

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

DATE & TIME: September 1, 2020 – 5:15pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 934 8466 9637
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman James Delaune
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Peter Criswell, John Parete, Mary Wawro
ABSENT: Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dr. Alan Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive
Susan Koppenhaver, Director Office For The Aging
Mark Cozzupoli, Director of Veterans' Services
Jerry Sheehan, Asst to VPs for Academic Affairs &
Enrollment Mgt SUNY Ulster / Recorder

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

Motion to Approve Minutes and Transcript of the August 4, 2020 Meeting of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

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 August 4, 2020 Meeting of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee**

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

Refer to annexed transcript

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 3 **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 313**

New Business

None

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

Adjournment

Motion By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

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: 5:44pm

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 [5:25pm / awaiting arrival of Legislator Wawro]

Dr. Roberts why don't we make some use of this time and why don't you give us an update.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

Absolutely. Interesting update. We're down 16% and headcount, which we knew we we'd be down, but we didn't think we'd be that much. But we have a couple initiatives that we're hoping... we're going to do a late start in September. So, hopefully we can capture some of those students who have held off and realize they should have really done come back to class. Then we have an Express in October, and then we'll have WinterNet. So, virtually almost every month, we'll have new programs starting to try to... the students are out there, they've just opted out, you know, for a number of reasons. Now, one, the reoccurring one that I hear often is that a lot of the high school seniors had such a disappointing online experience that they really didn't want to jump into another one. And unfortunately, we're, I want to say we're pretty much experts, we've been doing online, you know, education for a number of years. But with them not aware of that, you know, that we didn't get the opportunity. Although, I personally spoke to three or four and said, you know, give it one class, just try one to see how it's going to be. So, I convinced a few to give that, that that a chance. So, with the new starts, we're hoping that we that will pick up some additional enrollment. Interesting as that we're getting more and more part time students, which the trend has been heading that way for a number of years. But a lot of students want to go on and take you know, two or three courses. So, you know that that cuts down on FTE. So, you know, we're going to wait and see and as far as enrollment, it is, we're going to keep the eye on the ball. So, that's, that's the most important thing that we have, you know, moving into the fall.

Jamie has, Jamie did a great job with her team on the re-entry, the protocols the system. And I'll let Jamie jump in and give us give you an update on the many steps, the hours and hours it took to develop the system. Jamie?

Jamie Capuano:

Yeah. So, thanks, Dr. Al. So, in terms of our COVID check-ins, we have mandatory check-ins every day for all students, staff and faculty coming on site. So, we're doing temperature checks. We're...everyone's wearing a wristband when they come on site to say that they went through the safety checkpoints. We were also offered COVID testing last week that was in partnership with HealthAlliance and Westchester Medical. And we're working also with SUNY Upstate on what's called pool testing. You've probably read this in the newspaper a little bit. We're trying to get that off the ground to do that as our surveillance program going throughout this semester. So, as Dr. Al said, first week was off to a great start. Students are getting more engaged, more back to the norm, if you will. So, we're are kind of monitoring as they get back into classes, but everybody was happy, everybody was compliant. You know, everybody was really engaged. And happy to see that we took the extra step to really make sure that they were safe on campus. And that's a testament to everything that we've done working with Marc too, you and your team at the Exec Office to make sure we got everything off the ground that we needed to. [Dr. Al shows off his wrist band] Yep, Dr. Al's has got his wrist band.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

Got my writst band. Got checked in. The system they developed is, I call it, the TSA Line, is you come through, you lean your head in and it tells you your temperature. You move to the next station. You swipe your ID. And that ID came in handy the other day because we had a question on a student who we thought may have not been able to come to campus. So, we checked and we found out that she was here, found out she came in two minutes after me. So, we were able to trace her, contact her, and you know, let her know that she is restricted from campus. She was tested and it came out negative. So, it all turned out well but it just shows that the system can actually work in following and tracing, and finding out things in a very quick, a quick manner, which I was very pleased to see that. So, the system is think is going to work. And if you watch the news, you can see that universities and colleges throughout the country have just been a disaster. And I can tell you our Governor is taking it very serious. You know, we had a couple of our colleagues that have dorms and they had some outbreaks. And he developed a SWAT team. And they just went after them, found them, isolated and tested them. And you know, just they're moving quickly. They're not going to let it happen in SUNY systems. So, I'm very happy that you know, they've taken that approach, But I'm feeling so confident. I don't believe we're going to have an issue whatsoever.

Chairman Delaune:

That's good to hear. And your projection for your budget for this year...how's that looking?

Jamie Capuano:

Yeah, so we're looking good, right now. We're doing our final year-end closeout projections right now as we come up to the our year-end ended yesterday. This is the start of our new fiscal year. So, we're going through a closeout right now. Going into next year, we're still projecting a 20% reduction in State aid. We've taken that into consideration, obviously, when we did our budget numbers. So, we still think that we're going to come in pretty on point for budget wise, we're still obviously going to be tracking it. The enrollment is where it's concerning. now. Obviously, the enrollment equals revenue for us. If we're down that much on enrollment, that's going to impact our bottom line budget numbers. We did see about 30% to 40% reduction in utilities due to the closure period. So, that was obviously a big savings to us coming into year-end closeout. And we hope as we continue to monitor going forward, that we'll have continued reductions in all expenses overall, which will help us mitigate some of the enrollment reductions.

But again, we're still going after CARES funding, to find other sources of funding that we're actively engaged in to make sure that we can stay whole for the upcoming year.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

One thing that we're going do too is, Jamie and I just spoke the other day, is we're going to come up with a number of scenarios as that budget comes in, You know, if there's a shortfall, we're going to have pre-planned and we're going to work with the unions, the staff and other leadership to see where we can make the strategic adjustments if we need be. So, I certainly don't want anyone to be surprised. But you know, when you're going in with 16% down, you have to hold your breath. You know, Jamie did a great job last year, we got some, surprisingly, we got some fund balance, which we would have never guessed that would have happened. And that was just truly amazing. So, and the CARES Act. So, we have backup, but we still want to be prepared in case, you know, because when the Spring enrollment comes, that's going to be what I'm going to be mostly concerned about. We can weather this, in the fall, but if it comes in at the same level that it came in, if we don't, you know, if things don't change... If we get a vaccine, I think things will be a lot different, but you know, we have to be prepared for that too. So, we'll be ready for it.

Chairman Delaune:

Are there any questions? No? All right. Well, thank you both. It's appreciated it. Always good to see you.

Jamie Capuano:

Thank you.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

It's the high point of my week because I could see you guys.

Jamie Capuano:

All right. Thank you.

Chairman Delaune:

Okay. So, I will, with that, call the meeting to order [5:38pm]. Jerry, would you please take attendance?

Jerry Sheehan:

Chairman Delaune?

Chairman Delaune:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:

Deputy Chair Corcoran? [Absent] Legislator Criswell?

Legislator Criswell:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:

Legislator Parete?

Legislator Parete:

Here

Jerry Sheehan:

Legislator Wawro?

Legislator Wawro:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:

Legislator Donaldson? [Absent]

Chairman Delaune:

All right. Thank you.

Jerry Sheehan:

You're welcome.

Chairman Delaune:

Do I have a motion to approve the minutes and transcript of the August 4th meeting?

Legislator Criswell:

I'll make that motion.

Legislator Wawro:

I'll second.

Chairman Delaune:

All right. All in favor.

Committee Members:

Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Delaune:

We will move into resolutions. Resolution No. 301: Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget to Include Additional Funding From The New York State Office For The Aging - Office For The Aging. Susan, would you like to please give us an update on this?

Susan Koppenhaver:

Sure. We sort of did the last six months of the meals that you probably have been hearing about that we were sort of deluged in March and April with folks who didn't want to go out, couldn't cook, and didn't know how they were going to eat. And delivered probably thousands of meals to them without reimbursement. And because of the money we got from the New York State Office for Aging, we were able to cover the cost of that, but we had to make an adjustment to the budget to accommodate the extra cost of the meals because that was above and beyond what we had budgeted for, which I think was 8...75...\$75,000 for the year, for Gateway, each year. That's what the contract says. But for this year anyway, we had to raise it because of all the extra meals that we delivered.

Chairman Delaune:

All right. Any questions?

Susan Koppenhaver:

Questions for me? Yes?

Legislator Criswell:

Just a quick question. So, is this a payment for something that's already happened? Or is this a combination of something that's happened and something moving forward?

Susan Koppenhaver:

Mostly for what has already happened. We started delivering these meals mid-March. And they, they sort of increased for a couple of months and then they leveled off and stayed there. And in the beginning of August, we started telling folks that we were delivering the meals to the... August would be the last month. Because the stores are open. The grocery stores for again delivering.

Don't forget in the beginning of the pandemic, a lot of these folks are getting their groceries done through one of those ordering... ways you can order from the grocery store and either have them delivered or pick them up. And that stopped kind of abruptly. And that's one of the reasons we got a lot of phone calls. So, all of that is back in place. The restaurants are open. Takeout is open. So, we felt pretty, pretty safe in telling folks that we could no longer do this. And we only actually have two or three people who really made a fuss about it and said I can't, you know, in March I was fine I'm not fine now. I can't leave my house. If you don't give me my meals I'll starve. So, I made a couple of exceptions for that even though we still have a waitlist of people who have been waiting. So, it's partially to pay for what happened, and also for August. So, we sort of projected what we would need for August too. And we haven't gotten those bills yet. So, it's for the next six months. Hi, Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider:

Hey, if I could jump in.

Chairman Delaune:

Please.

Deputy Executive Rider:

Okay. So, Legislator Criswell, the one thing is, this is a contract through Gateway that we typically have every year. So, that piece, and like Sue said, we have a typical waitlist. We serve hundreds of seniors with home delivered meals. Because of COVID, we had to, there was seniors that would normally not get these meals. So, we started to burn through the money that was allocated for the entire year at a much quicker rate. And then this \$175,000 from the State is helping, basically, get us through the end of the year, but essentially it was for that extra need that was caused by COVID. So, it is to kind of reimburse us for what we've already spent prior. But it's not like we've spent a contract that we're coming to you now to approve. It's just that this funding will help us get through the rest of the contract.

Susan Koppenhaver:

And also, during the time that we were delivering the meals, and I may have talked about this before, I'm sorry, if I am repeating myself. The whole time that we were doing these extra meals, we were still doing the regular clients. So, all of that is part of the regular budget, and then this whole COVID thing was with a giant *[audio cuts out]* extra bloom, if that makes sense.

Chairman Delaune:

Yeah, it does. Thank you. Any questions? Do I have a motion, Resolution 301?

Legislator Wawro:

I'll move it.

Chairman Delaune:

All right. Second?

Legislator Parete:
Second. Second. Sure.

Chairman Delaune:
Thank you, John.

Chairman Delaune:
All right. All in favor?

Committee Members:
Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Delaune:
Any opposed? There being none, that passes. Thank you, both, very much.

Susan Koppenhaver:
You're welcome very much. Thank you. Are we done?

Chairman Delaune:
All right. Resolution 313? [to Koppenhaver] Yes, we are.

Susan Koppenhaver:
Oh, thank you.

Chairman Delaune:
Thank you, Susan.

Chairman Delaune:
Resolution 313: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The New Paltz Rural Cemetery Association – Veterans Services. Can I get a motion for discussion?

Legislator Wawro:
I'll move it.

Legislator Parete:
Move it.

Legislator Wawro:

Second.

Chairman Delaune:

Okay. Very good. We do have someone here, I believe from Veteran Services, no?

Mark Cozzupoli:

Yeah, I'm Mark Cozzupoli. I'm the Director of Veteran Services.

Chairman Delaune:

Can you just... *[audio cuts out]* Hello, Mark, thanks for being here.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Oh, you're welcome.

Chairman Delaune:

So, can you tell us a little about this contract?

Mark Cozzupoli:

Yeah, this this contract is an extension of the contract that's been in place for years between the county and New Paltz Rural Cemetery. We're looking to put it out to January of 2025. I'm sorry, June of 2025. Instead of amending the contract every year, we're looking to just do a five-year contract. This is to bury veterans and spouses in the county a veteran section of the cemetery.

Chairman Delaune:

Terrific. Thank you. Any questions? Yes, Peter.

Legislator Criswell:

I just had a comment. I didn't know much about the cemetery.

Legislator Parete:

Move it.

Legislator Criswell:

I spent an afternoon and I walked around the cemetery and it was extremely moving. I watched people drive up and pay their respects to loved ones. And I walked through and just examined the different areas of service and the different wars that people had been in. And it was a really moving experience. So, I just wanted to say thank you for that, because it was something that I didn't know about, and it touched me. So, thank you.

Mark Cozzupoli:

You're very welcome. And something my predecessor had taken a lot of pride in was making sure that that veteran section, you know, had the dignity and respect that it deserved. And so, we're making sure to keep that going. Even though we're looking to do the expansion. You know, right

in the next way, we're going to keep a focus on that current area and make sure that it stays dignified and respectful.

Chairman Delaune:

Thank you for the work you're doing. So, I believe we have a motion and a second. All in favor?

Committee Members:

Aye. (4-0)

Chairman Delaune:

Any opposed? [None] There being none, this passes. Thank you. Thank you, Mark for being here.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Thank you very much.

Chairman Delaune:

Any new business? Any new business? [None]. Any old business? [None]. Well, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Parete:

Hey, may I?

Chairman Delaune:

Yes, absolutely.

Legislator Parete:

Just, this is just a question. [*audio cuts out*] Something about it or spoken about it. And I don't think you'll ever be.... [*audio cuts out*]...I heard the roll call of names. I see the Chairman's on the committee, means you have a quorum of four, not three. Now, this is not a problem, especially for your committee. If he was just if... [*silence/audio cuts out*]

Chairman Delaune:

Oh, John, I'm afraid you're breaking up.

Legislator Parete:

And that's the story of my life....I don't know what else to say other than... did you get the drift of what I was saying, Jim?

Nettie Tomshaw:

Yes, that he doesn't count.

Legislator Parete:

All right, I just...

Chairman Delaune:

I believe so, that...

Legislator Parete:

I'll give you guys.... [*audio cuts out*] The quorum for your committee, since Dave is a member of your committee, is four...

Chairman Delaune:

Right.

Nettie Tomshaw:

No, he's not...

Legislator Parete:

... not three.

Nettie Tomshaw:

No, there's five on the committee.

Legislator Parete:

Now...

Nettie Tomshaw:

If Dave were here, then we would need that extra person.

Legislator Parete:

No. Well, that's interesting because his name was called, in a roll call, as a member, that's all. This is not this is not a big deal. It's not a big issue. But when his name was called, that sounds like he is a member of the committee, and I think he is. If he's not that's okay, too. I'm only just addressing it with the Chairman, just in case there was ever something really... that he makes sure we have the votes that you need. Do you understand Jim? Or Mr. Chairman? Nettie?

Chairman Delaune:

Absolutely.

Legislator Parete:

It's not a problem. Not a problem.

Chairman Delaune:

And Nettie, why don't we look into this for the next meeting and get back to John.

Nettie Tomshaw:

Yeah, we put the Chairman on every committee. His name is listed but he's only there when needed, I guess, or he counts if he comes.

Deputy Executive Rider:

Maybe that's just a note for not calling him for...

Legislator Parete:

I just want to make sure that when something... [silence/audio cuts out]

Chairman Delaune:

It's understood and appreciated, John.

Chairman Delaune:

Let's look into it because his name is called. The assumption is that he's on the committee. And John is right, under those, you know, under that scenario, but so, Nettie, during the course of the week, let's talk.

Nettie Tomshaw:

Thank you, John.

Legislator Parete:

So, having kept you guys longer than you want to... move to a adjourn.

Legislator Wawro:

Second.

Chairman Delaune:

Great. Well, thank you all. See you next month.

Jerry Sheehan:

Thank you.

Legislator Wawro:

Good night.

Jay Mahler:

Good night.

Deputy Executive Rider:

Good night.

Nettie Tomshaw:

Good night.

Legislator Parete:

Bye-bye. Adios.

[END 5:44pm]