

**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, MAY 21, 2009 AT 5:00PM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS IN ATTNDANCE:

DONALD C. KATT, President of Ulster County Community College
CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, UCCC
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, UCCC
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:07pm and recognized Dr. Donald C. Katt, President of Ulster County Community College who advised that the college was going to give a brief presentation on its proposed 2009-2010 budget and for that purpose introduced Cornelia Denvir, Acting Dean of Administration.

Dean Denvir said there would be no increase in the county contribution but there would be a \$100 increase per semester in tuition for full time and \$5 per credit hour for part time tuition. This brings tuition to \$3,620 per year for full time students and \$135 per credit hour for part time students. The total budget is \$28,221,370, a 5.7% increase, of which the county share is \$6,280,863.

Chairwoman Zimet asked if the state revenues were going to remain static and Dean Denvir referred the question to President Katt. He said the Governor could ask for givebacks in the future, but the last three times the Governor recommended cuts the Legislature had said no. Right now, said the President, the funding level is going to remain the same. Dean Denvir said the state share is not expected to go up.

Regarding FTE's, Chairwoman Zimet asked if that was a flat rate or if it is contractual and President Katt said that there are no contracts. Chairwoman Zimet said we, as a Legislature, have been proud we have always kept up our one-third share but that is starting to change. Dean Denvir said most of the tuition increases will be covered by financial aid.

Legislature Harris asked about the new campus Orange County Community College is building in Newburgh and its effect on other area colleges. President Katt said that there were some people who would go to Orange County. It is a matter of geography for some. Leg. Gregorius said he would like to see what the difference is between the various Community Colleges in tuition costs. Chairwoman Zimet thought it would be helpful if this

Committee held a special meeting or workshop to understand where we as a Legislative Committee want the Community College to go. Marianne Collins said she thought it would be helpful for the Committee to know where our students come from. She said 25% of the High School graduates from New Paltz come to Ulster; 34% of Rondout and 36% of Kingston graduates come to Ulster. Dean Denvir said 77% of the budget is salaries and benefits and that the college is labor intensive.

At this time a motion to approve the Ulster County Community College Budget for the academic year 2009-2010 in the sum of \$28,221,370.00 as presented was made by Leg Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Harris and upon Chairwoman Zimet asking for a voice vote, the Resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

President Katt thereupon referred the Committee to the SUNY Ulster Campus Master Plan Draft dated December 2008 prepared by JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C., detailing the capital projects proposed and recommended for the next ten years. The President said he believes there needs to be an official receipt of the Facilities Master Plan by the County.

When asked about the Comptroller's Report, President Katt said there were fifteen recommendations and the college has already taken corrective action on thirteen. We are still looking at the process of payment and separation of duties as well as an internal auditor. He said the college has to file with the Comptroller a Corrective Action Plan by the middle of June.

At this time Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, addressed the Committee on the matter of the federal stimulus money the County is getting through the Office of Employment and Training. She said a large portion of that money is for summer training and employment of youth. The county people have said they would only do this if the training were done through the Community College. Chris Marx, Director of Continuing Education has indicated that he would be willing to take this on.

She said the funds will be used to pay the youth trainees, the counselors who will be working with them and for travel expenses. The Board of Trustees of the college voted to approve the advertising and hiring of the counselors but we need the approval of the County Legislature. Dean Collins said that if these funds are not spent by the county they will be sent back, and that will go against us when it is time for another allocation. She said she is here because she wants to be sure this will go through the Legislature without any hitches.

In reply to a question from Chairwoman Zimet, Dean Collins said this program has been written up and Chairwoman Zimet advised her to make sure Dan Heppner, the Attorney for the Legislature, gets a look at it before the meeting. She doesn't see why it can't be put on June 2nd as an action item, since there are public hearings on that date. She suggested that Dean Collins call Mary Carey with that request. Dean Collins said the college is not the vendor in this matter. The resolution will be coming through Economic Development.

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At this time Chairwoman Zimet made a motion that this committee approves, in concept and in support of, the community college overseeing the youth training program through the Office of Employment and Training. The motion was seconded by Leg. Gregorius. Chairwoman Zimet called for a voice vote on the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet advised the committee that a reception had been tentatively scheduled for July 27th, 2009 by the Dutchess County Arts Council, at a place to be determined for the awardees of the 2009 Appropriation. There were several conflicts among the Committee members and Chairwoman Zimet will look to have the date rescheduled to either a Thursday or Friday evening.

With regard to the letter sent to the County Executive with regard to the staffing problem at Tourism, Chairwoman Zimet said she understood several people did not get it and she will resend it.

Chairwoman Zimet said she had been thinking about where this Committee is going as a Committee. She feels it would be helpful to break up into sub-groupings. Leg. Sheeley said she thinks we would get a lot more done then and be able to bring more back to the committee. A brief discussion of this matter was had. Leg. Sheeley was interested in either Tourism or Veteran's while Leg. Terrizzi thought of Education as well as Tourism. Leg. Gregorio, due to his proximity to Woodstock was more interested in the Arts. Leg. Harris is on the Advisory Board of the Office for the Aging. He will also try and get some input from Leg. Felicello about what he would be interested in. Leg. Sheeley said she would contact Leg. Briggs.

On the matter of the Senior Citizens, Leg. Gregorius said that Ann Cardinale and Cynthia Ruiz had teamed up with a program designed to keep senior in their homes. More information will be forthcoming.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri
Recorder