

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME** : May 7, 2014 - 5:30pm  
**LOCATION** : Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 232 Plaza Rd., Kingston, NY  
**CHAIRMAN** : David B. Donaldson, Present  
**RECORDER** : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College  
**LEGISLATORS**  
**PRESENT** : Legs. Craig Lopez, Mary Wawro, Lynn Archer and Donald Gregorius  
**ABSENT** : None  
**OTHERS**  
**PRESENT** : Kenneth Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive;  
Dr. Donald C. Katt, President and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, both representing SUNY Ulster County Community College;  
Lee Reidy, Executive Director and Mary Marsters, Program Director and Melanie Forstrum, Leslie Zucker, Liz Higgins and Melinda Herzog, all representing Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Teresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg. Lopez; Victor Melville as Observer for The League of Women Voters; and Harold Rosenkranse, representing Ulster County American Legion

**QUORUM** : Yes

**A QUORUM BEING PRESENT AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS BEING IN ATTENDANCE, CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:35 pm.**

---

---

**MOTION #1:**

**Text of Motion** : Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of April 2, 2014.  
**Motion Made** : Leg. Gregorius  
**Seconded** : Leg. Wawro  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Lopez, Gregorius, Wawro and Archer.  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in favor** : 5  
**No. Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed – Minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting of this committee unanimously approved as presented.

---

---

**ULSTER COUNTY VETERAN'S:**

**Presentation by:** Harold Rosenkranse, Rosendale-Tillson American Legion

Mr. Rosenkranse said he is before this committee to ask for information. The Ulster County Veterans' wish to honor former Legislator and former Chairman of this Committee Wayne Harris and would like anyone having personal particulars or data to contact him. Mr. Rosenkranse said Wayne Harris did a lot for the veterans, including the cemetery and many other things. Chairman Donaldson said they could call him for any input.

Mr. Rosenkranse also wanted this committee to know how proud he is of what the county is doing for the veterans' home. Mr. Crannell said Mr. Rosenkranse and many of the veterans and citizens in the county have really chipped in. There have been \$120,000 in donations from the community for the veterans' house and a lot of the impetus has been from Mr. Rosenkranse and the American Legion and VFW. Mr. Crannell said the

remediation work has just been completed on the house and the goal is to have a ribbon cutting the first week in July. It was discussed that the next meeting or a special meeting could be held to have a presentation and a slide show regarding the housing. Mr. Crannell said the county is negotiating with a national provider and would like to talk about the specifics at that time. It was decided that the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held in the Legislative Chambers and would include a special presentation on the veterans' house. Mr. Rosenkranse also advised that the American Legion was doing a fund raiser for t-shirts and passed around an order form.

---

---

**SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

**Report by** : Dr. Donald C. Katt, President and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration

**Report** : Chairman Donaldson said he had a conversation with the County Comptroller's Office regarding student chargebacks and the possibility of a survey to determine why Ulster County students are electing to go to community college outside the county. President Katt said the college had attempted to conduct such a survey in the past but only a small portion of the students return them. Chairman Donaldson thought it might be feasible to put the surveys on the back of the Affidavit of Residency form which has to be filled out when a student registers in a community college outside his or her home county. He said this may also require some kind of a resolution. A general discussion of the reasons students go outside their home county thus generating chargebacks followed.

Chairman Donaldson also said he had a conversation with President Katt and with Chairman Parete with respect to another proposed tuition increase. President Katt said without the \$100 tuition increase and the \$4 increase per credit hour for part-time students, the budget shortfall would be \$241,538 for the 2014-2015 academic budget year. Chairman Donaldson said he is looking for this committee to take a stand. The county has not increased its allocation to the community college in six years and since that time tuition has increased 26.6%. He said the state has given some extra but not much and asked President Katt for the allocations. President Katt said the state contributes about 24%, the county close to one-third and student tuition a little over 40%. Chairman Donaldson said he is looking for the county to increase its share but he does not know if the County Executive will agree. Mr. Crannell said the County Executive will want to know how you intend to pay for this. There followed a discussion of the differing budget years of the college and the county. Leg. Gregorius said regardless of what we would like to do and how things are worded, we have no money. Mr. Crannell said the county took a huge hit with the sales tax problem. Leg. Gregorius was concerned about what would happen if we put an increase in the college's budget and then found the county didn't have the funds to give them when payment was expected.

The county has not increased its contribution in six years said Chairman Donaldson, and because of that the college has to keep increasing tuition and there comes a point where we have to take a stand. Leg. Archer asked about tuition rates in the area. President Katt said Dutchess is the lowest because of its high enrollment. Mr. Crannell said their county contribution is much higher as well. There followed a general discussion of tuition rates and county contributions in the area. Returning to chargebacks, Leg. Archer asked if the college had records of how much goes out of the county. President Katt said the exact records are in the County Comptroller's Office. Chairman Donaldson said he thinks it's about \$3 million in chargebacks annually.

There was a discussion of how any resolution to increase the county's contribution to the college would be submitted. Leg. Gregorius asked if it would be done along with the county's budget but President Katt said the county decides on the college budget in June. Chairman Donaldson said he will make a motion to increase the county contribution.

In other business, President Katt said commencement is Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and all had been invited. He said we may have a surprise guest. Dean Komdat said summer enrollment is still about 16% down from last year; however, since our spring and fall sessions were good we are still slightly over 3% of our yearly projection. On the Kelder renovations, the college was going to act as its own general contractor for the renovations in hope of saving some money; however, the County Attorney said we cannot do this and wants us to hire a general contractor so this project is somewhat delayed. He also made a request for the County Department of Public Works to look at the Vanderlyn pedestrian "bridge" (over the "moat") to see if those repairs are something they could take on which could help on the overall cost.

**Resolution** : Resolution No. 154 for the May 20, 2014 session of the Legislature.  
Resolution No. 155 for the May 20, 2014 session of the Legislature  
Resolution No. 168 for the May 20, 2014 session of the Legislature

**MOTION #2 - RESOLUTION #154:**

**Text of Motion** : Confirming Appointment of Member (Karen Clark-Adin) to The Ulster County Community College Board of Trustees

**Motion Made** : Leg. Lopez  
**Seconded** : Leg. Archer  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in Favor** : 5  
**No.Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #154 unanimously approved.

**MOTION #3 - RESOLUTION #155:**

**Text of Motion** : Confirming Re-appointment of Member (Gabriel Sottile) to The Ulster County Community College Board of Trustees

**Motion Made** : Leg. Wawro  
**Seconded** : Leg. Gregorius  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in Favor** : 5  
**No.Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #155 unanimously approved.

**MOTION #4 - RESOLUTION #168:**

**Text of Motion** : Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature and the Ulster County Executive to enter into a contract of sale with The Kingston City School District for the purchase of the Sophie Finn Elementary School and accompanying real estate.

**Motion Made** : Chairman Donaldson  
**Seconded** : Leg. Lopez  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro  
**Opposed** : None

**No.in Favor** : 5  
**No.Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #168 unanimously approved.

---

**ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:**

**Report by** : No Report – Resolution for appointment of Director to be voted upon. Chairman Donaldson noted a resume was attached and there was no discussion.

**Resolutions** : Resolution No. 156 for the May 20, 2014 session of the Legislature

**MOTION #5 ON RESOLUTION #156:**

**Text of Motion** : Confirming the appointment of Kelly McMullen as Director of The Office for the Aging  
**Motion Made** : Leg. Wawro  
**Seconded** : Leg. Archer  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Lopez and Gregorius  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in Favor** : 5  
**No.Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #156 unanimously approved.

---

**ULSTER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU:**

**Report by** : No Report – Approval of Resource Allocation Plan and Budget amendment resolution. Mr. Crannell reviewed the financial aspects of the resolution, which encompasses at-risk youth and partially funds organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, Family, etc. In reply to a question from Leg. Gregorius, Mr. Crannell said the Youth Bureau assesses the need and makes a funding determination based on state law for the allocations. He said Evelyn Clarke and employees of The Youth Bureau check on each agency funded and assess periodically.

**Resolutions** : Resolution #167 for the May 20, 2014 session of the Legislature

**MOTION #6 ON RESOLUTION #167:**

**Text of Motion** : Approving the New York State Office of Children and Family Services 2014 Resource Allocation Plan – Amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget – Youth Bureau.  
**Motion Made** : Leg. Gregorius  
**Seconded** : Leg. Wawro  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Lopez and Gregorius  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in Favor** : 5  
**No.Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #167 unanimously approved.

## **CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY:**

**Report by** : Lee Reidy, Executive Director, Mary Marsters, Program Director and Melanie Forstrom, Leslie Zucker, Liz Higgins and Melanie Herzog

**Report** : Lee Reidy welcomed the members of the committee to Cornell Cooperative and said each of the employees present would be giving a short Power Point Presentation on their area of expertise. She also reminded everyone that CCE's annual 4H Golf Tournament would be held Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at Apple Greens Golf Course.

Liz Higgins gave a presentation on Agriculture & Horticulture, including the major programs- The New World Foundation, outreach and technology assistance to growers and farmers and training programs including pesticides. She spoke about research and training which were often grant funded. CCE received \$456,000 in grants last year, mostly through New World Foundation. Ms. Higgins spoke on the Master Gardener program which has over 100 volunteers who conduct classes, oversee community projects and provide education on invasive species including identification. Chairman Donaldson asked if the Master Gardeners gave advice and she said there is a hotline if a person wants to call or if they want to stop in. They also give classes for the public.

Melinda Herzog spoke on Healthy Communities, which includes Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play, Live Well Kingston and Nutrition Education. This does include financial counseling, obesity information, Farmers Markets, the Healthy After-School Snack Program and a Food Safety Program. She also discussed the Relatives As Parents Program. Chairman Donaldson asked if CCE works with other nutrition Programs or groups such as soup kitchens. Ms. Reidy said they are currently working with a program dealing with food insecurity issues. They are creating a listserve and anybody can get on that and share information. She also said they are doing a lot of partnering with other agencies and groups.

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program presentation was given by Leslie Zucker. She said this is a collaboration between Cornell Cooperative, New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Ulster County Soil & Water. She described the location of the Ashokan Watershed and detailed what they do, including publications, training and workshops. Reaching the public is essential and she said they have a lot of volunteers that have to be trained. They are also crucial to the Flood Mitigation Program.

The 4-H Youth Development, said Melanie Forstrom, consists of the Program Leader, the Education Coordinator and about 100 volunteers. CCE provides professional development for staff who provide training for these volunteers. 4-H stresses Public Presentations, Agricultural Literacy, Volunteer Readers, Veterinary Science. The most visible of course is 4-H's presence at the U.C. Fair. Another program is 4-H's participation in Youth Science Day at Capital Days 2014 in Albany. Ms. Forstrom said some of the grant funded programs were Youth & Families with Promise, Future Focus, After-School Programs and 4-H International Exchange. She said there are 29 4-H Clubs with a total of 345 youth members which teach life skills, problem solving, decision-making, motivation and responsibility.

At this time Ms. Reidy said the Board of Cornell Cooperative Education meets on the third Monday of every other month and reminded the committee that they are still looking for a Legislative appointee to replace Wayne Harris. Chairman Donaldson asked if there was anyplace in the county which had an "exercise trail" as he had seen one in Florida. Ms. Reidy said that she does not know if any. Cornell had considered it at one time but there were other more serious needs at the time and it was tabled until some future date.

**Resolutions** : None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Leg. Gregorius said there had been a women's bicycle racing event in his area recently. He wanted everyone to know that it had been a great success with people from around the area, state and country attending. He said this event is only in its second year but it has great potential, and he believes the economic benefits to the county are enormous.

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION #7:**

There being no further business before this committee, on motion duly made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and carried, Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014 .

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved on June 4, 2014