

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of April 12, 2022

The six hundred fifty-third meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair  
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
John R. Durso, Secretary Pro Tem;  
Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón,  
Donna M. Tuman, Carl Denaud, Student Trustee.

Absent: John A. DeGrace

Also in attendance: OIC Haugen, VPs Izquerido, Kerrigan, Lausch, AVP Cappello, Wright,  
Asst. VPs Follick, Friedman, Hahn, Registrar Barkan, Asst. Director Cantillo

Chair Gardyn requested a motion that pursuant to Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees shall enter Executive Session for the following purposes: 1) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the Nassau Community College Administrators Association; 2) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the AFA; and 3) of reviewing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair  
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
John R. Durso, Secretary Pro Tem;  
Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón,  
Donna M. Tuman, Carl Denaud, Student Trustee.

Absent: John A. DeGrace

Also in attendance: OIC Haugen, VPs Conzatti, Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, AVP Cappello, Wright

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2022. Trustee Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Trustee Denaud introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby establishes a Tuition and Fees schedule to be effective for the academic year 2022/2023 wherein there shall be no increase in full-time and per credit part-time tuition commencing with the fall 2022 semester.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Tuition and Fees schedule be forwarded to the State University of New York for approval.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Denaud. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Trustee Siberón introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees, hereby approves that pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, and upon the recommendation of the college-wide promotion and tenure committee and the college administration, the faculty members named herein are hereby granted promotion and/or tenure at Nassau Community College effective September 1, 2022.

Tenure & Promotion to Assistant Professor

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Tracyann Ayala	Economics
Whitney P. Glass	Marketing/Retail/Fashion Buying & Merchandising/Fashion Design/Interior Design
Stephanie Kraszewski	Psychology
David O'Brien	Physical Sciences
Judith E. Steinhart	Health, Physical Education & Recreation

Promotion to Administrative Assistant IV

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Liza Narvas	Financial Aid
Thomas O'Beirne	Admissions

Promotion to Administrative Assistant III

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Christopher Scimone	Financial Aid

Promotion to Technologist III

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Ziaullah Khan Durrani	Information Technology Services
Jason Pistorino	Information Technology Services

Tenure and Promotion to Technical Assistant II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Daniel Perrotto	Allied Health Sciences

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Denaud moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Trustee Denaud introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees, hereby approves that pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, and upon the recommendation of the college-wide promotion and tenure committee and the college administration, the faculty members named herein are hereby promoted to the title and position as indicated herein, effective September 1, 2022.

Promotion to Associate Professor

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Benjamin Arendsen	Music
Joseph Bernat	Mathematics, Comp Sci & IT
Sabrina Davis-Golgoski	English
Ernest DeFalco	Mathematics, Comp Sci & IT
Amanda Favia	Philosophy
George Frost	Economics & Finance
Tracy Imperato	Physical Sciences
Sandra Keegan	Mathematics, Comp Sci & IT
Brian Murphy	English
Seeta Ramprasad	Student Personnel Services
Laura Smith	Student Personnel Services
Nathan Wasserbauer	Art
Daniel Wolman	Economics & Finance

Promotion to Full Professor

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Stella Apostolidis	English
Joan Buckley	Nursing
Richard E. Cohen	Physical Sciences
Denise Deal	Biology
John DeSpagna	Accounting & Business Administration
Lisa Errico	Library
Caroline Falconetti	Accounting & Business Administration
Christine Faraday	Library
Robert Genter	History, Political Science, Geography
Charles Hicks	Chemistry
Heather Huntington	Mathematics, Comp Sci, & IT
Jessica Marra	Health, Physical Education & Recreation
Alfredo Mellace	Chemistry
Debra Mendelson	Nursing
Deborah Panzer-Kilmnick	Communications
Mahmood Pournazari	Mathematics, Comp Sci & IT
Francesco Pupa	Philosophy
Elisa Salvi	Legal Studies
Nina Shah-Giannaris	Engineering, Physics, & Technology

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Denaud. Motion carried 7-0.

### Election for Secretary

Trustee Durso made a motion to nominate Trustee Jackson as Board Secretary. Seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0.

Trustee Weiss made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of an item that does not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Gardyn seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the compensation paid to Donna Haugen for her services as Officer-in-Charge, in view of her continued simultaneous service as College Counsel and her assumption of the duties of the College's Assistant Counsel who has left the employ of the College, shall be increased by a lump sum payment of \$10,000, payable as soon as is possible. This resolution shall constitute an amendment to the previously approved contract employing Ms. Haugen as Office-in-Charge of the College, dated January 29, 2022.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0.

### Report of the Officer-in-Charge

#### **COVID**

Based on the latest revised COVID guidance from the CDC, the New York State Department of Health, and the Nassau County Department of Health, the College determined that effective April 4<sup>th</sup> that mask wearing on campus would be optional. Faculty, staff and student survey responses and recent low COVID positivity rates at our College and in the County allowed us to reach this decision.

On behalf of the College administration, she thanked all for their patience and for allowing sufficient time to monitor the campus and the surrounding communities following Spring Break.

New York has during the past few days seen an increase in the prevalence of the BA2 Omicron variant. Please be assured that we will continue to assess the prevalence of the virus on campus and in the surrounding communities and will not hesitate to make changes to the mask policy if necessary to protect the health of our College community.

#### **EVENTS**

Events, news and accomplishments going on at NCC.

- Five SUNY Nassau Students have been awarded a SUNY Chancellor Award including student trustee Carl Denaud. To qualify for the award, students were reviewed by a College committee for academic excellence and record of service to NCC and the community. The College takes great pride in this recognition, which continues a long tradition of student excellence on campus.
- NCC students, Monique Bryan-Johnson and Justine Rice, have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Team. This honor recognizes high achieving college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society.
- This month the College celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX during Sexual Harassment & Assault

Awareness Week. The College hosted a series of events sponsored by the Sexual Harassment Education Subcommittee of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee of the Academic Senate.

- The College is proud to announce that we will be celebrating our graduates and their achievements with an in-person commencement ceremony this year at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Wednesday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- The College hosted its annual “Day of Service” on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> with a day-long celebration to serve those in need and to show support for the people of Ukraine, Hospitalized Children, and Animal Rescue. The Day of Service also included a Volunteer Fair presented by the Applied Learning Committee with support from the NCC Community Service Committee. The Volunteer Fair provided the College community with the opportunity to meet with 13 different non-profit organizations to discuss volunteer positions, as well as internships and part-time jobs for the spring and summer. News12 was also present to cover the amazing work of our NCC community.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

The College administration is committed to seek solutions for the College’s current budgetary constraints. We will continue to engage faculty leadership, as well the entire College community, in discussions addressing the shortfall in NCC’s current budget. While not the only cause of our financial limitations, loss of enrollment is the key predominate reason for our fiscal problems.

NCC is not alone in facing this source of loss of revenue. The Buffalo News in a recent February 2022 in depth article examining the state of finances of Erie Community College reported:

*“Community college enrollment has historically spiked during economic downturns, though the Covid-19 recession defied that trend. Millions of Americans returned to school in the wake of the Great Recession [in 2008-2009]. Between then and the start of the pandemic, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of community college students across the country contracted by 25%. During the pandemic, according to data from the National Student Clearinghouse, it plummeted another 15%.”*

Noting, that’s a 40% decrease in enrollment over the span of 14 years.

In the Southern California Magazine “Good Times” an article reported the local community college’s enrollment woes:

*“Much of the enrollment loss is outside the control of colleges. The labor market is sizzling now, with rampant labor shortages leading employers to pay well above minimum wage for positions that typically don’t require a college education. Historically, community college enrollment swells during economic downturns when employers are more selective, prizing applicants with college degrees. But enrollment dips when the economy is hot because adults don’t view education as an immediate ticket toward gainful employment.”*

In addition, community college students face a range of stressors from balancing work and school, meeting educational expenses, as well as the demands of family. And, with declining birth rates there are simply fewer students to enroll!

The solutions to this loss of revenue will not come easy. She pledges to continue to involve faculty and staff in the endeavor. VP Izquierdo has been scheduling meetings with faculty and union leadership to discuss the College’s financial situation. As I have said before, COVID Relief Funds have provided short-term support. However, we need to work collaboratively to determine long-term solutions that will allow the College

to become financially sound. We must reinvigorate our efforts to attract K-12 students. Offering courses through local school districts and partnering in educational efforts with our rich array of Long Island school districts.

She wished all a wonderful Passover and Easter and to enjoy this time with family and friends.

#### Speakers

Faren Siminoff, NCCFT President, criticized the Trustees for self-congratulating themselves on their job performance when they have been letting down NCC for 10 years. She blames the Board for a decade of failure of vision and imagination and of not listening to Full-Time faculty. She questioned why the Trustees have not upheld their responsibility to fundraise in order to secure an endowment like Suffolk County Community Colleges? She claims, if we continue with the same failed policies, we will get the same poor results. It is her opinion, that the County Executive and State Governor should appoint a new Board with fresh ideas and an open mind and willingness to listen to faculty. She respectfully requested that all the Trustees resign.

Tom Bruckner, Chair, Physical Sciences, thanked Dr. Siminoff for her bravery to tell the truth. She is supported by many who share the same feelings. He commented that the Board needs to reflect on its goals, successes, and failures.

David Stern, NCCFT VP Classroom, again asked the Trustees to take seriously the College's poor ventilation and mold situation. He implored any one of them to approve a resolution requiring the administration to collaborate with faculty and staff, and, more importantly, to immediately initiate standard operating procedure to utilize current equipment to keep humidity below 65% in order to prevent mold this year.

Chair Gardyn announced that a Board subcommittee is in the process of interviewing Presidential search firms and that it is following SUNY procedures for appointing an Interim President before the end of the academic year. He wished all a Happy Passover and Easter holiday.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Full Board meeting. The Board will open the public session between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. and resume the public session approximately 7:30 p.m.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Denaud. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Durso  
Secretary Pro Tem