

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ARTS,
EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009 AT 5:00PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman
MARY F. SHEELEY
THOMAS "T.J." BRIGGS
DONALD J. GREGORIUS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
FRANK FELICELLO

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DR. DONALD C. KATT, President, Ulster County Community College
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, UCCC
CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, UCCC
TODD ZEFF, Coordinator of The RISE Program, UCCC
KATHLEEN KEYSER, Counselor, The RISE Program, UCCC
WILLIAM J. RYAN, JR., ESQ., Attorney for Ulster County Community College
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, and Chairwoman Zimet being unable to attend, Deputy Chairman Wayne Harris acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2009. Leg. Sheeley so moved; Leg. Briggs seconded; and upon voice vote the minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting of this Committee were approved.

Chairman Harris then recognized Dr. Donald C. Katt, President of Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

Dr. Katt said this Committee, at its July meeting, had requested the college to bring forth a resolution at this meeting authorizing the college to proceed with the design service, legal fees, and environmental studies of the proposed project to bring water to the campus from the High

Falls Water District at a cost of \$425,000, utilizing a portion of the funds remaining unused in the gymnasium capital project account. Since that last meeting, said the President, the college received a call from the County Executive's Office directing us to close the gymnasium capital project out. There is currently a balance in that project of \$777,800 and it is the college's desire to reallocate \$725,000 of that amount for the design services, legal fees, environmental studies and other costs to make the water project shovel ready.

President Katt referred the Committee members to the hand-out draft resolution attachment map showing the proposed water line where it comes across the two properties we are obtaining easements through. He also said the total estimated cost for this project is \$3.6 million and if this portion is eventually approved, the remaining cost of construction will be \$2.9 million which will be shared, half from the county and half from the state. President Katt advised that Dennis Doyle said this is the kind of approach he favors. If we are shovel ready when any additional money comes into the county or into the state we will be ready to go ahead. As part of this planning phase, we will prepare an application for Clean Water Act funds. We will also be looking for other sources of funding, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Leg. Gregorius asked if we were to get stimulus money in the future what kind of changes would we have to make to what we are doing now. President Katt reiterated what Dennis Doyle had previously said; that there may be a need for some fine tuning, but it would be minor. The President also said if stimulus money came in it would be used to match the SUNY Construction Fund money.

After further discussion, Chairman Harris asked for a motion to approve the proposed resolution. Leg. Briggs so moved, Leg. Sheeley seconded, and upon voice vote the following resolution was unanimously approved:

"Amending Capital Project No. 286 – Planning and Design for Water Acquisition and Distribution – Ulster County Community College Campus Renovations and Reconstruction Phase I Facilities Master Plan – Amending the 2009-2014 Capital Program and Amending the 2009 Capital Project Fund – Ulster County Community College"
(A copy of the proposed Resolution setting forth the full text is attached hereto and made a part hereof and marked Schedule A.)"

At this time Chairman Harris recognized William J. Ryan, Jr., Esq., attorney for Ulster County Community College who discussed the proposed Local Law Number 9 of 2009 amending Local Law #14 of 2007, a local law requiring criminal background checks of prospective applicants for employment with the County of Ulster. He said he has been working with the Laws & Rules Committee and with County Legislative Attorney Dan Heppner, to try and craft correct wording. He referred the committee to the proposed amendments as set forth in italics. He discussed

the problems relating to community college employees who provide short-term service in continuing education, and student employees who work as student aides or are on work study.

Leg. Sheeley referred to Sec. II, 2 (c), and felt that a lot can happen in a three-year time period and that a three year break between fingerprinting was too long. Attorney Ryan thought perhaps the college could do a less invasive background check.

Chairman Harris asked what we did now in terms of a background check. President Katt said we plan to implement background checks on September 1st. We hire professional staff after checking their references, and support staff have been hired through the County's Civil Service process. Those working in children's program go through a check with the State Department of Social Services. Leg. Briggs asked about checking with previous employers and whether they will or will not be forthcoming about an employee who is no longer in their employ.

Dean Marianne Collins said the difficulty we have has to do with the initial idea that this law was really meant for a full time employee and not for the many different types of employees utilized by the community college. We are also very concerned about the cost, either to the college and/or to the individual. Most importantly it will undermine the flexibility with which we work because we do have such diverse individuals teaching. We are also concerned about our work study students, our student aides, and our student interns.

Leg. Gregorius asked how adjunct instructors are recruited. Dean Collins said she could not remember the last time they put an ad in the paper for a continuing education instructor. President Katt said we do advertise for adjunct instructors in the credit area but in the credit free area it is up to the program coordinators to get instructors for the individual courses. It is mostly by word of mouth.

At this time Chairman Harris said he would entertain a motion to approve in concept Local Law Number 9 of 2009 amending Local Law No 14 of 2007, subject to changing the provisions of Section II, paragraph 2., subsection (c) to read eighteen (18) months and not three (3) years. A motion to that effect was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and upon voice vote was unanimously passed by the committee.

At this time Chairman Harris recognized Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education who gave a brief presentation on what the coming year would look like for the RISE program. She introduced Todd Zeff, Coordinator of the program and Kathy Keyser, Counselor.

Chairman Harris was interested in the fact that 80 clients were referred this past year but only 26 enrolled in the Essential Skills class. Mr. Zeff said not everyone was ready for college, but he has found that if they are not ready at a particular time, it is possible that some may come back next year when they are ready. The same with the 26 enrolled in Essential Skills – not all

of them enrolled in college courses, but they still acquired the skills, knowledge and self-confidence needed to become gainfully employed. He believes the 17 enrolled in college is a good number. In reply to questions, Mr. Zeff said our Daycare is used very often by RISE students and the bus service is used by virtually all of them.

Dean Collins said a great deal of what we had to do over the last few years was Todd and Kathy building and repairing relationships with the Department of Social Services.

Leg. Gregorius asked if certificates for a certain skill are given even if the student does not complete a course. For example, he said, can a student get a certificate in Word even if they do not complete the computer class. Dean Collins said they need to complete the course, but they do get a certificate if they complete the Essential Skills class. When Leg. Gregorius asked about tuition he was told that all students qualify for federal and state financial aid which also includes fees and books.

Dean Collins said we are currently looking into some of the certificate programs which would be good for the RISE program clients such as Pharmacy Technician; however, at the present time these certificate programs do not qualify for financial aid.

Chairman Harris wanted to know what happens after the Essential Skills class. Ms. Keyser said once the student starts classes in the new semester, there are individual meetings at least once a week to discuss how things are going with them. We also monitor their academic progress and keep a close watch to make sure they are keeping up with their studies.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Leg. Briggs who reported on the Ulster County Veteran's Service Agency.

Ulster County Veteran's Service Agency:

Leg. Briggs said he had discussed the matter of the people who had wanted to have an event at the Veteran's Cemetery in New Paltz with Terry Breitenstein and they do not have all of their plans together yet. He will follow up later this month and plans to have a full report at the September meeting. He doesn't want to interfere with any other veteran's organizations.

The report of Leg. Briggs on Veteran's Service Agency being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Leg. Gregorius who reported on Ulster County Tourism.

Ulster County Tourism:

Leg. Gregorius said we had some questions and have been left out of the loop since November of last year and just found out what was going on with Tourism. It was suggested by this Committee that we have a meeting with the County Executive. Leg. Gregorius said he attended

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the Legislative Leadership Meeting with Chairwoman Zimet and they made the concerns of this committee known at that time. He is not sure how it was left. We requested Mr. Remsnyder come and speak with us. He says there was some mix up in times. The point is, said Leg. Gregorius what will the next steps be.

Leg. Gregorius said we have a new policy on buy-outs. It is a policy that has been made much as he believes Tourism has a policy that has been made. Section C.11 of the County Charter reads: " The County Legislature shall be the legislative, appropriating and policy-determining body of the County.....". He said if it ultimately comes down to who makes policy, and in order to be effective, we have to define what is policy before we can determine who makes policy. At this time the matter was tabled pending further investigation.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Sheeley and Chairman Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.
Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder