

**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, FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman
DONALD J. GREGORIUS
CATHERINE TERRIZZI

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DR. DONALD C. KATT, President, Ulster County Community College
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, UCCC
CHRISTOPHER MARX, Director of Continuing & Professional Education, UCCC
CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, UCCC
RICK REMSNYDER, Director of Ulster County Tourism
BENJAMIN KREVOLIN, President, Dutchess County Arts Council
NICO LANG, Dir. Of Programs & Art Services, Dutchess County Arts Council
JANET SALANITRI, Committee Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:10pm and recognized Dr. Donald C. Katt, President of Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

President Katt presented to the Committee a proposed Resolution entitled "Recommending Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between The County of Ulster and The UCCC Organization of Professional and Administrative Personnel". He advised that the proposed contract represented about 65 administrators and was essentially the same as the contract approved for the full-time teaching faculty. The President reviewed the terms of the contract and the percentages. He said the total cost of \$149,059 had already been budgeted for and the college has the funds to cover it.

Chairwoman Zimet said it appears that the college is following the county's lead. President Katt said CSEA received annual increases of 3%, 3-1/4% and 3-1/2%. Leg. Harris remarked that this was only a one year contract and President Katt advised that it was being done this way because although the faculty contract was for two years, with what the Governor is talking, we may have to go back to faculty and ask for give backs. In reply to several questions by Leg. Gregorius, President Katt said OPAP was a separate union on their own, that they do come under The Taylor Law and that the college's negotiating attorney, William Wallens, was retained separately by the College.

At this time a motion to approve the proposed resolution as presented was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Gregorius. Chairwoman Zimet called for discussion, if any, and Leg. Terrizzi asked how the nearly 4% increase for OPAP relates to CSEA. President Katt replied that in addition to the percentages set forth for CSEA, they also had longevity

increases added to their base (where OPAP does not) which makes them comparable. Chairwoman Zimet said she advocated approval of this

Minutes

February 18, 2009

Page 2

Resolution, because why should these few employees have to suffer when the Legislature has already approved every other bargaining agreement.

There being a motion to approve the proposed Resolution on the floor, and there being no further questions, Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote and the Resolution was unanimously approved. A portion of said Resolution is as follows:

"...WHEREAS, the Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee does hereby recommend to the Ulster County Legislature, the approval of the collective bargaining agreement covering the period 9/1/2008 to 8/31/2009 between the County of Ulster and the Ulster County Community College Organization of Professional and Administrative Personnel (OPAP), and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive of the County of Ulster is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ulster County Community College Organization of Professional and Administrative Personnel (OPAP), as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney,

and moves its adoption."

At this time President Katt presented a proposed Resolution "Establishing Capital Project No. 318 - Ulster County Community College - Nursing Lab Upgrade - Amending the 2009-2014 Capital Program and Amending the 2009 Capital Project Fund - Ulster County Community College". He discussed the current condition of the existing Nursing Lab and the pictures distributed to Committee and advised that, as set forth in the Resolution, "the NYS Education Department has commented on the facilities inadequacies and strongly encouraged the College to upgrade, update and modernize the facility" The President said the college would like to at least get started with the architectural and engineering services at this time. When questioned by the Committee, President Katt said it was the recommendation to the college by the County Executive's staff that we establish a new Capital Project rather than go under the old Gymnasium Capital Project, which still has funds on hand.

Chairwoman Zimet asked if the State had mandated any of this and President Katt said it was not an actual mandate but they will come back and hope to find these labs upgraded. She also asked about the Master Plan and the President said the Board of Trustees is working on it

and when they approve it he will bring it back to this Committee. Chairwoman Zimet said she would rather have these renovations come from the existing Capital Project Fund. Leg. Harris said he would also like to see this come out of the existing Capital Project. Leg. Terrizzi asked about the Gymnasium Capital Project. President Katt said there was a little over \$1 million left from the Gym addition, which is not going to be done in the near future. Leg. Terrizzi also agreed that this money should come from existing Capital Project funds.

Minutes

February 18, 2009

Page 3

Upon being asked by the Committee, Dennis Doyle said the recommendation to establish a new Capital Project was for tracking purposes, as existing software will not track capital projects. A general discussion followed on prior, existing and future capital projects and reporting requirements. At this time Chairwoman Zimet suggested that any further action on this motion be held in abeyance pending discussion on the college's water project.

President Katt told the Committee that when the college first started to look at the water supply, with or without student housing, we found the campus would completely benefit from an additional water source. He said the total project is \$3.6 million and we are looking for funding at this time for environmental reviews, legal services and design services which should be done early in order to insure that the project is feasible. He said the State money is available – there is \$11 million in the Construction Fund for emergency use at any of the thirty community colleges.

Chairwoman Zimet asked if there were any options. The President said one reason was regarding health. The college has two wells and if one of them goes out we don't have an adequate system to service the needs of the college. The other reason relates to timing said the President. As the college builds new footprints, the fire code now says we have to install sprinkler systems.

Chairwoman Zimet asked for input from Dennis Doyle. He said members of the Economic Development Committee, not in relation to the college but in general, agreed that moving through the design process to a level where you have sufficient information to give the Legislature is good. That is important with respect to grant sources especially. Mr. Doyle said not having the planning and design phases in place when funds became available have resulted in missed opportunities. He believes it is prudent to be shovel ready. With regard to the water project it is agreed that this would be a project designed solely for the college and would be held to a higher standard. In addition, SEQRA also requires us to look at other things. A general discussion followed. Leg. Gregorius asked if the SEQRA and design phases are completed, what happens if the project gets tabled say for the next five year. Mr. Doyle said designs can be updated.

In connection with the Nursing Resolution, Leg. Gregorius said he had read that enrollment was up and wondered if that included Nursing. President Katt advised that the college had

received a \$60,000 federal grant and had just purchased eight modern nursing manikins which were sorely needed.

Nursing students need as much hands on time and information as possible. The President said we have over 400 applications for 56 spots in the fall and most likely there is a two-year waiting list. He said we need to hire more full-time faculty. President Katt discussed the Kingston & Benedictine merger and said the number of clinical had to be cut back because of the merger and attendant construction.

At this time the Committee requested that the college submit a new Resolution amending Capital Project 286, providing for the funds to be used for the Nursing Lab renovations be charged against the existing Gymnasium Renovation Capital Project, and Chairwoman Zimet said they will work out the remaining details for approval when it is submitted. President Katt will provide a copy of the final Resolution to be attached to and made a part of these minutes.

On the basis of the foregoing, a motion was made by Legislature Terrizzi and seconded by Leg. Gregorius to approve the Resolution of Ulster County Community College to amend the Capital Project to provide that the

Minutes

February 18, 2009

Page 4

Nursing Lab Upgrade and its expenditures be provided for from the existing Gymnasium Capital Project. Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote, and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

At this time Chairwoman Zimet requested that the second portion of the report of Ulster County Community College on the RISE Program and the NYSERDA Grant, be heard later in the meeting to allow for the report of Ulster County Tourism at this time, as Mr. Remsnyder had another meeting to attend.

Ulster County Tourism:

Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism distributed packets of materials to the Committee members regarding the current activities going on in the County as well as information covering the 2009 Quadracentennial Celebration. He said in the last six months there has been a rush to get everything organized. He said Ulster County also partners with Dutchess County because of the Walkway Over the Hudson. Mr. Remsnyder advised that the Quadracentennial will not just be celebrated along the Hudson River corridor, but will include many other art and history events throughout the county. He said working with Nina Postupack and her entire staff has been a pleasure with great teamwork and cooperation. He discussed several of the proposed events and said that supposedly we will be getting some money back from the State to partially fund these events. The culmination of the celebration will be in October with the opening of the Walkway over the Hudson. He also said that Kingston is the only place where the boats will be docking at one time.

Mr. Remsnyder then presented a Resolution as follows:

"RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby designates the Ulster County Tourism Office as the official tourist promotion agency of Ulster County to apply for and receive matching funds for the fiscal year 2009-2010 on behalf of and to represent Ulster County for the promotion of tourism..."

A motion to approve said Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote said Resolution was unanimously approved.

Mr. Remsnyder then presented his second Resolution as follows:

"WHEREAS, the 'I Love New York' Matching Funds Local Assistance to the County's Program has been reinstated for the 2009-2010 tourism year, and
WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Tourism has participated with the State Department of Economic Development, Division of Tourism, in their Matching Funds Local Assistance Program for the last eighteen years, and
WHEREAS, the Department of Tourism will be applying for between \$30,000.00 to \$500,000.00 in matching funds for the 2009-2010 year, and
WHEREAS, it is the private sector's expressed intent to continue its support of the Matching Funds Program, and
WHEREAS, the Matching Funds Cooperative Advertising effort is vital to the continuing growth of tourism in Ulster County, and
WHEREAS, the Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

Minutes

February 18, 2009

Page 5

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that Ulster County pledges to match no more than \$500,000.00 and no less than \$30,000.00 for the 2009-2010 Matching Funds Program above described, and, be it further
RESOLVED, that Ulster County reserves the right to accept or not accept the funds, and moves its adoption."

A brief discussion was held, after which a motion to approve the foregoing Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Gregorius, and seconded by Leg. Harris. Upon Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote said Resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet turned to Ulster County Community College for the balance of its report and recognized Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education.

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Collins introduced Chris Marx, Director of Continuing and Professional Education and Coordinator of the RISE Program.

Mr. Marx advised the Committee that Ulster County Community College has been awarded a three-year \$466,856 grant from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) as leader of a five- community college consortium (Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan) on a project titled "SUNY Clean Energy Technology Training (CETT) Consortium". Mr. Marx said this grant came out of Continuing Education's work in the clean or sustainable energy area. We are running many more continuing education classes, especially Geothermal, Solar Thermal and Small Wind Turbines. As a Consortium, we will be seeking accreditation as a provider of CETT programs through the Interstate Renewable Energy Council and will be looking to create CETT Resource Centers .

Continuing, Mr. Marx said the Business Resource Center will be host to a Clean Energy Resource Center for the community including homeowners and professionals, and to serve as a connection between the clean energy business and prospective employees. He said the college has partnered with Sustainable Hudson Valley to develop and expand these centers throughout the region. There was a discussion of credit and credit-free courses involved

Mr. Marx gave an overview of the RISE Program and its current statistics, as well as some of the personal stories of the students in this program and their progress. He also discussed the Employment Exploration Seminar he teaches and the guest speakers who will be coming to speak with the students.

He also discussed the "Electronic Briefcase" Title III Mini-Grant and the hope this will encourage organization and a sense of community that will have a positive effect on the program.

Minutes

February 18, 2009

Page 7

Prior to ending the report of Ulster County Community College, Marianne Collins commended Chris Marx for the time and energy he has expended above and beyond in order to work on both of these projects. She also thanked President Katt and this Committee for all of their support and efforts in order to keep this very worthwhile program going.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet spoke on the Ulster County Cultural Services & Promotion Fund which consists of a \$50,000 arts fund and \$7,500 administration fund which is administered by the Dutchess County Arts Counsel. She then recognized Benjamin Krevolin, President and Nico Lang, Director of Programs, of the Dutchess County Arts Council.

Dutchess County Arts Council:

Nico Lang, Director of Programs, said there were twenty-five applications last year. The final reports are due in March and she will come back in April and give this Committee a full report. The application itself is being updated to make it more streamlined and accessible and not as intimidating. She said there would be an application workshop on February 26th at 5:30pm at the Center for Photography in Woodstock. Ms. Lang also thought it would be good if the committee had a small reception for the award recipients.

Chairwoman Zimet said she would like to have a reception also. She said there is the problem of people not realizing that the money comes from Ulster County but the funds are administered through the Dutchess County Arts Council. Ms. Lang thought the checks could be handed out at this reception. Leg. Terrizzi said perhaps Award Certificates could be handed out at that time.

A general discussion followed regarding the funding of the arts by New York State and by the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the budget cuts made, both state and federal. They discussed various ways of trying to get some of the "stimulus" funds. Leg. Gregorius suggested a memorializing resolution with Dutchess County to try and get the Arts funded. The Legislatures should make sure that the Arts are made one of the priorities as the Arts in Ulster County are an economic stimulus. The committee discussed the Arts as they relate to Community Development Block Grants and the Rural Development Fund, as well as the Arts being featured on the county's web site.

Mr. Krevolin discussed the Walkway Over the Hudson project and the advantages to the Arts that the celebrations are bringing. The Committee agreed that this was an occasion where all of the communities within the county could participate in their own way.

There being no further business and a motion to adjourn having been made and seconded, Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder