

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : September 8, 2015, 5:00pm
LOCATION : Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster, Student Services Conference Room, Room 208,
Kingston, New York
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Chairman – Present
RECORDER : Natasha Tagliafierro, Assistant, SUNY, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS
PRESENT : Leg. Mary Wawro, Leg. Craig Lopez, Leg. John Parete, Leg. Manna Jo Greene
OTHERS
PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster County Community College; W. John Dunn,
Interim Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College; Fawn Tantillo,
Legislature; Kathy Nola, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee and Ulster County
Tourism Advisory Committee; Chris White, Ulster County Planning Department
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE, Leg. Donald Gregorius was not present.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2015, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion to approve the minutes of this Committee of August 11, 2015, were unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported by: Alan P. Roberts

Resolution: None

Reported: President Roberts reported that the College had set a target for FTE's this year and that they knew that we would be down dramatically but that they are really close to hitting the mark they set. President Roberts said I feel like we are going to hit that target, although there will be some work with retention of students. Dean Dunn advised that we have not registered collegian students as of yet. Dean Dunn advised that we will have a true picture in middle to end of October. Leg. Donaldson said that the collegian enrollment will add to the FTE number to help receive more State aid money. Dean Dunn advised that the College will make a decision about freeing up spending money once they get to the end of the fall semester and they can figure out the spring.

Leg. Donaldson asked if we are confident that we are not going to be closing up shop? Dean Dunn said we are closing out last year's numbers and we have projections for our revenue and expenses as of

August 31, 2015. The projections look like we are going to add a couple thousand dollars to the fund balance and we have around \$200,000 in open purchase orders that will have to be closed out or paid as well as one more payroll in September that consists of half being charged back to August. Dean Dunn advised that it is very close, yet we can comfortably predict a \$200,000 add on to our fund balance. Dean Dunn advised we need these funds because we are settling on an agreement with OPAP. Dean Dunn said that they have not had a contract for about a year and we are going to owe them retroactive money which equals about \$60,000 to \$70,000 and we owe that for the 15'- 16' year and the new year. Dean Dunn advised that the budget in June didn't have any contingencies for salaries so we need the additional funds to be added to the fund balance.

Leg. Donaldson asked President Roberts how is your acclimation to the community going? President Roberts advised it has been a fascinating whirlwind and to hear all the individual stories of what Ulster means to them has been truly exceptional.

President Roberts said we have changed the meetings structure and this has resulted in very productive meetings. President Roberts said one thing we're working on this week is taking an in-depth look at positions on campus. President Roberts said we are going to have a retreat with the cabinet and senior staff to look into the positions and the direction of reorganization. President Roberts said we hope to have this done within two months as we will have a new organization and start some restructuring and see what is routine and if we can eliminate some routine tasks and take an in-depth look at what we can improve.

Dean Dunn advised that we had a great opportunity through The Furniture Trust that was donating some office furniture and we were able to get about 300 new chairs. Leg. Donaldson said you may want to contact some non-profit organizations for the old chairs. Most of the time the furniture is hand-me-downs and to get them something in better condition would be appreciated. Leg. Donaldson said I know that some may be old, but they are still good.

Dean Dunn advised that he also wanted to bring up our Capital Plan. He brought to attention some health and safety issues that are on our list such as the leach field, gym wall and pedestrian bridge. Dean Dunn also advised that the water storage tank and master plan are additional add-ons to the Capital Plan and with a new president and new cabinet we need to reevaluate future plans for the College. Dean Dunn added comments about the back-up generators and the extension of the water system. Leg. Donaldson asked are these in the Capital Plan? Dean Dunn advised yes, they were submitted to the County and we wanted to make sure that the committee was aware of how important some of these items are. Leg. Donaldson said this will be part of the budget process. President Roberts said we are getting close to starting the water project. Leg. Donaldson said when did you start that project? President Roberts said from what I have heard it has been years. Leg. Donaldson said at least six years. Leg. Parete said has crossing property lines been the issue? President Roberts said all parties have agreed and it has to go back to the County attorney.

Leg. Parete said we have been big supporters of the College and the Kingston Center building is great, but my concern is that if there is not enough revenue generated from the new center that it would be charged to the students. Leg. Parete said I am worried about tuition being raised; we don't want it to be a drain. President Roberts said we have additional space and we still have the Business Resource Center and these are going to generate income. We also are in close proximity to the hospital and I have some thoughts on how we can use this location to our advantage. Leg. Parete said I am concerned because the

facility is a major economic engine for Ulster County and we have to invest in it and support it and that means supporting the students. President Roberts said that means we will just have to work harder.

Dean Dunn said there is going to be times that we will have to subsidize. Leg. Parete said I have no issue with subsidizing; I would rather the County or citizens pay for this and not the students. Dean Dunn said we are planning on subsidizing out of the operating budget. Since we didn't raise tuition this year we are no longer the highest. President Roberts said compared to other community colleges, we stand right in the middle. Leg. Greene asked why the KCSU is still on the capital plan? Dean Dunn advised that the project has to stay till the state pays out in full. Leg. Greene advised that she would like to give a reminder that if there can be any green building or energy efficient upgrades it would be appreciated.

Leg. Donaldson said that the committee needs to review the contract agencies that we give money to and we need to run through them. Leg. Donaldson said he had one update on Community Action the regional food was taken away because they didn't comply with regulations, I called up to Albany and this was the explanation they gave me. They decided to go another way and now they are moving toward using local farmers and that will only last as long as the season lasts. Leg. Donaldson said they will not be able to serve the same 200 people. We will have to have further discussion on Community Action's \$30,375 in extra funding that they are requesting.

Leg. Wawro advised that Marie Shultis will be coming from Awareness to speak at the next committee meeting. Leg. Donaldson advised that Mid-Hudson Arts are requesting extra money and we wanted them to put money towards new programs and their problem is that they have some good programs that may go away if they are not given more funds. We limited them and we want them to be more self-sustaining. They also will be here next month to speak to us.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No. 327:

Text of Motion: Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Youth Board

Motion made: Leg. Wawro

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #327 unanimously approved.

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.328:

Text of Motion: Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Youth Board

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 0

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #328 unanimously approved.

Motion #4 to Approve Resolution No.329:

Text of Motion: Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Youth Board

Motion made: Leg. Wawro

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #329 unanimously approved.

Motion #5 to Approve Resolution No.346:

Text of Motion: Amending The 2015 Ulster County Budget To Include Additional Allocations Of Funds To Ulster County From The New York State Office For The Aging.

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #346 unanimously approved.

Motion #4- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Wawro and seconded by Leg. Lopez and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Dated the 8th day of September 2015

Natasha Tagliaferro, Recorder
Minutes approved on October 13, 2015