

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of April 13, 2021

The six hundred forty-fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Weiss at 6:06 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
Edward Powers, Secretary;  
John R. Durso, Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón,  
Donna M. Tuman, Sophia Costanzo, Student Trustee.

Absent: Jorge L. Gardyn, John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green

Also in attendance: President Williams, VP's Conzatti, Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, Muscarella, AVP Wright

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 purpose 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 Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair  
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
Edward Powers, Secretary;  
John R. Durso, Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón,  
Donna M. Tuman, Sophia Costanzo, Student Trustee.

Absent: John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green

Also in attendance: President Williams, VP's Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, Muscarella, AVP Wright

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees establishes a tuition and fees schedule to be effective for the academic year 2021/2022 wherein there shall be no increase in full-time and per credit part-time tuition commencing with the Fall 2021 semester.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this tuition and fees schedule be forwarded to the State University of New York for approval.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss/Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Costanzo. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees accepts the donation of a Babylog® VN500 ventilator from Draeger, Inc. and expresses their appreciation for this gift.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 8-0.

President Williams reported on the following items:

### Student Highlights

Acknowledging NCC students as resilient, profound, and awe-inspiring, he recognized three recipients for each of two honors.

1. For more than 100 years, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society has helped millions of high-achieving college students reach their full potential.
  - Natalie Asitimbay
  - Jessica Mayotte
  - Jenna Petrovic
2. The prestigious SUNY Chancellors Award for Student Excellence must demonstrate significant accomplishments in several of the following categories: excellence in academics, leadership, campus involvement, the arts, athletics, and community service.
  - Natalie Asitimbay
  - Kevin Drucker
  - Jenna Petrovic

He commended the many faculty and staff who have been advising and supporting these award recipients, and ensuring that they have the tools and experiences needed to learn, develop, and create change.

### Preparing for Fall – Health and Safety Update

The College continues to keep health and safety paramount as we discuss and plan the next academic year and beyond. We must enthusiastically leverage this unfortunate experience of the pandemic as an opportunity to reposition the College for the future and to build a framework for the Nassau Community College that we envision.

- To equitably advance student access, completion, and post-completion success, and to identify what is the appropriate composition of delivery for academic and academic support engagement opportunities.
  - e.g., face-to-face, hybrid, online, hi-flex
  - i.e., courses, programs, advising, career counseling, and everything we do at the College
- To determine which classes should be accelerated and which should be offered during Winterim and Summer.
- To remain flexible and understand that we may need to quickly adjust and pivot based on unforeseen circumstances that potentially impact health and safety.
- To continue to follow Federal, State, and local guidance.

- To continue to work together, recognizing that there are still plenty of decisions that will be made at the State level and in other areas deeply situated in our circles of concern and simultaneously outside our circle of influence.
  - e.g., it is the State's decision, and not the College's, whether to mandate vaccinations for students

#### Update on State Budget

College administration has engaged, and will continue to engage, elected College leadership and the entire community in discussions on how to best optimize the College's budget situation while endeavoring to provide our students with a high-quality education and excellent support services that enhance equitable opportunities for student access, completion, and post-completion success. Our approach must be measured and phased. While the College has received, and will receive, funds from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and American Rescue Plan (ARP), budget projections identify that this funding does not create a long-term solution nor provide the fiscal solvency needed for the future to advance the College during these uncertain times. As we consider the very near foreseeable future, we are in an unprecedented, dire budget situation that calls for the continuation of a multi-phased approach to budget optimization. Changes will focus on equitably enhancing student access, completion, and post-completion success. We must not only reduce redundancies and enhance efficiencies, we must pursue data-informed processes for investment opportunities to help generate revenue.

#### Updates on Major Initiatives

- Equity Agenda
  - Identifying and advancing the College's equity agenda has been at the forefront this year:
    - From taking steps towards creating an Equity Scorecard;
    - To offering more accelerated courses;
    - To elevating the role of the Chief Diversity Officer;
    - To changing financial aid processes to ensure that students have the flexibility to enter NCC not just at the start of semesters.
  - There has been a concerted effort to pursue an equity agenda dedicated to advancing the College.
- Enhanced Partnerships
  - Thanks to continued collaboration with the Academic Senate, as well as additional Academic leaders, interested departments and administrators across the College, there has been fantastic progress on both the Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment initiatives.
  - The College is also working on a premiere partnership with one of the top five transfer institutions, and there should be an announcement soon.

He thanked the Trustees for their continued support of the College and all the individuals at the College who work diligently to support our students and to advance the College. He remains happy and humbled to serve as President of NCC.

#### Speakers

Lynn Bergin, NCCFT Secretary and Professor in the Department of Administrative Business Technology/Health Information Technology, spoke on behalf of the NCCFT Executive Committee and the campus community. The NCCFT has been expressing concerns regarding ventilation and air quality on campus, and is pleased to hear from Dr. Muscarella about the College's plan and looks forward to sharing the information with its members. They understand there are still many unanswered questions concerning the health and safety of our members currently on campus and for those returning to campus, including (but not limited to): social distancing

expectations; safe entrances to buildings; safe classroom capacity; guidelines to protect our non-classroom members and members of the PFU in Student Services and the Library; meeting CDC guidelines on cleaning, ongoing surveillance testing, contact tracing, and the overall safety of every member of our campus community. It is extremely important to address these concerns, create a clear and comprehensive plan, and share that plan with the campus in order to ensure we provide a healthy and safe environment for every member of the campus. The NCCFT is looking forward to working with the College on implementing this plan. Campuses across the country are facing new challenges each and every day. She expressed hope that all of us at NCC can work as a united front for the benefit of every member of our campus community.

Gina Siple, Asst. Prof. in the Department of Critical Reading and Academic Advancement, echoed the comments made at the last Board meeting by Prof. Petronella: NCCFT members are ready to "lead the way in providing a quality education to our students through our commitment to shared governance, our pursuit of excellence, and our dedication to them". As we prepare for the Fall semester, safety, equity, and inclusion are paramount. To achieve these goals, the following items must be carefully considered and made transparent to prospective students before they choose the modality in which they would like to take classes:

- Students participating in face-to-face sections on campus that are also simultaneously operating as remote courses need to know how their privacy will be protected. They need to know where the webcams will be located, and what data, including video of their participation, will be recorded, streamed, or shared, and who will have access to it.
- Students who have a schedule that includes a mix of face-to-face and remote or online courses will need (access to) a computer, internet, webcam, and an electrical outlet, while on campus. They need to know whether these resources will be available to them.
- Students on campus need to be assured that when their classmates enter the classroom they have participated in temperature checks and have completed a daily attestation that they have not displayed any symptoms of COVID-19, have not tested positive, and have not come into contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It must be made transparent how students will be held accountable for their reporting and what procedures will be in place if their classmates refuse to wear a mask on campus.
- Access to HEPA filtration and outdoor classrooms have been key to successful school building reopenings on Long Island. Our students need to know how our air will be filtered and whether or not access to HEPA filtration will be available in every classroom. In addition, the windows in their classrooms need to be operable to help air circulation.
- Students need to be assured that lockdown drills and procedures have been updated for the COVID classroom and that the doors to these classrooms can be locked from the inside.

She looks forward to welcoming more students back to campus and to learning more about how the College will ensure their safety. She wished all good health and well-being.

Stef Krompiew, AFA President, supported the comments by Lynn Bergin and Gina Siple, praising their eloquently expressed concerns for health and safety needs to our Board and administration. Recommendations not only should be enacted, but communication must inspire confidence that everyone on campus will be protected. Drawing upon experience 20 years ago in his own community, he suggested hiring an external company to test and to report air quality in buildings on a regular basis. He thanked Board members for their volunteer service.

Joan Buckley, Chair of the Nursing Department, presented an update of the NCC-ESC (Empire State College) multi-award Nursing Program that began in the Fall of 2019 and, after four (4) semesters, for which its first cohort will be graduating into the second stage of the program in order to earn a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). She shared the following program highlights:

1. 300 – 350 applicants each application period and are able to admit 96 students in both Fall and Spring semesters.
2. There's been an increase to the program enrollment by 64 students, allowing the multi- award program to offer a complete complement of evening courses that meet the requirement for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).
3. NCC is the only school of nursing on Long Island that offers an evening opportunity to become an RN, which meets the needs of many of our students.
4. The program interest level has continued to grow, with increased emails and phone calls, as well as additional information sessions, with attendance at each exceeding 80. There were eleven (11) information sessions in the past academic year, including three (3) in the Summer added at the request of the Academic Advisement Center.

The NCC-ESC multi-award Nursing program, while conferring both the AS (Associate of Science) and BSN degrees, has the potential to create life-changing opportunities for the communities that we serve. She added the following points:

1. The drive of the Nursing faculty is the reason for the success of the nursing program.
2. Nursing faculty are the reason that we have produced high-quality nursing graduates.
3. The mentoring of new faculty is critical to maintaining the integrity of our program.
4. Nursing faculty are looking forward to opportunities where we can welcome new Full-Time faculty that will be adequately prepared for the future to continue to uphold the reputation of our established program.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 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.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward W. Powers  
Secretary