

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of September 14, 2021

The six hundred forty-eighth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:25 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair  
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
John R. Durso, Linda H. Green,  
George Siberón, Carl Henry Denaud, Student Trustee.

Absent: John A. DeGrace, Wanda H. Jackson, Edward Powers, Donna M. Tuman

President Williams, VPs Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, Muscarella, AVP Wright, Ms. Haugen, Ms. Brodsky

Chair Gardyn 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 Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Green. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair  
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair  
John R. Durso, Linda H. Green, Wanda H. Jackson,  
George Siberón, Carl Henry Denaud, Student Trustee.

Absent: John A. DeGrace, Edward Powers, Donna M. Tuman

Also in attendance: President Williams, VPs Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, Muscarella, AVP Wright

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Green. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Trustee Jackson 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 hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN LLP in the amount of \$110,000, as requested by VP of Finance Izquierdo. (**Funding Source:** Operating)

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Green. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Gardyn made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of an item that does not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Green seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the revised College Vision Statement and Mission Statement.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Green moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Elections of Board Officers**

Trustee Durso made a motion to keep the present 2020-2021 slate of officers in place for the 2021-2022 academic year. Seconded by Trustee Green. Chair Gardyn asked if there were any objections, there being none, motion carried 7-0. The slate of officers for the AY 2021-2022 are: Dr. Gardyn, Chair; Dr. Weiss, Vice Chair; and Edward Powers, Secretary.

Dr. Williams reported on the following items:

He welcomed all to the Fall 2021 semester and a new academic year.

### **Student Highlights**

Happy to see more faces while walking around campus the last few weeks, he spoke with several students who are taking their full course load face-to-face and with some who are taking a blend of courses, reinforcing that we must ensure students have options in terms of their academic and student support opportunities. He appreciates all those who have helped ensured students have had choices this Fall.

He welcomed Student Trustee, Carl Denaud, to the Board. Carl is a Business Administration major taking a full course load this semester.

### **Preparing for Fall - Health and Safety Update:**

He thanked faculty and staff who worked tirelessly during the summer to prepare for the Fall semester. There were a lot of moving pieces to transition to maintain a healthy environment, but, through persistent collaboration, opportunities were created to provide the varied educational support experiences students expect. These partnerships will help continue advancing the College to equitably enhance student access, completion, and post-completion success with approaches that are data-informed. He looks forward to working with Professor Richard Newman in his new role as Acting President of the NCCFT, as well as with all Union Leadership. He also looks forward to continuing the healthy partnership with the Academic Senate Executive Committee, led by its Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Hynes-Musnisky, to positively impact Nassau Community College.

### **Major Initiatives:**

He will take an opportunity each month to share updates on several opportunities and initiatives for the College, which include but are not limited to:

- Completing Critical Plans which will ensure the College progresses as a student-centered institution that seeks to advance by embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Critical Plans include: the Strategic Plan, Master Academic Plan, Strategic Enrollment Plan, Master Facilities Plan, Technology Plan, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. He thanked the Institutional Planning Committee for its work on Strategic Planning, focusing on critically examining and bringing forward the voices of its constituents, which led to the Vision and Mission Statements approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Continuing to advance Guided Pathways so students can quickly identify an academic path linked with their end goal(s), get on their path, and stay on their path while learning the essential knowledge and skills that will yield success in their lives. This approach is steeped in a framework of addressing equity gaps and of enhancing success for all students. NCC will:
  - Host a SUNY Guided Pathways conference.
  - Participate in SUNY Guided Pathways Workshops for members of the Board of Trustees and Cabinet members.
  - Continue the work on curricular mapping and transfer pathways; and
  - Continue to advance an admission, advising, and student services framework aligned with Guided Pathways.
  - One example of advancement in Guided Pathways work is the six recently signed *Pathways Transfer Program Articulation Agreements in Allied Health Science*. These transfer pathways with SUNY Empire State College (ESC) create six additional multi-award programs with the awarding of an Associate's by NCC and a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health by ESC. He is appreciative of all who have helped make these exciting programs a reality for our students.
- The College will continue to support the wonderful efforts of faculty and staff by bolstering data-informed approaches to enhancing student access, completion, and post-completion success. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning just unveiled the College's first data dashboards and this tool will support this effort;
- We will prepare for the Mid-Point Peer Review (MPPR) conducted by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE); and
- Lastly, of a non-exhaustive list, we will continue to enhance partnerships with School Districts and Business and Industry.

He looks forward to an active year that we can be certain will be filled with transitions, pivots, and recalibrations.

He recognized and thanked Dr. Joseph Muscarella, Vice President for Facilities who will be retiring in October, for his 12 years of devoted time, attention, and care for advancing NCC.

Dr. Williams invites and encourages all to embrace the challenges and opportunities that accompany newness. We must engage in active prototyping, taking a solutions-oriented approach to making adjustments that will ultimately produce intended outcomes. Through sustained flexibility, compassion, empathy, and trust, we can continue to advance NCC, positively impacting students, faculty, and staff. As the College's new approved Vision indicates: Nassau Community College Transforms Lives!

He thanked the Trustees for their continued support of the College and all the individuals at the College who work hard to support students and advance the College. He remains excited and thankful to serve as President of Nassau Community College.

Speakers

Lynn Bergin, NCCFT Secretary, read a prepared statement on behalf of Richard Newman, Acting President of the NCCFT, who has a prior commitment. He marks his 32<sup>nd</sup> year as a member of the full-time faculty at NCC. In his role as Acting President, he and the members of the NCCFT bring an unmatched depth of experience and expertise to the many challenges confronting NCC and are eager to do their part to ensure the College meets these challenges successfully.

Anthony Ogata, NCC graduate and a member of the NEST's Executive Board, spoke about the new scholarship he has started through the NCC Foundation for student volunteers who devote many hours helping the operation without any compensation. He shared a story regarding a student who he and another NEST Board member met earlier in the day, which highlights the work provided by the NEST. She had attended an event on campus hoping free food would be served only to find food trucks selling items for which she had no money to purchase. Discerning her distress, he and the NEST Board member approached her and, upon her informing them that she is pre-diabetic, bought her a healthy meal to stabilize her blood sugar. Students who are in a difficult situation should know that they can count on the NEST for help. The scholarship will provide \$500 every semester for five years for NEST volunteers. He asks the campus community for assistance in order to give back to our future volunteers. He pronounced that NCC and working with the NEST has changed his life.

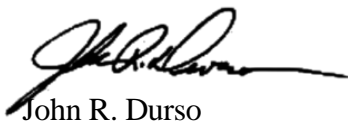
Scott Stark, AFA Vice President, spoke on behalf of the group to express that its members look forward to continue working with the College to advance the best interests for our students and our faculty.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Durso  
Secretary Pro Tem