

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE LIBRARY
CONFERENCE ROOM, ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON THE 5TH
DAY OF APRIL, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman
CARL BELFIGLIO
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
DONALD J. GREGORIUS
JACK HAYES
MICHAEL MADSEN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement & Continuing Education, SUNY,
Ulster County Community College
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
MARGIE MENARD, Ulster County Library Association
VICTOR MELVILLE, League of Women Voters
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Education
MARY MARSTER, Director of Programs, Cornell Cooperative Education
JANET SALANITRI, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called for a motion to approve the minutes of both the meeting of March 3, 2011 and March 8, 2011. Said motion to approve was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the minutes of the meetings of this committee of March 3, 2011 and March 8, 2011 were unanimously approved. Chairman Harris then recognized Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education of SUNY Ulster County Community College.

SUNY Ulster County Community College:

Dean Collins reported that budgeted enrollment for 2010-2011 was 2,336 FTEs. In the fall the college exceeded that figure by 39 FTEs; however, in the spring 2011 semester we came in under by 4% and as a result have taken a long, hard look at enrollment. We were surprised to see that most of these students did not return because they were on probation and were just not making it academically. Most were in the age group from sixteen to nineteen. Right now, said the Dean, we are looking to see what we can do to try and remedy this situation.

The Dean distributed a handout regarding the "Summer High School Academy" and said we have added some additional summer courses for high school students and high school graduates, both those that are college bound and those who want to build up their skills to help them succeed. Dean Collins reviewed the Track 1 College Level and Track 2 Prepare for College offerings and the Workshops being offered.

Leg. Donaldson asked about the budget cuts from the State. Dean Collins said that as the Legislators knew, last year the college took a 16% cut in state aid and SUNY got a very big hit. She said when Gov. Cuomo proposed the 10% across-the-board cut it was on top of the 16%,

so it becomes almost a 30% cut. State Legislators on both sides saw this and supported us and some restoration was made to community colleges. We had anticipated a \$500,000 loss. With the restoration it is now down to about \$300,000.

Dean Collins said President Katt is really trying to hold the line on spending. She said the fiscal situation is very serious. CSEA is in negotiations with the County and the college has to follow whatever the county negotiates. We have two other unions on campus – OPAP, which is a small professional employees union and the Faculty Association. The Dean also said there is a separate group of Management Confidential employees. There followed a brief discussion of the matter involving the previous OPAP contract.

Continuing with her report, Dean Collins said as part of the college's efforts to boost enrollment we have been looking to increase our day time courses at the BRC. In the fall semester we served 595 students at that location and 461 students in the spring semester. In reply to a question from Leg. Donaldson, the Dean said we offer a wide range of courses at the BRC, including Math, English, Business and Accounting. Presently the college is looking to see if there should be a course concentration there.

Chairman Harris asked if Dean Collins would give a brief overview of the chargeback program. The Dean said when an Ulster County resident attends a community college outside of Ulster County, we have to pay that county and when an out of county student attends Ulster, they pay us. The difficulty for us is that we are a victim of our geography. Ulster is directly in the middle of the county and Students from Saugerties, for example, find it much more convenient just to go to Columbia-Greene, while students in Highland are just minutes from Dutchess County Community College and those from Denning are closer to Sullivan. Dean Collins also said the opening of the Orange County Community College campus in Newburgh will also be tempting to students from Marlboro. For students in any of these communities, the proximity of the other community colleges makes them very attractive.

Leg. Gregorius asked about the Nursing Program. Dean Collins said we are doing much better. The Department of Health was concerned due to the number of students who could not complete the program due to problems with Math, Chemistry and Anatomy & Physiology, etc. We have revised our curriculum and now have entering criteria and have instituted testing of general knowledge of prospective students, all of whom must take that test. These are balanced with their general academic records to get a comprehensive overview of the student and their potential for success within the program. She said at present we have about 200 nursing students altogether, with about 70 in the entering classes.

On the Water Project, Dean Collins reported that Dennis Doyle of the County Executive's Office has been working with our Project Manager, Dennis Larios and has been very helpful. For example, she said, the Dept. of Environmental Protection was going to charge us three times what High Falls was being charged. The County Executive went to bat for us and the DEP has agreed that the college would pay the same rate as the High Falls users.

Leg. Donaldson asked if the people in the area were still opposed to the project. He said he knew of one Legislator who had said he was voting against anything having to do with the project because of the possibility of student housing. Dean Collins said the kind of hysteria we had first gotten now appears to be gone. Both Marbletown and High Falls have come to recognize that the college is a big economic asset to both. She said Tim Sweeney, who is one

of our newly appointed trustees, believes the opposition has just about dissipated. Dean Collins said another part of the equation is that Marbletown also needs water for its economic development and they could very easily extend the college line, since it will come up Leggett Road very close to Route 209.

On a high note, Dean Collins announced to the Committee that with charitable gifts received from Darlene Pfeiffer the owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise in Kingston, the Ulster Community College Foundation, Inc. has established a fund to help support the mission of the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at SUNY Ulster, which is to inspire and harness the entrepreneurial spirit at the college and the community through education, outreach and collaboration.

The Dean discussed Ms. Pfeiffer's background and noted that she was also a very good personal friend of Colonel Sanders the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. This endowment will help us work with our students to identify their skills and managerial abilities. It will also carry into our Continuing Education classes.

Dean Collins said that through a multi-disciplinary approach, the Center will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders. This group will include not only students and faculty, but also alumni, entrepreneurs, business leaders, mentors and government agencies, to work on entrepreneurial projects, with an emphasis on technology and sustainability. Dean Collins said everyone is very excited about this endowment.

As remarks at the conclusion of the college's report, Leg. Hayes said he had occasion to look over the new nursing lab at the college and he was really impressed. He said he felt he was in an actual hospital. Chairman Harris said he cannot say enough about the community college and its role in the community. He said a very large part of economic development in this county is played by the college.

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

Cornell Cooperative Education:

Ms. Reidy said she and her staff are also looking at what is happening with the various funding sources. One of these is the grant funded "A Health Kingston for Kids" project from the New York State Health Department and which is also a part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. One of the main focuses is to address the rising incidences of Type II Diabetes among children. She said they are also looking for other grants to do the same kind of work and are trying to determine what the barriers for kids are; whether it is in more and better exercising or having a healthier diet. This program is primarily in the City of Kingston, but will also be developed in the Village of Ellenville and in the Village of Phoenicia. Ms. Reidy advised that wherever it is held, the central purpose is the same. There is another two and one-half years in that grant, and Cooperative Extension has hired three people to work on it with the County Health Department.

On "Eat Smart New York", Ms. Reidy reported that this program consists of six lessons aimed at teaching healthier eating habits to primarily low income families with a focus on changes in what they purchase. Unfortunately, she said, the U.S. Congress redid the formula for what is considered "poverty level" which pushed the levels back to 2009 levels which means there will be a 40% to 50% cut in grant funding. Her office is now looking for other ways to deliver this program.

On agriculture and economic development, Ms. Reidy said there were a lot of funding cuts in Governor Cuomo's state budget. After a lot of arguing, there were a lot of funds restored, but not all. Fortunately, the Integrated Pest Management Program funding has been restored. Continuing with agriculture, Ms. Reidy said the average age of a farmer in New York State is sixty-two. CCE, here and throughout the state is continuing to try and attract grants and contracts and is looking into private foundations for ways to get the younger population interested in farming.

Ms. Reidy reported that Cornell Cooperative Education on the state and on the county level has lost a lot of administrative support staff. In order to deliver the support that is needed, grants have been awarded to provide for sharing certain services such as human resources and contract management. We will be sharing services with Dutchess, Putnam, Columbia, Greene and Sullivan Counties.

The 4-H Youth Program got hit the hardest said Ms. Reidy, when they lost a lot of the county funding. Dutchess County also got hit and Ulster and Dutchess will be looking to hire one person with the expertise to oversee both programs. That person will also have to have the ability to look for and bring in funding.

Leg. Hayes asked if Delhi and Alfred were still Agricultural and Technical schools and if we were doing anything on a local level to get young people into farming. Ms. Reidy said they were and as to the second part of the question, there is a teacher in the Kingston schools who is concerned because there are no agricultural classes being taught in any school in any school district and is trying to get something started. She will try and find out his name. Leg. Hayes also asked if Ms. Reidy knew how the farm markets were doing. She said they were doing well; however, if you are looking for cheap produce, you are not going to buy it at the farm market.

At this time Chairman Harris congratulated Leg. Hayes on the success of his program which was administered by Cornell Cooperative Education on regulations affecting farm trucks, tractors and implements on public roads. Leg. Hayes in turn thanked Ms. Reidy and her staff for all their hard work.

Ms. Reidy reminded the committee that Cornell Cooperative Extension's annual golf tournament would be held on May 19th at Apple Greens in Highland.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized James Cosgrove and Margie Menard of the Ulster County Library Association.

Ulster County Library Association:

Mr. Cosgrove reported that April 10-16 is National Library Week and most libraries will be holding various events, forgiving fines, etc. There is also a concerted effort being made to raise funds for increasing the literacy rate.

The Ulster County Executive, said Mr. Cosgrove, gave the Library Association \$500 and we will be giving it to the Phoenicia Library. They are still in temporary space following the fire and are still dealing with the insurance company and trying to see if they can save the building.

Mr. Cosgrove said they are looking at and evaluating the various databases and have decided not to renew The Historic NY Times. They are, however, looking seriously at tutor.com and feel this would be very helpful to many of their younger school age users.

The report of The Ulster County Library Association being concluded, Chairman Harris took the floor and presented two (2) resolutions.

Resolution – NYS Criminal Justice GTSC Ignition Monitoring Program:

Chairman Harris offered the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature be authorized to execute a contract (NYS Comptroller's No. T523439), and any amendments thereto, with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS#II 10523439), for the GTSC Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring Program for the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$45,634.00, in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature or as they are modified with the approval of the County Attorney,"

Financial Impact:

\$45,634.00 – 2011 Additional Appropriation Dollars

\$45,634.00 – 2011 Additional State Revenue Dollars

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution as presented was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote said resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

Resolution – Confirming Appointment of Members to the U.C. Youth Board:

Chairman Harris presented a proposed Resolution confirming the appointment of two (2) members to the Ulster County Youth Board. He advised that these appointments had been made by the County Executive pursuant to the Ulster County Charter and, pursuant to the Ulster County Charter, are subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. The individuals to be confirmed and their terms are as follows:

Esther Taylor-Evans
Ronald Fields

Term: April 27, 2011 thru April 26, 2014
Term: April 27, 2011 thru April 26, 2014

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote said resolution confirming the appointment of the above two individuals to the Ulster County Youth Board was unanimously approved.

Report from the Home Delivered Meals Program Subcommittee:

Chairman Harris referred the committee to the Report on the Home Delivered Meals Program submitted by the subcommittee chaired by Leg. Terrizzi and referred questions to her and to the members of the sub-committee, to wit, Legs. Madsen and Belfiglio.

Leg. Donaldson asked about when the RFP for hot and cold meals which went out the end of August 2010 was due. Leg. Belfiglio said that the current vendor, Prestige had a contract with the county until December 31, 2011 with the option to extend until 2012 and RFPs are not due until December, 2011. Leg. Terrizzi said there will be additional meetings around the time the RFP is due to follow this further. Leg. Madsen said he would like this on the agenda next month also. Leg. Hayes said he would like to see the person from the Office for the Aging invited to the meeting of this committee either in May or June to discuss this further.

Chairman Harris said a copy of the sub-committee's report will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

New Business:

Chairman Harris reminded the committee that photographs would be taken for the new Directory next Tuesday.

Chairman Harris also advised the committee that the County Executive's Office has a candidate for the position of Director of the Veteran's Service Agency they would like us to meet with. A time and place will be decided upon. Leg. Hayes said he has heard there is a lot of interest in this appointment, particularly from the Veterans' of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairman Harris asked for a motion to adjourn. Said motion was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Madsen and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:33pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder
Adm. Assistant, SUNY UCCC