

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of February 16, 2022

The six hundred fifty-second meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 9:04 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

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

Absent: Edward Powers, Secretary; John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green, Donna M. Tuman

Also in attendance: Officer-in-Charge Haugen, VPs Conzatti, Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, AVP Wright

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 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 AFA; 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 Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 6-0.

#### Executive Session

The Board voted in executive session on the employment of a particular individual. The vote was unanimous by all Trustees present.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 9:54 p.m.

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

Absent: Edward Powers, Secretary; John A. DeGrace, Linda H. Green, Donna M. Tuman

Also in attendance: Officer-in-Charge Haugen, VPs, Izquierdo, Kerrigan, Lausch, AVP Wright

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Trustee Gardyn 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 that the rental fee be waived for use of Nassau Community College Physical Education Complex for the 2022 Nassau County Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged, scheduled from Friday, June 3 through Saturday, June 4, 2022 and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all associated personnel and maintenance costs will be borne by the user.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves that in recognition of distinguished and meritorious service to Nassau Community College, and upon the recommendation of the Officer-in-Charge of Nassau Community College, the following named retired faculty members of Nassau Community College, who retired after attaining the academic rank of professor or associate professor, are hereby granted the permanent academic title of professor emeritus with all the privileges and rights accruing thereto.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>
Maria Mann	Professor	Foreign Languages	1/22/2022
Ronald Skurnick	Professor	Math	1/15/2022

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Denaud. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Trustee Siberón introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees, hereby approves that the following named faculty members are hereby granted sabbatical leave as indicated during the 2022/2023 academic year to pursue appropriate educational or professional activities to enhance their professional competence and/or service to the College.

**One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Fall 2022**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Richard Newman	English	Full Professor	9/1989	FA97, FA05, FA13

**One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Spring 2023**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Richard Cohen	Physical Sciences	Associate Professor	9/2008	None
Robert Genter	History	Associate Professor	9/2008	Spring 2015
Nina Shah-Giannaris	Engineering/Physics/ Technology	Associate Professor	9/2007	None
Jason Gorman	Art	Professor	9/1997	Spring 2016
Christina Rau	English	Full Professor	9/2007	Spring 2016
Nicole Simon	Engineering/Physics/ Technology	Full Professor	9/2007	None
Elizabeth Anne Wood	Sociology	Full Professor	9/2000	AY 2014-2015

**Full-Year Sabbaticals – 2022/2023**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Pramila Venkateswaran	English	Full Professor	8/1990	Spring 2016

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Denaud. Motion carried 6-0.

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 Durso seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Trustee Denaud introduced the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Officer-in-Charge of the College and the Chair of the Board of Trustees to execute the settlement agreement and general release to cause the implementation of the terms set forth therein, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees accepts the irrevocable letter of resignation of the employee who is the subject of said agreement, subject to receipt by counsel to the College of a letter of resignation.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 6-0.

## Report of the Officer-in-Charge

- Welcomed all to the Spring 2022 Semester. She acknowledged the hard work of the faculty and staff, for all of the planning that went into this Spring Semester and once again for being flexible as we are hopefully coming to an end of this pandemic.
- February is Black History Month. In honor of this celebration, the College has organized a series of events that recognize the contributions of African Americans throughout U.S. history and honor those who have fought for change and have made a positive impact on society. From lectures, to readings, to a theatrical performance, she encouraged all to attend one, if not all, events.

- The Honors Program Newsletter was distributed for this Winter. The Newsletter contained inspiring graduate profiles, as well faculty highlights. If you have not read it yet, I strongly recommend you do so. You will certainly be impressed!
- NCC Radio Station, WHPC, has received the 2022 Bethpage Best of Long Island “Best Radio Station” award, as well as nominated for a dozen awards by the 2022 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.
- Nassau Lions men’s and women’s bowlers returned to the lanes for the first time in a decade this winter. NCC is partnering with Section 8 Nassau County High Schools and hosted the Wrestling High School Championships this past weekend. One of our coaches celebrated an important milestone. Head Couch A.J. Wynder of the men’s basketball team celebrated his 500<sup>th</sup> career win earlier this season. She also congratulated former men’s lacrosse coach George Powers for being inducted last month into the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame. In addition, through the NCC Foundation we have the lacrosse Coach Speckman Endowment Fund and in honor of coach Power’s recent induction and success at NCC the fund is being renamed to the Coach Speckman and Coach Powers Endowment fund. This May, NCC is hosting the NJCCA National Men’s Lacrosse Championship and NCC will be honoring both of these Coaches that weekend.

#### Budget Update:

The College administration will continue to engage elected College leadership and the entire College community in discussions on the state of the College’s current budget. In the coming weeks, Vice President Izquierdo will be scheduling meetings with faculty and union leadership to discuss the College’s financial situation. In addition, all departments will have the opportunity to share their suggestions on how savings can be achieved in their department, as well as identify areas for growth. COVID Relief Funds have provided short-term support. However, working collaboratively is needed to determine a long-term solution that will allow the College to thrive and continue to afford our students an outstanding education at an affordable tuition, with excellent support services. There will be two Zoom Town Hall sessions to provide a forum for our NCC Community to share thoughts, recommendations and to ask questions about the College’s current fiscal situation. Further information on these Town Halls will be sent via email in the coming weeks.

#### Speakers

Faren Siminoff, NCCFT President, reported that on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 the union hosted County Executive Blakeman and County Comptroller Elaine Phillips on a limited campus tour during which they were able to meet some faculty, Chairs, and students. She was very gratified to see how interested the County officials are in NCC and hopes that the Board shares the same level of concern. She invited the Trustees to contact her to arrange the same tour.

Liz Hynes-Musnisky, Chair, Academic Senate, provided an accounting of a resolution passed in December 2021 by the Academic Senate to reaffirm the Senate’s pivotal role in shared governance. Former President Williams did not approve the resolution, while noting the items mentioned in the resolution will move forward, as these conversations have involved the appropriate parties throughout the course of several months. ASEC has since had a collegial meeting with new Officer-in-Charge Haugen and VP Academic Student Services Conzatti, reiterating its position; however, nothing has changed. She noted that the merging and dismantling of departments must be considerate of shared governance processes.

Tom Bruckner, Chair, Physical Sciences, spoke incredulously about the mismanagement of the College’s finances over the past decade. He and the faculty remain committed to saving the College.

Suzanne Kaebnick, Professor, English Department, NCCFT Secretary, spoke briefly of her concerns about the elimination of LINCC in August 2023, which she believes is damaging to students and contrary to the College’s

Strategic Plan of 2018-2021. She noted how at the recent Academic Senate meeting SGA President Sofia Costanzo eloquently protested the elimination of the program, citing her personal experience in the program. She asked the Board to please reconsider its decision.

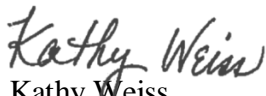
David Stern, Department of Physical Sciences and NCCFT Classroom VP, reiterated his plea from the prior Board meeting that the Trustees provide portable HEPA air filters for all occupied spaces in order to fulfill their basic responsibility to ensure the health and safety of campus members, including our students. It is his belief that the poor physical condition of the campus is part of the reason why enrollment is declining compared to our neighboring Suffolk County Community College.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 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 Denaud moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kathy Weiss  
Secretary Pro Tem