

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of October 11, 2022

The six hundred fifty-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:01 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, John R. Durso, Ronald J. Rosenberg,
Donna M. Tuman, Aniruddh Patel, Student Trustee

Absent: George Siberón

Also in attendance: Interim President Conzatti, VP Kornbluth, Acting VP Alvarez-Ortiz, Langdon,
Interim VP Hahn, Asst. VP Aydelott

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 purposes to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the NCCFT; and 2) 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 8-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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

Absent: George Siberón

Also in attendance: Interim President Conzatti, VP Kornbluth, Acting VP Alvarez-Ortiz, Langdon,
Interim VP Hahn, Asst. VP Aydelott

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2022. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0-1. (Rosenberg)

2. 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 David Follick designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff and Stefan Krompfer designee of the Nassau Community College Adjunct Faculty Association have resigned as members of said search committee; the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff nominates

Phillip Cappello as designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff and the Nassau Community College Adjunct Faculty Association nominates Robert Femminella as designee of the Nassau Community College Adjunct Faculty Association of said search committee;

BE IT RESOLVED that the name of Phillip Cappello shall be inserted in lieu of the name of David Follick as the designee of the Nassau Community College Managerial Confidential staff and the name Robert Femminella shall be inserted in lieu of the name of Stefan Krompfer as the designee of the Nassau Community College Adjunct Faculty Association 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 Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

Trustee Weiss commented that the search committee members received training as these 2 members will also receive.

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

- Notification was received that NCC did not receive the HIS Grant. The academic team is looking into ways to help our Hispanic students in lieu of not receiving the Grant.
- Thanked Christina Rau, English Department, as the editor of the Nassau Review worked with volunteer faculty and staff and student interns to evaluate submissions and proofread.
- Donna Cempa-Danziger, Allied Health Sciences, published on the 12th edition of Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology. She is a contributing author and works on narratives for converting diagrams into videos for etext.
- Dr. Elizabeth Anne Wood, Acting Dean of Instruction co-editor and signed a contract with The University of Chicago Press to publish *Between Us: Understanding Ourselves and Changing the World with Sociology*.
- Thanked Izolda Maksym, Art Department, donated Ukrainian art from her personal collection to NCC which is on display in the president's office.
- Thanked Charmian Smith, Interim VP for her leadership and Demetris Watkins and the staff of Student Activities for a successful Parent orientation.
- Under the leadership of Asst. VP Follick, we received a 2 +2 international recruitment with Adelphi University.
- CBS-TV aired a segment for Hispanic Heritage Month for the La Borinqueña female super hero exhibit currently on display at the Plaza Art Gallery through December 22, 2022.
- Two positive articles in Newsday, Eunsil Kim, International Student Advisor was quoted in article, *College International Programs, Ravaged by COVID* and Whitney Glass, of the Marketing/Fashion Department, quoted extensively in cover story in the "Style" section: *How TikTok is Helping Long Island Boutiques Boost Sales*.
- Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine has named Nassau Community College (NCC) among the top 100 institutions in the nation for Hispanic students.
- NCC has received six nominations for various categories in the Best of Long Island contest.

Speakers

Izolda Maksym, Chair, Art Department, welcomed the Trustees to view in Bldg. G the artwork resulting from the hands-on *Creative AFROQUEER Workshop* and lecture by internationally acclaimed Brazilian visual artist and scholar Dr. Wilton Garcia, which took place earlier in the day during club hour and was co-sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee. She also invited them to visit graphic artist novelist Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez' *Arte de la Borinqueña* exhibit, an interdisciplinary collaboration co-sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and the Faculty Student Association, on view at the NCC Plaza Art Gallery from Thursday, September 22 – Thursday, December 22, 2022 to kick off its national tour in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. She thanked our Deans, members of the Board, and administrators, particularly Pres. Conzatti, who attended the opening reception on September 22, and asked for their continued and much appreciated support. Her department is in dire need of a full-time Gallery Director to be able to continue to provide high quality programs.

Olena Fedochynska, student, shared her story to convey her gratitude to the NCC Foundation and an anonymous donor for having covered her full tuition to enable her to attend NCC. She recounted her harrowing experience leaving her home and family to immigrate from Ukraine on a US Visa on June 27, 2022. Crossing the border into Poland, her bus was stranded in the woods for 15 hours amidst an air raid, but eventually she made it to the airport in Krakow to fly to NY. On the day prior to the meeting, one of 83 missiles launched against Ukraine struck the village where her remaining relatives reside. She has not had any contact from them for a long time. While in Ukraine, she had been studying Civil Engineering. Currently enrolled in LINCC, which has been a great experience, she plans to continue her education in Liberal Arts. She expressed hope for continued support for herself and other Ukrainians and invited Board members to attend her presentation on November 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. as part of International Education Week sponsored by the International Education Committee.

Chair Gardyn thanked Ms. Fedochynska for bringing a story from afar closer to home.

Stuart Kaplan, Chair, Math, Statistics, Information Technology, Engineering, and Physics Department, in honor of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, shared the current program offerings in this field. There are currently 15 students in our Cybersecurity certificate program, 19 students in our Cybersecurity AS degree program, and 3 students in our Cybersecurity certificate program enrolled as dual degree majors. With this field expected to grow as individuals, businesses, governments, and school districts become victims of cybersecurity attacks, we hope to expand our program and to entice new and returning students. The department looks forward to working with the College's new marketing team and hopes to get at least a second full-time faculty member to teach these courses to enrich our program in upcoming semesters. While many people in the department work hard to create these courses to provide our students with the best learning experience, he gave special praise to Ernest DeFalco, who, having spearheaded both program offerings, has devoted countless hours to their creation, training, advisement, and recruitment. With NY School Boards Recognition Week upcoming, he thanked our Trustees for their dedicated service.

David Stern, Professor, Physical Sciences, and NCCFT Vice Chair, handed each board member a document entitled, *The NCCFT Strategic Initiative Supplemental Budget Proposal* requesting on behalf of the NCCFT that the Board promote the supplemental budget proposal on the College's strategic initiatives, mostly workforce development programs and relief of student fees, which are key to increasing enrollment. He commented on a positive step in marketing, *Newsday* published a 2-page ad from NCC highlighting academic degree programs and faculty. He encouraged the Board and administration to demonstrate their commitment to stop the erosion of faculty programs. He advised the Board that the College will undergo a mid-point review this Spring and that it is the Board's responsibility to provide oversight of the administration to ensure NCC's accreditation is not in jeopardy by outlining major deficiencies in the strategic plan which has not been updated or assessed in over three years and administration continues to make significant organizational changes unaligned with our strategic

plan without any planning or open discussion. The NCCFT insists that the Board fulfill its obligation to ensure that administration utilizes the \$5.4M SUNY grant for improving enrollment so funds are not squandered.

Tasnia Zzoha, Student Government Association (SGA) President, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to speak publicly about a troubling interaction with an executive member of the NCCFT union. SGA values every constituency of the College community, but is uncertain whether union members appreciate the role of SGA members as students. She affirmed that the responsibility of the SGA, in addition to advocating for students, is to manage a variety of school-related activities, events, policies, programs, and projects. Student government operates for the benefit of the students and their clubs. One of SGA's tasks is the stamping of club fliers; and what is approved and not approved is a decision of the Executive Board. SGA has an ethical obligation to operate impartially and diligently, and does not endorse political movements, hate crimes, or other activities that do not align with its principles. SGA politely declined when NCCFT requested that SGA stamp fliers for its campaign *NCCFOR2023* since it has no connection with clubs, and rather is a campaign for the union and *not* for students. The union tried to pressure SGA into stamping these fliers despite SGA's offer to have a more in-depth discussion to which NCCFT never showed up. Subsequently, an NCCFT executive member's lack of boundaries made SGA members feel uneasy, and, most significantly, disrespected by slamming the door on them in the middle of a conversation. Other students had been scheduled to speak today, but, like her, had to make a difficult choice, voicing concerns about possible faculty retaliation in the form of denial of access to their academic qualifications, letters of recommendation, and many other aspects of their student experiences. SGA will continue to speak out for the needs and concerns of students, and appeals to be treated with the same respect as they give to others.

Vice Chair Weiss congratulated Ms. Zzoha for her election by her peers to represent all SUNY students as Executive Secretary and Chief of Communications for the Student Assembly.

Chair Gardyn commended Ms. Zzoha for her courage of conviction.

Scott Stark, AFA Vice President, thanked the Board for having approved its contract, which in turn was overwhelmingly approved by over 96% of its members, who now await anticipated approval at the next scheduled Legislative session. AFA leadership looks forward to having productive meetings with Dr. Conzatti. He also addressed Ms. Zzoha, asserting that the AFA would never disrespect anyone and that she may reach out for any help.

Richard Ginsberg, Chair, Theatre & Dance Department, noted that it has been his privilege to have worked for 39 years in a 59-year-old program. Alluding to the nostalgic adage, "A diamond is forever", he remarked that NCC has been a gem for students and the community alike. Prior to the pandemic, the department was active and high functioning with nine full-time faculty and adjuncts. Currently it has two full-time staff, one who will be retiring in December, one temporary line, and one part-time faculty. He is the last full-time tenured faculty. Communication arts is how American business makes business: national companies are clamoring for artists who can write copy, produce videos, scripts, and commercials – to act, shoot, and create content for direct sales in advertising. The AA degree in Acting is the only one of its kind in NY. Thousands of NCC graduates and alumni work in a multi-billion-dollar business from NY to Hollywood as writers and producers on stage and in film and television. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the department was voted by 80,000 Long Islanders as one of the top three venues in Nassau County. Four weeks ago, hundreds of students auditioned for the first two shows for this semester, demonstrating the interest and need for creative expression. The Spring production of *Kindertransport* will fundraise for Ukrainian students and families of Nassau. For the new production of *72 Miles to Go*, proceeds will be donated to the Harry Chapin and NEST food banks. Last semester, the department presented the event *Arts Alive!*, which involved several departments – Theatre, Art, English, Health & Physical Education, History, and Africana Studies – Long Island businesses, and the High School of Performing Arts, brought together 100 different students on stage for each of four consecutive nights. He asked the Board to imagine what the program could become if it were supported not just financially but publicly with direction. For

59 years, from Broadway to TV, from radio to *Tik Tok*, from Billy Crystal to our latest freshmen, all of them have a dream and they want it to start at NCC.

Chair Gardyn, referring to last month's meeting when Dr. Conzatti reported on faculty publications and accomplishments, made a personal plea on behalf of the Board for faculty to submit copies of any of their original books and articles for the Boardroom Library.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 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 Rosenberg moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Patel. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wanda H. Jackson
Secretary