

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : October 13, 2015, 5:00pm
LOCATION : Ulster County Community College, Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room (Room 118), Clinton Building
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Chairman – Present
RECORDER : Natasha Tagliafierro, Assistant, SUNY, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS
PRESENT : Leg. Mary Wawro, Leg. Craig Lopez and Leg. Donald Gregorius
OTHERS
PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster County Community College; W. John Dunn, Interim Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College; Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director, Arts Mid- Hudson; Lee Reidy, Cornell Cooperative Extension
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:05 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2015, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motions to approve the minutes of this Committee of September 8, 2015, were unanimously approved.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No. 365:

Text of Motion: Approving The Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Community College Organization Of Professional And Administrative Personnel (OPAP)

Motion made: Leg. Gregorius

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #365 unanimously approved.

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.366:

Text of Motion: Attesting That Increased Funding From The New York State Office For The Aging Will Be Used To Provide Additional Funding For Direct Care Staff-Office For The Aging

Motion made: Leg. Wawro

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #366 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported by: Alan P. Roberts

Resolution: No. 365

Reported: Dean Dunn advised that the College has been in negotiations for over a year and have come to an agreement that settled with an increase of longevity at 1.5% year one and two and 1.75% years three and four year of a four-year contract. Dean Dunn advised that the College has to retroactively pay for the year end in August plus three years. Dean Dunn advised the union was in agreement and the County Executive was also in agreement. Leg. Donaldson asked when does the CSEA agreement go up for negotiations? Dean Dunn advised that the agreement is negotiated by the County. President Roberts advised that all three unions on campus now have settled agreements for the next four years. Leg. Gregorius advised that the committee looked at this top to bottom and that it looked good. President Roberts advised that the College felt good about the agreement we have made. Leg. Donaldson advised that they had not received any negative comments from the County Executive on the agreement.

Dean Dunn reported that FTE's last years ended in about \$762,000 below budget, state aid is down due to the \$35,000 BRC rent decrease, chargebacks are up \$2,000, other revenue is down \$200,000 due to the Verizon communications program being discontinued. Dean Dunn advised that the College didn't use the expected \$86,000 of fund balance and revenues were \$24,960,099. Dean Dunn advised that salary and wages are down \$245,000, benefits are down \$275,000 and contractual expenses are down \$551,000 with a total expenditure down \$1,067,479.00. Dean Dunn advised that we have a fund balance net difference of about \$304,516 although this hasn't been audited yet.

The College expects the auditors to be on campus in October. Dean Dunn advised that the College started the year with a fund balance of \$255,719 (plus the \$304,516) we will end the year with a fund balance of \$560,235 and some items that needed to be addressed are the Human Services position, Registrar's position and Media Position. Dean Dunn advised that the College cabinet met on this and decided to use some of the fund balance for these positions. Leg. Donaldson asked if the College working on getting the fund balance up? Dean Dunn advised that the College is and that some funds will be going to fund a few areas. Dean Dunn said that the FTE's this year we just received, and the College is around 2167. There are still about 4 FTE's missing from the credit free area and the College expects the final total to be around 2170. Dean Dunn advised that these are FTE projections until the State receives the Annual Report and accepts it. The College can't use these as official numbers until the State approves them. Dean Dunn advised that the College is down from last year. In 2014-2015, the FTE'S were 2160 and in 2013-2014 the FTE's were 2257 although the College is up in the collegiate area. Leg. Donaldson asked does the College get the same state aid for the collegiate program. Dean Dunn advised that the College only gets 1/3 tuition but it offsets instruction costs. Leg. Donaldson advised that the College should try and push these courses.

President Roberts advised that the College would like to expand to greater levels and discussions have been going on about busing high school students to the main campus to co-mingle with the classes. President Roberts advised that if the College has a class of 15 and adds 3 more students, the cost doesn't go up. President Roberts said that the superintendents are very excited about this. Leg. Donaldson said this sounds like an exciting idea. President Roberts said it elevates the students interest and gives them a true idea of what college is like. Studies show that these exposures have an impact. About 80% of these students end up finishing and obtaining a college degree. Leg. Donaldson said it's because they are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. President Roberts advised that the College is working with New Paltz in a program that a student can register at SUNY Ulster and be considered a New Paltz student. President Roberts said that the College is also considering a branch location in New Paltz to have a better system to reach these potential students. Leg. Gregorius asked would that impact the FTE numbers? President Roberts said the College could see an increase but not until next year. President Roberts advised that the College is also looking into doing extended classes at the Kingston Center since the building is empty between 2:30pm-5:00pm. This would open up opportunities for many potential students that wouldn't have to worry about transportation. Leg. Donaldson said there will be a natural shift from the Resource Center to the Kingston Center location.

Dean Dunn closed with a reminder about the capital request that the College submitted. Leg. Donaldson advised that he would call and make sure that these are included in the five-year program. Dean Dunn also advised that the water project is coming along and we are hoping to have it on the November agenda.

ARTS MID HUDSON

Reported by: Linda Marston-Reid

Resolution: None

Reported: Leg. Donaldson advised that Arts Mid-Hudson program was able to get an-add on of \$5,000.00 to the program and the committee looked at doing at least this, if not more. Leg. Donaldson was happy to see that it had made it into the budget. Leg. Donaldson advised on the 180 program for children ages 15-16 years old, but the program at this age range doesn't tend to work. Leg. Donaldson said that this program was for younger children, ages 8-12 that were arrested and had to make restitution for their acts and were counseled on what they had done. Leg. Donaldson said that the program was working well but it was funded by a federal grant that was given to start the program off and if it was successful then it is the financial responsibility of the group that took on the program.

Linda Marston-Reid said the program reviewed and looked again for artists that are in big groups but are not a non-profit group. We allow for them to partner with a non-profit and they create a great service to an underserved part of the County. We see large areas in Woodstock but we have these pockets that could also use these funds and we can reach out to more groups. Leg. Donaldson asked how do we do this? Linda Marston-Reid said the group works in conjunction with a nonprofit. Leg. Lopez asked why do they have to partner with nonprofit? Linda Marston-Reid said contracts can only go to nonprofit 5013c that have experience. This partnership was an experiment to see if it could be successful. Leg. Lopez said

maybe this could be a change that could be made. Leg Donaldson said that these groups need to partner with a nonprofit because it could be a potential issue giving a profit organization money. It's a fiscal sponsor, you are lending them your 5013c status and it can be taken away if there are any issues. Leg. Gregorius said it's great to see these programs in other locations, it empowers areas that don't have the facilities to make it happen like Kingston and Woodstock and with a little money you can still have a presence.

Leg. Donaldson asked if Arts Mid-Hudson could provide a copy of the contract. Linda Marston-Reid advised that there has been a change in the last two years and the program has seen a hybrid. Certain parts of the funds could be used for other things such as we did in Dutchess County. Some funds were used for marketing, funding, and small capital projects and it was successful. We have a lot of organizations and funding could keep residents active and could improve tourism. Leg. Donaldson said the he likes the idea that the artist gets to decide where the funds go.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENTION

Reported by: Lee Reidy

Resolution: None

Reported: Lee Reidy advised that the apple crop is coming in very well and agritourism is booming with all our local farms. There are many apple picking locations within the Hudson Valley and we have seen many of our community members going out to enjoy these farms. Lee Reidy advised on an update of the organic farm that was trying to do the fish is unfortunately declaring bankruptcy. The Hudson Valley Farm Hub located at the old Gills Farm is doing great things. Cornell had a three-year contract with them that is coming to an end next year but they are looking into renewal. Cornell Cooperative has ties with Cornell University to the Hudson Valley Farm Hub by working in the labs that are working on local food systems. The food hubs are doing a lot of work with local schools involving students growing their own food. Lee Reidy said this is a lot of work on the state and local level for them to be able to do this. Due to procurement policies in the school systems, food products are driven by cost. Another possible issue was that New York only had a nine-month growing season and this limits the ability to sell products. Many local stores are showing a trend in placing importance on locally grown produce. Ulster County is the hub of the south-east, we have more farm land and products. We are number two in the apple production fresh market.

Lee Reidy advised she was able to tour an apple farm in Alaska. They grow trees in high tunnels and are able to regulate the temperature by positioning the sides up and down. They are growing apples, plums, and cherries. They were working with New York State at one point by growing trees in pots on the ground. Specialists are looking into New York and they want to be growing what we are growing.

Lee Reidy advised that the calendar events for Cornell Cooperative are slowing down and agricultural events are done, but a lot of nutrition events are coming up. Lee Reidy advised that there has not be an annual dinner this year, but we will try and hold an event in April or May as a fundraiser. She advised that we need to look at fundraising as a viable way to fund the organization. Most of our work is done with

grants and contracts, but we don't have any core funding anymore to tie Cornell from one grant to another. Cornell is able to counter this by fundraising. Cornell hasn't been a fundraising organization in the past and this is a big change. Lee Reidy advised that the Harvest Festival was an attempt to do this, but we were not able to compete with the various events. Every fundraising event we try to turn into an educational opportunity and we lose focus on the task of fundraising. Every not-for-profit is going through this process. Cornell Cooperative Extension is still looked at as a government agency that doesn't have a need for funding. The \$350,000 we received will help this, but we are also looking for an additional \$50,000 to update The Agricultural Farm Extension Plan. This has not been updated since 1998.

If we receive this funding, it would help make Cornell eligible for more grants. New York State has set aside 21 million dollars in this part of the state and having an updated plan makes you eligible. This grant is a 1 to 1 match (\$50,000). Leg. Donaldson asked if the plan will be done through Cornell Cooperative? Lee Reidy advised that Cornell Cooperative Extension would hire an individual to help in this process.

Budgeting discussion ensued with a breakdown of Mid-Hudson arts receiving \$5,000, Community Action receiving the same amount as last year, but also had requested \$37,375 for a new roof that wasn't approved. Discussion went on about the kitchen upgrade and the potential new location for Community Action. Leg Donaldson advised that this program does have services that help the community like HEAP, but has had issues with the State regulations with the agriculture food distribution. The committee agreed to have Community Action attend the next committee meeting in November to discuss further.

Motion #4- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Lopez and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Dated the 13th day of October 2015

Natasha Tagliaferro, Recorder
Minutes approved on November 4, 2015