

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York 11530

**Board of Trustees Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 13, 2023

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 5:37 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kathy Weiss, Chair  
Tibet Ateş John  
DeGrace, appointed ad hoc  
John Durso, appointed ad hoc  
Jorge Gardyn (ex-officio)

Committee Members Absent: Lynne D'Agostino  
Donna Tuman

Also in Attendance: Ronald Rosenberg  
George Siberón  
Aniruddh Patel, Former Student Trustee  
Acting President Conzatti, General Counsel Haugen,  
Acting AVP Floratos

1. Trustee Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023. Trustee Durso moved the motion. Trustee DeGrace seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion of Policies 5200 and 9200: Chosen Name and Pronoun

Trustee Weiss requested a motion to recommend Policies 5200 and Policy 9200: Chosen Name and Pronoun to the Full Board of Trustees for discussion and reading, and adoption at its Board meeting scheduled for June 13, 2023, and that the same be subsequently incorporated into the policy manual of the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College after the second reading by the Board of Trustees and the passing of the policy by the Board of Trustees?

Trustee Durso made the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 4-0.

Trustee Weiss began the discussion by reminding the committee that Policies 5200 and 9200: Chosen Name and Pronoun were discussed at length in October 2022. She mentioned an apropos article in this day's Newsday regarding New York State Education Department's decision that K-12 school districts must allow students to select their chosen name and chosen pronoun without the requirement of parental permission. Individual legal names will not be changed and will remain on transcripts and other formal documentation. However, students will be able to choose a first name by which they would like to be called and the personal pronouns by which they want to be acknowledged to represent their internal gender identification. Trustee Weiss added that through online research she has learned that there are approximately 30 different words that relate to pronouns and nouns that reflect people's feelings about how they perceive themselves.

Trustee Rosenberg commented that he considers the discussion on choosing pronouns absurd because the English language has definitions for pronouns, and enforcing a policy of changing what pronouns actually

mean is inconsistent with an institution of higher learning. The future will judge these types of actions. The English language definition of “they” is more than one person, and to state differently, that an individual may be called “they”, is improper use of a pronoun – although the person could choose “They” as a name, making it a noun.

Trustee Ateş remarked that he is currently studying language and how there is a long precedent in the English language of “they” being used in a singular context, and so such usage is not incorrect. He does not understand the objection to students’ choice of “they” or other pronouns used in a singular context.

Trustee Rosenberg replied that his concern is for others being forced or feeling compelled to address anyone by incorrect pronouns.

Trustees Weiss added that it is critical for individual members of our staff to recognize other people by their chosen pronouns regardless of personal comfort or how we were previously taught.

2. Policy 5200 (Students): Chosen Name and Pronoun

Trustee Weiss asked all in favor to forward Policy 5200 to the Board of Trustees for approval. Motion carried 3-0-1(DeGrace).

3. Policy 9200 (Employees): Chosen Name and Pronoun

Trustee Weiss asked all in favor to forward Policy 9200 to the Board of Trustees for approval. Motion carried 3-0-1(DeGrace).

Trustee Weiss asked if there were any other items for the Committee to consider. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Brandi

Anne E. Brandi  
Secretary to the President and  
the Board of Trustees