

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of January 13, 2015

The five hundred seventy-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:20 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Arnold W. Drucker, Secretary;
Anthony W. Cornachio, John A. DeGrace,
Wanda Jackson, Donna Tuman, Patrick Deegan, Student Trustee.

Absent: Mary A. Adams, Edward W. Powers

Also in attendance: Chuck Cutolo.

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 collective bargaining involving the AFA and 2) to discuss matters leading to the appointment, promotion, demotion or removal of a particular person. Trustee Drucker moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 8-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:50 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Arnold W. Drucker, Secretary;
Anthony W. Cornachio, John A. DeGrace,
Wanda Jackson, Donna Tuman, Patrick Deegan, Student Trustee.

Absent: Mary A. Adams, Edward W. Powers

Also in attendance: Kenneth Saunders, Maria Conzatti, Chuck Cutolo.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2014. Trustee Cornachio moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0-1.

1. Trustee Jackson introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HEREBY ADOPTS THIS CHANGE, REQUIRING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL ON ALL PERSONAL

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS, TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE "NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Drucker moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Trustee Deegan introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACCEPTS THE DONATION OF HP 430 DESIGNJET PLOTTERS FROM THEORY.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

3. Trustee DeGrace introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACCEPTS THE DONATION OF PLUNC SOFTWARE FROM UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY NORTH CAROLINA CANCER HOSPITAL.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Deegan moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 8-0.

4. Strategic Plan - Not Called.

5. Trustee Cornachio introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE, THE FOLLOWING NAMED RETIRED FACULTY MEMBERS OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHO RETIRED AFTER ATTAINING THE ACADEMIC RANK OF PROFESSOR OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ARE HEREBY GRANTED THE PERMANENT ACADEMIC TITLE OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS WITH ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND RIGHTS ACCRUING THERETO.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>
Mark Gwydir	Professor	Math/Computer Science/IT	8/31/14
Diane Kramer	Professor	Psychology	8/31/14
Thomas O'Brien	Professor	Biology	8/31/14
Robert Rubin	Professor	Student Personnel Services	3/1/14

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Drucker moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 8-0.

6. Trustee Drucker introduced the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT STEFAN KROMPIER IS HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADJUNCT FACULTY ASSOCIATION.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 8-0.

7. Chair Gardyn made a motion under Article IV section 3(f) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of an item that does not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Weiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

The following amendment is intended to make clear that nothing in Resolution 14/15-22, approved by the Board of Trustees on December 9, 2014, was designed to reduce the NCC graduation requirements below 60 credits and that any changes to graduation requirements with respect to math and science courses apply only to the General Liberal Arts AA degree and not to the General Liberal Arts AS degree, but that any changes with respect to the physical education requirement for graduation would apply to both the General Liberal Arts AA and AS degrees.

Trustee Cornachio introduced the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Resolution 14/15-22 that was approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting of December 9, 2014 is amended in the following manner:

Strike the first resolved clause and insert in lieu thereof the following: "BE It RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College hereby directs the Academic Senate to make recommendations consistent with graduation requirements of a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 64 credits for a redesign of the General Liberal Arts AA degree to include options that allow for graduation with the General Liberal Arts AA degree with less than two courses of math, two courses of science and two credits of physical education and such recommendations be accompanied by appropriate data,"

Insert after the first resolved clause, as amended, a new second resolved clause that reads as follows: "**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that for purposes of consistency that both the General Liberal Arts AA and AS degrees have identical physical education requirements,"

The second and third resolved clauses of Resolution 14/15-22 shall become the third and fourth resolved clauses, respectively.

Motion carried 8-0.

Below as so amended, is resolution 14/15-22 in its full text:

WHEREAS AT THE COLLEGE WIDE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014 SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SUGGESTED THAT THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND THE GENERAL AS DEGREES SHOULD BE REVISITED AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR SEAMLESS TRANSFER IS MET, AND

WHEREAS AT THE ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2014, THE DEBATE OF THE RESOLUTION RELATING TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE SUNY SEAMLESS TRANSFER MANDATE INCLUDED STATEMENTS THAT QUESTIONED WHETHER NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REQUIRE TWO COURSES OF MATH, TWO COURSES OF SCIENCE, AND TWO CREDITS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES, AND

WHEREAS MOST AREA COLLEGES AND FOUR YEAR SUNY COLLEGES DO NOT REQUIRE TWO COURSES OF MATH, TWO COURSES OF SCIENCE AND TWO CREDITS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION TO GRADUATE WITH THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS BA OR BS DEGREE, AND,

WHEREAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR STUDENTS, A FULL AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEREBY DIRECTS THE ACADEMIC SENATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONSISTENT WITH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS OF A MINIMUM OF 60 AND A MAXIMUM OF 64 CREDITS FOR A REDESIGN OF THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA DEGREE TO INCLUDE OPTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR GRADUATION WITH THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA DEGREE WITH LESS THAN TWO COURSES OF MATH, TWO COURSES OF SCIENCE AND TWO CREDITS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE DATA," AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT FOR PURPOSES OF CONSISTENCY THAT BOTH THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES HAVE IDENTICAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS,"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL MAKE MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS TO THE STATUS OF THE WORK IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT IF SAID RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ACADEMIC SENATE ARE NOT PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BY MAY 12, 2015, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS APPROPRIATE RELATING TO THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES.

Dr. Saunders reported on the following items:

Wished all a Happy New Year.

Welcomed new Trustee, Donna Tuman, to the Board and looks forward to working with her.

Trustee Cornachio asked Dr. Saunders, "Has a report been given to the administration by the Developmental Education Committee and by the Academic Senate whoever would be involved with the credits- remedial program and the credits towards a degree? They are supposed to be working on it and making monthly reports to the administration and to the Board. I don't think the Board ever got a report, did you?"

Dr. Saunders replied that he received a report from the Developmental Ed Committee that he had sent it to the Board of Trustees members. It was a single page document from a member of the Academic Senate Executive Committee, Pamela Flores, who sent the cover memo with the attached report.

Trustee Cornachio: Didn't say anything, did it?

Dr. Saunders: No, it didn't say much.

Trustee Cornachio: It didn't give data or progress being made except there was a promise that work will be done.

Dr. Saunders: Yes, that is correct.

Trustee Cornachio: This is the first time we received any report. The last two monthly meetings we didn't get any report, is that correct.

Dr. Saunders replied: That is correct.

Trustee Cornachio: I want to make sure that the minutes of this Board meeting reflect my comments and my questions to Dr. Saunders and his answers there, too. As I understand it, the drop dead date on the remedial course programs requirements, etc. by the Development Education Committee is March 12, 2015. The business of credits- the drop dead date is May 12, 2015. Let the minutes also reflect my statements and my comments and your responses there too. The minutes say what the minutes say, and we have a record of what we're doing. In March I'll be ready with a motion if we don't have anything satisfactory.

Speakers

Christopher Merlo, Professor of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Information Technology and Academic Senate Secretary, read the following statement:

"I am the Secretary of the Academic Senate, but tonight I'm speaking in my capacity as an Associate Professor of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Information Technology – in fact, I'm one of very few people here at Nassau who teaches in all three disciplines. I am fortunate to hold a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Computer Science, and I say that because when I was 17 I didn't even know Computer Science existed. I was lucky enough to discover it in my second semester of college.

LinkedIn, in case you're unaware, is a business networking web site with more than 300 million members. In a blog post on December 17, 2014 (<http://blog.linkedin.com/2014/12/17/the-25-hottest-skills-that-got-people-hired-in-2014/>), one of their research consultants reported the 25 hottest skills that got people hired in 2014. When you take this Top 25 skills list and remove all of the skills that depend on STEM education, there are only three left:

- #12: Marketing Campaign Management
- #15: Recruiting
- #20: Channel Marketing

Even if you add back the STEM skills that aren't directly related to Computer Science or Information Technology, you only get back #18 Economics. That leaves 21 of the Top 25 hottest skills that recruiters are looking for, that rely on what we teach in CS and IT.

As you know, the General Liberal Arts AA currently requires two Mathematics courses, one of which can be a Computer Science course instead. As you also know, there are a lot of students that don't like to take math classes. We offer a course called CSC 104 Programming Logic and Problem Solving, which students can take in place of the second math course, not in place of the first math course, because SUNY

Seamless Transfer requires students to take a math course during their first two years of study. Now, I want to tell you how many sections of this course have run the last few years:

Academic Year	Number of Sections of CSC 104
2008-2009	9
2009-2010	12
2010-2011	15
2011-2012	16
2012-2013	17
2013-2014	21
2014-2015	21

Notice that the number of sections has more than doubled since we started offering this class.

I usually observe 50% or more of students in my class are GLA major. By offering this course to Liberal Arts majors in lieu of a second math course, many students have discovered a previously unknown interest in and aptitude for STEM courses – students that we've been able to retain in the CS and IT majors. Students like I was when I was a freshman.

Your resolution regarding the General Liberal Arts AA degree, which removes that second math course from the degree, also takes away the primary impetus for students to take CSC 104, and make a potentially profoundly important discovery in their lives. Unless you rescind this resolution, future students may never be incentivized to make such discoveries.

So I would like you, Board members, to think about what you want your legacy to be. What is the message that you want to send to the residents of Nassau County, Suffolk County, Queens, and the Bronx, and everywhere else our students come from? If you want that message to be “We do not think students should be encouraged to explore the most in-demand job skills in this country”, then do nothing. But if you want your legacy to be that you've prepared us to prepare our students for our information-based economy, then you need to rescind your resolution.”

Thomas Bruckner, Professor Physical Sciences said that he does not believe that students are leaving the College prior to graduating because they do not want to take math or science courses. Rather, he said, his experience as the advisor to honors students is that there is a great demand for these courses, and some students may leave the College out of frustration over not being able to get into these for several semesters because they are already at the maximum enrollment. He also said that many students leave the College prior to graduation due to personal and financial reasons. He added that if the College devoted more human resources to the advisement process, more students probably would graduate.

Professor Stuart Kaplan, Chair of the Collegewide Curriculum Committee stated that the minutes of the CWCC meeting of October 9 indicate that the Committee was preparing to take action with respect to the SUNY Seamless Transfer Mandate, and that this proposed action was prior to the Board of Trustees' passing a resolution on the same subject on October 14. He also stated that there were other representations in the Board's October 14 resolution as to the timeline and details of events which were not fully consistent with his recollection of the factual situation.

Professor Edward Boyden, Chair of the Academic Senate, welcomed Dr. Tuman to the Board of Trustees. He then described the process by which the committees of the Academic Senate receive charges on issues for deliberation and possible action. It was through this process that the Developmental Education Committee received two charges at the request of the College administration. One of them was to consider lowering the

ACT and SAT cutoff scores to the levels equivalent to a majority of other SUNY Community College cutoff scores, for use in exempting incoming students from the college's placement tests. It was charge number 10. The second charge was charge number 11, and it was to consider developing multiple measures for exempting incoming students from the college's placement tests. Those charges were given to the Developmental Education Committee in September, and at their September meeting, the Developmental Education Committee decided that those charges would be their top priority through this academic year. Professor Boyden stated that the Committee has been working on these charges in spite of the fact that there has been some difficulty in obtaining information needed to follow up on the charges. He then noted that the next meeting of the Developmental Education Committee is January 27 and at some point the Committee would report on its work to the Academic Senate's Executive Board. He stated that as Chair of the Academic Senate, it is his responsibility to ensure that the Senate's existing policies and procedures are followed.

Trustee Cornachio stated that he did not doubt the sincerity of anyone involved in the process, but that the Board wanted a written status report on the issue of the placement test cutoff scores that was the subject of a resolution approved by the Board. He indicated that the Board was expecting such a progress report at the December meeting of the Board and also at the current meeting, and that he is disappointed not have yet received such a report. Chair Gardyn indicated that he is pleased that the Developmental Education Committee is looking into these issues, but that he, too, would like to see a status report.

Professor David Stern, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate welcomed Trustee Tuman to the Board stated that the problem is with the College administration and not the Academic Senate. Trustee Weiss stated that the Board passed a resolution on the issue of the placement test cutoff scores because it is not sufficient for the Board to be just told that something will happen. Instead, the Board wants to see progress as to what data has been collected and what research has been done by the Developmental Education Committee. She also stated that the Board had been informed by the College administration that the Developmental Education Committee had been looking into this issue for some time. Professor Stern said that the problem is that the College administration is not following the normal processes of the Academic Senate. Trustee Drucker inquired as to how the College administration's action did not fit into the normal Academic Senate process. Professor Stern responded that the Academic Senate's committees are supposed to report to the Academic Senate and not to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Jackson also stated that the Board was awaiting progress reports and that the information it had received from the Developmental Education Committee did not constitute a report. Professor Stern responded that the Developmental Education Committee cannot issue a report without discussing it and voting on it. Chair Gardyn stated that the Board would like to know what the Developmental Education Committee is doing and what progress is being made. Trustee Weiss commented that there is a memo that was sent out at to the College administration at 4:00 the day before this Board meeting and that the College administration then sent it to the Board, but that some Board members may not have had an opportunity to read it. Professor Stern noted that this memo was from Pamela Flores, a member of the Executive Board of the Academic Senate, and was not sent out by the Committee itself.

Professor Stern then asked what is the Board's expectation as to what it should have received from the Developmental Education Committee in light of the fact that the Committee had met only twice since the Board passed its resolution. Trustee Cornachio stated that the Committee's inability to meet was a problem with the Committee and not the Board. Chair Gardyn indicated that he did not believe that the memo was particularly informative. Trustee Cornachio indicated that the material that the Board has received thus far from the Developmental Education Committee has been unsatisfactory. Professor Stern responded, "I don't understand, we meet with Ken and Maria every other week. When we met with them about this issue, Maria actually said, told us, outline what we should report to you, and that's what Pam wrote up. All I can say is that's the Senate process and that the Committee meets once a month." Trustee DeGrace responded that from his experience in

business, scheduling on important issues needs to be more flexible. Professor Stern stated that for the Developmental Education Committee to meet more frequently than that or during the winter break would violate the union contract. Trustee Cornachio said that he is concerned about how the current situation is harming the students and is leading some school district superintendents to recommend that students not come to NCC. Professor Stern responded that such reports are anecdotal. Chair Gardyn stated that Acting Executive Vice President Conzatti should be the conduit of information from the Academic Senate to the Board and from the Board to the Academic Senate.

Professor Frank Frisenda, Vice President of the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers reiterated that the Developmental Education Committee meets only once a month and that the members of the committee are volunteers. He noted that Pamela Flores, a member of the Executive Board of the Academic Senate, had written a status report regarding the work of the Developmental Education Committee. He said that he objected to the insinuation that the faculty does not care about the students and assured the Board that the students come to the College because of the faculty and not because of the members of the Board. He stated that the Board will receive the reports of the Developmental Education Committee as they are produced, but that the Committee was not going to work during the winter break because that is not their contractual obligation. He added that the Board should not chastise or criticize the faculty for not caring about the students. Trustee Cornachio responded that if the Committee has done its job, then it should produce the justifications for the current policy on the cutoff scores for placement exams and provide empirical data. Professor Frisenda asked where would this data come from. Trustee Cornachio responded that the data should already be in existence that justifies the current policy, unless the current policy was not data based. Chair Gardyn said that he believed that everyone present at the meeting is concerned about the best interests of the students. He added that what everyone is interested in is seeing whether a change from the current policy is justified after looking at all of the relevant data. He stated that this effort is vital to the growth of the College and the retention of students. He urged that everyone act in a collegial manner and recognize that the college is a community and that all of the constituencies need to work together on the shared mission.

To view the Public Comments in their entirety:

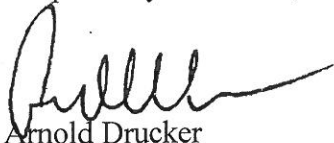
http://www.ncc.edu/aboutncc/ourpeople/board_of_trustees/bot_minutes.shtml

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015 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 Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Arnold Drucker
Secretary