

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ARTS,  
EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON JUNE 17, 2009 AT 5:00PM**

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, UCCC  
NICO LANG, Dutchess County Arts Council  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm and recognized Cornelia Denvir, Acting Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College who said that the presentation by the College on the Master Plan was being postponed until such time as President Katt could be present.

On enrollment, Acting Dean Denvir said spring was up 12% over last year and summer was close to budget projections. Revenue is up quite a bit and the college hopes to be able to make our fund balance a little more healthy.

On the subject of the Public Auditor, the firm of Toski, Schaefer & Co., P.C., came in as the lowest bidder. Acting Dean Denvir said now we will be able to get on track with what the Comptroller's Office wanted. She said a presentation was made to our Board of Trustees and the firm they selected only does audits; they don't do taxes and they are very familiar with community colleges.

Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education for Ulster County Community College thanked the Legislators for passing as part of the Legislative meeting, the Summer Youth Employment Contract, which is being funded with the federal stimulus funds. She said Chris Marx, Director of Continuing Education, was particularly eager to do this as he has had significant experience in disadvantaged youth programming. Dean Collins said the program has been getting great response from businesses in the area and most of the school districts have been very cooperative. The ages range from fourteen to twenty-four years and wages are \$8.00 per hour for a thirty-hour work week. She will keep the Committee posted.

Reporting on the Comptroller's report, Dean Collins said there were fifteen recommendations made and she was happy to report that all have gone to the Board of Trustees. The Corrective Action Plan has to be filed with the Comptroller's Office by the first week in August, but we will have everything addressed by the last week of June and a draft letter will go to the Board of Trustee at their meeting next week. The Dean said the college would be much stronger and better for the kinds of policies being implemented.

Dean Collins advised that the college has a very good work study student who is going through the Board of Trustees Policy book and all Board policies - old, new and revised - will be going out on the college's web site.

Dean Collins was also glad to report that due to the success of the RISE Program (formerly the ACCESS Program and formerly the PACE Program), we have been asked make a "best practices" presentation to the State. On June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> we will be sending two representatives to the annual OTDA's "TOP" (Transitional Opportunities Program).

Chairwoman Zimet said several people had said they thought we should do a press release about the success of these programs because the college had gotten such bad publicity on this, and now we should be putting out the good news.

#### Sub-Committees:

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet discussed the proposed assignment of the various Committee members to sub-Committees as a way of keeping the Committee informed. Sub-Committee assignments are as follows:

Office for the Aging	-	Leg. Harris
Arts	-	Leg. Gregorius
Tourism	-	Leg. Felicello
Veterans' Affairs	-	Leg. Briggs
U.C. Community College	-	Leg. Terrizzi

She said that she and Leg. Sheeley would act as "floaters" and sit in with various sub-committees on an "as needed" basis.

As a first course of business, Chairwoman Zimet charged Leg. Terrizzi with looking into how we can create a workable four year program for nursing in Ulster County. Dean Collins said the college would arrange for a tour and that this is going to be using time more effectively. This liaison will be someone who is going to be able to understand us at our level.

Leg. Harris said one of the things Chairman Donaldson thought was most important was the whole program of keeping seniors in their homes. He is on the Office for the Aging Advisory Board and will look into this much deeper and get back to this Committee.

Chairwoman Zimet said she would discuss the Veteran's subcommittee with Leg. Briggs who could not be present this evening. She said she was listening to the radio and heard John Hall speak about the movable replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. She would like to see if we can get them to bring it around here.

#### The Arts:

Turning to The Arts, Chairwoman Zimet said the Arts fund is now known as the Ulster County Legislature's Arts Initiative Fund. There has been talk of having it have a subtitle of "Arts Means Business" which could be used on logos etc. Discussion followed. At this time the floor was turned over to Nico Lang of the Dutchess County Arts Council.

Ms. Lang said that a reception for the 2009 Ulster County Cultural Services Fund Recipients Reception has been scheduled for Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Byrdcliff Guild in Woodstock and distributed a tentative schedule. There was some discussion and a suggestion made that in view of the fact that it was Shadowland Theatre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that perhaps the reception could be held there. Ms. Lang said that the agreement with Byrdcliff was not cast in stone and she was sure it could be moved to Ellenville. She will take care of this. There was also a discussion of pot luck refreshments vs. purchased.

In response to a question from Leg. Gregorius, Ms. Lang stated that the application itself has a lot of information on how the organizations are funded and the criteria for awards. There has been a lot of feedback on how well the system has worked this way. She handed out a list of 2009 recipients and they are from all parts of the county.

Chairwoman Zimet, on the budget for the Arts, said the Chairman would like to see this budget grow and supports this program more than ever as the Arts are hurting also. The State is cutting a lot of grants and so is the federal government. Chairwoman Zimet said she believes these Arts organizations are the things that make our life better in this community. She would like to see us make a recommendation for more money to be put into an Arts fund.

Leg. Gregorius reminded the Committee that there is a different mechanism for the budget this year. A discussion of the new budget process followed as well as a discussion of the budget process in other counties. The result of the discussion was that this Committee would like a letter from Dutchess Arts Council as to how well the system is working out for the Arts Groups in Ulster County. This letter can be attached to a letter from Chairwoman Zimet to Legislative Chairman Dave Donaldson and County Executive Michael Hein congratulating them on the success of the 2009 fund and requesting that the 2010 allocation be \$57,500, subject to confirmation from Dutchess County Arts Council that administration fees will remain the same. A motion to that effect was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Harris and upon Chairwoman Zimet asking for a voice vote the motion was unanimously approved. There was some discussion about an Individual Artist Fellowship Award which is one of the things they have in Dutchess County and the committee will think about it for the future.

#### Tourism:

On the subject of Tourism, Chairwoman Zimet asked if anyone had seen the new Tourism Guide. Nobody on the Committee had received one from the Tourism Department. She said she and the rest of this Committee had worked hard to take what had been a mediocre Travel Guide and help bring it up to above standard and then be completely cut out of the process.

Leg. Sheeley said she is seeing a pattern of minimizing the Committee system and believes this committee is taking a good step in defining who we are and what we are and what we are doing. These sub-committees will show that we have a lot to offer and a lot to give and we might just have some really good things to contribute.

At this time a motion was made by Leg. Sheeley requesting the Tourism Director to come before this Committee on a quarterly basis and that this committee have some input as to what is going into the Travel Guide. The motion was seconded by Leg. Harris. Upon discussion it was determined that Tourism now reports to Deputy Director Doyle. The motion was also amended to provide for all agencies reporting to this Committee to appear and report at least once every

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three months. Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote on the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Zimet recognized Shawn Johnson who advised he had developed a series of on-line travel guides. He said he has taken an office in the Media Center on Broadway in Kingston and is targeting on-line marketing for the Tourism industry and wished to make his business venture known to the Legislators. The Chair thanked him for his information.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder