

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OCTOBER 19, 2021**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on October 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.  
in person, via ZOOM, and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Jason Cafarella, Chairperson  
Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. William Ross  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang  
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

**Board Members Present via ZOOM**

Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary  
Ms. Sheila Smith

**Board Members Excused**

Mr. Kevin Clark, Financial Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Alexander

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Deborah Brewer, Director of Foundation  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Director of Public Relations  
Mr. John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Dr. Fabio Escobar, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management  
Mr. Brian Michel, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Economic Development  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President

Chairperson Cafarella called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m. and asked Vice Chairperson Virtuoso to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the military.

Chairperson Cafarella stated that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

It was moved by Student Trustee Jackson and seconded by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso that the Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss contract negotiations at 4:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Student Trustee Jackson and seconded by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso that the Board come out of Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Cafarella asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Chairperson Cafarella and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson that the Board approve the minutes from the September 21, 2021 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Ross that the Board approve the Budget Transfer - Hospitalization & Medical Insurance to Retirement. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson that the Board approve the Budget Transfer – Hospitalization & Medical Insurance to Bad Debt. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Cafarella asked John Eichner to discuss the Procurement / Purchasing Policy. It was moved by Trustee Sloma and seconded by Trustee Ross that the Board approve the Procurement / Purchasing Policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Chairperson Cafarella and seconded by Trustee Sloma to accept and approve the Memorandum of Agreement and appointment of William J. Murabito, Ph.D., as President of the College for the term September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2024, as incorporated into the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Cafarella thanked President Murabito and looks forward to the next three years.

Chairperson Cafarella stated the Niagara County Legislature is considering a resolution tonight calling on Chairperson Cafarella and Vice Chairperson Virtuoso to attend their next meeting. As a Board we are always willing to meet with the Legislature, as they are an enormous help to this college financially along with their leadership, and we are always willing and ready to meet with them and share our plan. We are willing to do so very soon, but we will meet with them as an entire Board. We stand together in our decision to extend the President of this college and if the Legislature wants to meet with us we will be happy to do so, and show them the mountain of evidence we have why Dr. Murabito is the best person for this job.

Trustee Ross questioned that the Legislature and our Board meet on the same date. Chairperson Cafarella said there was no specific date set for our Board to meet with the Legislature.

### **PRESENTATION**

Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, provided a PowerPoint presentation on enrollment. A handout was provided to board members. Discussed the vaccine mandate, upcoming registration update, upcoming spring recruitment initiatives, and upcoming marketing campaigns.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Cafarella stated the NYCCT Conference will be held in Saratoga Springs on November 5 and 6. Trustees Clark, Ross and Wolfgang will be attending.

Board members need to complete the on-line sexual harassment training.

Conflict of Interest forms must also be completed and returned to the President's Office.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs introduced Dr. Fabio Escobar being newly appointed as Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs. Fabio provided a brief background of himself. Welcome Fabio!
- Last month we introduced the draft resolution of the Native Heritage Day for the first reading. Information has been modified, and we will use today as the first reading. A copy has been provided to all board members. This will be celebrated the Friday before Thanksgiving week, but will not be a day off of work. During this week, we will have activities, and history will be provided. Hopefully action will take place next month for the resolution. Please contact Dr. Murabito with any questions you may have.
- Educational Program in Radiography received accreditation for the next eight years. Congratulations to those who helped with this accomplishment.
- A press conference will be held on Wednesday, November 17 regarding the Niagara Falls Flight School. All are invited to attend. The time and place are to be determined. The first part will be the flight training, and the second part will possibly be a machinist program.
- The Western New York Community College Presidents continue to meet virtually every two weeks. Later in the month, all Presidents will meet in Buffalo. Also, the Presidents will be together at the NYCCT conference on November 5.
- Paul Reid from Reid Petroleum received the NYCCT Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award. This award will be presented at the NYCCT awards banquet on November 5 in Saratoga Springs, NY.
- On September 24, there was a signing with NCCC and Keuka College with an articulation agreement, offering courses here; Keuka will actively recruit to help students come into the program on the front end at NCCC.
- Dr. Murabito recently attended a United Way Strategic Planning Committee meeting; continuing to look at ways to revitalize programs in the area.
- On Friday, September 24, Dr. Murabito and Gretchen Mittelstaedt of Student Services, attended the United Way Awards and Breakfast Kickoff.
- Savor Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from September 3 – December 17.
- Wednesday, November 10 is the annual Veterans Ceremony, held on the Sanborn Campus. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. More information will follow, everyone is urged to attend.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Cafarella asked Board members if there were questions regarding the Information Items. The following items were received and filed: Grant Tracking Chart, Personnel Status Chart, Foundation Report, and Facilities Update.

## **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

The Student Trustee Report was provided by Maurice Jackson.

## **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

The Faculty Observer Report was provided by Dr. Julie Woodworth.

**ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

There was nothing to report.

Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration provided the business and finance update. Trustee Sloma thanked the Business Office for their efforts and the work they perform.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

**GOOD & WELFARE**

There was no Good & Welfare.

It was moved by Trustee Ross and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Bonnie Sloma  
Secretary