

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD IN THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM,  
ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2011

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PRESENT:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman  
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman  
MICHAEL MADSEN  
JACK HAYES  
CARL BELFIGLIO  
DON GREGORIUS

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

DONALD C. KATT, President, SUNY Ulster County Community College  
MARK KOMDAT, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College  
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
KAREN SPINOZZI, Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislature  
MARY MARSTERS, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
MARGIE MENARD, Ulster County Library Association  
JANET SALANITRI, SUNY UCCC, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:06pm and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of this committee of October 4, 2011. Such a motion was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Belfiglio and upon voice vote the minutes of the meeting of this committee of October 4, 2011 were unanimously approved.

Office for the Aging:

At this time Chairman Harris introduced a motion being submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Ulster County Office for the Aging regarding a grant of \$15,268.00 available to Ulster County from the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) grant program administered by the New York State Office for the Aging. The proposed Resolution requests that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature execute the MIPPA grant program application on behalf of the Ulster County Office for the Aging. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Hayes and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the proposed resolution was approved as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to execute the application, and any amendments thereto, for the MIPPA grant program, with an allocation amount of \$15,268.00, with the New York State Office of the Aging for the term beginning September 30, 2011 through September 29, 2012, in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney, and be it further  
RESOLVED, that if funding for this Program is eliminated, the Program will be eliminated as well...”.

Ulster County Stop DWI:

Chairman Harris introduced a proposed resolution submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Ulster County STOP DWI Program requesting approval of its 2012 Program Plan submitted to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Approval of this Plan by the State of New York provides continued funding for the STOP DWI Program. In addition, the services provided to Ulster County by the various police agencies, other municipal entities and service organizations are of value to the county in its effort to reduce drunk and drugged driving and it is necessary for the county to enter into certain intermunicipal agreements to permit Ulster County STOP DWI to engage in these activities and services. Chairman Harris asked for a motion to approve the resolution and such motion was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Belfiglio and upon Chairman Harris asking for a voice vote, said proposed Resolution was unanimously approved as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby approved Ulster County's 2012 STOP DWI Program Plan, and be it further

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

Chairman Harris now recognized Donald C. Katt, President of SUNY Ulster County Community College, and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration.

Ulster County Community College

President Katt advised the committee that the college is going into the second full year without a contract with its full time faculty. The faculty has proposed several changes which they call non-financial. We have not rushed because we wanted to wait until we had a chance to see if we could get any savings from our health insurance. Also we are well aware that our administrators are going on their third year without an increase. The faculty has voted for “work to rule” said President Katt. However, he continued, he has been told there is no way our students will receive less services from faculty, but some volunteer activities may be curtailed. There are several things faculty can choose not to participate in.

In addition, said President Katt, there is a lot of talk about the State Legislature and the next budget. While many Legislators say they support the community colleges we don't know how long it is going to take to negotiate the next budget and we may be facing another budget cut of at least 5% in state aid. We have to wait and see what the Governor's budget message is going to be in January and then try and determine what we are going to do. The economy is affecting all of us at this time when there are shrinking resources. The President said faculty contract negotiations are scheduled for November and he did not want the members of this committee or any of the Legislators to be surprised or to hear any rumors.

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Chairman Harris asked when the conversation about “work to rule” was and the President said it was early October. He said a big part of what faculty do is pre-registration and advisement. We do worry, however, about any harassment of faculty by other faculty, but the faculty officers have assured him that would not happen.

Leg. Belfiglio asked if there were any salary increases in the last budget the Legislature approved, and President Katt said there were not. He advised that because we did not negotiate with faculty over the summer they believe we are not serious about negotiating. He believes it would be prudent to wait until we see the Governor’s budget proposal for 2012-13 before proceeding.

When asked where the funds for any potential increase for faculty would come from, President Katt said that one possible scenario would be that we would ask the county for the entire increase as an amendment to our budget, but we would look for savings from other areas as well. One source of funds might include the fund balance and also the college will look at any possible savings in our health insurance. Leg. Hayes asked if the negotiations were local or if the state association was involved. President Katt advised negotiations are held with the faculty negotiating committee, administrators and labor attorneys for both sides. The Faculty Association is not affiliated with a state or national organization.

Leg. Gregorius said he believes the college could not do anything until such time as the college finds out what the state is going to do. The President said there has been a lot of movement trying to get the state to come back to their original one-third and it is time for the state to pay attention to community colleges and what their needs are.

President Katt also advised the committee that he, Dean Komdat and several of the trustees had met with County Executive Mike Hein and Adele Reiter regarding the proposed relocation of the college’s Business Resource Center. The college is looking at the former Met Life complex on Boice’s Lane in the Town of Ulster. He said United Health is going to consolidate their employees in the first building and the second building will be mostly vacant. It is also his understanding that the building is also on the market for sale and to buy the building would be a wise thing to do. President Katt said it is another option and discussions are on-going and there are no proposal or requests at this time.

Chairman Harris asked about rent at the BRC and the state share. President Katt said it was supposed to be a flat 50% but sometimes it varies. It is currently 48% and the college pays 52%. Any purchase to be made would be a 50% county share and a 50% state share. Leg. Madsen asked about comparisons of leasing and renting. Dean Komdat said the purchase price would probably be paid back in eight or nine years versus the lease package paid over 25 years.

The building is about 90,000 square feet of space. There is an existing tenant in 10,000 square feet. Leg. Madsen asked if it would be possible to sublet any of the space the college did not need to another tenant. Dean Komdat said yes. In reply to a question from Leg. Gregorius, Dean Komdat said in the long run we would be paying what we are now and maybe even less. A general

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discussion followed on rents and associated costs and what we are paying now and what we will be paying later. Dean Komdat said the property is pretty well set up for what we have to do. It has good heat, light and power and even has internet wiring. It does need signage and landscaping and obviously the space needs to be built out for classrooms, labs and offices.

In reply to a question from Leg. Gregorius concerning revenue producing activities at the new location, President Katt said the college is looking at the possibility of having an Industrial Design Program there which could be used for training and also for generating revenue.

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy advised that they were advertising for five new agricultural positions, which are part of the "New World" grant, which is to enhance efforts of growers in Ulster County. She said one is an administrative position and the others are for masters positions in agriculture. There is one in livestock for example and another in IT on how to get their message out and doing videos in real time. There is also a position for a grants writer. Teresa Rusniak and Mike Fargione will be leading this project

She discussed the shared business network program Ulster participates in. This was instituted by Cornell because each individual office could not support at IT person, an HR person and a Finance person. Ms. Reidy said her office is hosting the Finance person for six counties and a Grants & Contracts person for a half time position. The shared network covers Ulster County as well as Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Putnam and Sullivan.

Ms. Reidy reminded the committee that she is currently providing some leadership to Sullivan County Cooperative Extension in order to give them some time to find a new Director. She said she is hoping to be able to share some efforts and services with Sullivan. Also, Ms. Reidy reported, the Creating Healthy Places Program is doing work in Ellenville, Kingston and Phoenicia as is the Health Kingston for Kids program.

In addition, she said the Ashokan Basin is still working with local people and agencies on flood issues. They are still awaiting decisions on the \$2 million from the Department of Environmental Protection for projects. The County of Ulster also applied for \$100,000 of that money.

Ms. Reidy said she would like to remind everyone that her agency just created net sixteen new jobs in Ulster County and by the end of the year Cornell Cooperative Extension will have thirty-five people working for them and will have no housing. She said she had received no indication that housing was going to be taken away from them and is only assuming the county will continue to pay the rent on the building for November and December. She said she had received no indication that the county has determined they will no longer lease the building and that the \$96,000 rent allowance

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would be cut in half to \$48,000. There followed a general discussion about the rental allowance. Chairman Harris said Ulster County has always provided housing for Cornell Cooperative Extension. He said he just found it was on a special line and cut in half and he thought she would have six months of prep time. Ms. Reidy said if she uses up that \$48,000 we have no money at all and would need at least \$10,000 just to move. She said she has talked to the college about the Kelder house which is in need of repair.

Ms. Reidy said Cornell Cooperative Extension tries to run a professional organization and everyone is very upset about having been dealt this kind of a blow without any warning. She said one of the reasons we get these grants and contracts is because we have the support of the county, especially in the form of housing. Ms. Reidy said she could have written some of it into grant applications if she had known about it; however, there are eight to twelve months lead time on a grant.

In reply to a question from Leg. Gregorius, Ms. Reidy said the County Executive gave her no alternatives. The Land Manager came and talked to her and said the landlord is probably interested in another 3-year lease, and if we stay there the county may want to rent from us to house tourism. She told the committee she is looking at schools that are going to be closed and will need 6,000-7,000 square feet. They also need a presence in Kingston for some of the programs that they do. She said currently the landlord of the building they are in pays all of the utilities except the phones. The cost turns out to be about \$13 per square foot. Chairman Harris said the only thing would be to file an appeal from the budget. Leg. Hayes also recommends the appeal process.

At this time Leg. Hayes made a motion to recommend the restoration of \$91,875 in rent funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension. The motion was seconded by Leg. Donaldson. Leg. Donaldson said the reduction is a cut in aid. He said Cornell Cooperative has taken in sixteen new employees and needs the space and also needs time to make any future housing changes. When asked how she uses the rent allowance for leverage, Ms. Reidy said we show that in our budget as part of the county contribution and the state reimburses Cornell Cooperative Extension based on the county appropriation. Chairman Harris said it has always been said that the lease of that building is a very good one and the amount per square foot is extremely favorable. Leg. Belfiglio said he believed there was no other county that received rent from the county that was separate from the county appropriation. Leg. Hayes said we give bonuses to economic development for job creation and suggested we give Cooperative Extension of a bonus of a place to stay.

Chairman Harris asked Ms. Reidy if she knows how much that \$91,000 brought in by way of leverage. Ms. Reidy said her county contribution was \$366,000 including housing and her budget is over \$2 million so about 18% of her budget comes from the county.

There being a motion on the floor to recommend the restoration of \$91,875.00 in rental funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Donaldson, Chairman Harris asked for a voice vote on the motion. Motion approved on the following vote:

For the motion: Chairman Harris, Legs. Donaldson, Hayes, Gregorius and Madsen.

Against the motion: Leg. Belfiglio

Other Business:

Chairman Harris advised that the new budget called for moving the fund allocation from under the auspices of this committee into the Tourism line. He thinks the idea was to establish an Ulster County agency to administer the awards. Chairman Harris said Art Smith suggested we move to have the funds restored to its prior budget line. Leg. Donaldson said he thinks the procedures which have been in place for two years now have been working just fine and he believes it should stay like it has been. Leg. Gregorius said the Dutchess County Arts Council does all of the work and has all of the expertise in these matters. He believes the problem comes from the fact that the payment check reads "Dutchess" County Arts Council. He said we have established this and it returns a lot of money to the county and it should continue. He said this year there were eleven or twelve groups all over Ulster County that received funding through this account.

At this time Leg. Gregorius made a motion for a resolution to support an amendment to the 2013 Ulster County Budget to move the \$41,250 in funding allocated to Ulster County Tourism and return it to the Dutchess County Arts Council as part of Special Programs. The motion was seconded by Leg. Madsen and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote, said motion was unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder  
Adm. Assistant, SUNY Ulster