

(DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED BY COMMITTEE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT THE ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON THE 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010 AT 5:00PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DONALD C. KATT, President, SUNY Ulster
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement & Continuing Education, SUNY Ulster
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension
ART SMITH, Budget Director, Ulster County Executive's Office
VICTOR MELVILLE, LWV – MH Observer
MARGIE MENARD, Ulster County Library Association
JIM COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
GLORIA LIPTON
DR. APHRODITE CLAMAR
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Deputy Chairman Donaldson called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and asked that all present introduce themselves as this was a new committee with new legislators and new reporting departments. He then referenced the Minutes for the October 21, 2009 meeting of this committee (which was then the "Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee"). He noted that the only members carrying over from that committee were Chairman Harris who was not present this evening, and Legislators Terrizzi and Gregorius, and he requested that they sign and approve the minutes. The Clerk of the Legislature will obtain the other signatures.

Ulster County Stop DWI Program:

At this time Deputy Chairman Donaldson, on behalf of John Miller, Coordinator of the Stop DWI Program introduced a proposed Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Onteora Central School District to Support an Educational Alcohol Free and Drug Free School Event in 2010. He said the event in question was the "Belleayre Bash, an alcohol and drug free after graduation event on June 25, 2010 and the dollar amount was \$700.00 which was in the Stop DWI budget.

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A motion to approve the proposed Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Gregorius, seconded by Leg. Hayes, and upon Dep. Chairman Donaldson calling for a voice vote the Resolution was approved by the four Legislators present, Legs. Donaldson, Belfiglio, Hayes and Gregorius. There was no opposition.

At this time, Deputy Chairman recognized Donald C. Katt, President of SUNY Ulster County Community College and Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education.

SUNY Ulster County Community College:

President Katt advised the Committee that when the economy is not doing well community colleges are the places people turn to and this recession bears that out. Community colleges become the “college of choice” for many more high school students and their families. Students are also coming back to the community college for retraining. This semester we have 150 more full time students than we had at this time last year. We are going to exceed our enrollment projections 5% - 10%. The President explained to the new committee members that our student enrollment is computed in FTEs or “Full Time Equivalent Students”, and explained the formula for combining full time and part time enrollments – with their actual credits - and coming out with a single figure. The college’s total FTEs should again exceed 2,200 for 2009-10.

On the SUNY budget cuts, President Katt said that earlier in 2009 the Governor had recommended to the Legislature three times that cuts to base aid to community colleges be made and three times the State Legislature said no. However, as part of the Governor’s Deficit Reduction Plan he finally got the Legislature to agree to a base aid reduction of 5% which, to Ulster, means a reduction of \$237,000 in State aid for the balance of 2009-10. President Katt said that many of those dollars have been offset by our increased enrollment. He also said that more than 75% of the college budget is personnel – including salaries and fringe benefits.

Unfortunately, the Governor had recommended another cut for 2010-11 which would total 13% or \$800,000. President Katt said the college is not in a position to ask the County for an increase, but is looking to keep our level of funding the same. He reviewed the total college budget of \$28.2 million and the restricted and unrestricted portions, as well as the County’s sponsorship contributions, which have stayed level since 2008-09 at \$6.2 million.

President Katt detailed for the benefit of the new committee members the “maintenance of effort” requirements of the State. This means, he said, that should the sponsoring county not maintain its effort, that is, if it reduces its contribution to less than that of the previous year, student revenues which exceed one-third of the college’s net operating costs must be placed in escrow and cannot be used in operating the college. This is true even if the County decreases their allotment by \$1. The amount the college would have to escrow, based on the 2008-09 figures would be \$1.5 million.

Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked about chargebacks and the dollar amounts and President Katt gave a brief explanation of the chargeback system and said we are seeing some benefit, especially from our on-line students. He was not sure of the actual dollar amounts but we will get those figures for the next meeting.

In reply to several questions from Leg. Terrizzi, President Katt said that all community colleges under the State University system are subject to the same cuts and that the community college Presidents have met and talked

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about what can be done. We have also been meeting with our state representatives who all understand that the community colleges are the economic engines for their districts and they are being as supportive as possible.

Leg. Belfiglio wanted confirmation that approximately 40% of the college's budget comes from student tuition and President Katt confirmed this. The President also advised the Committee that the funding formula was originally one-third tuition, one-third county and one-third state. Leg. Gregorius wanted to know if the college was asking the Legislature to "do nothing" and was going to try to make it up with tuition. This started a discussion on the various state, county and college budget years. Art Smith said the college budget will be set by June or July. He explained how the budget is set up in the Treasurer's Office and that the State budget is set in April. The college budget, the state budget and the county budget all overlap.

On capital projects, the Nursing Lab renovations which were approved by the Legislature in March of last year are now on schedule with a completion date of early March of this year. Also, after almost two years, we are now on the way to full implementation of the campus wide fire alarm system with public address capabilities. Deadbolts have been installed on all classroom doors and construction has started on the new Public Safety Communications Center, which will integrate with the new fire alarm system to provide centralized emergency notification.

Regarding campus facilities, President Katt said the HVAC control upgrades for Burroughs, DeWitt Library, Vanderlyn Hall and Hardenberg are now pending County approval and are scheduled to start in early March.

President Katt gave a brief overview of the Water Acquisition Project; that it would be an extension of a public water supply from the High Falls Water District along Lucas Avenue Extension to Leggett Road to the back of and onto the SUNY Ulster campus. We are now in the planning and design phase, he said, and an engineering firm has been selected and contract drafting has begun. We are bringing water to the campus primarily as a safety and security measure. The only source of water on campus is two wells which are really insufficient for many purposes. We have a Master Plan on file and many of the items therein call for fire suppressor systems, which we could not do without a primary water source. We are also looking for other sources of funding for the actual cost of bringing the water onto campus. We have the state capital funds for this project. Leg. Hays asked if the President thought the state funding may be in jeopardy with the budget cuts and the President said he did not believe so. Usually once "capital dollars" are appropriated they are not taken back.

At this time President Katt requested Dean Marianne Collins to give a report on the current status of the RISE program.

Dean Collins explained the RISE program which is for Social Services recipient mothers with children, and which has been in existence under one name or another since 1986 and has served more than 500 students. The program has been going extremely well. There are currently twenty-one students and the average GPA is 2.85 with seven over 3.0. Two will be graduating this May. Since the problems with the Department of Social Services have been resolved with the help of this Committee last year, this program has just gotten better and better. The program saves the county thousands of dollars per year for each person who completes the program and gets off assistance. Dean Collins said she couldn't be happier with its progress.

When asked about the four-year Nursing Program, President Katt said when SUNY New Paltz announced it was no longer going to offer a four-year Nursing program because of budget cuts, SUNY IT contacted us and said

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they would be interested in offering a program for these students and would like to utilize SUNY Ulster's campus for classroom purposes. Academic Dean John Ganio worked with them and there were twenty-two nursing students who were in the four-year program last fall and twenty-six in the spring semester looking to earn a four-year Nursing degree. In addition, there are teaching positions available both for our full time faculty and for our adjunct faculty which is great for everyone's professional development to be able to teach higher level classes which we do not normally offer here.

President Katt also advised the committee that the college has hired a new Dean of Administration, Mark Komdat, who was going to be here this evening. Unfortunately, Dean Komdat came down with the flu that morning and was unable to attend, but he will be attending many of these meetings in the future.

The report of SUNY Ulster being concluded, and Leg. Terrizzi and Leg. Madsen having arrived at the meeting shortly after the vote on the DWI resolution, Deputy Chairman Donaldson explained the proposed Resolution and that a unanimous vote had already been taken. Both Legislators then added their affirmative votes to the Resolution and signed same.

Returning to the regular meeting, Deputy Chairman Donaldson recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy gave an interesting and educational presentation on the history of Cornell Cooperative Extension, from its inception as a land grant college before the SUNY system existed, its various components and its current functions. She advised Cooperative Extension is a sub-unit of government and that matching funds are given them by the County. In essence, she said, her agency answers to the county, the state and to the federal government. They were formerly known as the Home Bureau, then the Farm Bureau and finally Cooperative Extension. We no longer do farm bureau type work, but are involved primarily in research and education to farmers, individuals and families. Ms. Reidy advised, for the benefit of the new legislators, that the County has always provided housing for Cooperative Extension.

Continuing, Ms. Reidy distributed a package of materials showing the many programs and workshops offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Among them "Eat Smart & Live Well" a free program for limited income families, seniors and individuals; "Relatives as Parents Program"; "4-H Adult Volunteers in Ulster County"; "Philadelphia International Flower Show Bus Trip"; "Garden Day 2010"; "Winter Lectures for the Home Gardener"; "Flower Power 4-H Fundraiser" and many others. She said many of their programs also dovetail with other agencies. For example, the "Family Consumer Science Program" also works with the Department of Social Services to provide people receiving public assistance with information on how to make the best use of their money and thus lessen their dependency on social services. Ms. Reidy advised that some of the financial management programs are grant funded through NYSERTA. Also grant funded are a lot of the agricultural programs.

On the county budget cuts in funding in 2010, Ms. Reidy said they are still trying to work around them. She said they are losing three people and are not going to be filling those positions. It was originally thought that the 4H portion of the Ulster County Fair would have to be eliminated because of the budget cut; however, the 4H Youth

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themselves are going to donate, from their own Treasury the \$8,000 needed to keep the 4H portion of the fair going in 2010. Some of the legislators said they had received calls regarding the 4H cuts

Ms. Reidy said Cornell Cooperative recently was awarded a major grant from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation for a study on Healthy Kids for Kingston. This is a joint study with several other agencies to try and determine what it is that keeps kids inside and not outside.

Returning to the budget cut Leg. Hayes asked to see a financial statement to understand the impact of the cuts. In reply to a question from Deputy Chairman Donaldson, Ms. Reidy said the amount of the cut was \$90,000 and that will affect the state share and there will also be more cuts that are also based on the county sponsor share.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Deputy Chairman Donaldson recognized Dr. Aphrodite Clamar and Ms. Gloria Lipton.

Aphrodite Clamar and Gloria Lipton:

Ms. Lipton spoke as an advocate for the people in the Kingston area, particularly the young people who did not seem to have any place to ice skate. She feels that it would be so advantageous to these young people to be able to have someplace to ice skate. She distributed an information sheet about area ice skating complexes and in particular the one at Hudson Valley Community College. She would like some outreach by the legislators to Hudson Valley as well as to SUNY Ulster. She feels that SUNY Ulster would be an ideal place.

Dr. Clamar also spoke on the advantages to children of having a place to go and of having the opportunity to be outside and do healthy physical exercise and what a benefit it would be to them to have a facility of this type to go to.

Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked if anyone had contacted SUNY Ulster or any of these other schools. He said he will call President Katt and see if he can possibly look into it.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Belfiglio and seconded by Leg. Hayes. Upon voice vote there being no opposition, Deputy Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

