

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARTS, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT ULSTER  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman (Excused)  
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chair  
SUSAN CUMMINGS  
THOMAS "TJ" BRIGGS  
CATHERINE TERRIZZI  
MARY F. SHEELEY  
DONALD J. GREGORIUS

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
MICHAEL MC AULIFFE, Director of Security & Maintenance, U.C. Community College  
TERRY BREITENSTEIN, Director, Ulster County Office of Veterans' Affairs  
MARY JO DE FOREST, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
RICK REMSNYDER, Director, Ulster County Tourism Office  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Deputy Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting. Such motion was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Briggs and upon voice vote the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved. The committee was also advised that the October meeting of this committee would be held here at UCCC, but would be held in Vanderlyn Hall, Room 110.

At this time, Deputy Chair Harris recognized Terry Breitenstein, Director of Ulster County Office of Veterans' Affairs.

Ulster County Office of Veterans' Affairs

Mr. Breitenstein discussed the status of the veterans' cemetery located as part of the New Paltz Rural Cemetery. It looks like we will hit the target and have everything in place for Veterans' Day. The only change will be in the time of the dedication ceremony as there are conflicts with other

groups who have commitments. The new time is 2:00pm. He said the monument has arrived and they are just waiting for some paperwork to be completed. Mr. Breitenstein said they already

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have a lot of donations pledged and his office will be sending out information to let people know where they can make donations.

Returning to his report, Mr. Breitenstein said one of the things that is starting to come up is the Cold War Veterans' Exemption. There is legislation designed for those veterans who have been denied a veteran's exemption on their real property because they did not qualify as they did not serve during war time. He believes the existing legislation should be amended. Leg. Harris asked if the Administrative Services Committee would do anything about this. Mr. Breitenstein said the County has no authority with this, it is up to the municipalities. Leg. Terrizzi asked why things were so different between the different veterans. A general discussion followed. Leg. Harris said that the resolution being proposed in the Legislature is the best we can offer based upon the specific criteria.

The report of the Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency being concluded, Deputy Chair Harris recognized Mary Jo DeForest of the Ulster County Office for the Aging, who was appearing for the Director, Anne Cardinale.

#### Ulster County Office for the Aging

Ms. DeForest presented a conference request for approval. This is a conference sponsored by the Adult Training Institute entitled "A Shared Response" and will be held September 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> in Albany. This is paid for by the State and there is no cost to the county except maybe mileage. There will be three people going. The request was signed by the committee and will be presented to the County Administrator and the Chairman.

Ms. DeForest reiterated the plea from the Office for the Aging for more staff. She said we do not have enough staff to keep up with the state mandates. There were seventy-seven heat calls on Monday and sixty-seven calls Tuesday (yesterday) and this is only the beginning what with the cold weather coming. She said HEAP applications will be processed starting November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Office for the Aging Senior Picnic is coming up. Also public hearings will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Rosendale and October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Farber Center in Ellenville. Ms. DeForest also advised that the office is still working on the problem of senior meals.

Leg. Gregorio said that there is a hiring freeze within the county and asked if Office for the Aging had put the request for additional staffing in their budget and Ms. DeForest said they had. Leg. Cummings said she believed Anne Cardinale had said there were two new staff members included in the budget.

Ms. DeForest informed the committee that the Winter Weather Watch Committee in her office was starting a blanket drive to obtain blankets for seniors and further details would be forthcoming.

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The report of Ulster County Office for the Aging being concluded and there being no report from Ulster Arts Alliance, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism.

#### Ulster County Tourism

Mr. Remsnyder distributed copies of several newspaper articles regarding the dedication of the tourism kiosk at the corner of Rt. 52 and Rt. 209 in the Village of Ellenville. Mr. Remsnyder advised that there was also a kiosk in the Town of Marlborough but it still needs signage. This kiosk is going to have a display area on the back where people can post notices as a community bulletin board. His office is currently working towards putting kiosks in the Town of Shandaken and also in the Town of Gardiner.

On the Tulip Festival, bulbs will be distributed on Friday and Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hudson River Maritime Museum. He advised that they had so many orders and requests he had to order more tulip bulbs. He has also advertised the give-away in several area newspapers. Mr. Remsnyder said he had met with Nina Postupak, Co-Chair, and with Mayor James Sottile and the City of Kingston had contributed \$5,000 which was used to purchase more bulbs. He believes this to be the largest tulip give-away in the State of New York. The bulbs will be placed in paper bags which have planting instructions written on it.

Leg. Gregorio speaking about Belleayre, said he had received a press release from Sen. Schumer's office. There is a lot of money coming into this county from tourism involving Belleayre and he believes the Legislature should be proactive in support of the state increasing funding instead of reducing it. Mr. Remsnyder said one of the things he is working on is working together with Delaware County and Greene County on a Catskill regional ski center. There followed a general discussion. Leg. Gregorio said he was more concerned with the DEC's funding for Belleayre. He would like to see what is going on with the rest of the Legislators and then maybe put together some kind of a resolution.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College, along with Michael McAuliffe, Director of Safety and Plant Operations.

#### Ulster County Community College

Dean Burlingham introduced Michael McAuliffe and distributed a pamphlet entitled "Violence in our Schools" which is the subject of a full-day seminar featuring Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, an internationally recognized expert in the field of human aggression and the roots of violence and violent crime. The seminar will be held on October 16, 2008 from 8:30am to 4:00pm and

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includes lunch. The cost is \$35.00 per person and both she and Mr. McAuliffe highly recommend it.

On enrollment, Dean Burlingham said we are 6% over our budget projections for the fall semester. Deregistration for non-payment was held last week. We cannot claim them for state aid if they have not paid their tuition. She said that our Express Semester begins the latter part of September and the numbers are looking very strong.

On student housing, Dean Burlingham reported that in August the Board of Trustees passed a resolution authorizing the President and Executive Staff to continue working on it. She said water is the first issue that has to be addressed. She said water has always been somewhat of a problem on campus. The college has been meeting with the Town Supervisors of Marbletown and Rosendale to discuss the feasibility of entering into an agreement for water with the High Falls Water District. There are 2.2 miles of pipeline and the cost is approximately \$2.3 million. Dean Burlingham said we are, however, still looking at all our options

On the Facilities Master Plan, Dean Burlingham said we are currently on a lull with our current projects except for the elevator in Vanderlyn Hall, work on which is scheduled to start next week. We are trying at this time to place the projects in some logical order. Preliminary estimates for Stage I total about \$31 million; however, at this point it is just a process. The architects will be making a formal presentation to the steering committee, the trustees and to the Legislature some time in November.

Leg. Terrizzi asked how many students would be housed in the proposed project. Dean Burlingham said they were currently looking at a 256 bed project. They would be townhouses in style with four to six buildings. Leg. Terrizzi also asked if the college would be targeting students outside of the area and the Dean said first and foremost we are looking for Ulster County residents. She said the college loses a lot of students to Dutchess County and Orange County just based on proximity and we would like to give Ulster County students the college experience without having to go far away from home and without the pricey tuition of a four-year school. However, said the Dean, we do expect there to be students from outside the area who will be interested.

In response to a question from Leg. Cummings, Dean Burlingham said that Sullivan County Community College has become a model of what not to do. They had a lot of problems in the beginning and have learned the hard way.

Leg. Gregorio asked about the cell tower and the Dean advised that we are getting somewhat better service. She also said we are up and running with "New York Alert" system. Mr.

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McAuliffe said one of the things we are undertaking is a complete restructuring of the campus-wide fire system, which would include PA capability that will allow us to make announcements. He went on to explain how the PA system would work. It will also be beneficial for step-by-step instructions on fire drills.

Mr. McAuliffe also explained the proposed lock-down procedures under the Shelter in Place program. He said turn locks have been installed on the inside of classroom and other doors so they may be locked from the inside. He said the college is prepared to immediately respond to an emergency situation. Dean Burlingham reported that the Board of Trustees had approved peace officer status to certain campus security officers.

Dean Burlingham brought up the county's proposed policy on smoking on college property and what it may mean for the college. She said she understands and agrees with the Legislature from a public health viewpoint; however, unlike some of the other county facilities, students and employees here have no place off college property to go, except for Cottekill Road. The Dean believes the college would see an impact on enrollment. Ideally, she said, we would ask to be exempt; a compromise would be to have several dedicated smoking areas.

Mr. McAuliffe said enforcement would be a problem. He questioned what the penalty for violation of the policy would be. He reported that each semester we experience an increase in the number of incidents regarding the number of cars, traffic problems, and other issues associated with students. He said we have a limited number of officers on duty at a time, and a rather large campus area make enforcement of this policy a secondary priority.

Leg. Gregorio asked if, at the next meeting, he could get some information as to how the RISE program is going. He expected to receive some sort of certificates or certification by now and has not heard anything. Dean Burlingham said she will get the information from Marianne Collins for the next meeting.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

## Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ms. Reidy distributed the fall 2008 issue of Ulster Current the quarterly information brochure of Cooperative Extension, as well as a Calendar of Events listing all of the programs being held by them during the months of September and October. She said they are doing quite a few programs on energy in view of the rising costs associated with home heating and reminded the committee that the Alternative Energy Forum will be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Mount St. Mary's

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College in Newburgh. She said her office was also preparing for the Business to Business Showcase scheduled for September 26 at SUNY Ulster.

Ms. Reidy reported that there have been two new staff members hired for the Ashokan Basin Stream Management Program. She said the Department of Environmental Conservation had asked Cornell Cooperative Extension to head up that portion of the program because we do not have any interest in the project itself. This means we can be more fair and unbiased. Also, said Ms. Reidy, she has been working with the Cornell Cooperative Extension people on the design of new offices for this grant funded project.

Ms. Reidy distributed copies of her "Request for Financial Assistance" submitted as part of the budget process to the County Administrator. She said it is basically complete except for an addenda requested by the County Administrator's Office. Her department is asking for an additional \$19,700 more in this budget. She will have one more addendum which has been requested by the County Administrator's Office.

Leg. Terrizzi asked why they were holding the Alternative Energy Forum at Mt. St. Mary's in Newburgh and Ms. Reidy explained that there were a limited number of classrooms available and more to the point, there is a problem with trying to get what space there is because lately everyone wants a "hold harmless" clause in their contracts.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, and there being no further business, Deputy Chairman Harris asked for a motion to adjourn. Said motion was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and unanimously approved by the committee and Deputy Chairman Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder