

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, JULY 15. 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman
DONALD J. GREGORIUS
THOMAS "T.J" BRIGGS
MARY F. SHEELEY
CATHERINE TERRIZZI

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DONALD J. KATT, President, Ulster County Community College
CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, Ulster Co. Comm. College
MANUELA MICHAELSCU, interested party, Tourism Advisory Board
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm and recognized Dr. Donald J. Katt, President of Ulster County Community College

Ulster County Community College:

President Katt gave a Power Point presentation on the Comprehensive Campus Master Plan and in particular referred committee members to pages 6.5 through 6.15 and 6.17 through 6.22 of the hard copies previously provided to them. The long-term Master Plan is in phases: five-year and ten-year, with a total projected cost of \$73 million, and some additional long-range projects.

The President reviewed all the significant changes made to the campus over the last ten years which have resulted in the addition of public meeting space, state-of-the art classrooms, science labs, computer labs and new administrative space, as well as the renewal of some existing space. He also advised that delays in the bid process for the nursing labs had delayed the project but we were able to move instructional space to the paramedic lab in Hasbrouck Hall for one year.

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The estimated cost for projects in the first five-year phase, is \$48.7 million. These items are generally health and safety items and for the attraction and retention of students. Some of the items listed in that phase are:

- Extend public water system to the campus;
- Construct wastewater treatment plant;
- Revise main campus intersection;
- Student Life addition to Senate Gymnasium;
- Physical plant building;
- Restructure Parking Lot F;
- New Children's Center/Swing Space;
- Renovate Old Hardenbrgh Hall;
- Renovate Burroughs 120;
- Vanderlyn Hall Arts Expansion; and
- Upgrade Campus Site Lighting.

President Katt said the project cost of the year six to ten year plan was \$24.7 million, and the highlights of that plan were:

- Reconfigure Art classrooms and offices in Vanderlyn Hall;
- Vanderlyn/Student Services addition;
- Expansion of Vanderlyn Learning Center;
- Vanderlyn HVAC Upgrades;
- Physical Education, Police Academy and Safety & Security addition.

At this time Leg. Harris asked about the progress with the cell phone reception. The President said that cell phone reception was much better and when the cell phone tower on the water tower in High Falls is up the problem with reception on campus should clear up. Leg. Terrizzi will follow up with the Marbletown Supervisor to get a handle on what is happening. Cornelia Denvir, Acting Dean of Administration, said the college is currently installing a system allowing announcements to be made campus wide for lock-down in the event of emergencies. This system should be completed by October. There are also plans for a bullet proof communications center.

Chairwoman Zimet asked the status of any new dorms as she feels there would be concern that the neighbors feel that bringing water to the campus would somehow be getting around their wishes. President Katt said both he and the Marbletown Supervisor believe the neighbors are mellowing. He reiterated that there are valid health and safety concerns as well as water limitations. He also said the state now

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requires we have a secondary source of water. Also, said the President, by us taking on the High Falls water source, it also gives the neighbors a second water source option in the future.

In reply to several questions, President Katt said it would be more efficient to do the design and environmental work ahead of time and get the water project shovel ready. The design service, legal fees and environmental studies are projected at \$420,000 of the \$3.6 million total cost. He said the college still has a portion of that money within the gymnasium capital project. The \$420,000 would be split \$210,000 state and \$210,000 county. Leg. Terrizzi believes it to be a good idea, especially if they come out with a second stimulus plan. She said it would make sense to be ready to proceed.

At this time a motion was made by Chairwoman Zimet that the college be directed to bring forth a resolution at the August meeting of this committee 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 \$420,700 of which \$210,350 will be paid by the county and \$210,350 will be paid by the state. The motion was seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and discussion followed.

President Katt said the total project cost is \$3.6 million. He also advised that when Dennis Doyle was at one of the Committee meetings recently, the subject of making this project shovel ready was brought up and he said it is more efficient to do it this way. If it takes a while for the project to be done, and there are any changes, they will be small ones and you don't have to start from scratch.

Leg. Gregorius asked if the State will match the funds to make this shovel ready. President Katt said the funds are already there. We do have to notify the State Construction Fund, but it appears that it becomes campus money to be used for construction, even if the particular construction project changes.

At this time Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote on the motion and the motion as presented was unanimously approved.

President Katt reported that the Corrective Action Plan on the Comptroller's Audit had been sent to all Legislators at their home addresses. He said there had been a tremendous amount of work done by his staff to put us into compliance with the Comptroller's Office.

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The President also referenced the news story on President Obama's initiative to expend \$12 billion in the next ten years to the community colleges to give us additional funds from the federal level for retraining and new job skills and for college ready courses and additional upgrading to double community college enrollments. On a local level we don't know what that amount might translate to as there are over a thousand community colleges across the country

President Katt announced that we have agreed with SUNY Institute of Technology for them to come to Ulster County Community College to offer a four-year degree in nursing. It will be their program and their faculty. They will have the use of our classrooms and faculty if they wish. Leg. Terrizzi said the lab construction contract is still in the County Insurance Department and is still being held up.

Leg. Gregorius said he would like some information on the status of the RISE Program for a meeting he is going to on Monday and President Katt said Dean Collins would call him the following day. Chairwoman Zimet said she had a meeting this very day with some of the students in the RISE Program and she discussed the history of Joan Crawford and her successes in this program and they were very impressed. Chairwoman Zimet said she told the students that not just anybody is allowed into this program but that those in it today were chosen for their potential to succeed the the belief by the college that they can be successful.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet turned the meeting to Veteran's Affairs.

Veteran's:

Chairwoman Zimet said she had received a telephone call from someone who wants to put up a flag pole at the cemetery and wanted to know if they could get some of the money that is being held. Mr. Breitenstein was supposed to get a committee going to deal with the cemetery matters. Leg. Briggs said he expected to receive by e-mail the names of the persons who are supposed to be on this committee and he will follow up with Mr. Breitenstein. Leg. Briggs also said he would look further into the moving Vietnam Memorial to see if we could get it into this area and also for a veterans' "loan closet".

Arts:

On the Arts, Chairwoman Zimet reminded the Committee that the reception for the award recipients of the grants is scheduled for July 27th at Byrdcliffe in Woodstock.

Tourism:

Turning to Tourism, Chairwoman Zimet said that the main thing at this time is to get communication going between the Tourism Office, the Tourism Advisory Board, the Executive and the Legislature. She said she went to pick up a copy of the RFP for the Marketing Works agreement with Rob Baumstone. Rick Remsnyder was asked to come to this meeting said Chairwoman Zimet; however, at 4:57 the County Executive told Mr. Remsnyder he is "not allowed to come to the meeting". She said Hugh Reynolds also left messages he wanted to talk to her about Tourism

Leg. Harris said that the problems with Tourism are only symptoms of the larger problem. He said we do have a responsibility to the people who elected us.

Leg. Briggs asked if it was worth meeting with the Chairman and finding out if we are missing something.

Leg. Terrizzi said we have a list of things going on in all our committees. She said she believed it would be good policy to have the representatives come to committee meetings,

Leg. Sheeley said she doesn't think it is all on the committees and likes Leg. Briggs' idea and take the high road. We can't fix it if we don't know what the problem is. She asked how any committee can be expected to perform its role without knowing anything that is going on. Chairwoman Zimet said they can still only tell us what they want to tell us. Leg. Sheeley said we cannot do our job if we are constantly at odds and if we don't know what the problems are.

Chairwoman Zimet said at the Tourism Advisory Board there are a lot of dynamics. They feel that their input is wanted on one hand but ignored on the other. They had some input on the Travel Guide, and Marketing Works has met with them. They knew what was going on and we had no clue. Leg. Sheeley said we need to go where we perceive the problem to be. We have no veto power so there is no need to be concerned about anything. If we don't go to the Executive's office we are wasting our time.

Leg. Harris said he would like to take the approach of offering to sit down and discuss it. Around April, he said, there was a little bit of a thaw and Deputies were coming to committee meetings. He said as a Legislative Committee, we do have the power to subpoena people to appear before us. Leg. Harris said people on other committees are feeling the same way. He believes we are losing the power to do the job we have been elected to do.

Chairwoman Zimet said she would like to ask for a meeting with the Executive and the whole committee and whoever wants to come can come.

Leg. Terrizzi asked who was on the Tourism Advisory Board. Chairwoman Zimet gave some names and said these people are appointed every two years. She said she understands as of now the Tourism Advisory Board members continue to be reappointed and we need representation from this committee on that Board. At this time a motion was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Gregorius recommending the appointment and/or reappointment to the Tourism Advisory Board, of Dan Ackerman, Jackie Appledorn, Debbie Harris, Joyce Minard, Greer Smith and David O'Halloran. Upon Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote said resolution was unanimously approved.

A general discussion followed on the contract with Ulster County Tourism and Marketing Works and the RFP which was issued in November of 2008 and of which no member of the committee was aware until recently. Manuela Michaelescu gave a brief presentation on what was happening at Tourism Advisory Board meetings which she attends.

Chairwoman Zimet said she will call and make an appointment with the County Executive and asked Leg. Sheeley and Leg. Harris to accompany her to discuss the Tourism matter. Leg. Harris said it had occurred to him when he first got his committee appointment and got interested in the Tourism field that maybe it is a part of economic development and that is why Rick Remsnyder is reporting to Dennis Doyle. There followed a discussion of the possibility of having Tourism transferred to Economic Development.

It was the general consensus of the committee that what is happening with this Committee and Ulster County Tourism Department is not acceptable.

At this time a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2009 was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Briggs. Recorder Salanitri asked for clarification of the amount requested as allocation for the 2010 arts fund be made and it was determined that the amount of \$57,500 was incorrect. The correct amount was \$65,000 and the change was made to the minutes (see page 3, paragraph 4, line 7). Upon asking for a voice vote the minutes of June 17, 2009 were unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Sheeley and Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

