

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of December 8, 2020

The six hundred forty-first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Weiss at 5:28 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Edward Powers, Secretary;
John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green, Wanda H. Jackson,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman

Absent: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair, John R. Durso, Emily Rivas, Student Trustee

Also in attendance: President Williams

Vice Chair Weiss 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 negotiations involving the Nassau Community College Administrators Association; 2) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the NCCFT; and 3) of reviewing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Trustee Green moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0.

Vice Chair Weiss resumed the open meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Edward Powers, Secretary;
John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green, Wanda H. Jackson,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman

Absent: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair, John R. Durso, Emily Rivas, Student Trustee

Also in attendance: President Williams

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020. Trustee Powers moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0.

2. First Reading: Policy 5100: Confidentiality of Student Records

Trustee Weiss stated that the purpose of Policy 5100 Confidentiality of Student Records is to ensure that every member of the campus community including staff, faculty, administrators and students is familiar with and complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and to ensure

that the College safeguards the confidentiality of student records and remains in full compliance with this federal law and its implementing regulations. The Policy and Planning committee recognized that the College has been following these guidelines. Dr. Williams certified that he reviewed Policy 5100 and it has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies prior to submission to the Board.

Dr. Williams reported on the following items:

Student Highlights

President Williams met with the SGA Executive Board and SGA Student Senate on Monday, December 7th. He appreciates their dedication to leadership. They discussed the cost of higher education and how to support students during a COVID world, with concerns such as: Zoom fatigue; mental health concerns; lack of social interaction; academic progress submission; planning for the future; and voter engagement.

In consideration that our students have expressed the desire to be back at the College and participate in activities, while maintaining health and safety parameters. Student Personnel Services has planned a Winter Wonderland drive thru event on December 14, 2020, which should provide students with some semblance of the congregation they have been missing. He thanked all who participated in coordinating this much needed event.

Two Math/Two Science

Research must be conducted on how adjustments made to the composition of the requirement since conversations occurred a few years ago are impacting student access, completion, and post-completion success. Next steps include:

- continue the discussion separately with our math and science departments to assess the impact of the updated two math/two science requirement;
- identify transfer schools that require two lab science courses and a certain level of math;
- review of the possible impact that near future MSCHE GEN ED and SUNY GER changes will have on the two math/two science requirement discussion;
- VP Lausch will work with Deans Alvarez-Ortiz, Beard, and Kornbluth in discussions with Department Chairs and others to find an appropriate solution through our shared governance process which results in positive benefits for our students.

Health and Safety

The College's decisions continue to be guided with health and safety being forefront and paramount. The NCCFT has signed a MOA that promotes active and regular COVID Testing, and we are having ongoing conversations with other unions at the College to engage similar partnerships to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Enrollment

- Winter 2021- up 80% in credits compared to Winter 2020.
- Spring 2021- Registration opened three weeks ago, and is down approximately 25% in credits compared to Spring 2020.

Continuing students have shared that they are waiting to finish the semester and to receive official notification regarding the spring calendar before they register. He praised efforts in advising students,

monitoring courses, adding courses based on student demand, and helping students enroll, and urged all to continue to encourage students to seek advisement and to register for the Spring 2021 semester.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning (OIESP) is preparing the College's first dashboards that will provide dynamic real time and comparative data. They will be shared with several areas at the College in order to be leveraged to strategically engage specific student populations in order to contribute to student access, completion, and post-completion success.

We want to be mindful of results from a recent Student Satisfaction and Plans Survey that SUNY requested we administer earlier in the Fall 2020 semester:

- 80% of respondents indicated that they do plan to attend NCC in Spring 2021;
- slightly more than 60% had concerns about attending face-to-face for Spring 2021.

Budget

Continuing to transparently present the College's budget fiscal situation, which remains dire due to several years of decreased enrollment. A goal has been, and will continue to be, to engage internal constituents on creative solutions. Lobbying and advocating to external constituents continues for the need for fair and appropriate funding for NCC.

Update regarding State funding:

- TAP is 80% funded with 20% at risk for institutional funding;
- EOP is 75% funded with 25% at risk to the institution. Students are held harmless on both of these, meaning the College absorbs the 20% for TAP and 25% for EOP if not funded.

NCC has made great strides in the past year with embracing opportunities to enhance student access, completion, and post-completion success and we will continue to pursue these types of initiatives, which takes time and a different institutional infrastructure to bear fruit. No longer in a position to continue all the pursuits of the past several years, the College is critically examining limited resources for thoughtful allocation and repurposing to support those initiatives most likely to enhance access, completion, and post-completion success in a manner that is equity-focused and data-guided.

Updates on Major Initiatives:

- Guided Pathways:

We are in our second year of Guided Pathways, a philosophical and action-oriented framework that addresses equitable approaches to access, completion, and post-completion success through a data-informed and student-centered framework. The four pillars of GP are: identifying a path linked to an end goal (prior to earning credits); accessing the path; staying on the path; and ensuring learning. The most recent focus of this work has been on Career and Transfer Pathways. The team has identified current strengths that need to be supported like Career Services and certain areas leveraging transfer and workforce data, as well as opportunities such as:

- Offering more alternatives to students of all ages but also improve the way the College creates such alternatives, how it communicates them to current and potential students.
- Addition of micro-credentials, badges, short-term certificates and more.
- New website focused on engaging new prospective and new students.

He thanked all who have been advancing Guided Pathways.

- Strategic Planning:

The Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) continues to move forward with conversations on the strategic planning process. Most recently, the committee critically reviewed the College's mission and vision, reviewed mission and vision statements from other institutions (including peer institutions), and had a robust discussion on who we are, who we support, and who we aspire to become. During Spring 2021, the committee will focus on the work of Strategic Planning and will provide opportunities for the larger internal and external College community to become engaged.

We are seeing spikes in COVID cases. We can all do our part to decrease spread of the virus. COVID fatigue is real, and he encouraged us all to be vigilant and to remain steadfast with following health and safety guidelines. He is proud of how the College community has adhered to health and safety guidelines while on campus. He wished holiday cheer to those who celebrate the season, and also extended thoughts of positivity, health, wellness, peace, and love to our entire College community and loved ones.

He thanked the Trustees for their continued support and all the individuals at the College who work day in and day out to advance the College. He remains extremely happy and utterly humbled to serve as President of NCC.

Speaker

Donna Hope, Acting President NCCFT, referencing President Williams' attention to collective stress and fatigue, expressed pride in having made it through another difficult semester while continuing to put our students first. Pleased with the signed agreement for COVID testing, per the SUNY Chancellor's directive, she praised the timely collaborative effort to succeed. Aware of the fiscal challenges and willing to work together to prevent any job layoffs, the faculty merely asks for contributions from the entire College community and appreciates the opportunity to work together to explore a variety of options to avoid worst case scenarios. She wished all a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season.


Vice Chair Weiss announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 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.

Vice Chair Weiss wished all a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season and thanked everyone at the College for all their support.

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Powers. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward W. Powers
Secretary