

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : June 13, 2016, 5:00pm
LOCATION : Room 240, Vanderlyn Hall, SUNY Ulster
CHAIRMAN : Mary Wawro, Chairman – Excused
RECORDER : Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS PRESENT : Leg. David B. Donaldson, Deputy Chairman, Leg. Craig V. Lopez, Leg. Jennifer Schwartz-Berky, Leg. James Delaune
OTHERS PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster; Teresa M. Brundage, Aid to Leg. Lopez; John Dunn, Vice President for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster; William Spearman, Board of Trustees, SUNY Ulster
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:07 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2016, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion to approve the minutes of this Committee from May 9, 2016, was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported By: John Dunn, Vice President for Administrative Services

Resolution: None

Reported: John Dunn, Vice President for Administrative Services reported that the new Vice President for Administrative Services has been hired and will begin in mid-July. Vice President Dunn reported that he would stay on for the transition. Deputy Chairman Donaldson thanked Vice President Dunn for his service and complemented him on his abilities to step into the Vice President for Administrative Services role. President Roberts explained that Vice President Dunn was going to present an abbreviated budget presentation to the committee, as they will see the presentation in its entirety later this evening in the workshop. President Roberts also thanked Vice President Dunn for all his hard work, and for providing him with historical background and balance. Board of Trustees Member Bill Spearman added that Vice President Dunn brought invaluable knowledge from his time working at SUNY back to SUNY Ulster. Bill Spearman also thanked Vice President Dunn for his service.

Vice President Dunn began the budget presentation by discussing the process. The process this year was different than in years past. This year the President met with Cabinet members and Departments to review their requests. The staffing requests came from the respective departments and not from top down recommendations. The budget data was then loaded into Banner (the College's administrative system). The budget was prepared on certain assumptions, agreed upon by the College Cabinet. Vice President Dunn reported that the first assumption is that tuition is based on a 5% declining enrollment from this year's actual, causing total revenue to come down about \$400,000.00, even though we are asking for a tuition increase. Vice President Dunn stated that tuition is one of the biggest revenue hits in the budget. In addition to state aid, the College received a \$100.00 increase per FTE, but this is less than what was asked for. Vice President Dunn reported that the State is still not giving the third it is supposed to. Vice President Dunn explained that other revenue is made up of about 40 different categories (vending machines, rentals, etc.), and added that the College is working on a rental agreement at the KCSU with the P-TECH program. Vice President Dunn broke out the contributions by percentage: 34%-tuition, 24%-State Aid, 27%- Sponsor, 3%- Chargebacks, and 12%- Other. Vice President Dunn went on to explain that tuition and the County contribution are right where they should be but again pointed out that the State is not contributing like they should (1/3). Vice President Dunn added that 28 out of 30 community colleges in New York State are raising tuition; three of these colleges are still in negotiations (Dutchess, Columbia-Greene, and Westchester). The last time Ulster County Community College raised tuition was the 2013-2014 academic year. Vice President Dunn briefly explained "aid calculation" and showed a brief history of State Aid. In 2007 the base aid per FTE was 2675 and in 2017 the base aid per FTE will be 2697; Vice President Dunn explained that it took 10 years to get back to where we were before the cuts to state aid, and we are still nowhere near one third (what the State is supposed to contribute). Vice President Dunn briefly explained chargebacks (money received from other counties for out-of-county students attending SUNY Ulster). Vice President Dunn reviewed the County contributions and pointed out that the contribution has increased the last year and remained flat. Vice President Dunn reported that seven positions have been eliminated, but two new positions were created; benefits and salaries were reduced. The equipment line has been drastically reduced. This reduction was made possible by County contributions (capital projects \$450,000.00) and by a contribution from the College Foundation. Vice President Dunn explained that 76% of the College budget is fixed (salaries and benefits). Overall there is a 1.64% reduction to the budget as compared to last year's budget.

President Roberts reiterated that the budget will be reviewed in much more detail at the workshop. President Roberts also reported on Summer enrollment. The College budgeted for 108 FTEs but is actually at 127 FTEs. President Roberts also stated that the new initiative to waive prerequisite courses for Summer and Winternet has proved to be successful. Leg. Donaldson commented on an article he recently read about Dutchess Community College and their struggle with enrollment. President Roberts stated that all colleges are facing this challenge; that is why we need to explore new markets and keep the students we have. Leg. Donaldson asked if the committee had any questions. There were no questions from the committee. Leg. Delaune complimented Vice President Dunn on a great presentation.

Leg. Schwartz-Berky has a question regarding chargebacks. Leg. Schwartz-Berky wanted to know how much the County is paying out to other counties in chargebacks, and what is being done about chargebacks being paid to other counties. Leg. Donaldson explained that the College wanted to have a survey attached to each request for the certificate of residency for students taking courses in other counties. Leg. Donaldson briefly explained the struggle to even have the survey included. Leg. Donaldson then shared the results. The main reasons for students going to college in other counties were location, and too many people from high school going ("it's like going to 13th grade"). Leg. Delaune asked if dorms were a factor in the students' decisions to go elsewhere. It was pointed out that not all the schools have dorms. Leg. Schwartz-Berky asked if students were leaving because they are interested in

programs that we don't have. Leg. Donaldson added that this was probably the second biggest reason students were leaving, but added that students come from other counties to enroll in our programs, and gave the example of the Nursing program.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No.285:

Text of Motion: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2016, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2012 (A Local Law To Provide For An Exemption From Real Property Taxes For Real Property Owned By Veterans Who Rendered Military Service To The United States During The "Cold War")

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 285 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: None

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.286:

Text of Motion: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2016, (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2012, To Increase The Maximum Allowable Real Property Tax Exemption Pursuant to Section 458-a Of The Real Property Tax Law Entitled "Veterans"; Alternative Exemption")

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz-Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 286 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: None

Motion #4 to Approve Resolution No.321:

Text of Motion: Supporting The Passage Of A09687/S07103A, Requiring Periodical Testing Of School Potable Water Systems And Sources To Monitor For Lead Contamination In Certain School Buildings

Motion Made: Leg. Schwartz-Berky

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 321 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Schwartz-Berky stated that Leg. Allen has approached her about forming a committee that had to do with water supply. She suggested approaching the Waterways Committee. Leg Schwartz-Berky questioned whether or not there is/would be a cost for the schools to do this. Leg. Schwartz-Berky also expressed concern that schools were not testing the water already. Leg. Schwartz-Berky would like Leg. Allen to explain to the committee what current safeguards are in place for testing the water. Leg. Schwartz-Berky added that Kingston already does this. Leg. Donaldson reminded the committee about the water testing done by the County (17 out of 19 buildings "were bad"), and it turned out that the testing

was not performed correctly. Leg. Schwartz-Berky expressed the need to address the water issues but wants to know/understand the safeguards. Leg. Lopez agreed with Leg. Schwartz-Berky, and added that the sponsor should be present to answer any questions the committee may have. There was a brief discussion about the intent of the proposal. The committee agreed that the intent of the proposal is to memorialize. Leg. Schwartz-Berky stated her support by saying safety first for children. Leg. Schwartz-Berky added that "it would be nice to hear from" Leg. Allen.

Motion #5 to Approve Resolution No.322:

Text of Motion: Supporting The Passage Of New York State Assembly Bill A09182, Calling For An Immediate Suspension Of Common Core Testing

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4 (in favor of postponing the approval of Resolution No. 322)

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion was postponed; Resolution No. 322 is postponed until Leg. Allen can present it to the Committee.

Discussion: Leg. Schwartz-Berky asked Leg. Donaldson to explain the issues with Common Core. Leg. Donaldson explained that Common Core is driven by the publishing company Prentice Hall (the same people who are selling education). Leg. Donaldson explained that "they are trying to fit everyone into the same round hole. Leg. Lopez referenced the 10th Amendment, and pointed out that the decision should be left up to the local level. There was a brief discussion about No Child Left Behind & Race To The Top. In order for schools to participate in a federal contest for funding, they needed to adopt Common Core. Leg. Lopez pointed out that in November of 2014 similar legislation was passed; calling for the immediate withdrawal and repeal of Common Core, this resolution seems redundant. Leg. Donaldson agreed with Leg. Lopez. Leg. Schwartz-Berky pointed out the teacher evaluations and how it not only hurts the teachers but the students as well. Leg. Schwartz-Berky added that in Kingston a "staggering" number opted out of the testing. Leg. Lopez added that most of the "opt outs" are middle class, and the ones not opting out are the ones receiving the lower test scores. Leg. Schwartz-Berky added that if a certain number opt out it voids the results for that school. Leg. Schwartz-Berky added that she would like to hear more from Leg. Allen. Leg. Donaldson reiterated that he agrees with Leg. Lopez that this resolution is redundant. Leg. Delaune added since it is a memorializing resolution, "no harm no foul?" Leg. Donaldson pointed out that a one-house bill could be problematic. There was a brief discussion, and Leg. Donaldson suggested postponing the resolution and asking Leg. Allen to come and speak to the committee. The committee was in agreement to postpone the resolution.

Motion #6- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Schwartz-Berky. Deputy Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Dated the 13th day of June 2016

Danielle Wayman, Recorder

Minutes approved on July 12, 2016