

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

DATE & TIME: April 6, 2021 – 5:15pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 936 1472 8679
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair James Delaune
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, John Parete, Mary Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dr. Roberts President SUNY Ulster
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

Motion No 1: Motion to Approve Minutes and Transcript of the March 2, 2021 Meeting
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Deluane, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 1 Moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 2, 2021

SUNY Ulster Update : **President Alan Roberts SUNY Ulster**
Refer to annexed transcript

SUNY Ulster Administrative Update: **Jamie Capuano,**
Vice President for Administrative Services,
SUNY Ulster
Refer to annexed transcript

Resolutions for April 20, 2021 Session:

Resolution No. 168 – Approving And Executing A Two-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Community College Organization Of Professional And Administrative Personnel (OPAP) – Ulster County Community College

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a two-year collective bargaining agreement between the County of Ulster and the UCCC Organization of Professional and Administrative Personnel (OPAP).

Motion By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 2 **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 168**

Resolution No. 162 – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For The Veteran Peer To Peer Support Pilot Program – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2021 Ulster County budget to accept funds from the NYS Office of Mental Health for the Veteran Peer to Peer Support pilot program. \$185K

Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro
Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 2

Moved to adopt Resolution No. 162

New Business /Old Business

Non-County Funding Contracts - See Transcript

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

Adjournment

Motion By: Legislator Criswell

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Petit, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Motion approved

Motion No. 10 **Moved to Adjourn**

[Adjourned / 5:39 pm]

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw Ulster County Legislative Employee

Ulster County Legislature
**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services
Committee**

Meeting Transcript
April 6, 2021

Chairman Delaune

Time to begin the meeting. Who's that.

Nettie Tomshaw

Marc Rider.

Chairman Delaune

Great.

Legislator Corcoran

Don't let him in. Too late.

Deputy Executive Rider

I'm here.

Legislator Corcoran

Sorry, I didn't know you heard that.

Legislator Delaune

That was intentional. Alright, I'm going to call the meeting to order. Jamie, would you please do the attendance for us?

Nettie Tomshaw

I'm here, Jim. I'll do it.

Chairman Delaune

Alright, great.

Nettie Tomshaw

Okay, Chair Delaune.

Chairman Delaune

Here.

Nettie Tomshaw
Deputy Chair Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran
Here.

Nettie Tomshaw
Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell
Here.

Nettie Tomshaw
Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete
Here.

Nettie Tomshaw
And Legislator Wawro.

Legislator Wawro
Here.

Nettie Tomshaw
Okay everybody's here.

Chairman Delaune
Great. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes and transcripts of the March 2, 2021? meeting?

Legislator Corcoran
Motion.

Legislator Criswell
I'll second it.

Chairman Delaune
Great. All in favor?

Committee Members
Aye.

Legislator Delaune

Any opposed? None. All right. Thank you, Dr. Al it's all, it's all about you now.

Dr. Roberts

Thanks, I appreciate it. Well, the update, first of all, is for these where we currently are in the spring semester. It's about down 13%, which is about where we thought we were going to be, so there's no surprises there. Things are moving okay. The thing that I'm pleased about is our summer enrollment seems to be about par with last year. The last year for some could be a lot of reasons we were up quite a quite a bit. So that's that's a good sign moving into the summer having a solid piece of normal for us. For these, we pretty much finalized our fall schedules. So for the fall schedule, we're going to go about 50% face to face, about 30% will be that's the distance learning that we put together this year will be 20%. Roughly, those are the numbers. And we think they'll work. We feel very comfortable and having students on campus in the fall. The trend seems to be moving, keeps moving the way we believe it was, so we feel good about it. We're prepared for to pivot on a dime if we have to go back to any way we can do that we've done it before. We have now distance our classes. Thanks to the CARES dollars, we're able to get some new technology in our classrooms, which is really going to elevate even in the future. And they'll be saying things will never be back the way they were for the (inaudible) education, I think is going to be better. Because now we have 100% of our faculty have a grasp of understanding what this new technology is. And it works so well for some students, but you know, coming back to face to face, they're going to have that option to choose what they want. So we're feeling pretty good about that. We've settled the OFAC contract. And well one thing before that is I don't think we've ever been in a position at this time of the year we've actually have a balanced budget. You know, usually this time of year, we're quite a bit off and we have to really put the surgical knife to it. But it came in Jamie had a really good plan. We had budget meetings. And we were able to use some of the CARES Act money to subsidize actual losses. So it kind of like (inaudible) the budget where he was concerned about. One thing we're going to be able to do is we had this outstanding debt that costs about \$100,000 a year is going out for 10 years. That was a project that the school got involved with a number of years ago, but left the debt of millions and we paid that off. So right off the bat, you're already \$100,000 a year savings from that. And Jamie has done a real good job and whittled down a new we call it OIT which is more or less a technology with the campus, done an credible job, you know, that was a couple of million dollars contract that it was so convoluted that it took a number of us to dig in and kind of look where that money was going because they just was a lump contract and they were taking care of our services. But since day one I've been here, I said we need to find out what we're paying for is as good or as bad and they just got it down to less than a million dollars in two months. So again, huge savings. I think it's going to get us in a position that next year will be fine. Regardless of what the moment might be. We need to be leaner we need to be, like I told everyone in the beginning of this, this pandemic is a horrible thing we need to take advantage of the positive part of that is to look at everything you do, and decide where we need to make the cuts and what we have to change. So it was easy for me to say, but Jamie had to do it. We've done I believe, a pretty good job. I'll let Jamie jump onto the budget and some of the finances discussing in detail the OFAC contract. If you have any questions, Jamie I'll shoot it over to you.

Jamie Capuano

Absolutely. Thanks, Dr. Al. Yeah so as Dr. Al said, you know, we're really in great shape. Going into budget at this point, we're still obviously all eyes on the state budgets, see what happens there. The

CARES funding did come through, and we're using that, at this point, as Dr. Al said, to do some classroom upgrades, we know students will likely still have some level of remote delivery through hybrid models going into the fall. So we still want our classrooms to be equipped for that, where we have a teacher in the classroom, and then the students, some may still have to be remote due to social distancing. Some who have health issues, and some who just need to be need to be off site. So we're working through that and making sure that our classes are equipped and ready to go for fall. And it's been a really great added bonus for us. Again, looking at CARES funding, we want to use CARES funding for one-time costs, rather than those recurring expenses, just due to the nature of CARES. But we're excited going into budget to see the enrollment starting to come back. We're excited, as Dr. Al said about summer and hopefully that path continues for fall. Those are my updates there. Thank you, any questions on budget, we will be coming to the board with our full budget. Once we go through our board, the timeline will likely be May for the Community College Board, and then we'll be coming in June to the County.

Chairman Delaune

Very good. Thank you, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano

Thank you.

Chairman Delaune

Does anyone have any questions? Now? Well, before we get to the resolutions, I do want to bring up a point that Legislator Cahill was a bit concerned about having to do with Resolution 168. And, Marc, are you there?

Deputy Executive Rider

I am. Do you want me to - just do you want to just take this resolution out of order? Jim and

Chairman Delaune

Yes, why don't we do that? And why don't we just bring up the point that Brian was concerned about and why he would be a no on this?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah, I mean, do you want to move it for discussion?

Chairman Delaune

Right. So can I have someone move this forward?

Legislator Parete

Yeah, I'll move it Mr. Chairman, I'll move it.

Legislator Criswell

I'll second it.

Chairman Delaune

Great. All in favor? Great. Mark. floors yours.

Deputy Executive Rider

Yeah. So at the chair meeting Jamie and Dr. Al, one of the concerns that was raised by Legislator Cahill was this is one bargaining unit out of several that the legislature has to vote on. And, you know, out of the others that are under the county, kind of hospices, the other five are unresolved. And so this is kind of setting, I guess, sort of a precedent moving forward. Now I know John Milgrim, Jamie, and you have gone back and forth. I don't know if you want to just, I mean, I can talk on the county side, we are starting to work with the bargaining units on negotiations. And moving forward, we do want to have all of the agreements in place so that we're not out of contract with any of the bargaining units in the very near future. Some of the reasons that we haven't done so have, frankly, been at the request of the bargaining units. Because, right, as negotiations started up a little over a year ago, COVID hit and they understood that the county was going to be strapped for cash and that we weren't able to potentially negotiate the way that they wanted to negotiate. But one of the things that Legislator Cahill brought up was that it does seem like these steps for the full-time steps are, you know, fairly significant. So I know you and John have been discussing that.

Jamie Capuano

Yes. So in terms of longevity, you mean, Marc?

Deputy Executive Rider

Yes, I believe so.

Jamie Capuano

Yeah, so this contract has a 0% COLA. It just provides the standard longevity, and the longevity amounts have not changed as part of the contract. So these are standard longevity is typically at the county, where longevity happens. It's a step increase on longevity. I know you guys roll it in as your budget processing. These are the standard longevity that have been in the contract and have not changed. There is no growth on that longevity amount.

Deputy Executive Rider

Maybe it's not the longevity, maybe it's the steps. I know the first three kind of maybe grades or steps look like there was some increase, but it looked like it was revolved around maybe matching kind of a \$15 minimum wage, like maybe these.

Jamie Capuano

Correct, yup. So we are all of our employees are exempt employees. So we're required under Department of Labor Law to have a minimum threshold of 35,000. In order we have two employees who are currently below that threshold. So in order to get to them to that threshold, we need to increase those two employee's minimum salaries, which is increasing the that first entry level, again in compliance with Department of Labor. Alternatively, if we didn't do that approach, we would have to then have them do hourly timesheets, which would change our time recording system for those two employees.

Chairman Delaune

All right, thank you.

Legislator Criswell

I have a question.

Chairman Delaune

Please.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you. Jamie, my understanding is that there's an increase in annual increase now in exempt employees. Bottom salary, is that something that? I mean, you're obviously aware of it? How are you accounting for that as you move forward?

Jamie Capuano

So that's what these are these two employees who fall below that 35,000 thresholds, these two employees would be brought to the 35,000 thresholds, while other employees moving forward would be starting at that 35,000 threshold.

Legislator Criswell

Right, but my understanding is that for the next several years, there's going to be continual raising of that bottom line. Yeah, so we're going to have to keep track of that, since these employees typically would also be receiving a COLA or a longevity increase, they would hopefully stay above that line. But that is something that we absolutely will have to watch going forward. Because it's gonna significantly like I think it's a five-year timeline or something I've been trying to get up on that. But it's a pretty significant increase from what it is now, your bottom line to where in five years. So.

Jamie Capuano

Yeah, we may if it does start to increase above your typical COLA and longevity, we may have to take those lower tier and rank put them into a different time recording system to alleviate some of that. But we'll certainly be tracking that going forward.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you.

Chairman Delaune

All right. Thank you. Well, anyone have any questions? None. All right. So let's, let's vote on Resolution 168 then. Can I get a motion?

Legislator Corcoran

Motion.

Legislator Parete

I'll move it.

Chairman Delaune

All right and a second.

Legislator Parete

Yup.

Chairman Delaune

All right. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Delaune

Any opposed? Thank you. Resolution passes. Thank you, Marc, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano

Absolutely.

Chairman Delaune

Yes. All right, Resolution No. 162. Amending the 2021 Ulster County budget to accept funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health for the Veteran Peer to Peer Support Pilot Program, Department of Mental Health. Can I get a motion?

Legislator Criswell

I'll move that.

Legislator Delaune

All right.

Legislator Wawro

I'll second.

Chairman Delaune

Thank you. Any discussion?

Legislator Criswell

I'll just say we did talk about this extensively in Public Health and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Delaune

Great.

Deputy Executive Rider

And I do have an answer, Peter that somebody had raised. I think it was Laura why there was no contract associated and, and mental health and the Hudson Valley reintegration center are currently working through that contract. We anticipate that we'll be able to get it in front of you next month. But they just there's a couple sticking points from both sides.

Legislator Criswell

The thing that I loved about this was that this is a renewable grant, like once it's in the system, basically, I think it will have a good opportunity for renewing and a lot of discussion about how peer to peer is a really great way to serve veterans that there's a real connection with the peer to peer support program. So I was really in favor of this and thought it was great.

Chairman Delaune

Great. So let's take a vote on this all in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chairman Delaune

Any opposed? None passes. Now new under new business. Peter, why don't we talk about where we're at as far as non-county contract agency funding. And we recently adopted an amendment to the legislature's non-county contract agency funding policy, which requires that Ways and Means decide the value of departmental requests for funding no later than May 31st annually. So, you know, I'd like to, for us to consider, at the next meeting, a letter of recommendation pertaining to the value that we were looking to spend this year. And I've, Amber is provided to me, which I will forward to all of you kind of the history of the non-county contract agencies funding, both what was requested and ultimately funded and those rejected. So it's something I'd like to, you know, get a little more into with the next meeting. And we'd also talked about a matrix for the purpose of examining applications in the future. And, Peter, do you have anything to add here?

Legislator Criswell

Though the only thing I want to add is, well, two things. One is, I think that we're doing this so wisely taking this step by step by step, it's very slow, it's very logical. So it's not causing any argument, it's not causing any drama, it's just a very logical progression, which I think is really the smart way to do this. And then, you know, in a nod to Legislator Parete, for bringing up the term matrix, you know, we're definitely going to pursue that. And a few legislators have already written to me with ideas about what could go in this matrix. But I think that would be the next step after this is to start reaching out and, you know, put together something that's a, you know, a good solid email saying, this is what we're looking for, and start to get people's input about, you know, what their, what they think the criteria would be, whether it be demographic, whether it be specific populations, whether it be, you know, a wide variety of things there. And then I think we start to craft this, this idea of the matrix and also, as Chairman Delaune, has brought up, you know, this also, this idea of the possibility of themed years, I think, is really interesting. So, I think that that's something that will bring up as well, getting vetting ideas for potential themes for different years. You know, and of course, things will emerge that we don't even

think of, as we all know, a pandemic emerged, and we weren't thinking of that, so. But I think that that's the right way to do this. And again, I really think that we're taking this in at the right pace, and in the right, step by step direction.

Chairman Delaune

Alright, so next month, we'll get a little but as I said, a little deeper into this, but in the meantime, I will send you that report on the history of funding. Any questions or comments?

Legislator Parete

If I could.

Chairman Delaune

Please.

Legislator Parete

When we when you discuss with the folks the Ways and Means - whomever about the pot of gold, so to speak, for lack of a better word. There was more than legitimate observation that maybe some of the folks that have been funded through this through this group really are more than essential and should probably or maybe go right under the administration's funding, Cornell Cooperative. You know, things like that. I got a little mental block right now, you know, the, the other prime non-for-profit in the community that does housing and all sorts of good things, and I got a mental block, right this very minute. But so, because you wouldn't, if we're gonna do something, if we if we want to have a real impact, we don't want six or 800,000 going out to one or two agencies that probably should be under the administration's budget and that might then offer an opportunity for more organizations to have an opportunity to be heard.

Chairman Delaune

Well, thank you, John. That's a good point. Marc how would we pursue this with the administration?

Deputy Executive Rider

We've talked about just doing Cornell Cooperative in our budget. I know one of the other ones that was talked about and it wouldn't be part of like Cornell Cooperative, I think makes sense in the environmental budget. Ulster County Soil and Water was one that's always been discussed as should just go in to whether that's the environment or whatever. I think Legislator Parete was also talking about REPCO. Um, although I'm not sure.

Legislator Parete

Hey, thanks for your help, guys.

Deputy Executive Rider

I'm not sure they're in Legislative Programs anyway. Um, but yeah, we're happy to take on some of these that are that have a better fit, especially where there's a department that made sense like the environment, with Cornell Cooperative or Ulster County, Soil and Water. Some of the more difficult ones have been like, I think it was the cost of contract or something similar to that, where they're doing

court appointed parental visits. And I think there's been a talk about shifting it to DSS. But they're really, they're kind of, I think there was a reason that there was a conflict that Chairman Donaldson has raised a couple times. So we should start that conversation. But in this year's budget, I know at least with Cornell and Ulster County, Soil and Water, I think I'll reconfirm it with Pat, but the goal would be to shift them over.

Chairman Delaune

Well, that's great, since you know, they have to be funded. Now, it seems kind of useless for us to go through this exercise with them. So that would be great. So if you could let us know, next month.

Deputy Executive Rider

Well it wouldn't be clear to me, though, just I mean, to throw out there would be whether we shift that cost over. I mean, I think that then proportionately, this spending should then be reduced by that amount. I don't know if I would suggest shifting it. And then having the quote unquote, pot of gold remains the same.

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, I was thinking it could be doubled actually, Marc.

Legislator Parete

We didn't even say that Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Delaune

No, we're good Marc. We're on the same team here. So, all right. Any other new business. Any old business. All right. Good. And a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Criswell

So moved.

Chairman Delaune

Can I get a second?

Legislator Corcoran

Second.

Chairman Delaune

All right. Well, I'll see some of you in a few minutes and the rest enjoy the evening. It's beautiful out there.

Committee Members

Be well, everybody, good one. Take care.