

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of July 23, 2015

The five hundred eighty-fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, July 23, 2015 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:35 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 (arrived late), Wanda Jackson (arrived late)  
Edward W. Powers, Donna Tuman, Jennifer Borzym, Student Trustee.

Chair Gardyn announced that the special meeting was to discuss recent issues that have come up within the presidential search. He then went through the timeline of the most recent presidential search from December 2013 to June 3, 2015 when the Board announced that no candidate had garnered six votes to be selected as president and that the Board has continued the presidential search process. He opened a discussion regarding the June 16, 2015 SUNY Board of Trustees resolution regarding the appointment of the acting president of NCC shall terminate 60 days from the date of the SUNY resolution or until an interim or permanent president has been appointed, whichever comes first. Chair Gardyn opened the discussion to establishing a process of hiring an interim president or other alternative.

Trustee Cornachio stated that he has an issue with the proposed resolution from Chancellor Zimpher to the SUNY Board of Trustees dated January 16, 2013 appointing Dr. Saunders as acting president of NCC effective immediately for 12 months or until a permanent president is appointed, whichever first occurs, which was different from what was actually approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees at their meeting of January 16, 2013. He then reported that the proposed resolution was amended and approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees on January 16, 2013 to: "Trustee Ehrenberg suggested a friendly amendment to the resolution indicating that the appointment will continue until the Board of Trustees appoints a successor" which was agreed by all present. Trustee Cornachio said that by approving this amendment, the SUNY Board eliminated the limitation by the Chancellor that Dr. Saunders not be Acting President for no more than one year. And the entire SUNY Board unanimously passed the resolution that Saunders' approval as acting president will continue until the Board of Trustees by resolution appoints a successor. Trustee Cornachio then voiced his concern as to why after three years the SUNY Board changed its mind.

Trustee Weiss voiced her opinion that the Board needed to discuss and decide the steps of action that need to be determined on hiring an interim president: 1) decide yay or nay to hire an interim, 2) decide whether or not that interim would have the right to apply, and 3) talk about how to choose an interim.

1) Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTS AN INTERIM PRESIDENT UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS CHOSEN.

Trustee Weiss made the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 9-0.

2) Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

AN INTERIM CANNOT APPLY FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT.

Trustee Weiss made the motion; seconded by Trustee Cornachio. Motion carried 9-0.

3) Trustee Cornachio introduced the following resolution:

ENABLE DR. SAUNDERS TO CONTINUE AS ACTING PRESIDENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS AN INTERIM IS CHOSEN BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Trustee Cornachio made the motion; seconded by Trustee Powers. Motion carried 8-0-1 (Jackson).

Chair Gardyn requested a motion that the Board go into an executive session for the purpose of discussing the subject matter at today's special meeting with respect to those issues which is permissible to go into executive session pursuant to Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law of the State of New York related to matters leading to the appointment, promotion, demotion or removal of a particular person. Trustee Cornachio voiced his opinion that it's illegal to have an executive session because it's not on the calendar and, it's not authorized under Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law.

Seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 8-1 (Cornachio).

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 8:10 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,  
Edward W. Powers, Donna Tuman, Jennifer Borzym, Student Trustee.

Chair Gardyn reported that the Trustees received three resumes from SUNY and are willing to accept other resumes of people who have the skills and background to be an effective interim president. It was decided that a position announcement for an interim president be placed on the NCC website for ten days and interested applicants should send their resume to Anne Brandi and she will forward to the Board of Trustees.

Chair Gardyn announced that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College will interview candidates for the position of interim president on August 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. The Board expects to interview candidates that have submitted their applications and select an interim.

Speakers

Dr. Deluty, professor of philosophy and chair of the senate read the following statement:

“I thank you for having us reach this point before its dark outside. Our college has been influx for quite some time and I think we all agree that we are in need of stability here at NCC, and I welcome your movement towards that tonight. We hope the interim person who will be an external person as the guidelines of SUNY suggest, that person should be a person external to the college. As we move forward and hopefully pick an interim president and move towards a continuation of the search, I also

hope that we will have the spirit of transparency where the college community will be informed to the greatest extent possible of the process in the search process and I know confidentiality matters are involved but I hope that the college community will just have some general information as to the process and schedule. I'm hopeful that your decisions tonight move us closer to finding a permanent visionary leadership for this college and we look forward to welcoming the interim president to the college and to collegial discourse at the senate.

Chair Gardyn announced the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 6:30 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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Arnold Drucker  
Secretary