

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of September 10, 2024

The six hundred seventy-eight meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 in the College Center Building Room 252-253. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:22 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

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

Absent: John A. DeGrace

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 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 Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 8-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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

Absent: John A. DeGrace

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution as amended at committee meeting:

**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 Ingerman Smith, LLP, in the annual amount of \$300,000, as requested by Donna Haugen, College Counsel.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee D'Agostino. Motion carried 8-0.

3. Trustee D'Agostino 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 amended college procurement agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP in the amount of \$180,000, as requested by Donna Haugen, College Counsel.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

4. College Pending Agreement with Marshall & Sterling Upstate, Inc. - Tabled

Discussion and Reading of Policy 6900 Tuition & Fees:

Trustee Weiss explained as was discussed at the Policy and Planning Committee meeting, that Policy 6900 is being discussed, read, and adopted since it benefits our students. In section A.1. of Policy 6900, two words are being changed from "unmarried" to "dependent" and age "21" to "24".

Chair Gardyn made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of an (2)two items that did not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Weiss seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

5. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Policy & Planning Committee at its meeting **September 10, 2024**, followed by discussion and reading of the policy by the Board of Trustees and public discussion, the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College adopts **Policy 6900: Tuition & Fees** 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 Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

6. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** New York State Education Law Section 6306, specifies that COMMUNITY COLLEGE shall be administered by a board of trustees; five appointed by the local legislative body or board, four by the governor, and one elected from the student body; and

**WHEREAS** Education Law § 6306(2) states, in relevant part, that "[t]he board of trustees of each community college shall appoint a president for the college, subject to approval by the state university trustees" (*see also* § NYCCR 600.2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees subject to the approval of the local sponsor acting through its local legislative body or board, or other appropriate governing agency, and pursuant to such regulations and limitations as may be established and prescribed by the state university trustees, may enter into any contract or agreement deemed necessary or appropriate for the effective operation of the college, including, but not limited to, the employment contract with its President; and

**WHEREAS**, the responsibility and the authority to conduct the annual performance evaluation of the College President and to amend the terms of their contract rests only within the authority of the College Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, the College Board of Trustees has been advised that the Chancellor of State University of New York has indicated a desire to intrude in the process of selection of a president for community colleges, notwithstanding the absence of any statutory or regulatory authority for the Chancellor to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State Education Law and the Code, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York provides for the limited involvement and authority of the State University Board of Trustees to approve the appointment of a Community College president following appointment of a president by a board of trustees of a community college, and does not grant to the Chancellor of the State University of New York, any authority whatsoever respecting the appointment of a community college president.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nassau Community College President's/Chief Administrative Officer's performance appraisal, performance evaluation or performance review may only be conducted by the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College pursuant to the President's/Chief Administrative Officer's employment contract and said employment contract can only be altered, or amended through negotiations between the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College and the President/Chief Administrative Officer, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College expresses its opposition to the attempted and illegal usurpation of authority regarding the appointment or evaluation of a president of a New York Community College, as announced by the Chancellor of the State University of New York.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0-1(Weiss).

#### Election of Board Officers

Trustee Durso made the motion to elect the 24-25 slate of officers: Dr. Gardyn as Chair; Trustee Tuman as Vice Chair; and Trustee Jackson as Secretary. Seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 6-1(Weiss)-1(Groom).

Trustee Weiss believes that on a Board like this with the kind of quality we have on the board that the office of chair should be held by more than one person year after year after year.

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

Welcomed everyone to the Fall 2024 semester.

- Nassau Community College has earned a **Bronze Seal** from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge [ALL IN](#) based on your 2022 campus voting rate from your National Study of Learning. Congratulations to Professors Cushman and Schiffmacher who received a grant.
- Nassau, for the second year in a row, won the “Stay Awake, Stay Alive” Challenge. Students are challenged to create a Public Service Announcement about the dangers of drowsy driving. Congratulations to our student, Farha Khan.
- Nassau currently has a waitlist for its ASAP Program. As you may recall, this program is a nationally recognized way to increase retention. I’m pleased to announce that SUNY has increased our allotment to accommodate an additional 10 students.

#### Speaker

Jason Gorman, Academic Senate Chair, stated that he has often said very strong comments to the Board of Trustees in the past, and he will continue to do so. He rejects polarized perspectives and believes there are shades of gray. In the spirit of good leadership, he thanked Dr. Conzatti for agreeing to the Wellness Check, and thanked

the Board for its involvement. He commended Dr. Conzatti for taking initiative and responding to the two reports, especially the Wellness check not only in word but in actions. He appreciates that one of those actions was inviting the Academic Senate Chairperson to speak at the BoT Academic, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee.

Chair Gorman stated that he has great ideas moving forward, however, he cautioned that faculty numbers have diminished greatly, with the consolidations the chairs have six times as much work as they used to; they're spread very thin. The challenge in the days ahead is going to be to find a balance between what the faculty is willing or capable of doing and what the administration is willing or capable of doing. He continued, that it cannot be that just because the faculty have less time because they have more responsibilities, while he is focused on streamlining those responsibilities, the administration should not just take over faculty responsibilities, as this is especially important in topics spoken about at a recent meeting.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Board of Trustees' Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the opening of the public session.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wanda Jackson  
Secretary