

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York 11530

Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Committee Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2024

The meeting of the Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Committee of the Board of Trustees was held in the College Center Building room 252-253. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Tuman at 5:10 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Donna Tuman, Chair
Lynne D'Agostino
John Durso (appointed ad hoc)
Jordon Groom
Jorge Gardyn (ex-officio).

Committee Members Absent: Kathy Weiss

Also in Attendance: John DeGrace, Wanda Jackson
CAO Conzatti, VPs Genette-Alvarez and Smith,
Registrar Barkan, Asst. VP Follick

Report of the Academic Senate Chair

Jason Gorman, Academic Senate Chair, reported that the Senate has completed its first round of elective standing committee meetings. He highlighted that, despite some difficulties, the Student Financial Award Scholarships have been announced, and thanked the staff of the NCC Foundation for their help. He explained to the Board that the Senate passed a resolution in opposition to the NCC Board of Trustees resolution concerning the Chancellor's position on the appointment or evaluation of a president of a New York community college. He noted how, in retrospect, he regrets that the resolution mentions Dr. Conzatti's name and wanted to clarify that the resolution was solely in opposition to the Trustees' resolution and not in any way a judgment on Dr. Conzatti's performance. He continues to focus on his role in shared governance and on the reports of the SUNY Mock and FCCC visits, which state how students feel that there are deficiencies in their voice being heard. He is working with Grant Peterson, SGA Academic Senate representative, to discuss committees, and which are the most important ones, and to answer any of his questions. He added that the students have been doing a phenomenal job with attendance and in getting to know the topics.

1. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Tuman requested a motion to table the minutes of September 10, 2024. Trustee Groom moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Enrollment Updates

Registrar Barkan presented the enrollment report for the census date of the Fall 24 Semester comparing September 23, 2024 to September 21, 2023, which reveals an increase in credits and headcount for the first time since Registrar Barkan began reporting enrollment. The 2nd slide on enrollment includes the registration of our dual enrollment students, which has improved the number considerably. While it does not affect FTEs, the impact on the overall credits and the headcount were substantial. Based on the Applied Yield Report, registrations improved for non-degree students while slightly decreasing for visiting students. Winter registration starts on October 9th and Spring 2025 registration on November 17th.

Asst. VP Follick presented the Fall new student enrollment trends comparing Fall 2024 through Fall 2022, showing an increase in first-year applications and first-year admits. However, we are slightly down in first

year, re-admits, and transfer-registered student registrations. The admissions office is planning to strategize over the Spring semester on reaching out to our re-admit students who enrolled at one point but have not completed their academics at NCC.

There are approximately 116 sections running in the Dual Enrollment program and 61 students in the Concurrent Enrollment program. The dual enrollment program offers courses at the high schools, with graduates helping feed our student population, and for the concurrent enrollment program students are taking their high school senior year at NCC.

NCC Fall Open House is scheduled for Sunday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m. and the School Counselor Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, October 25th. Starting October 20th, NCC will again participate in the SUNY Free application two-week program.

Trustees Jackson and Groom questioned what actions contributed to the increase in enrollment and what actions are being taken to get more students enrolled at NCC? Dr. Follick reminded the Board that we are down in applications because high school graduation rates are declining. There are additional on-site admission days scheduled at our local high schools, and Gov. Hochul's mandate that FAFSA applications be completed at the high school for all seniors starting with this year's graduating class will help get financial aid packages out earlier to students. Typically, our counterparts send their financial aid award packages to students in March and April. Unfortunately, NCC does not send award packages out as early. However, we are strategizing to get financial aid award packages to our new student population earlier because timing becomes a disadvantageous determining factor when students have their financial aid packages at other institutions in their mailboxes and they are still waiting for ours. Also, our Customer Relations Management automated software has improved the efficiency of our electronic and text communications in getting the word out to school counselors and realigning our placement strategy, ultimately contributing to more applications.

Registrar Barkan added that there is a lot of communication with continuing students, not just in the announcement of registration, but in following up several times over the summer with emails and text communications since these students tend to register later. This year, through the Academic Affairs office, the Dean's office and the department chairs a message was issued asking faculty to encourage their students to register for the Fall semester before leaving in May. As you may recall from previous reports, we were up double digits because our current students registered early, which also helped with the scheduling process. Today, the Registrar's office emailed faculty asking they encourage their students to register for Winter 2025 classes.

Dr. Conzatti added that we have a major retention issue at least for a decade, if not more. We need explicitly prescribed ways to address retention. Chair Gorman is working with the Senate on a number of retention issues. Hopefully, feedback from the faculty will be shared with the administration by the end of the semester.

Registration announcements are advertised via local newspapers and social media. Foundation scholarships and alumni will be at Open House this month. It should be noted that the Foundation has once again offered up to \$2000 to support two students for every Nassau County High School.

Trustee Tuman asked if there were any other items for the Committee to consider. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Brandi

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Secretary to the President and
the Board of Trustees