

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 3RD DAY OF MAY, 2011

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

MARK P. KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College
MARY LOU CAROLAN, Director, Wallkill Public Library
KATHARINE SULENCICH, Wallkill Library, Observer
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension
SUSAN J. HOGER, Executive Director, Resource Center for Accessible Living and
Chairman, Advisory Board, Ulster County Office for the Aging
VICTOR MELVILLE, League of Women Voters
JANET SALANITRI, Adm. Assistant, Ulster Co. Community College, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2011 and the special meeting of April 12, 2011. Said motion was made by Leg. Madsen and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon voice vote the minutes aforesaid were unanimously approved.

At this time Chairman Harris recognized Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration at SUNY Ulster County Community College:

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Komdat distributed a copy of the 2011-12 UCC Foundation Scholarship Program and advised that the ceremony was being held this evening at the Stone Ridge campus at 7:00pm, with a reception to follow. He also said he believed that Leg. Belfiglio was attending that ceremony as a scholarship in memory of this daughter Olivia had been endowed. The Dean advised that approximately 180 students would be sharing over \$150,000 in scholarships. There will also be a student show of SUNY Ulster Art & Design majors who will be displaying their projects in the Gallery and classrooms in Minutes

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Vanderlyn with a reception on Wednesday, May 4th at 1:00pm. Dean Komdat said the Second Year Design students have dedicated their final projects in support of the Marbletown First Aid Ad Campaign and their projects will be on exhibit at the Kingston Museum of Contemporary Art on Abeel Street in Kingston. He strongly recommended that if people had a few minutes they should take a look, as these are some very talented students.

The Dean also distributed copies of "Access and Opportunity", the Ulster Community College Foundation Newsletter" for the spring 2011. He said Graduation will be held on Wednesday, May 18th at 6:00pm and it will definitely be held inside in the Senate Gymnasium and not outside. There are over 400 graduates with 264 students marching, which is 80 more than last year.

Dean Komdat said everyone is currently working on the budget. As he previously advised, there is a small decline in enrollment for the spring 2011 semester, primarily in continuing students. Looking for reasons said the Dean, we believe at least one-half is due to academics, with gpa's under 1.5. He said we try really hard to retain borderline students but they themselves have to want to do it. Between the decrease in enrollment and the cuts in state aid we are looking at a total decrease of about 18% since 2010, or about \$400,000. We are hoping for level funding from the county. The Dean said the college will be looking for an increase in both full time and part time tuition and an increase in the technology fee. When asked by Leg. Donaldson, Dean Komdat said full time tuition would increase to \$1995 per semester; part time to \$142 per credit hour; and there would be an increase in the technology fee.

Chairman Harris asked about chargebacks and Dean Komdat gave a brief description of what they are. He said the payments are by a funding formula set by the State of New York. Right now, he said, he believes we are paying a little less than \$3,000 per student. Dean Komdat said in 2010, 867 students from Ulster went to Dutchess County Community College. These students are primarily from New Paltz, Highland, Modena and Marlboro. Orange County Community College got 372 students from Ulster County, primarily from Wallkill, Plattekill and Wawarsing. Leg. Gregorius asked about chargebacks from students from other counties who come here. The Dean said we do get students say from Rhinebeck or Hyde Park but there is a big difference in the numbers. When asked by Leg. Gregorius if we pay out as much as \$5 million, the Dean said he did not know the exact amount but believes it was closer to \$3 million as it is paid by the county and not the college.

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Chairman Harris asked the Dean if he would explain the Maintenance of Effort provisions regarding the college's budget which he did. Dean Komdat stressed that if the county were to cut its appropriation to the college by even \$1 the Maintenance of Effort provision would come into play and we could have to escrow \$1 million or more, which would be disastrous for the college. Leg. Donaldson asked what would happen if we were to increase our contribution this year - would we have to maintain that amount thereafter and the Dean said yes that would be the case. There was a discussion as to whether the county could increase their contribution without actual dollars such as in-kind services. Dean Komdat said we get capital project dollars where there is a fifty-fifty split, but everything, even in-kind services has to go into audit reports and he is not sure where the math gets any better.

Chairman Harris asked how the one-third sharing pie chart looked as far as the funding formula looked. Dean Komdat said the county is at about 24% and the state, which incidentally is not held to the same Maintenance of Effort standard, is running approximately 20%-21%. The balance is on the students.

Dean Komdat said the draft resolution being voted on this evening calls for a public hearing on the 2011-2012 budget of Ulster County Community College to be held on Tuesday, June 14th at the college. He said he will present the proposed budget to this committee in detail at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 7th. Chairman Harris then requested a motion to approve the proposed resolution. Such motion was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the following resolution was unanimously approved:

“WHEREAS, a Public Hearing is required to be held concerning the proposed budget of the Ulster County Community College for the fiscal year commencing on September 1, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to cause a legal notice of said Public Hearing to be published according to law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that said Public Hearing is to be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at 6:30 PM, Student Lounge, Vanderlyn Hall, Ulster County Community College, Stone Ridge, New York

And moves its adoption.”

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The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Leg. Jack Hayes.

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

Leg. Hayes introduced his guest, Ms. Susan J. Hoger, who is the Executive Director of the Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc., whom he had invited here this evening to speak to the Committee as a member of the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee. Leg. Hayes said Ms. Hoger has done an outstanding job and has put a lot of effort into making life easier in many ways for the senior citizens of Ulster County.

Ms. Hoger said the make-up of the Office for the Aging Advisory Board has been changing over the past several years in an effort to try to bring in more people who are working for and with the seniors so we can find out what the senior population is looking for and what things we should be able to assist them with. She had looked over the office's funding sources in an effort to see how things all fit together and what could be cut and what could be moved the better to utilize existing resources. She said Medicaid Redesign funds are going to be cut but they do not know where or when so at the present time there can be no planning for it. There are many issues at this time, among them the baby boomers, a longer life span, our relationship with disabled persons as well as issues with long term care. Ms. Hoger also said it looks like the NYS Health Department will end up supervising the Office for Aging.

Ms. Hoger passed out a brochure and discussed the NYS Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Medicaid Waiver Program. This is a program that was created to help seniors and people with disabilities stay within their community without going into a nursing home. There is a cap of \$250 per day for medical care. She said last year there was a savings of \$2.5 million in Medicaid funds by keeping people out of institutions and in their own homes.

There are a lot of resources in Ulster County said Ms. Hoger. She originally thought there were seven or eight organizations when, in fact, there are sixteen. She referred to some notes she had made in preparation for a meeting with the County Executive and when asked, said she would give a copy to the Clerk of the Legislature who would send them on to the members of this committee. Ms. Hoger said she found that some of the surrounding counties are sending people here because of the number and types of resources we have available. The bottom line, she said, is that services and seniors have to be something that goes back and forth, and cannot be on a fixed age oriented formula.

The presentation being concluded, Chairman Harris thanked Ms. Hoger for being there and thanked Leg. Hayes for having invited her. He then reminded the committee that we have to start looking at the RFPs for the Meals on Wheels program before the time

runs out. It is his understanding that there are at least two Not-for-Profits interested. He will contact Leg. Terrizzi regarding this.

Leg. Gregorius asked Ms. Hoger about the Medicaid cap and at what happens to those people who rely on Medicaid. She said RCAL does not rely solely on Medicaid. There is the Medicaid Waiver Program money which consists of federal dollars based upon a ratio, and that money is going to be safe. She said it is not the "cap", it is the "block" money which means we will be looking to go up against other entities.

At this time Chairman Harris recognized Jim Cosgrove, Director of the Ulster County Library Association.

Ulster County Library Association:

Mr. Cosgrove introduced his guest, Ms. Mary Lou Carolan, Director of the Wallkill Public Library. Ms. Carolan said the area libraries are experiencing what a lot of other businesses are experiencing, which is this move into the digital age. She said libraries have been in existence for more than five thousand years, and are exciting places; they share resources and are part of consortiums. Wallkill is part of the Ramapo-Catskill Library System. This gives Wallkill access to forty-six other libraries in this system.

Ms. Carolan said libraries reflect the community and her dream has always been to get the library out into the community. Usage of the library is way up; there was a 40% increase in usage over the past year but, she said, we are still operating with funds that have remained the same. One of the reasons the library can offer many of the free services it does, said Ms. Carolan, is the "Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation". Ms. Carolan went on to explain the "Geek the Library" campaign and the relevance of the library in the digital age and the push to change the common perception of the library. She also discussed the Ulster County Information Portal and the various things that can be done through it, such as taking practice GED tests, etc. She asked Committee members what they would "geek" and replies varied from history and performing arts to knitting and aerobics. Ms. Carolan said you can't give the community what they want unless you first determine what it is they like. A general discussion followed about libraries and what the public expects from them.

The presentation by the Wallkill Library being concluded, Chairman Harris brought up the matter of the 2011 County appropriation for the Ulster County Libraries. There was discussion among the Committee as to the amounts listed for the various databases. Chairman Harris said that the actual resolution had not yet been computed but that it was decided to allow it to be voted on by this committee based on the fact that the bottom line figure of \$67,500 would be the same. It was decided that the committee would vote on the resolution based on the \$67,500 appropriation and that Chairman Harris would direct the Clerk of the Legislature to forward a copy of the final resolution to the Recorder so that the correct names and amounts would be included in these minutes.

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Accordingly, a motion to approve the resolution approving the 2011 appropriation for the Ulster County Libraries was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Madsen. Upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote, said resolution was unanimously approved. The final approved resolution is set forth hereafter as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has heretofore appropriated the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00) for the Ulster county libraries to be distributed as agreed to by the majority of libraries in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, the majority of libraries have agreed to the distribution of such funds as follows:

• Ancestry Library	\$ 6,350.00
• Brain Pop (3 versions)	\$ 3,600.00
• Chilton Auto Repair (MHLS)	\$ 365.00
• Foundation Center (Central Library)	\$ 1,000.00
• Gale Testing & Education (RCLS)	\$ 3,695.00
• Gale Testing & Education (MHLS)	\$ 1,200.00
• HeritageQuestOnline	\$ 7,235.00
• Mango Languages	\$ 5,200.00
• OverDrive audiobooks/ebooks	\$ 10,221.00
• Tumblebooks	\$ 2,300.00
• Tutor.com (career & academic)	\$ 25,200.00
• Training & Publicity	\$ 1,134.00

Total: \$ 67,500.00

and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to pay to the Mid-Hudson Library System the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00) for Ulster County libraries, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the said Mid-Hudson Library System shall render a verified account of disbursements (including a list of the distribution), and refund any unused amount on or before the 31st day of December 2011, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the said County Comptroller and/or any and all officers of the County of Ulster, their agents and representatives, shall be allowed full access upon

reasonable notice and at reasonable times to view the books, papers, records and premises of the Mid-Hudson Library System during the period that this resolution is in effect for the purpose of ascertaining the manner in which the above sum of money is being used or applied, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that no County money shall be paid to the said Mid-Hudson Library System until a memorandum of receipt, signed by the Director or Business Manager, agreeing to comply with the terms of this Resolution, is delivered to the County Commissioner of Finance,

And moves its adoption."

The matter of the Ulster County Library Association being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy said the gardening season is just getting started but the weather has not been conducive to getting crops into the ground; everything is very wet and muddy.

She discussed the requirements and status of the Farm Labor Housing program. One of the other large grants was cut and they had to lay off some staff. It seems that with the grant programs they are laying off some people under one grant and hiring people under another grant. With the housing program, there is more of a demand for new housing than there was for rehab, and Ms. Reidy said she did not think her office could put together a proposal for rehab with such a small demand. She says her office has met with RUPCO to try and find some grant for low income farmers for new construction or for energy conservation. She said that since Cooperative Extension was not putting in for a rehab grant RUPCO was able to put in a request for \$750,000.

Ms. Reidy said the entire farm labor system is changing. We used to have a lot of migrant labor that would come, stay for a while and go back to wherever. Now they are staying longer and the growers are trying to stagger their planting and harvesting so they can keep the workers longer. In addition, the migrant workers are now coming with their families, including children. It has been found that the barracks type of housing does not work so well anymore, since cohabitation between various ethnic and religious groups sometimes presents a problem. Farmers also find that since their workers are staying longer there is more need for heating and air conditioning in the housing. Ms. Reidy said her agency is looking for other sources of funding.

Ms. Reidy said there were fifteen young people involved in the district public speaking program through the 4H program. They have to give a presentation on something they are passionate about and are evaluated by members of the community. There is a local presentation first and then the district presentation. This year it was held at the Minutes

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Gander Mountain store and involved youngsters from nine different counties. This program is really great for developing their public speaking skills and the kids seem to really enjoy it.

She said we are already getting ready for the Ulster County Fair. The 4-H Youth Group will again be contributing funds made from the milk shake book to Cooperative Extension to help with staffing costs. Ms. Reidy said last year they gave us \$8,000.

Ms. Reidy said the Web Sites and the Facebook site they now have proven to be very helpful in getting information out to the people. There are now Facebook pages for Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Development, Master Gardeners and the Ashokan Basin.

She also talked about the "stink bug" problem coming in, which will be a big problem as they eat everything. She advised that if you find them put them in a plastic bag and get them to the Cornell Extension Lab in Highland. She said not to vacuum as they get into your vacuum and don't come out. A dustbuster is best.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Hayes, and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:31pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri
Recorder

(Recorder's Note: The Resolution set forth for the Ulster County Libraries is the true and correct resolution as provided to this Recorder by the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature following the May 3, 2011 meeting as set forth and required in these minutes.)