NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of February 15, 2024

The six hundred seventy-third meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2024 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:10 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Wanda H. Jackson, Secretary;
Lynne D'Agostino, John A. DeGrace, John R. Durso,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman, Leslie Vasquez Student Trustee.

Absent: Kathy Weiss

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

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: 1) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the NCCAA; 2) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the NCCFT; 3) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the AFA; and 4) to review 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 Siberón. Motion carried 8-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Lynne D'Agostino, John A. DeGrace, John R. Durso,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman, Leslie Vasquez, Student Trustee.

Absent: Wanda H. Jackson, Kathy Weiss

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti, VP Kornbluth, Interim VP Alvarez-Ortiz and Langdon

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023. Trustee Siberón moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Trustee Vasquez 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 Ultimate Power, Inc. in the amount of $9,652,500, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management. (Funding Source: Capital)

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

3. Trustee D'Agostino 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 Chief Administrative Officer 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.

Name	Title	Department	Retirement Date
Cheryl Novins	Professor	English	12/28/2023
Stefanie Lewis	Associate Professor	Communications	1/1/2024

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

4. Trustee Tuman 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 2024/2025 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 2024

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Mary Amalraj	Nursing	Associate Professor	9/2014	None
Joseph Bernat	MAT/CSC/ITE	Associate Professor	9/2013	None
JoAnne Thacker	MAT/CSC/ITE	Full Professor	9/2007	None

One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Spring 2025

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Susan Cushman	English	Full Professor	9/2003	Fall 2010, Fall 2017
Charles Hicks	Chemistry	Full Professor	9/2007	None
Michael Niemczyk	English	Assistant Professor	9/2013	None
Leslie Wong Loock	Library	Assistant Professor	1/2016	None
Janet Farrell Leontiou	Communications	Full Professor	9/1995	Spring 2017

Full-Year Sabbaticals – 2024/2025

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Natalia de Cuba Romero	English	Instructor	9/2007	None
Mary Woodruff	SPS	P-1 Step 9	9/2007	None

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

5. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Committee the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College adopts the 2023-2028 Nassau Community College Strategic Plan developed by the Institutional Planning Committee and subsequently reviewed by the NCC campus community with open forum being held on November 17, 2023.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee D'Agostino. Dr. Gardyn commented that the presentation made at committee was excellent which was a cumulative body of work to take the vision and mission of the College forward. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Second Reading & Discussion**: Policy 4200: Posthumous Degree Awards**

Dr. D'Agostino stated the purpose of Policy 4200 is to provide for the recognition and awarding of a degree to an eligible student who was enrolled at Nassau Community College at, or prior to, their death. Posthumous degrees are provided to the family of the deceased student as a meaningful acknowledgment of the student's accomplishments while attending the College. Dr. Conzatti certified that Policy 4200 has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

Chair Gardyn made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of three(3) items that did not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Durso seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Trustee Gardyn introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Policy & Planning Committee at its meeting November 14, 2023, followed by two readings of the policy by the Board of Trustees and public discussion, the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College adopts Policy 4200: Posthumous Degree Awards and that the same be subsequently incorporated into the policy manual of the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College.

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

8. Trustee Tuman introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature passed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022, amending the Open Meetings Law to provide for a new Section 103-a; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law permits the Board of Trustees to authorize its members to attend meetings by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances and subject to other restrictions;

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2)(a) requires the Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution following a public hearing authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has held such hearing and now desires to take advantage of the flexibility offered through videoconferencing for its meetings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 24, 2024, the Board of Trustees may conduct any public meetings via videoconferencing in accordance with Section 103-a of the Open Meetings

Law, provided that all requirements of Section 103-a have been met prior to any public meeting which is to be conducted via such videoconferencing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the annexed written procedures for public meetings held pursuant to Open Meetings Law Section 103-a and directs that said procedures be conspicuously posted on the College's website.

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

9. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College herewith authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to execute an amendment to the employment agreement between the College and Dr. Maria P. Conzatti, the terms and conditions of said amendment having been reviewed and approved by the members of the Board of Trustees.

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

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

On February 8th, a soft launch of the MWBE (Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises) Center was attended by approximately 150 members of the County, the community at large, faculty, staff and administrators, labor leaders, and members of the Board of Trustees. Workshops were offered on degree programs in entrepreneurship, starting a business as an MWBE, and career counseling.

NCC has received $44, 650 from SUNY System Administration to provide support for 38 low-income student-parents who join our ASAP program over the next three years beginning in Spring 2024 and concluding in Fall 2026.

Workforce Development was awarded a Training Pathways Track Grant of $150,000.00. The grant provides funding for SUNY community colleges to operate workforce development/job training programs to address training needs for businesses and organizations in local communities.

On February 9th, the College hosted a legislative breakfast attended by State representatives from approximately 12 districts. The major message was meeting the 33-1/3 obligation of funding to institutions, which amounts to over $21 million for NCC.

There are many unknowns regarding the budget that will crystallize over the next two months or so. In preparation, steps will need to be taken in case the State and County do not provide additional operating funds. Without additional funding and implementation of drastic cost-saving measures, the College will not maintain financial stability through next year.

Speakers

Jason Gorman, Chair, Academic Senate, encouraged the Board to ask administration for an analysis on class cancellations for what we could have brought in with revenues based upon projections from last year's enrollment growth flow. He believes, based on his projections, that, although the class cancellations saved $1,000,000, running more classes could have represented unrealized multiple millions. He requested that administration provide a documented rationale for class cancellations, and, when possible, initiate new processes through appropriate committees of the Academic Senate as part of shared governance. He also urged the Board to invite the Chair of the Academic Sente to speak on curriculum issues during the Academic,

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management committee meeting when its warranted. For example, the new degree program UX Design, which went before the committee and was tabled on November 17, 2023, was specifically designed not to cost the College any money. Currently, there is a certificate that leads into the UX Design program, with 200 students taking courses as part of that degree.

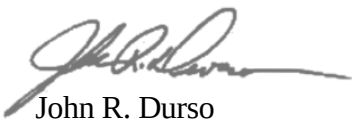
David Stern, NCCFT VP Classroom Faculty, read a statement on behalf of Faren Siminoff, NCCFT President, in which she requested that the agreed-upon financial package in the approved NCCFT contract be swiftly implemented and that the members be given a date for its implementation; questioned why the administration has prioritized a $20 million renovation of the Tower when the buildings where students learn and study continue to be an environmental disaster, which deters retention; why the $5.4 million SUNY Grant NCC received two years ago for so-called workforce development curriculum in plumbing and similar trades has yet to be utilized; and the wisdom of focusing on offering outdated 20th century workforce development at a community college rather than investing in fields such as accounting, semiconductor-related professions, renewable energy, digital and graphic media, and the expansion of healthcare programs, which studies show are the real future of workforce development. It is her belief that were the Board to engage with the faculty leadership, NCC could move forward to once again become the State's best community college.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Board of Trustees' Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. It is anticipated the Board will open the public session between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Durso
Secretary Pro Tem