

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: July 7, 2020 – 5:15pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 925 7816 7845
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman James Delaune
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Peter Criswell, John Parete, Mary Wawro
ABSENT: Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran, Legislator David Donaldson
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Lynn Archer
Dr. Alan Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive
Jerry Sheehan, Asst to VPs for Academic Affairs &
Enrollment Mgt SUNY Ulster / Recorder

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:23pm

Motion to Approve Minutes and Transcript of the June 2, 2020 Meeting of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete
Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Motion Passed

Motion No. 1 **Moved to Approve Minutes and Transcript of the June 2, 2020 Meeting of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee**

SUNY Ulster Update: **Dr. Alan Roberts,
President
SUNY Ulster**

Refer to annexed transcript

**2020-2021 SUNY Ulster Budget Review: Jamie Capuano,
Vice President for Administrative Services,
SUNY Ulster**

Refer to annexed transcript

Resolution for July 7, 2020 Session:

Resolution No. 244 – Approving The 2020-2021 Ulster County Community College Budget – SUNY Ulster

Resolution Summary: This resolution pertains to the approval of the 2020-2021 Ulster County Community College Budget – SUNY Ulster

Motion for Discussion By: Legislator Criswell

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

There being no discussion, Chairman Delaune called for a motion approving the 2020-2021 budget for Ulster County Community College – SUNY Ulster

Motion By: Legislator Parete

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Parete, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 2 Moved for discussion of Resolution No. 244

Motion No. 3 Moved to adopt Resolution No. 244

New/Old Business

None

Chairman Delaune asked if there was any old business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Motion approved

Motion No. 4 **Moved to Adjourn**

Adjourned: 5:46pm

Respectfully submitted: Jerry Sheehan, Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs & VP for Enrollment Management, SUNY Ulster

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Transcript**

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Chairman Delaune

I call the meeting to Order. Jerry, if you'd do attendance, please.

Jerry Sheehan

Chairman Delaune?

Chairman Delaune

Here.

Jerry Sheehan

Deputy Chair Corcoran? [Absent] Legislator Criswell?

Legislator Criswell

Here.

Jerry Sheehan

Legislator Parete?

Legislator Parete

Yes, sir, here.

Jerry Sheehan

Legislator Wawro?

Legislator Wawro

Here.

Jerry Sheehan

Legislator Donaldson? [Absent]

Chairman Delaune

All right, thank you. Tonight we have the SUNY Ulster 2019-2021... I'm sorry 2020-2021 Proposed Ulster County Budget PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Robert, so let you take it from here.

Nettie Tomshaw

Jim, could you approve the minutes of the committee?

Chairman Delaune

I'm sorry. Yes. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes and the transcript of the June 2, 2020 meeting?

Legislator Criswell

I'll make that motion.

Legislator Parete

I'll second.

Chairman Delaune

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (Delaune, Wawro, Criswell, Parete)

Chairman Delaune

Thank you, Dr. Roberts, the floor is yours.

Dr. Alan Roberts

Okay, thank you Jim. And I'm going to get a screen share here to try to get up my PowerPoint, and hopefully, I can get it to work.

Jamie Capuano

Dr. Roberts, we can see it, you just have to go into the present mode.

Dr. Alan Roberts

Okay, I thought it did that, Jamie. Got to move this down. Okay, there we go.

Well, I apologize without having Jen Zell here... its very complicated for me. What I'd like to do is not only just talk a little bit about the budget, Jamie will do most of that. But I kind of put together, hoping that we could have done this in person with the entire legislature. So, I may speed through this because it might be a little lengthy. But I want, I thought it'd be important for you to kind of know some things that have been going on.

You probably know what's happened since March, but before then we've really had a really good year. So, I don't get a chance to share that with you very often. So, if you bear with me, I'm going to run through a few things. I want to talk about the trends, some of our accomplishments and new programs, your investment in the college, which I think has been so greatly appreciated. Our foundation, which has made us one of the most affordable colleges in the country, and then talk about what happens since March 16. And then I'll turn it over to Jamie and she'll get to the fun part, the actual dollars and cents.

First of all, as you know, we're the number one community college in the state. I just love saying that, it's so much fun. And it's really, and I should just little, little history. We have 30 community colleges, and we meet twice a week, and we talk about, you know, how we're going to survive through this, and the new changes.

What I'd like to tell the legislators, one thing is, being number one means that we are financially solid, unlike some of our other institutions. They are literally, Jamie's going to talk about the recent State cut that we had, and it's going to be quite a quite a blow to some of them. I believe there's six community colleges that will not be able to make their payroll in the fall. That's pretty substantial. And it's going to be, it's going to be sad, but it's going to see, it's good to see some interesting things.

But what I'm here to say is being number one, is because we're financially solid. We also have good enrollment, a number of things that brought us to this point.

And some other trends, just it's interesting to look back 10 years. If you look over 10 years, those are the 30 community colleges, and you can see that, this is the one list that I didn't want to be at the top of. Tompkins Cortland has lost 60% of them over that period of time, which makes it hard to survive. And you can see the bottom of the list, in 10 years, we've only lost 4%.

But fast forward five years, and we've actually gained enrollment. And you can see that 30 community colleges. So, at the end of the day that takes us solid, that keeps us solid, that keeps us able to do the things we need to do.

So, it's really exciting to be able to, you know, to share that information. Patterns for Progress did a report and they were looking about the evolution of higher education in our in our county. And

they looked at more than just a community college, but they look at the Hudson Valley, and they lumped in SUNY New Paltz and Purchase.

And I don't know if you can see, I hope you can see that, let me go backwards. Is that Purchase and SUNY Ulster are the only two that had any growth over the last five years. So, another indicator, not only at the community college level, but the university level. We've actually had some growth.

We got another report last week. We are we are the only committee college in the top 10 in the country for affordability. So, that's a pretty nice slogan to say, that we are the most economical, and we're the number one in the state. So, you know, which it's just something that our county needs to be proud of. That, you know, through the support of the legislature helping us in so many ways, we were able to buck the trend and really be in a good financial position right now.

Our Food Pantry is going strong. Even through the COVID-19 situation, we're still running it with students are calling and they're coming to pick it up when they come. They have to be checked-in and traced to make sure that the temperature is correct. But we kept the pantry is still going strong.

Something that in a time of crisis, you need an SBDC. And I just want everyone to know is, it is Ulster that supports the SBDC. So, all the things that you've heard wonderful about them, you know, that's because we at SUNY Ulster here, have supported the SPD for 15 years. And is only times like this that you realize what a real asset it is to our community.

We're excited that it worked very well, the Green Academy. It started just about the time that COVID-19 hit. Moved everything to remote, graduated a number of students remotely and we're going to continue that in the fall.

New Start for Women program that was funded by NOVA Foundation and Darlene Pfeiffer. They gave us \$1.5 million but it targets a unique population. These are women who are working poor, they generally have children and want to go back to school but the possibility isn't there. We support them 100%. We provide them with internet access if they need it, laptops, mentoring. And we graduated the first group and some of them are continuing on to four year universities. And this is part, thank you.

You know, I would have loved to have the out to show you the construction that was completed. The bridge was done before we had the crisis. The Pfeiffer lab. The new windows. And probably the thing that is so exciting, and now we have hooked up to the city water. They haven't turned it on yet. But they've tested the pressure and it is there and is ready to go. And it's been relatively 16 years to get it. So, we want to thank everybody for sticking with us. And we're really, really proud of that. So, thank you to everything that you've done.

And for all your capital projects. Right now we're in the midst, and Jamie will talk about some of those when she gets into the finances, about how they really are not only helping the infrastructure,

but they're also providing a unique sustainability. Which is one of our major goals. Is keeping, you know, following the guidelines of the state, of the county, making sure that you know we are leading the charge and sustainability.

We are in the midst of a Facility Master Plan. And I'm going to ask for, if someone is interested, we will be reaching out to the community. And we have a firm that is been working. Unfortunately, they came to a screeching halt, and they'll be starting up in the fall. But part of the Facility Master Plan is our roadmap for the next five years. We'll talk about programming, we'll talk about classes, we'll talk about utilization of the buildings. But what's most important is we want the input. So, if someone's interested to sit on that, we'll reach out to Jim and see if anybody would like to be part of the focus group from the community.

Our foundation has just exploded. It's just what they've done is just truly remarkable. We're giving over \$400,000 in scholarships compared to \$200,000 five years ago. And that is one of the major reasons why our tuition may look, we're below the state average, but we still come in as the most affordable Community College because of the scholarships, that the foundation awards is just unbelievable what they've done.

In addition to that, what they've done, you know, I went to the Foundation Board and asked them if they could help in this time of crisis. And they said, yes. So, they're covering about \$200,000 in salaries that are ran out of the foundation. So it's incredible, not only to the students, but to ensure that we don't lose any steps whatsoever.

We have a unique program that I'm very proud of and it's the President's Challenge Scholarship. And the reason I bring this up is that we went down to Florida just before the crisis, and we had 100 students, you know, we brought 100 students into this program, which is incredible. But even during this crazy time, we brought in another 50. We did all the applications online, we did the interviews online. And so, now we have 150 in the program. And I just a short video just to show you how proud we are of this.

[President's Challenge Scholarship video was shown]

Dr. Alan Roberts

And that's a photo of all 100 students when they were on campus this fall. And again, we just bought another 50. And so, right now we're at 150. So, really, it brings tears to my eyes, it's really superb.

Here's our five goals for next year, you know, we brought to the Board of Trustees our strategic plan, and it is built off these five major goals. So, as we move forward through the following year. Number one is student success. Two is being innovative, which we truly are. Accessibility and equal access is critical. And allocation of resources, we want to make sure that we use every dollar that is given to us for support, is that we ensure that we're good shepherds of that. And the final

one which is truly, really important to us, is environmental sustainability. And again, that will be one focus of our master plan. So, any input that you can provide us with truly be appreciated.

Jamie, we'll get into this. We get paid four times by the state. They break our allocation down based on our enrolment. And we just received our fourth quarter, and we had a reduction of 20%, which is about \$400,000. Which we expected. It could have been worse. It could have been better. But certainly, we are going to will live with it.

If enrollment, and this is where I asked, if you could the share social media that we provide, enrollment right now, we're down 25%. It is critical that we have everyone in the community help us let people know we're alive and moving forward. So, what I ask is if you see a Facebook, if you could share it from us, if you see an Instagram if you could share it. The more influencers that we have to spread out the word. And what we're doing now, I'll show you in a second, is how we're going to bring students back on campus. But having spokesman in the community would help us so much. You know, we have a number of campaigns, a number of things that we're working on, but spreading the word is so important.

And like I had said, you know, in previous meetings, we could be down 25%, we'll struggle through it, we could come in even or we could be up. So, we're going for up. And that's what we're doing. It's all hands on deck. We're having a call-a-thon in the next two weeks, where everybody on campus is going to have a list of students and we're going to do it's like a marathon. I'm going to be calling. Everyone's going to be calling. We're going to reach those students. We're going to make sure they know their financial aid, they're going to know what classes to take, we're going to register them. So, that'll be coming in some of our media presentations coming up.

We follow the guidelines of the Governor and he gave us some general guidance. lines to build are reentry and that was repopulate. Once you know, what's the plan to bring people back? What's your plan to monitor? If something happens, how are you going to contain them? And what are you going to do if you have to shut down? So, our basic fundamental reopening plan was based on those four categories.

How we bring back students in the fall. A lot of people think, you know, we're just going to go online, we're not. We have four different methods, and each class could fall into one of these. So, we're right now we're going through each class that we're offering in the fall, and we're deciding whether it's going to be remote delivery. Now what that means is lecture labs are synchronized or asynchronous.

Synchronized means the classes being held at the same time and the teacher is in the room. The only thing is students, aren't there, they're watching it on Zoom. Asynchronous, that would happen, but it wouldn't be doing the same time. We would capture it and be able to let the students see the lecture. A second way would be a remote delivery of the lecture. Now you can see a fashion design, vet tech, their STEM programs, nursing and biology would be the lecture would be out there, but

we would bring them in, and we make sure that we have social distancing, we divided up the labs. So, we will have students on campus for these specialized programs.

Hybrid is a combination where they'll come half the time on like a Tuesday, and then the other class will come on Thursday. So, if there's 20 in a class, you have 10 at a time. And then there will be one day the whole cohort would come together, and just one class would be here the whole day one program. So we're not commingling different students at the same time.

And what people thought we were going to do is go online. Well, we have online courses, and we're going to offer them just like we've what we've always done. But there's four different methods. And I think it's important that we get the message out to students, that no, this isn't going to be, you know, you'll be home and all you're going to get is online. That's not the case. So, we have four different modes of delivery. And we're proud of it. We've been working on this for three months. And the faculty has been involved, staff has been involved. We've worked with SUNY system to make sure that we don't go totally online. Because I don't think that's the best way to learn.

I wanted to show you this. This is the end of my program.

[SUNY Ulster video shown]

President Roberts

Well, thank you for your time and I'll gladly answer any questions or if you want to wait till after Jamie does the finance part of it, we can do that. Whatever you prefer

Chairman Delaune

Why don't we do that. Jamie, if you would, please. Thank you, Doctor. That was terrific. Thank you. Jamie, you're, you're muted.

Jamie Capuano

All right. So, going back to the beginning. So, in terms of expense summary, we're down overall by \$1.1 million. This is again, going into, you know, a rough fiscal climate ahead, we need to reduce our budget consistently across the board.

In terms of salary and wages, we're down about \$700,000. This is due to attrition. We've had some people who have retired we've had some positions that are remaining vacant that we will not fail for the upcoming year. Our benefits are up slightly by about \$200,000. That is because as people retire, they still stay in our benefits. So, they roll over to retiree benefits. So, you're still capturing a benefit allocation for them. And also some actuarial adjustments in terms of our benefit adjustments as our retirees do age a little bit.

Contractual and supplies is where our largest reduction, outside of salary wages, is coming from. I'm going to go into more detail on that in a few minutes. But in large part, that is due to a re-

visioning of our contract for information technology. We currently contract for all of our information technology, and we've gone through a renegotiation of the contract with our contractual team there to reduce that cost overall.

And then 77% of our budget is salary and benefits. I know the county is in a similar situation when it comes to trying to reduce our overall costs. It gets difficult when so much of your budget is directly from related to salary and benefits.

So moving in, as Dr. Roberts said, in terms of just a quick state aid update, we've received notice of a 20% reduction on our fourth quarter payment. That's about \$310,000 reduction on that payment alone. We are anticipating further reductions into 2020-2021. Same as the county in terms of overall state reductions across the board.

In terms of revenue, we reduced our tuition. Again, this is projecting a reduction in enrollment by about \$600,000. Our state aid reduction is about \$900,000. Again, that's following the guidance that's been put out by the state and by SUNY. At this point, we have no reduction on our sponsors contribution. And again, I know as Doctor Roberts said, that's a huge, huge benefit for us. I know a lot of other counties are really struggling and Ulster County is also struggling terms of financing. But your support means the world to us as we continue through operations.

Charges to other counties. We're actually starting to see an increase in our charges to other counties. So, these are students who live in say, Dutchess or, you know, Orange, who are coming to SUNY all stuffer programming. We're receiving we're seeing an increase here, really because some of our banner programs, our police basic training program, our criminal justice program, our fashion design program, are really starting to attract others into our county.

Other revenue. Again, we've reduced that by about \$100,000. The other revenue allocations are continuing at coursework. Also, we have some revenue in there for our bookstore commissions, food service commission's, and we don't expect that to be as robust this year.

We are showing a fund balance draw of about \$400,000. We typically do not have to do a fund balance draw but given the fiscal climate ahead, we feel it's prudent this year to do a fund balance draw.

In terms of the tuition summary, this is going through the increases in tuition through our region and also looking at the statewide average. Our requested increase is \$200. On a total basis, that brings us to \$4,080. As Dr. Roberts said, we're still the lowest cost. And through the work of our foundation, we really are an economical choice for students.

SUNY Dutchess is also going up by \$200. SUNY Orange by \$192, SUNY Sullivan by \$201, and SUNY Rockland by \$196. So, the total average for our region is an increase of \$198. And then the statewide average is \$152. But again, just to be cognizant that us to propose tuition rate is still below the statewide average tuition rate of \$5,024.

Again, as the county knows, there's a lot of fiscal uncertainty ahead. We don't know exactly what the state will do. We are projecting state aid reductions across the board. We're hopeful again that the federal government will come in or the relief package for the states which will then trickle down to a relief package, hopefully, for the localities. We're still tracking that on a daily basis and trying to stay as updated as we can with our SUNY contract and SUNY finance arm to make sure that we're ahead of the curve in terms of where we might land.

We had to really rethink our budget this year. So, one thing that we're very proud of with working with the county, we're able to really rethink how we do purchasing. We had two vacancies in our purchasing department. And we were able to work with the county to enter into a shared service agreement regarding purchasing. So, we're still working through some of the details in terms of the actual MOA and the agreement, in terms of the service delivery, but this will really save the college, a lot of money, and we'll rely on the county to provide the support in purchasing. The county has a very robust centralized purchasing department, led by Ed Jordan. And his team have been really excellent in terms of helping us through this transition and when we had our vacancies. So, we're going to be working with the county on a shared service approach here, to work through as we, you know, revision how we do centralized purchasing.

We are also re-visioning our Office for Information Technology. This is going to be in concert with a relationship with SUNY SICAS and SUNY ITECH, they're kind of the tech arms of SUNY. And they provide a lot of the Banner, which is our operating system, support, and a lot of the information exchange support that all campuses are really relying on.

So, we're going to be transitioning over to those services, away from our contractual relationship with a company called Ellucian. We've been in contract with Ellucian for many years. The contract was up for renewal this year. And it was really time to rethink how we do IT at SUNY Ulster. And also start to look to the market to see what is the market rates out there, what can we do and how can we do it better? So, we've been in contact with SUNY and working through potential other shared service opportunities, even potentially with some other SUNY schools, including maybe SUNY New Paltz, or others that are out there, that are also doing tech.

Yeah, and as Dr. Roberts said, in terms of capital projects, our waterline is at this point complete, we're just waiting for final hookup into aqueduct. This is going to reduce our reliance on our wells and is also going to reduce our water dependency for the for the region. So, all of our neighbors when we have a water problem, everybody in the area has a water problem. So, now that we're going to be switching over to municipal water, this is going to really alleviate that concern. We're also going to be able to now install refillable water stations. The quality of our water was not suitable for fillable water stations, we would have to go through many filters within a week period based on the amount of sediment in our water. So, this will assist us to be able to do that and to really improve our water quality on campus.

So, any questions on this or Dr. Robert's?

Legislator Archer

Hi, this is Lynn Archer.

Jamie Capuano

Hi, Lynn. How are you?

Legislator Archer

I'm good. How are you? Sorry.

Jamie Capuano

Good thank you.

Legislator Archer

Just a couple of questions on the movement to IT function at the state level. Are you going to experience any kind of adverse impact or is the quality of IT is going to increase, compared to your contractual?

Jamie Capuano

So, what we're doing is we're teaming up with SUNY SICAS, and ITECH right now. So, we're calling this a bridge year. So, we're going to have Ellucian staff still on site for a portion of this upcoming year as a full staff and then we're going to slowly scale it down. That's going to provide that data transfer and provide some of that institutional knowledge to the SUNY SICAS and ITECH teams. They've already been actively engaged with our team on site. So, this should increase our service delivery. We are envisioning potential, kind of bumps, I think you always have to expect some bumps when you do a shift like this. And we're going to work through those with our current team. We will be entering into a contract for a full year with Ellucian. So, we will still have them on site to provide some of the support that we're going to need through this transition year.

Legislator Archer

You're not going to realize any savings this year.

Jamie Capuano

Yeah.

Legislator Archer

You'll have additional expenses. But in the long term, what's your long term savings projection on this?

Jamie Capuano

So, we actually will be receiving current year savings. So, we renegotiated our contract with a 24% reduction on the budget. And then I've gone back and further reduced our contract with them for additional savings. And that was really the remote off-site service that they were providing us, that through the SUNY SICAS and ITECH Center, we're not going to need that. So, we'll be in a contract with SUNY. SUNY is also providing us free services for a short period of time through the transition. So, we will realize those savings in real time this year. When we're fully annualized, we expect savings of about, you know, I'm projecting about \$500,000 in overall savings by the end of this. And that's also including all of our servers. They will be hosted by ITECH. So, we won't have to go through a server conversion or a server overhaul, which we're due for at this point. We also had ideas of doing generators to power our servers, in case our servers ever went down, we won't have to incur that expense either.

Legislator Archer

So, you see this as a real value add verses just money saving.

Jamie Capuano

Right. No. It will be real value add in terms of we won't have to hopefully maintain that infrastructure going forward.

Legislator Archer

Great. Thank you.

Jamie Capuano

Absolutely.

Chairman Delaune

Are there any other questions? Yes, Peter.

Legislator Criswell

Yeah. I just had a quick question for Dr. Roberts about sort of the backdrop that we're in with the racial justice issues and how SUNY ULSTER is interacting with the Black Lives Matter movement and racial justice issues on campus.

President Roberts

We established an online program where, actually, I think it's going to be this Tuesday, will be our second series. And we're bringing in, well, more than just this. We got three major issues. I'm leading the state on an advocacy plan, as representative the President's, the online chat, we brought in experts who are in this field, who can help facilitate the conversation. Because what we want to do is be able to give everyone a voice. The first one was very robust, and we learned a lot. And, you know, we then took actions to try to accommodate some of the situations we weren't even aware of, you know, there were there was things that people kind of held inside, you know, that were bothering them. But when they had this opportunity to speak openly in a safe environment, it was quite eye opening. But we're going to continue this series, we have a chief diversity officer

who is leading us in that area. It's critical, it's something that we were brought to our attention quickly that we needed to be part of this. So, yes, we are.

Legislator Criswell

Great. Thank you so much for your leadership in that.

Chairman Delaune

And Dr. Roberts, if you would, yesterday you would mention to me that New York State has cut back on the Pell program. Just go into that?

President Roberts

Sure. One of... it's interesting is the Pell program and the TAP program, TAP is Tuition Assistance through New York State. And the state is... 70% of our students get 100% paid for tuition because they qualify because of economic challenges and the like in their life. So, we have very robust Pell and TAP. What the state has told us is, we are going to be obligated to give that 100% to that student. So, what happens is the state tells us is this student is qualifies for 100% TAP. So, we give them that money to pay the tuition. The state says that's great, but we're only going to give you 80% of that 100% percent. So, what that just did is give every student a 20% discount on their tuition. So, even if you looked at a raise, they actually got much lower because we're going to be absorbing that additional cost, because the state will not be reimbursing us for the TAP. So, it's another one of those things that we're going to have to deal with.

Chairman Delaune

Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Legislator Criswell

I just had a quick question about international students. I've been reading about the immigration issues with international students, and I wonder how you're addressing that.

President Roberts

We have no international students

Legislator Criswell

Okay. Thank you.

President Roberts

I wish we could get, you know, it'd be great. But without dorms, it's virtually impossible.

Chairman Delaune

So, if there's not any other questions...

Legislator Parete

Jim, could I?

Chairman Delaune

Please John.

Legislator Parete

John Parete. Just a couple of comments. I don't really have any questions. Dr. Roberts, I know your graduation tour went over very well, kudos for that.

President Roberts

That was fun.

Legislator Parete

I hope you have a little pins in the new areas of the county that you may have visited. It must feel a little bit like the Adirondacks again. But it went over very well from the folks that I chat with and see here and there. The comment on the school, you know, not just to hear myself talk, but I consider SUNY Ulster the most valuable asset that Ulster County has, with the exception of the people who work for the county, and work for the community. It's the economic engine of our community. It's the obviously the educational engine of our community. And I think if there's anything that's paramount is Ulster County's investment in the community college. And I say that, I have to thank you and your staff and, and wherever, because you're in such a challenged they are because of the people under the southern part of the county could easily go to a different school, or in the western part, or the eastern part, or in the northern part. And it's such an important part of the future of Ulster County. I have to say that going down the road, the investment by the county, by the taxpayers of the county, is paramount to the success of our community. And I thank you all in your staff for what you guys are doing.

President Roberts

Thank you, John, that's very kind of you. The support that the county has given us is overwhelming. You know, I talk quite often with my colleagues at the other 30 Community College, and nobody supports them anywhere near as our county does. So, you don't know how much I appreciate that. And the staff does too. You know, we understand what you do for us. Thank you.

Chairman Delaune

Thank you for that, John. I think we all feel very much the same. I just want to mention that yesterday Manna Jo Greene and I had a very good meeting with Dr. Roberts about more of a collaboration between the legislature and the college on issues revolving around sustainability. And so, we're going to continue those conversations and see what we can put together to keep moving that effort forward. As well as perhaps looking at some opportunities for training for folks that are interested in the environmental field. So, again, thank you for listening and for your willingness to partner on this. So, with that, I will move on to Resolution Number 244: Approving the 2020-2021 Ulster County Community College, SUNY Ulster resolution. Do I...

Legislator Criswell

I'll move that for discussion.

Chairman Delaune

Great. Thank you, Peter. Legislator Wawro. You're on mute. I cannot help you.

Legislator Wawro

Second.

Chairman Delaune

Oh, there you go. Call for a vote.

Legislator Parete

Well, okay, then. Yes. I mean, the motion was for discussion. If there's no discussion, I'll move for a vote. But the move was for discussion.

Chairman Delaune

Yes. Thank you, John. Second?

Legislator Criswell

Second.

Chairman Delaune

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (Delaune, Criswell, Parete, Wawro)

Chairman Delaune

All right. Motion approved. Any new business? None. Any old business? Well, again, thank you, Dr. Roberts. Jamie, very good presentation. And we look forward to continuing our partnership with you. So can I get a motion to adjourn?

Legislator Parete

So moved.

Legislator Wawro

Second.

Chairman Delaune

Seconded by Mary Wawro. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. (All members)

Chairman Delaune
All right. Thank you.

[END 6:05pm]