

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD AT THE ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NY, ON THE 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
CARL BELFIGLIO
JACK HAYES
DONALD GREGORIUS
MICHAEL MADSEN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

CATHERINE TERRIZZI
DAVID DONALDSON, Dep. Chairman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DONALD C. KATT, President, SUNY Ulster
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Inst. Advancement & Continuing Ed, SUNY ULSTER
MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster
ROBERT SUDLOW, Deputy County Executive
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and began same by thanking Deputy Chairman Donaldson, in absentia, for chairing the February meeting of this Committee while Chairman Harris was on vacation. He then introduced Dr. Donald C. Katt, President and Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement & Continuing Education, both of SUNY Ulster County Community College.

SUNY Ulster County Community College

President Katt introduced Mark Komdat, the new Dean of Administration, who has thirteen years experience in public higher education at the University of Buffalo. He was also Director of Finance and Administration for the Atlanta Ballet and then General Manager and Chief Financial Officer. The President remarked it was interesting to note that Dean Komdat's first three years of public school education was at the Tillson, NY School, so he is familiar with the area. The college conducted a national search for this position and Mark was the strongest candidate. President Katt said Dean Komdat will be in charge of finance and facilities and will be the major conduit between the college and this committee.

President Katt said enrollment is healthy. In times of economic downturn, many families find community colleges the best alternative and in addition, there are a number of people who are changing careers. We feel enrollment will exceed 5-7% of our projections. The President said he had previously advised this committee that the State had cut the college's budget this year by about a quarter of a million dollars and now the college is facing another 8% cut on top of that for the next budget year. A 13% cut in next year's budget, of about \$800,000 would be disastrous. President Katt advised he and

other members of his staff would be in Albany this week to meet with various elected representatives in an attempt to get some funds restored.

The college will be able to absorb the first 5% cut in State aid through the increase in enrollment and by tightening spending; however, if we have that kind of a cut in next year's budget said President Katt, the college will have to look at negative personnel actions. The State budget is due out in April and we just have to wait and see. President Katt stressed that the college was still not going to look to the county for any increased funding, as the college fully realizes the county's precarious financial position.

Dean Komdat distributed a Financial Update and discussed the Enrollment Summary Report, the 2009-2010 Revenue and Expenditure Report and 2009-2010 Restricted Funds Revenues and Expenditures sheet. He said that as of February 28, 2010 we have expended 70% of our \$24 million budget and we have absorbed the more than \$200,000 state aid cut.

President Katt said the restricted funds are grants and other external funds. At one time the college amended its budget through the Legislature each time we got a grant. Now we put in a gross anticipated grant figure and adjust at the end of the year.

Leg. Gregorius wanted more information on the impact of the state aid cut of \$800,000 and what it means. President Katt said the largest portion of the college budget is personnel. We have five senior faculty who are looking to retire and we will be replacing them with part time adjunct faculty. If the budget cut is as large as \$800,000 we will have to look at additional staff cuts.

At this time Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education, reported that last week President Katt was participating in the National League of Nursing reaccreditation meetings on campus in which we did very well. While he was so occupied, she attended a portion of the Health Summit sponsored by the Ulster County Health Department in the Student Lounge which she found very informative. She distributed a flyer on the SUNY Ulster/SUNY IT Partnership venture regarding the SUNY IT Program for students to obtain their BS degree in Nursing here on the SUNY Ulster campus. There will be an informational/advisement session on Wednesday, March 24th at 1:00pm on the Stone Ridge campus. This program is working out very well and student enrollment is up.

President Katt said at the last meeting he was asked about County "chargebacks". He did not have the dollar amounts available but had brought it tonight. He said that in 2009 the college received from other counties approximately \$800,000 in chargebacks. The County, unfortunately, had to pay out about \$3.2 million to other counties – with the majority of those funds going to Dutchess County.

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ms. Reidy said she was working on an orientation program for new Directors and Legislators and hoped to set it up when people are going to be coming to town anyway. It would be an opportunity to meet with the program people who work on the grants and contracts Cooperative Extension does.

Her office is trying to make up the \$90,000 budget cut. The books will be closed by the end of March. The 4H is concerned as to how the cut is affecting its programs. There was a meeting last Friday to try to find ways to continue with most of the programs we had before. Our 4H Teen Counsel donated \$8,000 back to Cornell Cooperative Extension which we will use to hire people to work at the Fair in the 4H Youth Program so that is not in jeopardy at this time. The Program Committee is working on a strategic plan to find the kinds of things that pay for themselves. She said an example of this is the Robert Wood Johnson grant of \$360,000 which is a shared grant with several other agencies. At the present time Cooperative Extension has two people on staff who are very knowledgeable in grant writing and that is a good thing in view of the current financial situation.

Dennis Doyle of Ulster County Planning said the County is going to be entertaining Community Development Block Grant applications. Cooperative Extension has had three of these grants in the past and currently is still working on one which is rehabilitating migrant worker housing and also replacement of mobile homes. The grant does not cover rehabilitation of mobile homes – only the replacement of them. She explained that the total amount of the grant is \$775,000 and that if RUPCO applies then they would get \$400,000 and CCE would get \$375,000 and that would not be enough to do a project correctly. She would like the County to ask for another round of funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension under the Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Reidy said the next grant would be for placing more emphasis on code violations. Also, this year it was a 30%-70% split but it might be raised to a 35%-65% split. This program is a great thing for the farmers to enable them to meet all of the new codes. There is a public hearing on the CDBG Tuesday night and the County Legislature will decide which project they will put up to the State.

Referring to the Legislative Update, Spring 2010 issue, Ms. Reidy discussed the Rain Gardens at the Town of Ulster Town Hall and other places including the one proposed for the Rosendale Library. She also advised the committee of CCE's other offices in Phoenicia in the Town of Shandaken where they share a building with NYC DEP and UC Soil & Water , and at Highland where Mike Fargione is the Extension Agent in charge.

Leg. Hayes asked if there was any way to change the budget for next year so it does not have such a heavy impact on the 4H program. Ms. Reidy said it is more difficult to find funding for 4H programs so they have to come out of operating funds. Other programs are funded by specific grants and contracts and those funds can only be used for those programs. A lengthy discussion was had on the budget and on how it is decided which programs stay and which programs are cut and also on possible ways to save programs in the future.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Harris turned the meeting to Legislative Initiatives.

Legislative Initiatives

Chairman Harris presented Draft Resolution #330 entitled "Appropriation for the Cooperative Extension Association of Ulster County and Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute the Agreement Related Thereto". The dollar amount of the 2010 appropriation was \$266,475.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Madsen. Cornell Cooperative Extension having just completed their report, and their being no further discussion, Chairman Harris called for a voice vote and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris presented Draft Resolution #325 entitled "Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with the Dutchess County Arts Council for the 2010 Appropriation-Legislature". The dollar amount of the 2010 appropriation was \$41,250.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Hayes. For the benefit of the new committee members, Chairman Harris gave a brief description of this program, and their being no further discussion, asked for a voice vote, and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris presented Draft Resolution #326 entitled "Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 2010 Appropriation – Legislature". The dollar amount of the 2010 appropriation was \$15,000. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Madsen and seconded by Leg. Hayes. There being no discussion, Chairman Harris called for a voice vote and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris then presented Draft Resolution #327 entitled "Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Family of Woodstock, Inc., for the Supervised Visitation Program for the 2010 Appropriation – Legislature". The dollar amount of the appropriation was \$15,000.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Belfiglio. After a brief discussion, Chairman Harris called for a voice vote and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Draft Resolution #328 was presented by Chairman Harris, said resolution being entitled "Appropriation for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District". The dollar amount was \$76,500.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Madsen. After a brief discussion, Chairman Harris called for a voice vote and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Chairman Harris then presented Draft Resolution #329 entitled "Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute an Agreement for the Maintenance of Facilities for the Ulster Performing Arts Center for the 2010 Appropriation – Legislature". The dollar amount of the appropriation was \$18,750.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Belfiglio and seconded by Leg. Gregorius. There was no discussion and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Draft Resolution #331 was presented by Chairman Harris, said resolution entitled "Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Enter into an Agreement with Ulster County Community

Action Committee, Inc.”. The dollar amount of the appropriation was \$11,250.00. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Belfiglio and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the resolution was unanimously approved.

At this time Chairman Harris noted that Veteran’s Services, Office for the Aging and the Youth Bureau would no longer be reporting to this committee, but to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Hayes, and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Salanitri, Recorder