

**Ways & Means Committee
&
Legislative Programs, Education, & Community Services
Committee
Special Joint Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 12, 2017 – 6:40
LOCATION: Vanderlyn Hall, Room 208, SUNY Ulster
491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY 12484
PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Gerentine, Chairman of Ways & Means
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas J. Briggs, Chris Allen, Tracey Bartels, Carl Belfiglio, Mary Beth Maio, James F. Maloney, Mary Waro, David B. Donaldson, Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Legislative Chairman Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.
ABSENT: James H. Delaune, Craig V. Lopez
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Herbert Litts, III; Legislator Manna Jo Greene; Nicholas Pascale, Legislative Counsel; Kyle Barnett, Legislative Counsel; Ken Crannel, Deputy County Executive; Michael Freer, Undersheriff; Marie Bing, County Attorney’s Office; Jennifer Clark, County Attorney’s Office

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM**

Motion No. 1: To Postpone Resolution 256 - Approving Ulster County Community College Budget For The Year 2017-2018

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the Ulster County Community College Budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 for a County contribution of \$6,400,863.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion:

Legislator Bartels expressed concern over the increase in tuition. Legislator Bartels stated that the general belief is that students are choosing Dutchess Community College over SUNY Ulster because of proximity; however, there are individuals who will make this decision based on the cost differential. Legislator Bartels stated that she is prepared to have a discussion about raising the County’s contribution if faced with another tuition increase in the subsequent year.

Legislator Donaldson agreed with Legislator Bartels regarding concerns over the increase in tuition. Legislator Donaldson said that there is a volunteer survey when students enroll to include their reason

for choosing the institution, stating that cost is not one of the top reasons selected but rather location and programs offered are the top reasons. Legislator Donaldson agreed that the County's contribution may need to be increased if another tuition increase is proposed in the subsequent year.

Legislator Berky stated that Dr. Roberts, the President of the College, said it would cost \$250,000 to compensate for the tuition increase. Legislator Berky stated that in her conversation with Dr. Roberts it was disclosed that roughly 95% of students would not personally pay for the tuition increase and that Student Aid would cover the cost for these students.

Legislator Gerentine confirmed similar conversations with Dr. Roberts and expressed value in the new campus location to combat the issue of student decisions based on proximity. Legislator Gerentine also expressed value in the programs to be offered at the new facility.

Legislator Briggs advocated for students working hard to pay for their own tuition over providing free tuition for inmates. Legislator Briggs mentioned the expense of books, asking the Legislative Programs, Education, and Community Service Committee to consider these expenses and to look for ways to assist students in this respect.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Wawro, Donaldson, Berky
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	10
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Chairman Gerentine asked if there was any other business or questions. There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjournment

Motion Made By:	Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Allen
No. of Votes in Favor:	10
No. of Votes Against:	0

Time: 7:13 pm

Respectfully submitted:	Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved by LP:	July 10, 2017
Minutes Approved by W&M:	July 11, 2017