

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of September 13, 2022

The six hundred fifty-sixth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 on the 11th floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Wanda H. Jackson, Secretary;
Lynne D'Agostino, George Siberón, Aniruddh Patel, Student Trustee.

Absent: John R. Durso, Ronald J. Rosenberg, Donna M. Tuman

Also in attendance: Interim President Conzatti, Acting VPs Alvarez-Ortiz and Langdon, Interim VP Hahn, Interim AVP Aydelott, Acting Deans Deal, Gaudino-Goering, and Woods

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 Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers; 3) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the Adjunct Faculty Association; and 4) 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 Siberón. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Wanda H. Jackson, Secretary;
Lynne D'Agostino, John R. Durso, Ronald J. Rosenberg,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman, Aniruddh Patel, Student Trustee.

Absent: John R. Durso, Ronald J. Rosenberg, Donna M. Tuman

Also in attendance: Interim President Conzatti, Acting VPs Alvarez-Ortiz and Langdon, Interim VP Hahn, Interim AVP Aydelott, Acting Deans Deal, Gaudino-Goering, and Woods

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2022. Trustee Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Patel. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Trustee Siberón 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 Fisher Development Strategies in the amount of \$60,000.00 as requested by Vice President of Community and Government Relations. (**FUNDING SOURCE: OPERATING**)

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Jackson moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion defeated 5-1 (Weiss).

3. Trustee Jackson 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 Interim President 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>
Professor	Rona Casciola	Marketing	9/1/2022
Associate Professor	Kristine Coles	AHS	9/1/2022
Professor	Lorraine Findlay	AHS	9/1/2022
Professor	Mohammad Javadi	Math	9/1/2022
Associate Professor	Paula Kreinbuhl	Math	9/1/2022
Professor	Chee-Meng Lee	Engineering	9/1/2022
Professor	Gary Ostertag	Philosophy	9/1/2022
Professor	Kumkum Prabhakar	Biology	9/1/2022
Professor	Kimberley Reiser	Biology	9/1/2022
Professor	Thomas Sands	Marketing	9/1/2022
Associate Professor	Dennis Stramiello	Math	9/1/2022

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

4. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees has established a presidential search committee and such search committee continues to be authorized to conduct the search for a president for Nassau Community College, and

WHEREAS Craig Wright, designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff, and Kevin Fox, designee of the Nassau Community College Administrators Association, have resigned as members of said search committee; the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff nominates David Follick as designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff and the Nassau Community College Administrators Association nominates Jan Figueira as designee of the Nassau Community College Administrators Association of said search committee;

BE IT RESOLVED that the name of David Follick shall be inserted in lieu of the name of Craig Wright as the designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff and the name Jan Figueira shall be inserted in lieu of the name of Kevin Fox on the presidential search committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those appointed to this committee are considered volunteers, and shall accept their position after agreeing that they are serving voluntarily.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Jackson moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. 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 two items that did not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Weiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Trustee Jackson introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement covering the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2022 between Nassau Community College (hereinafter “College”) and the Adjunct Faculty Association (hereinafter “Association”) expires on September 30, 2022, and

WHEREAS, representatives of the respective parties have engaged in negotiations for a successor agreement to said expiring labor agreement, and

WHEREAS, the representatives of the College and the Association memorialized their agreement in a Memorandum of Agreement providing for a new collective bargaining agreement for the term of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the College herewith ratifies and approves the Memorandum of Agreement hereinabove referenced, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board’s ratification of the aforesaid Memorandum of Agreement is subject to and contingent upon ratification by the Nassau County Legislature, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board authorizes Maria Conzatti, Interim President of the Colleges, to execute the new collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the College, following ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement by the Nassau County Legislature.

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

6. Trustee D’Agostino introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, representatives of Nassau Community College (hereinafter “College”) and the Nassau Community College Administrators Association (hereinafter “NCCAA”) have engaged in negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement, and

WHEREAS, the representatives of the College and the NCCAA memorialized their agreement in a Memorandum of Agreement providing for a first collective bargaining agreement for the term of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2022,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the College herewith ratifies and approves the Memorandum of Agreement hereinabove referenced, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board's ratification of the aforesaid Memorandum of Agreement is subject to and contingent upon approval and execution of said Memorandum of Agreement by the Nassau County Executive on behalf of the County of Nassau, and ratification thereafter by the Nassau County Legislature, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board authorizes Maria Conzatti, Interim President of the College, to execute the new collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the College, following ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement by the Nassau County Legislature.

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

Elections of Board Officers

Trustee Siberón made a motion to keep the present 2021-2022 slate of officers in place for the 2022-2023 academic year. Seconded by Trustee Weiss. Chair Gardyn asked if there were any objections, there being none, motion carried 6-0. The slate of officers for the AY 2022-2023 are: Dr. Gardyn, Chair; Dr. Weiss, Vice Chair; and Wanda Jackson, Secretary.

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

Dean of Students

- The revised MOU for Adelphi Gateway program includes an automated screening process. Currently there are 20 students being housed for the Fall 2022 semester.

SPS

- The first in-person New Student Orientation since 2019 was attended by 575 students in 24 Orientation sessions.
- New Psychological Counselor was hired with HEERF funds.
- In Fall 2022, the Career and Transfer Counseling Office has over 22 workshops and programs scheduled for students, including the annual Transfer Fair in October.

Financial Aid

- The FAFSA completion campaign kicked off the week of October 10th – October 29th.

Admissions

- The NCC online admissions application was re-launched.
- Early indication is New Student Enrollment is 400 students higher than last Fall.
- We are expanding the SLATE (Customer Relationship Management) functionality and training to other student support offices and using capital funding to expedite the development of SLATE.
- Concurrent Enrollment: high school students taking courses at NCC has nearly doubled since Fall 2021.
- Dual Enrollment: approximately 40 classes are being offered at local Nassau County high schools in English, Math, Computer Science, and Music.

Grants

- NCC was awarded a \$2.25 million Liberty Partnership 5-year grant that cooperates with Roosevelt, Freeport, Hempstead and Uniondale districts.

- Grants received through 9/1/22 are in excess of \$14 million.

Outreach Events

Re-connecting with the general public and showcasing the value of a community college, NCC is hosting several in-person opportunities for Long Islanders to engage with the College community, including U.S. Veterans Festival on September 29, Citibank Foundation's Community Leaders Forum on October 29, and Homecoming on November 5.

Informational Technology

Outfitted 150 additional classrooms with live-technology equipment.

Student Highlights

- The NCC football team, currently ranked #2 in the country, traveled to and defeated SUNY opponent Hudson Valley CC 34-7, #5 in the country. On Saturday, September 17, NCC is hosting Monroe College at the NCC home opener at Mitchel Field Complex at 1:00 p.m.
- The NCC Cheerleading Team will launch its season at the football home opener.
- Cross Country kicked off its season on September 2 at the Adelphi Invitational at Bethpage. Congratulations to 2 runners who ran their personal bests: Douglas Burgess 31:19.9; and Reuben Cheong 35:40.3.
- Men's Soccer is on a 2-game winning streak. NCC is hosting Division II Ulster CC on September 13.
- Surgical Technology students placed 3rd at the June 2022 Scrub Bowl National Conference in New Orleans. Jana Jarrell, Elizabeth Stemmler, and Monika Halloran were the only freshmen team in the competition.

Faculty

Natalia de Cuba, LINCC, is hosting webinars on women's soccer dedicated to growing women's soccer around the world.

Lorraine Findlay, Allied Health Science, is receiving the 2023 American Academy of Microbiology Evans Award for the advancement of women in science.

Pierre C. Desroches, Foreign Languages, published a new book entitled *Tales from the Island of Papa Doc* that was written on sabbatical.

Consuelo Arias, Foreign Languages, translated *El Gran Criminal*, a collection of prose poetry by the renowned Spanish poet Dionisio Cañas.

Laura O'Connell, Communications, published her first book, *I Got the Internship! Now What? A Workbook to Guide You Through Your Journey*, that was written on sabbatical.

Janet Farrell Leontiou, Communications, published her third book, *Viktor E. Frankl Goes to Community College*. The picture on the cover is artwork from one of her NCC students and a response to the ideas in the book, which have been integral to her courses.

Robert Costello, Chair, Criminal Justice, co-wrote a textbook entitled *The Impact of Supreme Court Decisions of US Institutions: A Sociology of Law Primer* and published by Routledge

Diana Milillo-Portugal, Psychology, earned an additional degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, which has helped her resurrect a non-functioning class on Human Adjustment.

Joylette Williams, English, was elected in May 2022 to serve a three-year term as a Trustee of the Hempstead Union Free School District.

Florence Dee Boodakian, English, wrote a Cultural/Personal Memoir in Poetry and Prose: *All the Butterflies are Gone*.

Sara Hosey, English, wrote a short story, *Mickey Makes a Salad*, which appeared in the Summer 2022 issue of Mudroom Literary Magazine.

Pramila Venkateswaran, poet laureate of Suffolk County, Long Island and co-director of Matwaala: South Asian Diaspora Poetry Festival, is the author of many poetry volumes, the most recent being *We are not a Museum*.

Darshna Katwala, English, and Director of the Long Island Writing Project, hosted the teen Writing Marathon in August in collaboration with the National Writing Project and Alliance for Young Artists & Writers/Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Over 150 teens participated in this writing program facilitated by Darshna.

Mary Lannon, English, wrote a short story published in the March 2022 edition of the literary magazine, *The Write Launch*. One of her plays was shortlisted for the 2021 Bechdel Group's Fall Workshop season.

Richard Newman, English, wrote two essays on the 13th century Persian poet Saadi which were published in Redux Extra: *Humanity Is One and Saadi of Shiraz: A Poet for Our Time*. He hosts and curates "First Tuesdays", a literary series which is starting its 11th season.

Gina Siple, English, authored an article, *Lurking as Literacy Practice: A Uses and Gratifications Study in Neighborhood Facebook Groups*, which was recently published. She is under contract with Bristol University Press for a book on this topic entitled, *Just Here for the Comments: Lurking as Literacy Practice*.

Neela Saxena, English, published *Presenting Tantra Yoga: "Thinking" to "Becoming Woman"*; *Corona the Matrix of our Being: Structuring the Feelings of a Microbe in Peeling the Layers of the Pandemic: Rethinking Human Imagination*; and *Re-Collecting the God Fragments: A Global Non-Theology of Mother Wisdom from an Inter-religious Perspective* in A Multifaceted Reflection.

Scott Walden, Philosophy, published research articles entitled: *Philosophy of Photography Naturalized, Photography and Danto's Craft of the Mind*, and *Sympathy for a Serial Killer*.

Francesco Pupa, Philosophy, published *Determiners are Phrases, Mind and Language*: Forthcoming.

Amanda Favia, Philosophy, provided commentary at the 2022 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association on Avia Pasternak's paper concerning social justice protests and epistemic injustice.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman presented our Medical Laboratory Technician Program with a proclamation recognizing the Medical Laboratory Professionals and organizations that have rendered significant contributions to the enhancement of our region and the betterment of Nassau County residents.

Dr. Gardyn congratulated the faculty on their accomplishments.

Trustee Weiss announced the sad news the former Trustee Mary Adams passed away in July. She served from December 1994 to July 2015. She was a retired assistant principal for the Bellmore-Merrick school district and was President of 100 Black Women of Long Island.

Speakers

Stu Kaplan, Chair, Math/Stat/Comp Science/Info Tech/Engineering/Physical Science Department, briefed the Board on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment offerings. They will provide a monetary benefit to the

College, and, more importantly, foster relationships with our K-12 school districts and provide an incredible opportunity for a larger amount of high school students to experience a college learning environment either at the NCC campus or at their home school. The Math department is currently working with several school districts with multiple dual enrollment opportunities for several hundred students. Chair Kaplan thanked Bruce Abgarian, Ellen Botkin, Abraham Mantell, Richard Moscatelli, and Theresa Vecchiarelli for their dedication, support and continued hard work on moving this initiative forward and looks forward to working with all Nassau County school districts for the success of our students.

Hussein Emin, Retired Professor, Accounting & Business Department and NCC Foundation Board Member, praised NCC and the students it serves. He hopes the College continues to move forward with ongoing positive actions to provide the best education for students and is pleased with Dr. Conzatti's remarks this evening. In his consideration, what made NCC a great institution in the past is when we conducted in-class courses with our great teaching faculty, who, along with staff, were able to advise and to counsel students in person. Pleased to see our student presence returning, he would like to see the College get back to more in-class offerings and to a more active campus environment. He would also like the College to offer occupational programs so students have alternate career opportunities. In 2013, he reaffirmed his commitment to the College by establishing "The Emin Learning Center Scholarship".

Ariel Lann, former NCC student, spoke briefly of her concerns about the College's budget. She believes that the pillars that hold up the institution are crumbling. The lack of an adequate budget for 15 years has had a substantial negative impact on everything that has made NCC the incredible school it has been, putting a stranglehold on academics and clubs and stress on technologists who support professors, the invisible backbone of the College. Our professors, who are the heart of the school, should not have the added pressure to make do with so much less, which they undertake because they want the best for their students. NCC is only as strong as the people who teach in its distinguished halls and they deserve the College's complete backing, financially and otherwise. For these reasons, on behalf of students, I am asking the Board to approve a supplemental budget to keep our academics and other programs thriving, and not just surviving.

Suzanne Kaebnick, NCCFT Secretary and Professor, English Department, lamented how the past six months have been really hard on faculty owing to academic technologists having been moved out of academic departments, which has caused a lot of disarray for students and faculty, and departments having been merged without faculty and departments' P & B committee input and consultation, which is in violation of College policy. It is also hurtful that elected NCCFT faculty leaders were not invited to speak at the 9/11 Memorial Service. She is hopeful that faculty input will be sought and respected in the planning ahead. She asked the Board for a supplemental budget from the Nassau County Legislature.

Christine Tuailon, Chair, Biology Department, addressed the Biology Department's concern about its need to hire full-time faculty to teach Bio Major courses to serve students enrolled in the recently reaccredited AS Biology degree program. There are five sections of Bio Major electives offered. However, three of these sections are taught by adjunct faculty because there are not enough full-time faculty, and two of our ten "Intro to Bio" sections are taught by adjunct faculty.

Scott Stark, AFA Vice President, noted for the record that adjunct faculty are fully qualified to teach their assigned courses. On behalf of members of the AFA, he thanked the Board for approving the Adjunct Faculty Association Memorandum of Agreement. They are happy that the College believes a short-term agreement is important because, with this agreement, adjuncts will continue to provide remote instruction and services at the same high level that they have since the inception of remote instruction. They also believe that the many positive changes underway at NCC will lead to an increase in enrollment, and the AFA looks forward to being a partner in this growth.

Greg Resnick, former NCC Student, commented that he began his education at NCC and would like to see more students move forward. He beseeched the Board of Trustees to provide supplemental funding just for the professors, academics, and student activities.

Johanna Bogensberger, NCC former student, spoke of returning to NCC to take classes that will help her attain her Ph.D. She declared that offering any occupational degree and opportunity will not in any way, shape or form make this school a more effective educational institution, and, furthermore, would be contradictory to its mission, and will require more funding to sustain this pattern. It is disheartening to witness the College pursue this approach instead of putting more attention and more funding into our established courses.

Dr. Gardyn welcomed the NCC community back to the Fall semester.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 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 Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda H. Jackson
Secretary