

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

DATE & TIME: October 5, 2021 – 5:15pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 842 0206 9165
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair James Delaune (audio only left 5:32 pm)
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Legislators Tom Corcoran, Peter Criswell, John Parete, (Mary Wawro arrived 5:20 pm)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dr. Roberts, President SUNY Ulster; Jamie Capuano, VP of Administrative Services SUNY Ulster, Tara McDonald, Deputy Commissioner Mental Health, Mid-Hudson News

Chairman Delaune asked Deputy Chairman Corcoran to run the meeting as his internet connection was unstable. Chairman Deluane participated via audio only.

Deputy Chairman Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

Motion No 1: Motion to Approve Minutes of the August 31, 2021 Meeting
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: None
Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

SUNY Ulster Update: President Dr. Alan Roberts and VP of Administrative Services Jamie Capuano provided their monthly update. Refer to annexed transcript

Resolutions for October 19, 2021 Session:

Resolution No. 474 – Approving An Increase In Funding For Design, Testing And Construction Services Of Emergency Roof Work At Various Buildings On Campus Related To The Campus Roofs Capital Project No. 489 – Campus Roofs, And Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) For Such Services – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Capital Fund – Ulster County Community College

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves an increase in funding for design, testing, and construction services of emergency roof work at various buildings on the SUNY Ulster campus roofs, and approves a work order with DASNY. \$500K 50% reimbursable from DASNY. A Bond Resolution will be required.

Motion No. 2: Motion to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 474
Motion By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 476 – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional 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 UC Budget to accept additional funding from NYS Office of Mental Health for the Veteran Peer to Peer Support Pilot program. \$46.3K revenue

Motion No. 2: Motion to Discuss & Adopt Resolution No. 476
Motion By: Legislator Criswell
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

New/Old Business: See transcript

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

Adjournment

Motion By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: None

TIME: 5: 35 PM

Respectfully submitted: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Staff

Minutes Approved: November 2, 2021

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

Meeting Transcript
October 5, 2021

Nettie Tomshaw

Alrighty. Chairman Delaune, Deputy Chair Corcoran

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Here.

Chairman Delaune

Here.

Nettie Tomshaw

Legislator Criswell.

Nettie Tomshaw

Here.

Nettie Tomshaw

Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yes.

Nettie Tomshaw

Legislator Wawro. She's not here just yet. But we have a quorum.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

All right. So I'll take a motion to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021 meeting.

Legislator Criswell

I'll make that motion.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Peter.

Legislator Parete

Yeah, I'll second it.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Thank you John, thank you. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye. Aye.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Alright. SUNY Ulster update.

Dr. Alan Roberts

Good evening, everybody. What I'm addressing is we're just about to the point that our regular Fall Enrollment is in and it's about where we thought it was going to be. We're down about 9% compared to last year, but we budgeted for that. What we're waiting for now is collegiate. Collegiate is a dual enrollment program with all nine school districts, but the enrollment as far as significance, it's about 20% of our enrollment. So right now, if you looked at our graph, you would say oh, my gosh, they're in dire straits. But it'll come in probably within the next week and a half that roll will be in. So I think we'll be fine. As far as enrollment, you know, next year is really the target that we have to shoot for. This spring, we'll be back probably at 85% in class with a mandatory vaccination - it's going to be interesting to see how it plays out for the students. Right now we're doing thing we never wanted to do and that's de-register some students who haven't showed the vaccination. Hopefully, they'll change their mind and they'll come back. We have decided to do the same thing with employees. So right now, we passed a resolution in September that mandated vaccinations for all our employees. And what the mandate said was, by November 1, everyone had to be vaccinated. And we would start the negotiations with the unions determine what if that doesn't happen. So right now, Jamie is in the process of working with three unions to determine you know, what the consequence of that will be. So there's a lot of moving parts, you know, we should be focusing more on enrollment, but we're focusing more on vaccinations, which is not something I cherish, but it's something we have to do. And I say in the spring, I think we'll be over this hump, and we can start thinking about the things that we're really here for, and that's work with students. Jamie has financial/finances, she'll update you. And we have one resolution that we're on an emergency roof repair that we have. So, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano

All right thanks Dr. Al. As Dr. Al said, you know, we're working through with our unions to discuss the resolution regarding the vaccination mandate. It's really important to keep in mind that all of our students on campus are required to be vaccinated, and any time we're forced to quarantine classes, it results in a disruption for their educational attainment. So really, for us here at SUNY Ulster, it's very important for us to make sure everybody is vaccinated across the board. So we can again, reduce those quarantine quarantining of classrooms, as we get into flu season. Again, it's very important, and we're hypersensitive to that. In terms of the finance, again, we're working through with our committee in terms of the COVID I'm sorry, in terms of the CARES Act COVID, always on the brain. For CARES Act funding, we're working through a committee structure to determine how to prioritize some of the requests. As you can imagine, we're getting a lot of requests from various different constituents across campus - want to make sure that we're adhering to what the real goal of the CARES Act funding is, and make sure that it addresses student

enrollment and retention. Again, that needs to be our guiding light. As we look towards working through all of the funding requests we're getting, and we're navigating those on a daily basis. We are also pleased to announce that with the work we've been doing with DASNY is actually looking to spotlight SUNY Ulster at the model campus. We've been doing a lot of repair work. You've seen them every month when I come through with a new roof. Working with dabbing has really helped us get our projects done on time and under budget. And working with them has really enabled us to continue doing construction work during COVID. So a lot of other campuses had to stop construction and stop the necessary repairs. We went the other way and said, well, campus is empty, let's take an opportunity to really get some things done that needed to get done. So DASNY is very pleased working with us are very happy to have Ulster County as a partner and through the county leadership to really spearhead a really great partnership between us and DASNY. Any questions on those components. Okay.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Thank you, Dr. Roberts. Thank you, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano

Thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Sorry. I just had a general question of an update on that really great program that you told us about that was kind of going to be working with students and their families and sort of help them. You know, sort of go all the way through to the career phase of it. I can't remember the name of it. I'm sorry.

Dr. Alan Roberts

Was it the challenge scholarship?

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, yeah. How's that going?

Dr. Alan Roberts

I incredibly well. It seems like probably once a week, we got another donor. We're up to 200 right now. We have some donors who have already exceeded 17 students. It's just been incredible and Darlene's gift of a million dollars, it's just unbelievable. And we got word that's not official, but we think it's gonna happen is the Johnson Foundation who has worked with us in the past, they've committed \$400,000 for the next three years. I couldn't be any happier, you know, the support from the community, the foundation and our galleys Thursday night, and we're going to be recognized a lot of a lot of the folks that have really stepped up and done this. We have our first our second group, our first group that were on campus, we had six the first year, we have 16, this year, next year won't be the first group of 50, which, you know, when you're looking at enrollment, we're gonna have another 100 students just in this program each year on campus. So, you know, we looked at a different model, we said, you know, rather than trying to get the very best and try to get why not work with the students who need us the most at ninth grade, and just work through them all the way through high school, and ensure them two years of college. But even before the two years of college, we're working in ninth and 10th and 11th grade, to make sure they're college ready. If you look at just community colleges in general, the biggest problem is students getting

here and they're not prepared to take college level courses. So they'll, they'll come all excited, they want to do this. And they'll spend one semester a whole semester taking nothing but remediation. And if they don't do well remediation, they're back in it in the spring. So they could literally have not only one semester, but a whole year, just to get ready to take college courses. So now you've taken a two-year program and made it into a three year. So we lose a lot of students because they get, you know, discouraged. You know, I'm taking you out here I'm in college, I'm taking these, you know, math courses, I don't count for anything, but to try to get to this level. So the purpose behind what you know, one of the you know, goals is to get these students in this the challenge program is when they get here, they will be college ready. We'll do the testing in high school, make sure they get the remediation, they get the tutoring, so when they walk in, in the fall, they're good to go. So in two years, we shouldn't have the issue that we have them major problems with other with other students. So we're excited about that. You know, I'm glad that you asked a question because it's something I love talking about.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, I just I think it's a great program to thanks for the update.

Legislator Parete

Just if I might, Doc just an infrastructure thing. The waters all hooked up, I guess I assume. Is it working well, is it working?

Dr. Alan Roberts

Well, I got a funny story to tell you John. It ran you know, we hooked it up. We were ahead of schedule, we saved gosh, we saved about 10% because of what has happened you know we had everything was closed down. So we go down the road there wasn't anyone to stop. We finished early. Got it up and running. We got it going. Now they turned the reservoir off.

Legislator Parete

Oh that's right.

Dr. Alan Roberts

So as of Monday

Legislator Parete

As of yesterday, right yesterday.

Dr. Alan Roberts

It was yesterday they turned it off. Yeah. Well, we're using a well we still have the well so we're good to go. So just wait till they turn it back on. But the answer is yes. We're ready. And we're good to go. But they turned off the water.

Legislator Parete

That's not gonna be forever.

Dr. Alan Roberts

No, no, it's, it's that they need to do that. So it's the right thing to do.

Legislator Parete

Okay, great, great thank you.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

All right. Any other questions? Well, again, thank you, Dr. Roberts. Thank you, Jamie. Appreciate it as always. fantastic job. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Dr. Alan Roberts

Appreciate it.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Alright. Alright barring any other questions will go to the resolutions for the October 19, 2021 session. So Resolution 474, Approving and increasing funding for design, testing and construction services of emergency roof work at various buildings on campus related to the campus roof Capital Project No. 489, campus roofs and approving the work order with the dormitory authority New York State of New York DASNY for such services, amending the 2021 Ulster County Capital Fund, Ulster County Community College. Move for discussion.

Legislator Parete

I'll move it.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Second, Peter.

Legislator Criswell

Second that yup.

Jamie Capuano

All right so

Legislator Criswell

Yeah can you just tell us about this, Jamie?

Jamie Capuano

Yeah, absolutely sorry Peter. So we had an emergency roof leak during the heavy storms this summer over in our Student Life Center, which is our cafeteria, we came in and had, you know, ceiling tiles that had fallen and the water was coming in directly from the roof right above which obviously, it's going to go to its lowest point and it's going to track down. So we had conversations with DASNY, we have been patching this roof for many years. At this point, those patches have worn through. And we need to really move this work up in terms of our phase Roof Repair projects. This roof was on for I'm looking at my board for next year, we are going to move this task for current year to get again, emergency patch on

and then they're going to do an assessment to determine if they can do a full Roof Replacement prior to winter. Again, as we have winter coming in, it's a flat roof, we really don't want to have snow wait on an already failing roof. So we're really hopeful that we can speed this one up and get the work done here. Again, this is ageing infrastructure. We have this across the board, that we're really tracking to make sure we get all of these roofs done. Again, with DASNY having them come in and be able to get the contractors ready and engaged helps us helps us get it done.

Jamie Capuano

You're talking about if I might this winter.

Jamie Capuano

Correct.

Legislator Parete

Wonderful. Yeah. Keep your fingers crossed.

Jamie Capuano

Fingers crossed. Fingers crossed on this one.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Right. Any more discussion? Questions? Okay. Move the resolution to vote, all those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Anyone opposed? Okay. Resolution 474 passes. Thank you. Thanks again, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano

Absolutely, thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Alright.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Alright, Resolution Number 476, Amending the 2021 Ulster County budget to accept additional funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health for the Veterans Peer to Peer Support Pilot program, Department of Mental Health. Move for discussion.

Legislator Criswell

I'll move that.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Peter, a second?

Deputy Chair Corcoran

John. Questions or discussion on that?

Legislator Criswell

We've talked about this program several times. And it's

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Yes.

Legislator Criswell

It's a great program. I just think, you know, there's no question about supporting it.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Without doubt, I agree with you. 100% Peter, so if we don't have any other questions input. We're good. So let's put it to a vote Resolution 476 for approval.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Any opposed, and it passes for 476. Thank you.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

And then a just under new business a 2022 non-county contract agency funding. So I would assume, Jim decide if you could hear us, just considering preparations of less recommendations based on the community needs. So, Peter you've been working on this also right with Jim?

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, we have and, you know, this is the, this is where our matrix is gonna come into play, which is, it's great. I mean, we really did good work on that. And I think it's really going to help us with prioritizing and, and having something that we can really look at, in terms of analyzing different proposals and different requests that come in. So I feel confident that we'll be able to serve the most people with this money.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

That's great. Thank you and Jim for working on that. So we have any more discussion on that? Mary, John?

Legislator Parete

No, I just think we have to make sure we solicit community, you have to have a scope of services and make sure that everybody all goes who fit the criteria not for profit, have an opportunity to enter and encourage to put in what their requests may or may not be and for what reason they, they need it. And I just think there's you know, we have to make sure whatever we do, we live up to the nationally recognized standards of public accounting, and part of that is to make sure that the diversified members of our

community, know about it and have an opportunity to apply. I just think it's critically important. In some ways, I think we have to and witnessing this over the years, we have to decide or differentiate between not for profits that are, that are charities and not for profits that are a business. The two very distinct purposes in here and I just think we can't get caught short. And, not have all the financials from anybody who wants to apply to find out if they're getting assistance from anywhere else. How many years do they keep coming back to the same well. I just - it's going to be an interesting, interesting chore.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Yeah, I think I was well, I think it was well said Well said. I mean, I agree, Mary.

Legislator Wawro

And also, if I understand it correctly, at this point, we would just be concerned with budget things because we have a set amount and we really vet people like in January, February.

Legislator Criswell

That's correct, sorry Legislator Corcoran.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

No, no you're right - it's all you Peter yes.

Legislator Criswell

So yeah. And we actually got more than we had requested, which is fantastic. I can't remember the exact amount. But we had requested. Nettie, do you happen to remember the numbers? Yeah. But it was greater than what we had requested. So that was wonderful. And, and I think, again, you know, I appreciate what you said Legislator Parete. And I think spending it wisely and really looking at the organizations is our duty. So I agree with you.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Well said all the way around. Again thank you Peter and James, going through that, getting that number I think was a great idea to start with so we know we were dealing with and, and like John said, you know, based on need and not just being a charity. So that was great. Thank you. Ah, any old business. Alright any other discussion? We good? All right. So I guess I'll

Legislator Parete

Motion to adjourn.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Motion to adjourn that's what I was asking for John.

Legislator Criswell

Second.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Second Peter. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Legislator Parete

Stay healthy everyone.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Short and sweet. Stay healthy. Thanks for everything. Let's see you guys.

Nettie Tomshaw

Thank you, Tom.

Deputy Chair Corcoran

Alright, thanks.

Committee Members

Take care guys. Bye-bye. Bye-bye.