knows anything about all that it is, Flo does. I think what we're going to do is I think Carol is in control of the slides, so Dena, myself and Michele, who you were kindly introduced to, we are going to share the presentation. And, Carol, I'll probably just say next slide please when we want to move forward. So, the presentation today, what we're going to do is give you an overview, a background, a brief one, on the commission, the Middle States Commission for Higher Education. We're going to also just briefly describe what entails the Accreditation...and the activities that are sustained within that and then more importantly, and most importantly, and timely wise is that we're going to share with you where we're at in our self-study process to be able to kick that off to give you some, a little bit of detailed information about our time line and next steps.

Dena, Michele and I are extremely honored and privileged to be able to facilitate this process on behalf of Orange County Community College. And, if you don't know me...I'm honestly saying that this is a wonderful opportunity for our institution to engage in. And we promise to be able to put forth our enthusiasm, we promise to engage the entire College in this process and most importantly make it purposeful. So, next slide, next slide please Carol.

A little sneak peek of our quote; so, to kick off our self-study process we wanted to introduce you to this quote by Benjamin Franklin, "without continual growth and progress such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning." And this quote really speaks to the essence of the self-study process and the principals there within. It was also chosen just for a few other reasons. As you know, and I'm assuming yourselves being board members and everything else that your life presents personally and professionally; everyone is wearing more hats than usual. And, so, if you know a little bit about Ben Franklin, he also is an amazing man with many talents and expertise and a gazillion contributions to our country. So, if you just wanted to parody that. And the other little take away or little tid bit of information is that Ben Franklin also spent much of his life in Philadelphia. We wanted just to acknowledge also that the Middle States Commission of Higher Education's headquarters are located in Philly and also just to

acknowledge that this is also Dr. Young's home state of Pennsylvania. So, next slide please. Okay, thank you.

And, just wanted to mention to, that, as you know, our Strategic Plan has been approved by you, the Board of Trustees, and we are about to endeavor in its implementation. Also, we've had a Title V grant received. We've been engaging in Guided Pathways work and all of these efforts are really coming to a point where this self-study process couldn't come at a better time and to be able to embed these efforts into this work, to be able to identify our strengths, weaknesses in order to identify areas for innovation and improvement. So, the timing of this is impeccable. And, just very briefly, the Commission of Higher Education, the takeaway here is that it's a voluntary, non-governmental membership association. So, we are reviewing other institutions based on standards and criteria as well as other institutions are coming to us and reviewing our efforts, our work, our evidence on those same standards. And that's an important take-away to note; that it's non-governmental. Just for your information, we have...as you will probably be given these slides, the website to Middle States and there is plenty of information if you wanted to just take a peek around. Next slide please.

So, we mentioned that there is an accreditation cycle. So, part of that, the end is the self-study evaluation. It used to be on a 10-year cycle. Middle States itself went through a very extensive review and revision of some processes and policies and it is now an 8-year cycle, so we're grandfathered in, in terms of our timeline now. So, our last self-study was held in 2014 in the spring. And, this self-study, our team reviewers will be here on campus, hopefully, in spring of 2023. Several other bigger items to note within the accreditation cycle is we have a mid-point peer review. This is in replacement of the periodic review report. So, mid-point peer review is really taking the culmination of annual data that is submitted on behalf of my office that touches every aspect of the institution and the mid-point peer review is a review of that data over a period of 5 years. And, again, peer review, there are reviewers to review that data in different areas, such as finance and student success and they do touch base with the institution in regards to notice of whether we're, I wouldn't want to say in compliance but whether we're on the right track or whether there is anything to note and pay attention to. So, our last peer review for our mid-point was in fall 2019 and it all went very well. Next slide please.

And, here again, I have a website for you. Just as Dr. Young mentioned, our accreditation status. This information here is what we're trying to be able to, to just be able to maintain. If you go to this website you'd be able to take note of all the institutions that are accredited by Middle States and to be able to learn contact information, the accreditation cycle in regards

to a timeline as well as all the accreditation activities that the institution has engaged in thus far. I'm going to turn it over to Michele, she has the next slide.

Dr. Iannuzzi-Sucich: I'd just like to briefly thank you very much Dr. Young for your very kind introduction and thank you Chair Watson for the opportunity to be here this evening. So, as Christine pointed out, SUNY Orange is moving toward the end of our current accreditation cycle. This slide is intended as a brief reminder of the previous actions that were taken during our last accreditation cycle. So, our last self-study evaluation was in 2013-2014. At that time, the Middle States Commission had 14 standards and SUNY Orange initially was in compliance with 13. We did not meet Standard 14 on the first visit by Middle States. That was the assessment of student learning outcomes. The College's response to come into compliance with Standard 14 was to develop an action plan which was submitted to Middle States. The institution was re-visited the following year and the commission removed the warning and encouraged us to focus on continuous improvement.

So, continuous improvement efforts that were outlined during the year when we were working to come into compliance include the formation of the Student Learning Assessment team, known as SLAT, composed of academic divisional liaisons to serve as points of contact, as well as a more institutional consistent approach to using curriculum maps and assessment plans, as well as a review of the student learning outcomes and program learning outcomes across the academic division. Next slide please.

The goal of this slide is to introduce and remind what the purpose of a self-study is. Clearly, as Dr. Young stated, we are all very interested in SUNY Orange maintaining its accreditation. But as Christine also pointed out there is a lot to be learned by moving through this process. And some of the questions that we hope to address through evidence gathering and analysis include, are we as an institutional community, achieving our mission and goals? And what should we do as an institution to improve our effectiveness in achieving our mission and goals? So, ultimately, the purpose and goal of a self-study is continuous and innovative improvement that advances the institution and leads the institution in new directions. Next slide please.

What you see before you is a list of the new 7 standards, as opposed to the previous 14. I will not be taking you through an in-depth discussion of each of those, however if you were to go to the Middle States website, which again is provided as a link at the bottom of these slides, which I believe will be distributed to the board after this meeting or if you simply



google Middle States Commission, there is a tremendous amount of detail and information about the standards of accreditation. Next slide please.

And the next slide that we've included is an example just to give you a sense of what you would be looking at if you were to navigate to that website. This is Standard 1, Mission and Goals. And, so each of the standards is formatted with an overarching description of what that standard encompasses, and then individual criteria detailed underneath that the institution needs to speak to as to how we meet those criteria. So, once again, I invite you to visit the website for further details. Next slide please.

So, this slide is an overview of our process, our timeline, that Christine, Dena and I have discussed with Dr. Young as the most efficient, what we believe to be the most efficient way to move forward and reach our goal of having a productive self-study process concluding with a peer review in the spring of 2023. So, I will walk you through this skeleton outline of that process. That would begin currently in fall of 2020 and into spring of 2021 with the design of the self-study. And, Dena will be speaking to this a little bit more in some of the coming slides, but just as a brief introduction, Middle States requires that the institution very carefully outlines how they plan to approach the self-study process. So, this design is a formalized document that must be presented to Middle States and approved by Middle States before we actually engage in the self-study process. So, the approval of that design and preparation for our visit will take place in spring of 2021 and that will occur when our Middle States Liaison, Dr. Paul Starkey will be coming to SUNY Orange or perhaps visiting virtually given the current circumstances. But we'll have a personal visit with our team and discuss our self-study design and our preparations so that we are certain that the process we intend to undertake is consistent with the expectations of Middle States. Once the approval has been given by our liaison, then we will begin the actual self-study process spanning from spring of 2021 to fall of 2022 where the institution will conduct the analysis of programs and services with the effort toward continual improvement and innovation. The anticipated peer review, when the visiting team comes to our institution and evaluates our self-study in context with the standards, that will take place in spring of 2023. And then we anticipate that the commission will take its final action in June of 2023 and depending on the team evaluation, they may or may not require us to complete further self-improvement activities. So, now I'm going to turn it over to Dena. Next slide please.

Dr. Whipple:

Alright, good evening everyone. It is a pleasure to be with you tonight and I will have the final piece for you. And I want to talk with you a little bit about who all is involved in the self-study process and as Dr. Young so kindly noted, Michele, Christine and I will be the co-chairs of the self-

study process. And, what we want to talk with you a little bit about is the hallmark of the self-study process is really about the institutional engagement and college-wide participation. So, one of the next items to be finalized is the steering committees. These members will be invited by Dr. Young to be part of this group and we hope to finalize this group by the end of this fall semester. Once the steering committee is put together, we then work to assemble the working groups who will address the 7 standards, work through the evidence, and put together their responses to each standard and the criteria within each standard. And then here is where we invite, you know, larger forums for college-wide information and feedback. We want faculty, staff, students and college leadership to all have an opportunity to review the self-study design, provide valuable information to the working groups, eventually review the self-study draft that we'll be working on through this process and participate in the team visit. The board is part of that process as well and as those roles and activities are determined we'll bring more information to you either through the co-chairs or through Dr. Young.

So, really this is where, you know, we want to be able to provide you with thorough, regular, and timely updates and opportunities for engagement as you need them and want them. As Michele noted and Christine also introduced some of the milestones to be thinking about in the spring 2021, the development of our self-study design. We submit that to Middle States. Two weeks after the submission of that document, we have a preparation visit from our Middle States Self Study liaison. The College then works on the self-study report. That is a longer process of course and then we prepare for the team visit after submission of that self-study report in the spring of 2023, which seems far from now, but it will be here very very quickly.

Just a couple things to note. Previously these were some of the activities where the board was involved with the Middle States process and with that actual site team visit. Some things like lunches and interviews with the site team evaluators and additional opportunities for involvement during that usually a multi-day period.

Michele touched on the self-study design, so we just wanted to lay out a little bit of that information in terms of what is that document, what are they asking us to report on? Nice enough, we have a template that we follow. It makes it very clear what Middle States is asking of us. We've bulleted just a few of those items that they want to know. A description of the College, our approach to the self-study design, the identification of our institutional priorities, so our Strategic Plan and the timing of that could not have been better. We are able to, you know, roll into the self-study process with very clear priorities. They ask us to identify our specific timeline for completing this work. And, then they ask us to also provide

some context to the working groups for how we're going to tie our Middle States standards to our institutional priorities, to our College's Vision, Mission and Goals and help them to draw some lines of inquiry for how they're addressing each of those standards.

This slide, I won't read all of these bullets, obviously but it just gives you a sense for some of the activities that have been taking place through the semester so far. What I do want to highlight is we have had a core team attend the Self-Study Institute this fall. It began in September. We have recently concluded that five session institute, I want to say a week ago. We had a number of folks attend, including Dr. Young, Dr. Hackman, Paul Martland, Gerianne Brusati, Maynard Schmidt, Anthony Scalia and Christine Leroux. So, we have a team who is prepared, has the needed information and will help us you know to work towards this self-study design and start working towards the steering committee and the working groups.

The other things just to highlight for November and December; clearly the establishment of the steering committee and finalizing that and getting started on this self-study design draft.

And then finally, we want to just point out, that part of the self-study design is outlining very specifically what our communication plan will be. This slide just really highlights many of the ways that we're going to provide timely updates to the college community. We will be presenting at Assembly, either from the co-chairs or through Dr. Young. We will be providing updates to all of the college leadership team meetings, Shared Governance and Executive Committee, Cabinet, to you as well, and to the college community at large. We will also be developing a Middle States web page so that that information is clear and transparent and we are distributing it, you know, as we want to and need to for everyone to be part of this process.

So, that concludes our remarks and presentation. I again want to thank you for your attention and the opportunity to provide this presentation tonight and I'll ask if there are any questions.

Chair Watson: Trustees?

Trustee Hannes: What a terrific presentation and thank you, each one of you. I have had the great privilege of working with each of these co-chairs and I know we are in incredible hands heading down the Middle States journey. Thank you.

Dr. Iannuzzi-Sucich: Thank you Flo.

- Chair Watson: Well, thank you for such a fine kick-off. I am excited about the Middle States self-study. Michele, Christine and Dena, your leadership is going to be tremendous. When I think about Middle States, I think about it as an opportunity for us to showcase our institution. Many people get nervous when they hear accreditation and the process, but this self-study is an opportunity for us to look inwardly about and how we do things at our institution. And, being a green trustee the last time our Middle States visit and self-study, it was just a tremendous, tremendous opportunity to be introduced to as a new trustee and to be involved with, because we had a large group of professionals come to our institution, talk to us, look at us, evaluate us and in my estimation, we fared extremely well throughout that entire process. A couple weeks ago I was on with NYCCT and they had a breakout session and Dr. Moono is one of Dr. Young's contemporaries at one of our SUNY institutions, I don't remember which one. But he serves as a Middle States lead evaluator and he leads the tours. He was talking to trustees about Middle States and there were a couple of take-aways that I came away with. One of the take-aways was, please be open and honest with yourselves about this process. You're looking at yourselves and you want to do the best possible evaluation. But honesty is one of the keys. He mentioned that these evaluators from Middle States, they're professionals and they can see honesty and they can see the opposite of honesty. So, please be honest. The second takeaway was...please be honest with ourselves as well. The second takeaway was if you don't document it, you haven't done it. So, it's very important that what we do at the College, we create metrics and we document things so that when an outside person comes in, we have these documents fully supported by whatever research we've done, whatever information we've created corollaries on. So, it's very important that we document everything that we do. So, we should start to think about that very early on in the process. Once again, I'm excited about the Middle States process and as I said, I hung around the last time, I came for the lunches and dinners, but it was just a tremendous, tremendous experience. I wish the three of you much success in this endeavor. Thank you very much. Anyone else? Trustees?
- Trustee Weddell: I do have a question. How often will we be updated or given news on this process?
- Dr. Iannuzzi-Sucich: Dr. Young please go right ahead.
- Dr. Young: I was going to say, that's probably a question for me. I thought after we got through this initial presentation, I would have a conversation with Chair Watson, and you know discuss board involvement. Now that you've had your overview, do you want to hear from me as part of my president's reports, you know maybe two meetings in a row and then invite our co-chairs in once a quarter, until we get closer to the visit? You know, there's a couple different ways we can do this. If you want to have

a conversation now or you know at another part of the agenda about how you would like to manage it. We could do this any number of ways, depending on how often you'd like to be updated and your level of engagement with the updates. And, then also, I was going to talk with Chair Watson soon now about Steering Committee involvement as well, being careful, when you start crossing into you know, Administrative versus participation and engagement at the chair level, or I'm sorry the trustee level. So, I think those are the, like tomorrow or even later in the agenda conversations. Or right now.

Trustee Weddell: I'm just curious now, I just want to be updated and quarterly is fine with me and I mean, if you want to update us on a monthly thing, that's fine, I just wanted to know what the next steps are and how we see this progressing...so I'm just curious.

Dr. Young: We had an initial you know conversation...I also want to acknowledge that Erika Hackman who's on the screen is also very closely engaged with the three co-chairs as well. So, I see her, I can just tell by the eyes, like saying hey remember this conversation we had about the board's engagement. You know we talked a little bit about maybe having a board member as an Ex-Officio on the Steering Committee. Then, I believe is it now Standard 7? Is the board? Is that the one that has like Board Governance and so forth? Somebody give me nod. Christine Work, thank you, yup yup that's where it landed in the new standards. You know that might be another place where you have very deliberate continual board engagement. And then we can do updates as we said, as part of my president's report but a more formal presentation quarterly. That might be a good flow.

Chair Watson: I'm going to defer to the committee and to Dr. Young on that. I'm sure we will get frequent reports and give the trustees an opportunity to engage and ask questions and kept abreast of how things are going.

Dr. Young: Okay, well maybe how about we'll make the recommendation as soon as tomorrow, because I think I saw an email in my inbox here as I was looking for something else about yellow, red and orange zones.

Chair Watson: Now the trustees all would have received documents in regards to our last self-study process. Dr. Young and I had been speaking and we came up with that it might be good for the trustees to have access to the reports and letters that came from Middle States the last time around to use as a basis as we go into this. Now, I know it's a lot of documents trustees and I'm not going to ask you to be able to quote it chapter and verse but it is an opportunity to learn more about the self-study process. And, you should have received those documents this week, so there won't be a test on them

but when you have a moment try to read through them and it will put you in a good position.

Chair Watson: Alright, it's a great kick-off. Moving forward, next order of business is Old Business. Trustee Weddell, do you have a report from the Enrollment Task Force?

#### **IV: OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Report of the Enrollment Task Force (Tom Weddell)**

Trustee Weddell: I do. So, we had, we met about a week ago. I thought we had a great meeting. In our discussions, already at our committee level that we started with here, what can we do better to attract students? And Gerianne and Paul were gonna send out a survey monkey or a survey to some of the students, which they did, which I thought was very interesting. I have gotten some of this information and interesting to find that students prior to the COVID, one of the reasons they came to OCCC, the most important reason was absolutely the cost of the College and the tuition which I would have suspected would be the number one reason. But, then the second one was close to being, close to home. Alright, so I thought that was an interesting two features that were there. Going into...let me get it up on the screen here...going into students who are applying to the College, why they are applying to the College, we have more responses and again, cost was the number one reason they came to our College. And then, actually this time, close to campus was a close, really close second on that, so being close to campus and the cost seems to be two of the major reasons they came. We did have an uptick this time, that people are applying to the College because of COVID, seemed to be the third largest issue there for this incoming semester. So we did get some good information out of it and I want, I'll have to discuss a lot more of it with our committee, but I thought that was really some good feedback to get. And, we can look into more, probably, surveys in the future as we progress down the road with this. Also, we wanted to get together with the faculty and again, Paul Basinski there is gonna set that up and get some faculty information and a group of faculty together. And, he felt that they would have some good input as to why students come to our College and I think it's important to find the reasons why as we figure out who we're gonna attract and I think that really important. We were gonna try to get some survey on our Enrollment. Gerianne was gonna work on the mix and the make-up of our Enrollment so we kinda know what type of student that we do get. And, again, the focus...our efforts are on finding more of those students. So, I thought we had a really good first meeting and we already have some action already on it and I think moving forward we're gonna get some positive ideas out of this to hopefully increase our Enrollment. Of course, right now COVIDs got everything upside down as

far as all this goes, but as soon as we can get out of this and move forward. Although I don't know where the world's gonna go. I don't know when the next COVID.....whether it's gonna be COVID 20 or COVID 21 or COVID 23 and what may happen next. Okay, so, it'll be interesting to see how we handle this and how it prepares us for the future, what's gonna happen within the College and Enrollment with students across the board, not only in just Orange County but across New York State and across the country. So, I was very encouraged by our meeting and again, I want to thank Paul and Gerianne for their really active roles and really pulling stuff together for us on this. So, thank you both for your participation in this and I think we're gonna have a good outcome as a end result. That's my report and if there's any questions, I'm here to answer them.

Trustee Hunter: Tom, there is a number of Orange County residents who go to community colleges, some of the neighboring schools and other ones. Is there any way to figure out why they made that choice? I assume maybe the charge back process, again, release some names and contact or anything.

Trustee Weddell: Great point there. I don't think we looked at that and Gerianne, that might be...and Paul, that might be a survey to put out to those students that come from a different county, why they're selecting our community college. I think that could be some great feedback. Thank you Tom, that's a good idea, that's something I hadn't thought about but you're right, that's a good spot, to wonder why they're coming here instead of going to their own community college. And, we're one of these upper end on the cost side of it so they're probably paying a little bit more to come to our community college because our tuition is just a bit higher than some of other community colleges out there.

Trustee Hunter: And, then Tom, maybe it's not possible to find out why some of our residents are going elsewhere. I don't know whether that's possible to research or not.

Trustee Weddell: Well, we might be able to contact some of the other colleges, so we could maybe send them a survey. It's possible, but it might be a little bit harder than from our own coming in, so we'll try to figure it out. But those are two great points Tom and I appreciate your input on that.

Chair Watson: You know it would be interesting if we had a dashboard to have those two items at our disposal on a continual basis so we can monitor those. Great suggestion. Are there any other questions or comments? Trustee Weddell, we thank you for that report and we thank you for your efforts with the Enrollment Task Force. We all know that Enrollment is one of biggest issues that we deal with, especially in this pandemic. We're gonna have to fight for the students so we appreciate it.

Chair Watson:            Alright, next order of business is New Business. Is there any new business from the trustees? Hearing none, Chairman's Comments.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:** None

**VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

My comments are going to be brief tonight. I just want to update all of the trustees that our statewide organization, NYCCT, had their 66<sup>th</sup> annual professional conference on November 13 and 14, last Friday and Saturday. The conference was themed "Diversity Equity and Inclusion in the Times of Financial Stress." And I would term it as being an eye-opening conference. On...last Friday, we had a keynote speaker who spoke on diversity, equity and inclusion in a time of economic challenge. That presenter, her name was Angela Dixon, and I'm expecting that she will send her slides from her presentation and I will see that all of the trustees get those slides for your individual review. Also, on Friday afternoon there was a presentation called "Equity Scorecard." This was a presentation by Dr. Michael Baston who is the president of SUNY Rockland and accompanying him in the presentation were two chief diversity officers: Dr. Sims Covington and Calvin Gant. Dr. Covington was from FLCC, Finger Lakes Community College and Mr. Gant was from Monroe Community College. And, they discussed at great length how they function as Chief Diversity Officers at their institutions, the types of things that they do, and it was quite enlightening that these individuals were a part of the fabric at their institutions and took on a very intricate role in recruitment, in...serving in an advisory capacity in contract and contract formations. They were in somewhat of an imperative role in discussions with different factions of the College community to include the board, to include faculty, to include students. And, they just served in many different areas of the institutions and had discussions with many different areas of the institutions. Quite impressive. In discussions with Dr. Young, we happen to be in the hiring process now for a chief diversity officer at our institution and I look forward to the results and welcoming a new chief diversity officer at SUNY Orange. The only other thing I would point out from our discussion at NYCCT, we had a presentation on Friday as well from Johanna Duncan-Poitier, who is the Vice Chancellor of Community College and Educational Pipeline. She came and talked to us about the marketing efforts that are going on at SUNY directed toward community colleges. They're working on online platforms. They developed a 15 second piece and a 30 second piece that when you pick up your cell phone and it shows you different things. Their ads....we are looking to receive those ads and once they come in, I will also distribute that information to the trustees for your perusal. She had a long discussion about what was happening in Albany. New Chancellor. Of course everyone is very



concerned about where we stand from a budget standpoint with 20% cutbacks, with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payments, with the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payment, with the TAP money and it seems like the 20% is being cut out of everything. But the one thing that I took away from her presentation; one of our fellow trustees asked a question about consolidation of SUNY community colleges. She was kind of taken aback by that. But what she did say is that she has not professionally been involved in any discussions at the SUNY Officers in Albany about consolidation. But the second part of her response was, but we all know that we at community colleges have had to make cutbacks. She also suggested that it may be inevitable consolidation will visit us here in New York State. And she also suggested that the trustees need to discuss it and probably get out in front of that issue. So, I'll just leave that for the trustees to ponder and to think about and I'm sure we will continue at NYCCT to have discussions regarding consolidation. Tom, I can see you on my screen, you know, it's coming, it's like a train, it's coming down the track.

Alright moving forward, I just want to name the new leadership of NYCCT. Our chair is going to be Anne Fleming Brown, our chair elect is Alan Williams, our past-chair is Donna Mihalik, yours truly is going to serve as the treasurer, and Mr. George Rinari is going to serve as the secretary.

Last thing on my comments, I try to stay away from political discussions but I'm excited that at some point in the near future, we would get some news coming out of Washington in regards to their support of states during this COVID pandemic and also, how that would affect community colleges. I am hopeful that we will recoup our 20%. I know it doesn't look good at this point but I continue to hold out hope that our institution will be supported from a financial standpoint and whatever our leadership turns up, we have hope that they'll think of us, think of states.

Having said that, once again, as Paul ended his discussion, I want to wish everyone a Happy and safe Thanksgiving. I'm grateful to the trustees. You are very very engaged, and you stay engaged at all times, and I appreciate your efforts. Alright.

Trustee Weddell: Fred, I have a question on the Excelsior program. How has that been affected by the state...that's a program where the tuition is basically free as long as you maintain a certain grade point average. But I didn't know where this fits into this 20% reduction. Has there been any discussion on that program and how...does that really affect us, I guess with that?

Chair Watson: I think I'm going to ask, Gerianne Brusati, unmuted. She would have specific information about Excelsior and how it affects our particular students.

- VP Brusati: Thank you, thank you Mr. Watson. So, I'm embarrassed to say that with all the pieces that were going on this summer, I feel like Excelsior was one of the things that we were encouraged to sort of hold back on the longest. Now the decision is not ours to make. There's an application process that goes through HESC and that application did not come out...I want to say it came out pretty close to the start of our semester in August. Now, having said that, we do not have a lot of Excelsior students. That program probably served the needs the needs of the 4-year schools better than it served the needs of community colleges, despite how it was promoted initially. I would think, and this is totally a guess, but I expect we have under 125 students that are Excelsior students. So, the goal was to keep funding the students who already were Excelsior scholars but to sort of hold off on adding, you know, adding a new group just because the money situation. It seemed like the obligation should be to the students who already had made that commitment to us, rather than inviting new students to apply instead. So.
- Chair Watson: Now. Am I correct in stating that these are last dollars that affect the Excelsior program; that the TAP money is applied first, and the Excelsior dollars make up any open amount?
- VP Brusati: Exactly.
- Chair Watson: So, we don't have an estimate on the amount of money that we received from the Excelsior program or could we perhaps get that number at some point?
- VP Brusati: We absolutely could. Yes.
- Chair Watson: Tom, are you there? Did you get your answer?
- Trustee Weddell: Yeah, I'm just curious on how that overall affects us and I don't know if the state has said anything about it because that's a New York State program pretty much, that Excelsior program so it's not Nationwide.
- Michelle Tubbs: I'm not sure if it's appropriate for me to chime in here or not but I did share at the last board meeting that what was communicated to us at our fall plenary is that Excelsior scholarships, like all other state funded initiatives and programs were happening at 80% just like everything else. But that was the communication and information I received as the FCCC delegate.
- Chair Watson: Alright. Are there any other questions before we move forward with our agenda? I have concluded the Chairman's Comments section. Alright,

committee reports and/or recommendations. First, Mr. Bill Vacca, Trustee Vacca, Academic and Student Services.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Academic and Student Services:

Trustee Vacca: Ah, yes Chair Watson, we had a meeting last month and it was really to discuss and go over the Title V grant. The grant is an opportunity for developing Hispanic serving institutions. It's put out by the US Department of Education and it's funded over a 5-year term. Our award is approximately \$3 Million. The basis is that 30% of the student base must identify as Hispanic. It's designed to transform our students' experience and increase the students' retention and completion. Again, especially for Hispanic and low-income students. There're 3 major goals, each with several components on it that the grant has. The first one is to help the students choose and enter a path, customize onboarding with career transfer and financial planning, including having an exclusive family at student orientation. It's very important to get everybody seated at the table at the same time so the students and family know what to expect of each, what their responsibilities are, so there's no questions going forward. There's gonna be a support mechanism there. And an enhanced community-based first year experience. Again, if we can get them off on the right track following along with them in year two at least they have a good basis for where they're, where they're headed. The second goal was to ensure that the students do stay on path to graduation. We use a guided pathways, a program for mapping the next steps, we'll have advisors and coaches that will be working with the students, advising them and getting early feedback from them trying to correct anything that might go awry early on, where it's not being let go for one semester or two and then trying to correct it. We'll jump in early. And, to ensure that the students are learning, again with the coaches and advisors, an academic data analysis version will be there, gateway course re-design and active and collaborative learning spaces. All of the components or the goals that were mentioned will be introduced in phases. There's an annual activity table that's been designed and each one will have a design portion, pilot and an implementation portion. And they'll go in stages. Obviously, the onboarding is gonna be first, and so forth and so on. But it will go over a 4-year period to have all of this accomplished. By September of 2025, that being the end game, is to have the enrollment process contextualized, inclusive and culturally responsive. The curriculum will be lined with advising alerts and supports. That data analytics will inform improvements in teaching, learning and support systems and technological renovations will provide consistent, continuing support. The next steps which I'm sure we're right in now, is the appointment of a project coordinator, appointment of a steering committee, looking to hire an

activity director, contract with pathways consultant, and leverage the SUNY Orange Experience meetings for engagement, input and communication.

I know that Gerianne and Erika are very excited about this opportunity as we all should be. It's great for the College and I'm sure that they'll hit all the goals....

Trustee Hunter: Bill, the money actually comes from where?

Trustee Vacca: It's US Department of Education. I don't know how they're funded, Geri, is it as we complete various items?

VP Brusati: It's an annual funding, so we'll get, roughly, I'm gonna say, Oh God, I can't do the math, \$600,000 a year to spend on the activities that we outlined in the grant. That's why Erika's gonna be watching the money not me.

Trustee Weddell: No 20% reduction?

Dr. Hackman: No, we're not hearing anything about reductions from the federal funds.

Chair Watson: Okay, are there any other questions or comments regarding Academic and Student Services? We thank Trustee Vacca for that report.

Chair Watson: Audit and Finance, Trustee Weddell. Working Overtime tonight sir.

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

Trustee Weddell: Our Audit and Finance Committee met. The good news is that we got our first quarter payment from the state. The bad news is that it was reduced by 20%, so we got the 80%. So, that's our second quarter now that we received a payment that's short about \$600,000 then it should be but we're working through that. We also got, I guess, our state approval on our tuition increase. We got approval after we already assessed our tuition. So, that's good. And, I guess the last thing that I want to report is that our 2020 audit is underway and I guess within the next couple weeks they'll be working on it and we'll have a sit-down with our auditors to see where we're at with that. So, everything's in order here, I think. So, so far so good. So, we just need to work on our Enrollment for the spring.

Chair Watson: Trustees, any questions for Audit and Finance? Hearing none, we'll move forward. Nothing from Governance and Nominating. How about, I'm sorry, how about the Policy Committee. Trustee Hannes, are you there?

## Policy Committee: Trustee Hannes

Trustee Hannes: Well, I'll start all over. Retake. The Policy Committee met at 3:00 today and our major topic of conversation is very timely related potentially to the Middle States evaluation. And that would be the...Iris reported through Mike Albright, that the legal review of our policies has hit a glitch. The law firm that was doing it has not really been able to get to it. They are down members. I guess this is coming as news to President Young. This is...they're down associates and there aren't that many people, nobody else in the law firm who can do an educational policy review. So, they don't know when they can get to it and we want to get it done. It's been a long time in the working. So, our discussion, Paul Basinski representing Governance, Tom Hunter, Fred, myself and Mike Albright discussed various possibilities of reaching out to potentially other law firms or perhaps a policy, educational policy consultants. And, what we're going to begin with is reaching...Fred will reach out to the NYCCT and the ACCT to ask their recommendation for us to seek out some guidance as to how other community colleges are handling the review. Does it need to be legal? Could it be somebody with experience in educational policy building? And we would like President Young, if you would, to reach out to the AACC to see how their boards handle policy review. And Iris and Mike will both reach out to their colleagues in the HR community in community colleges. And, I...and thank you for the Christine for the Accreditation guru...I would be most interested in knowing what Middle States requirements are for review, for policy, procedure, for the board so that we are certain to be in conformance with their standards.

The conversation then moved on to a policy that has been revised and thank you Mike for revising Policy B215 which is...addressing administrative leadership of the College, specially defining the responsibilities of the vice presidents. So, following some revisions that we are recommending, the committee will be...the review will be presented to the board at the December meeting for review, discussion and a vote for approval.

Mike has also put together a spreadsheet addressing which policies, ranking policies that need to be addressed and one of those policies coming up next will be the data classification standards. So, that is...if there are any questions...that is where we stand. Okay. We have a lot of work ahead of us with policies and procedures.

Chair Watson: Trustee Hannes, we thank you for your leadership and we're glad to have you getting our policies finally straightened out. And, Dr. Young, we're going to have a discussion with you about the procedures and if this should be an effort that is running simultaneously with the

Administration's effort to put together the procedure. So, we'll circle back to Dr. Young.

Dr. Young                      Okay.

Chair Watson:                Moving forward, Trustee Martucci, nothing for President's Performance and Review. So, before we move on, a bit of housekeeping. Our next trustee board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 8. Our agenda has the date as the 10<sup>th</sup> so would all the trustees please note the change.

Chair Watson:                Next. We've already heard from Michelle Tubbs, but she is the only person that has made a reservation to have comments from the Comments from the Public. Michelle, are you still with us?

### **VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Michelle Tubbs:             I am Chair Watson. Hi, how are you? Okay, I don't have much to report. I am gonna actually steal a description that Dr. Young used earlier to kinda describe SUNY as being very COVID-centric as well. And, you know much of their time and effort is really focused at this point on managing operations and reacting as needed during this pandemic. And, there really has not honestly been much time and attention given, I think, to other initiatives and projects, that had kind of risen to higher levels at SUNY within the last year or so. We're hoping that maybe that changes a little bit as we get settled in but you know this COVID situation is so fluid that I think it just requires you know continuous attention and demand and that definitely obviously has to be the priority at this point.

But there are a few things that I can comment on because I did receive a little bit of information from Christy Fogal, who is Chair of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges. So, as was mentioned earlier by Dr. Young, Chancellor Malatras recently released guidance for both wrapping up the fall 2020 semester and then also regarding operations for the spring 2021 semester. And, highlights of that guidance include, as were mentioned, both testing, before and if necessary, after Thanksgiving. There are some institutions that are bringing students, faculty and staff back to campus for the full term of the fall semester. That does not happen to be us. As well as the delayed start for face-to-face instruction until February 1<sup>st</sup>. And the essentially elimination of spring break for the spring 2021 semester. As Dr. Young mentioned, I think the plan for SUNY Orange is to really start face-to-face operations on February 1<sup>st</sup> with few possible exceptions to that and also rework the Academic Calendar to meet the requirement of no spring break.

Additionally, according to Christy, yesterday the SUNY Board of Trustees did ....the community colleges budget for the 20-2021 academic year.

And, according to her, that included tuition increases at most colleges and the board did definitely hear somewhat of an immediate reaction from students about this. You know, I think they are, once again, unhappy with having to kind of, I think, bear the burden of the financial stresses and restrictions and demands that our institutions are trying to manage. Also, according to Christy, the SUNY Board of Trustees seems to still be somewhat hopeful that there will be some sort of bailout from the feds. She's not sure how they perhaps know or somewhat are assuming this other than a number of trustees at the SUNY level are connected politically. So, they may have some kind of information that obviously the rest of us don't. But she seems to sense that there will be some sort of bailout coming. What form that bailout comes in is definitely uncertain, so whether it's bailout to our local governments, bailout to the states, bailout directly to the Colleges, like the CARES Act. That's definitely very uncertain. And, she simply says that she's not sure how much change we will see, if there is to be any, before the inauguration. So, you know, I think, after January 20, I think, truth will be told at that point and we'll see where we're at. So, that's all I have to report at this point unless there are any questions.

Chair Watson: Hearing none. Michelle, we thank you.

Michelle Tubbs: Thank you for the opportunity.

Chair Watson: No problem. Next on the agenda, Board discussion.

#### **IX. BOARD DISCUSSION:**

Chair Watson: The floor is open for trustees to ask any questions or raise any issues or make any comments. Hearing none.

#### **X. BOARD ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Watson: The Chair will entertain a motion or adjournment.

Trustee Stanley: Second.

Chair Watson: Okay. How about? Did we? Who moved? I think, Trustee Stanley, I'd like for you to make that motion and then we receive a second.

Trustee Stanley: I'll make a motion for dismissal.

Trustee Weddell: Second.

Chair Watson: Okay, Trustee Weddell, second. All trustees in favor indicate by saying AYE.

All trustees: AYE

Chair Watson: Opposed. Hearing none, this body stands adjourned. Thank you and goodnight. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:47 PM

Respectively Transcribed and Submitted, December 2, 2020  
Carol A. Murray