

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York 11530

Board of Trustees Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022

The meeting of the Policy & Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Weiss at 5:10 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kathy Weiss, Chair
Lynne D'Agostino
Donna Tuman
Aniruddh Patel
Jorge Gardyn (ex-officio)

Also in Attendance: John Durso, Ronald Rosenberg
Interim President Conzatti, Donna Haugen, Neil Singhani

1. Trustee Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2022. Trustee Tuman moved the motion. Trustee Patel seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Trustee Weiss introduced Policy 5200: Chosen Name

Trustee Weiss asked Ms. Haugen to provide context on Policy 5200. Ms. Haugen explained that the SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution authorizing campus presidents to review and to update for adoption a policy on allowing students to be recognized by a name other than their legal first name, while noting that there are certain documents and records that require the use of the individual's Legal Name, such as: admission records, discipline records, certain employment and personnel records, enrollment verification, financial aid records, official transcripts, paychecks and tax documents, and Public Safety records. Discussion ensued regarding the process and procedures by which a person may register once per academic year a Chosen Name that differs from their legal name and/or the one given to them at birth. Ms. Haugen added that, in order for NCC to comply with the SUNY mandate, she and Asst. VP Follick researched several SUNY schools which have established a Chosen Name Policy. The committee questioned how would a professor know to call a student by a Chosen Name rather than by the Legal Name and would there be any disciplinary consequences if a professor were not to use the Chosen Name? Ms. Haugen replied that only the Chosen Name rather than the Legal Name will appear on the class roster to minimize the opportunity for confusion and, hence, for disciplinary action, with the caveat that conversations are ongoing with IT on how the Chosen Name versus the Legal Name will be appropriately displayed in other campus administrative formats and associated IT platforms. Ms. Haugen clarified that this policy focuses on students, and there will be a separate policy for employees.

Trustee Weiss asked for a motion to forward Policy 5200 to the Board of Trustees for a first reading and discussion at its next scheduled Board meeting in November and for a second reading and potential approval in December. Trustee Patel made the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Trustee Weiss introduced Policy 5300: Student Health Office

Dr. Singhani, NCC College Physician, addressed the committee to explain that our policy is being amended to follow the SUNY COVID-19 vaccination policy which requires any student with a face-to-face presence on campus to have an initial course of COVID-19 vaccinations. Students are considered fully vaccinated

for the initial course of vaccination: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two COVID-19 vaccine series; or (2) two weeks after receiving a single dose COVID-19 vaccine. There are limited exemptions granted to students for religious reasons, as well as for medical contraindications. In addition, students may be allowed on campus if they are in progress to become fully vaccinated as long as they sign an attestation that states they will receive their second dose in a timely matter. We agree to stay up-to-date and to align with any State and CDC guidelines on COVID-19 protocols such as masking, hand washing, social distancing, etc.

In response to the inquiry whether students are notified beforehand of risk of disenrollment for not submitting their immunization records, Dr. Singhani replied that students receive email, texts, and phone call reminders to submit their immunization records or they will be disenrolled with a “W” for their classes. Dr. Singhani and Ms. Haugen were also questioned: 1) for the language being added, “*NCC, at **their** sole discretion, may at any time impose additional vaccination requirements, including a requirement for any boosters, for other campus activities including access to certain campus facilities, as dictated by SUNY COVID-19 Guidance*”, to whom does the word “their” refer, and to seek clarification on the meaning of “*may at any time impose additional vaccination requirements*”; 2) is it too restrictive and infringes on students’ personal health liberties?; 3) what is the protocol were a new vaccination requirement to arise mid-semester?; and 4) what is the percentage SUNY-wide students refusing to be vaccinated, what are the ramifications of the refusal, and was it successful or not successful? Trustee Weiss asked Dr. Singhani and Ms. Haugen to contact SUNY to determine whether the language dictated in the SUNY COVID-19 Guidance may be modified.

Ms. Haugen clarified that practice has not changed: throughout the pandemic we have been implementing COVID directives not only from SUNY but also from Nassau County Department of Health; it is helpful for students to know these immunization requirements beforehand.

Trustee Weiss requested a motion to forward Policy 5300 to the Board of Trustees for a first reading and discussion at its next scheduled Board meeting in November and for a second reading and potential approval in December. Trustee D’Agostino made the motion; seconded by Trustee Patel. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Weiss asked if there were any other items for the Committee to consider. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Haugen

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General Counsel