

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE
LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 7, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
VIC MELVILLE, League of Women Voters
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:14pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting. Such motion was made by Leg. Madsen and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting of this Committee as presented were unanimously approved.

Ulster County Community College:

Chairman Harris then recognized Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration at SUNY, Ulster County Community College, who advised the Committee that fall 2010-11 enrollment was 1,174.8 FTE's which was 103.09% of the budgeted projections. He said Winternet registration was still on-going with 14.2 FTE's currently – 55.69% of budget. Winternet last year had 22.5 enrollees; however, classes do not begin until December 27th so students are still registering. The Dean said spring 2011 registration is currently at 547.2 FTE's or 54.30% of budget and is a little low if compared to this time last year. Spring classes start on January 17th and there are still several registration dates before then.

On the fiscal side reported Dean Komdat, revenues to date total \$11,201,698 and expenditures \$5,874,883. The Dean also advised that the college is still waiting for a state aid check for \$1 million which was due in September but which has not yet been received. Dean Komdat said the college also expects there to be another cut in state aid of about 2% which translates to roughly \$100,000.

Leg. Terrizzi asked about spring registration and enrollment. The Dean said pre-registration was over but there were still several planned registration days. Presently we are about 10% down from where we usually are pre-semester. There is some concern about this, particularly since we have been exceeding our projections for the past several years. There are no changes in programs; however, the college is making some marketing changes and Admissions has been doing some more aggressive marketing in order to boost up registrations.

Leg. Terrizzi asked about Unallocated Institutional Benefits. Dean Komdat said this is for payroll taxes, health insurance, etc. Basically it is a holding place that we try and reconcile on a quarterly basis.

Returning to enrollment, Dean Komdat said registration for credit classes held at the Business Resource Center in Kingston is going well and we hope to double our class offerings there for the spring semester. There is a definite market for daytime classes to be held in Kingston. It is on the bus route and is closer to where our prospective students live. The Dean said the college will be doing a study for a possible extension site in the area.

Leg. Terrizzi asked what types of programs are being offered for people out of work, especially as far as "green" technology. Dean Komdat said the college has been offering some of the largest programs for solar technology and wind technology and all have very good enrollment. He advised that while he is not completely familiar with all of the facts of these programs he will arrange for Chris Marx to come before this committee at a future meeting and give an up-date. Leg. Madsen asked for something on "green" course offerings digitally.

Leg. Terrizzi also wanted to know if the college had looked into having some kind of an extension center in the Wallkill or New Paltz area, possibly utilizing some of the space at SUNY New Paltz. Dean Komdat said they would be looking at other areas and not just in Kingston, and as far as SUNY New Paltz, they still have an Interim President and we would have to wait until a new President is selected.

Dean Komdat advised the Committee that that he had met with a company, Johnson Controls, several weeks ago about a large scale solar installation at the college which they would try to obtain through a NYSERTA grant. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked if the college had talked with the Solar Energy Consortium about this project and the Dean said they had; however, at this time Johnson Controls is looking at the project conceptually – it is more a feasibility study.

Leg. Belfiglio asked about the Nursing Program and whether there was still a waiting list. Dean Komdat said there was and a waiting list would probably be a permanent part of the program unless they could double the enrollment capacity.

Leg. Belfiglio asked about the entrance exams and the Dean said the program calls for students to take entrance exams in their second semester which would also give students several opportunities to take them, if necessary. Dean Komdat said we want to make it so they can consider how they do in these various courses and how they would fit into the program.

Leg. Hayes asked if there was funding available for people who have been out of work for a while, and Dean Komdat said there were several programs in addition to the standard state and federal financial aid. Also in response to a question from Leg. Hayes, the Dean said the college has been reaching out to our veterans with good results. On the water project, Dean Komdat advised that it is moving along with a lot of soil testing, field testing, ecotesting, etc. Dennis Doyle has been working with the NYC DEP.

Leg. Terrizzi asked about the RISE program and Dean Komdat said Chris Marx is the Coordinator of that Program and he will update the Committee on it when he appears. Chairman Harris gave a brief rundown on the RISE Program for the benefit of the Committee members who were unfamiliar with it. Leg. Gregorius said what appeared to be particularly helpful was the college going up to Albany. The program as it now stands is a model for the state and is highly successful. He believed some of the requirements were a bit unrealistic and were changed but he was not sure.

Leg. Gregorius asked how the college was dealing with the financial process what with enrollment down and the budget cuts unknown. Dean Komdat said they are being dealt with as they come along. Mostly, he said, we have all but eliminated supplies and equipment. The question now is where do we go next. We have been preparing as we go along because we know things are not going to get better in the near future. Leg. Terrizzi asked if the new Governor's transition team had given any indication of additional cuts and Dean Komdat said the only thing the college was pretty sure of was the 2% cut he had just spoken of.

Leg. Terrizzi asked about labor contracts and negotiations and Dean Komdat said the only contracts the college negotiates are the faculty and professional staff. The support staff (CSEA) contract is negotiated by the county. The pressure is always there he said. So far people are being somewhat reasonable; however, if we get some flexibility in the future then that would be a different story.

The report of SUNY Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris presented to the Committee a proposed resolution on behalf of the Ulster County Stop DWI Program, as follows:

"WHEREAS, this resolution has been submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Ulster County STOP DWI Program, and
WHEREAS, Ulster County STOP DWI has submitted its 2011 Program Plan to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in accordance with New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1197, and
WHEREAS, approval of the Program Plan by the State of New York will provide continued funding for the STOP DWI Program, and
WHEREAS, the services to be provided to Ulster County by the various policy agencies, other municipal entities, and service organizations, as set forth in the Program Plan, are of value in Ulster County's effort to reduce the incidence of drunk and drugged driving, and
WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Ulster County Legislature to enter into certain Inter-municipal agreements to permit Ulster County STOP DWI to engage in the activities described in the Program Plan, and
WHEREAS, the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of its members voting approval, and
WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of its members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby approves Ulster County's 2011 STOP DWI Program Plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to execute such inter-municipal agreements, and any amendments thereto,
as may be required to carry out the approved Program Plan, as such agreements are presented to the Clerk of the Legislature or as they are modified with the approval of the County Attorney.

and moves its adoption."

Chairman Harris opened the floor for discussion. Leg. Belfiglio requested that the Coordinator of the STOP DWI Program be invited to attend a committee meeting. Chairman Harris said this would be done. At this time a motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Madsen and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the Resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

Having concluded the business of the STOP DWI Program, Chairman Harris, noting the presence of Jim Cosgrove of the Ulster County Library Association if he wished to give a report. Mr. Cosgrove said he did not at this time; however, he (or someone from the Library Association) will be attending the monthly meeting of this Committee to keep up with things.

New Business:

Chairman Harris addressed the Committee and advised that he had formally requested that this Committee be reconstituted to include those departments that were originally overseen by this Committee. Those departments were STOP DWI, Office for the Aging, Ulster County Youth Bureau and Veterans' Services. These departments had been moved into Health & Human Services; however, that is a very big committee and includes Mental Health, Public Health, Social Services and Golden Hill among others. Some of these departments, such as the Office for the Aging with its Meals on Wheels Program, need to have more communication.

Leg. Gregorius said it appears the Office for the Aging is trying to change the way the meals program is provided. He said the Meals on Wheels program is very important and we should have more information. Chairman Harris said that at one time we had each Committee member assigned to a different department as a liaison which seemed to work well. Currently there is a 90-day hold on revisions to the Meals on Wheels program. There followed a general discussion of the meals program and its procedures. Chairman Harris said it appears that these changes are coming about due to budgetary constraints. Chairman Harris also said this Committee is going to take on a different structure in January.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Chairman Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:08pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder