

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

* * * * *

**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held
on February 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
via ZOOM and live streaming**

Board Members Present via ZOOM

Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Chairperson
Mr. William Ross, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Jason Cafarella, Financial Secretary (arrived 5pm)
Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary
Ms. Katherine Alexander (arrived 5pm)
Mr. Kevin Clark
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

Board Members Excused

Ms. Sheila Smith

Administration Present via Zoom

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

Chairperson Virtuoso called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment was given by faculty member Julie Woodworth.

Trustee Clark stated the newspaper listed two Chancellor Award recipients from NCCC and congratulated them for their outstanding work at the college and throughout the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Virtuoso asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Trustee Ross and seconded by Trustee Clark that the Board approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairperson Virtuoso 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, Facilities Update, and Enrollment Update.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Virtuoso discussed a resolution that the board approved to give President Murabito authority to hire someone in an interim position in lieu of conducting a search. Trustee Clark approves to give the President authority to hire his administrative staff. Trustee Sloma agrees to give authority to President Murabito to hire. Student Trustee Jackson also agreed to give authority to hire.

The Recognition/All College meeting was held on February 4 and Chairperson Virtuoso thanked all administrators and personnel for their work.

Chairperson Virtuoso recommends that President Murabito be given authority to spend \$100 or less without the board chair signing off on these expenses. Trustee Clark agrees, along with Vice Chairperson Ross. Student Trustee Jackson agrees with giving him authority as presented.

Vice Chairperson Ross asked about the positions listed on the personnel status report chart and the status of these positions. President Murabito stated open positions first need to be approved through Executive Council, once approved, some positions need to be filled soon, but the filling of some positions can be delayed to create a savings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- President Murabito met with Niagara Falls Schools Superintendent Mark Laurrie and discussed ongoing programs, CAP programs, and EOP program with our representative on their campus one or two days a week to talk with students about EOP and other programs.
- The Recognition/All College meeting was held via ZOOM and acknowledged retirees, service awards, and new employees. A Town Hall format followed to answer previously submitted questions as well as chat room questions were provided and answered. Attendance was over 150 employees, and felt this format worked well.
- Last week, President Murabito met with consultant Joe Wolfson, to follow up with the Cessna Pilot training and continue moving forward with this project.
- This year we will have a virtual commencement on Friday evening, May 7. The week of May 3, plans are to have celebrations with end of year activities with clubs and organization awards, etc. On Saturday, May 8 students will register to be on campus to have pictures taken with celebrations and refreshments during the day. Trustees, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend, and we have reached out to students and they seem to be excited about this. The commencement committee under the leadership of Barbara DeSimone and Sara Harvey will share more information as it is available. Staging will be set up outside and people will be spread out.
- Chancellor Malatras has reached out to each campus regarding alumni to return to their college community and be part of outreach for campus growth.
- COVID update is that we are at 100% testing each week.
- President Murabito continues to meet with the SUNY community college presidents and the WNY college presidents. Many of the campuses are having the same concerns; looking forward to fall and more face to face instruction. We are increasing our density next week to 75% capacity.
- The 60th anniversary committee is in the planning stages, headed by Barbara DeSimone. Chairperson Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson Ross and Trustee Clark are on the committee. This is an opportunity to not only look back but look forward to bringing the community together.

Vice Chairperson Ross asked about the D'Youville hearing. After the meeting, there was a news release and the three presidents from ECC, Trocaire, and NCCC provided an update. The committee of the board of regents will decide.

Vice Chairperson Ross asked about the status of our athletes. Julia Pitman states we are moving forward with practices and training for the winter and spring sports. Winter sports will start completion in end of February, spring sports will start competition in mid-March. We are on track with competition. We continue to perform COVID pool testing. Live streaming will be available for the basketball teams off our website.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

The Student Trustee Report was provided.

FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT

No report was provided.

It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson that the Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Ross and seconded by Trustee Cafarella that the Board come out of Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE and FISCAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson Virtuoso asked Wayne Lynch to provide is financial update. Interim Vice President Lynch provided his update and stated there was a typographical error in his report; this will be corrected and sent to board members. The new Executive Director in Housing will be Richard Johnson, dining manager of the College Association.

It was moved by Trustee Cafarella and seconded by Trustee Ross that the board approve the discretionary spending of \$100 or less by the President that does not need approval by the board chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Lydia Ulatowski, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs discussed the fall 2021 plan delivery and finalizing the fall 2021 master schedule this week. Providing a new degree in fall for English AS transfer degree has been approved.

It was moved by Academic/Student Life Vice Chairperson Wolfgang and seconded by Trustee Ross to approve the following faculty members for Emeritus status as presented: Martin Drake, Cynthia Meyers, James Mezhir, Carol Rogers and Gail Tylec. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

GOOD & WELFARE

Tonight's meeting is being recorded, and Chairperson Virtuoso stated the March board meeting will be on March 16, 2021, starting at 4:30 p.m.

It was moved by Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Ross to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Bonnie R. Sloma

Secretary