

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of May 16, 2013

The five hundred fifty-ninth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Gardyn at 7:40 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn - Vice Chair;  
John P. Donnelly, Secretary  
Mary A. Adams, Anthony W. Cornachio,  
John A. DeGrace, Arnold W. Drucker,  
Edward W. Powers, Faruque Amin, Student Trustee.

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

Vice 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 leading to the appointments of the Board of Trustees; 2) to discuss matters leading to the appointment, promotion, demotion or removal of the President, Acting President, Academic Deans and certain other ungraded administrators; and 3) to discuss the Presidential Search.

Vice Chair Gardyn requested a motion to amend the reasons to enter into Executive Session as set forth in the notice of the Special Meeting. Trustee Cornachio moved the motion and Trustee Amin seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

Vice 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) the election of a Chair to fill the unexpired term of the former Chair, Geoffrey Prime; 2) a discussion of the presidential search and the resolving of all issues that prevent such search from going forward; the setting of a schedule for campus interviews and board interviews of presidential candidates; the passage of resolutions enabling the completion of the search; and 3) the discussion of the proposed budget; amendments and deletions of certain positions from the budget; resolutions regarding the budget; and all other matters concerning or relating to the budget. Trustee DeGrace moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 8-0.

Vice Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 9:55 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn - Vice Chair;  
John P. Donnelly, Secretary  
Mary A. Adams, Anthony W. Cornachio,  
John A. DeGrace, Arnold W. Drucker,  
Edward W. Powers, Faruque Amin, Student Trustee.

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

Vice Chair Gardyn made a motion to consider a resolution authorizing a response to the Chancellor's letters by email dated May 7, 2013 and May 14, 2013.

Trustee DeGrace moved the motion and Trustee Amin seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

1. Trustee DeGrace introduce the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPOND TO THE CHANCELLOR'S EMAILS FROM MAY 7, 2013 AND MAY 14, 2013 CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE.

Trustee DeGrace moved the motion and Trustee Drucker seconded the motion. Motion defeated 5 (Amin, Cornachio, DeGrace, Drucker, Powers) -3 (Adams, Donnelly, Gardyn).

Vice Chair Gardyn made a motion to consider a resolution suspending the presidential search as pursuant to the email communication of the Chancellor of the SUNY system dated May 14, 2013.

Trustee Donnelly moved the motion and Trustee Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Trustee Donnelly introduce the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUSPEND THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PURSUANT TO THE EMAIL COMMUNICATION OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE SUNY SYSTEM DATED MAY 14, 2013.

Trustee Donnelly moved the motion and Trustee Adams seconded the motion. Motion defeated 3 (Adams, Donnelly, Gardyn) -5 (Amin, Cornachio, DeGrace, Drucker, Powers).

#### Speakers

Kimberley Reiser, Prof. of Biology, read a statement attesting to the integrity of the search process. She asked the Board to allow the search process to proceed and honor the recommendations of the search committee, bring the finalists to campus and then decide if the search needs to be reopened.

Faren Siminoff, NCCFT Secretary, expressed her concerns regarding the Board's decision not to challenge the Chancellor's decision regarding the search and expressed her concerns that by not challenging the Chancellor's decision, the Board is tarnishing the reputations of the search committee members.

Trustee Cornachio commented that the search committee and several Trustees will be answering Chancellor Zimpher's allegations.

Logan Kenney, SGA President, expressed how upset she was with an email the Board of Trustees received which was forwarded to the presidential search committee. She indicated that she believes that this letter implies that she accepted bribery in exchange for her stating her opposition to the search committee's actions.

Vice Chair Gardyn commended Logan Kenney on her performance as a student leader and wishes her all the success going forward.

Thomas Jackson, SGA President Elect, stated that he supports Logan Kenny for being able to stand up and not back down in the face of what she believes was intimidation by the faculty. He is hopeful that going forward there will be transparency with the search committee, and he spoke of certain qualities that students would like to see in a new College president.

Sylvester Wise, Adjunct Faculty, commends Chancellor Zimpher's decision to stop the search and asked the Board to assign legal counsel to oversee the new search. He feels the search was corrupted.

Ed Boyden, Academic Senate Chair, asked how does Dr. Saunders know that he was treated more harshly than other candidates unless someone told him what happened during the other interviews?

Ester Bogin, Prof. of Communications, expressed her concerns with Chancellor's Zimpher's decision to withdraw her call for an investigation and to, instead, halt the search. In addition, she asked the Board to respond to the Chancellor's decision by issuing a statement protesting her interference.

Michael Steuer, Retired Faculty, read a statement he sent to the members of the Board expressing his concerns regarding Chancellor Zimpher's decision to halt the presidential search. He also offered advice on how to proceed with a new presidential search.

Ralph Nazareth, Prof. of English, spoke of his deep understanding of racism. He believes the Chancellor behaved with the arrogance of power. He also stated that NCC needs a leader worthy of taking NCC into the future.

Victor Abravaya, Prof. of Theatre Dept., read a statement on behalf of the Academic Chairs recommending that if the search is to be reopened that the Board considers the recommendation in the SUNY Guidelines for Presidential Searches which recommends that a temporary appointee not be allowed to apply for the permanent position. It is in the Academic Chairs opinion that this will give the college and all of its constituent's time to heal.

Trustee Cornachio commented that the search committee did, in fact, take the position in favor of the SUNY Guidelines' recommendation as to whether a temporary appointee be a candidate for the college presidency. He, as chair of the search committee, overruled the committee because he thought Dr. Saunders was entitled to be interviewed.

Dave Stern, Prof. of Physical Science, personally feels that SUNY should pay for a new consultant since Chancellor Zimpher disregarded procedure and acted on Newsday's editorials. He expressed his opinion that the new search committee be comprised of a majority of representatives who know NCC since the last committee was made up of more political appointees than educators.

Phyllis Kurland, Student Activities, asked if there is a relationship between the articles in Newsday and the drop in enrollment. She urged all to think before speaking, to think before writing a private or public email and to remember that hurtful words cannot be taken back. She urged that members of the college community speak to each other factually and civilly.

Trustee Gardyn agreed with Phyllis Kurland's comments and hopes to raise a new spirit to be able to move forward in resolution to these issues that face NCC.

Shoel Cohen, Prof. of Psychology, read a statement on behalf of Steve Richman, Professor of Psychology, regarding ALANA's accusation of racism or sexism in an email from Trustee Cornachio. It is Prof. Richman's belief that Trustee Cornachio's words were distorted. He thanked Trustee Cornachio for his outstanding contributions to NCC.

Catherine Kelly, Prof. of Biology, spoke of the legitimacy of the search process and the integrity of the members on the search committee.

Christine Tuailleon, Prof. of Biology, asked the Board why they're followed the Chancellor's decision to suspend the search when it seems they did not have to. She commented on the decline of summer enrollments.

Frank Frisenda, Vice President NCCFT, supports the Academic Chair's statement read by Victor Abravaya. He expressed his concerns with the continuation of the searches for area deans.

Richard Newman, Prof. of English, expressed his concerns that the Board has not adequately accepted accountability for the racist and sexist language in Trustee Cornachio's email, a fact which has led to the controversy surrounding the integrity of the search. He asked Acting President Saunders what his position is on the issues that confront NCC and how does he plan to lead NCC during this difficult time.

Trustee Cornachio explained that the Temporary Committee on the Presidential Search (4 trustees) decided not to put clubs on the committee because if you put one club on you have to put all on. The search committee would be too large. In March, the whole Board met to discuss the request from ALANA and decided not to increase the size of the committee. He sent out that email to tell the Board that he thought that he had solved the problem. He added that his comments were not intended to be racist and had no evil intent. "It is difficult to apologize for something when there is no malice in my heart and soul."

Philip Nicholson, Chair of History Dept., read a letter that he emailed to the Trustees which expressed his concerns and beliefs with the presidential search process, and he took issue with Logan Kenney's characterization of the letter as it related to her. He also defended the integrity of the three elected faculty representatives on the search committee.

Trustee Gardyn thanked Geoffrey Prime for his years of service to NCC. He reminded the audience that in order to resolve the issues facing NCC we need to work together.

Student Trustee Amin thanked the faculty, students, and the Board for this great experience they have given him and personally thanked SGA President, Logan Kenney.

Vice Chair Gardyn thanked Student Trustee Amin for his year of service to NCC.

Trustee Powers thanked all the speakers and expressed his concerns with the editorial article in Newsday on May 16, 2013. He believes this kind of reporting is tarnishing NCC and hopes that what Newsday has heard tonight they will take into consideration and give NCC a fair shake for its number one constituent- the students.

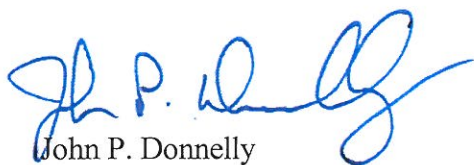
Jason Gorman, Prof. of Art, expressed his concerns regarding temporary appointees applying for the permanent position of president. He also stated that the Chancellor's last directive must be challenged.

The next Finance and Capital Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Full Board meeting. The Board will open the public session at 6:30 p.m. and resume the public session at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Gardyn requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Donnelly moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Amin. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Donnelly  
Secretary