

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York 11530

Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Committee Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

The meeting of the Academic, Student Affairs & Enrollment Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Chair D'Agostino at 5:26 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Lynne D'Agostino (appointed ad hoc as Chair)
George Siberón (appointed ad hoc)
Kathy Weiss
Tibet Ateş
Jorge Gardyn (ex-officio)

Committee Members Absent: Donna Tuman

Also in Attendance: John DeGrace, John Durso, Wanda Jackson, Ronald Rosenberg
CAO Conzatti, Registrar Barkan, Asst. VP Follick

1. Approval of Minutes

Trustee D'Agostino requested a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Enrollment Updates 25:30

Registrar Barkan presented the Summer 2023 report comparing August 9, 2023 to August 10, 2022, which reveals an increase of 2.30%. From the Census Milestone comparing 2022 and 2021, we were down 18.75%. Fall registration shows an increase of .70% in credits and 1.15% in head count from last year on the first day of classes. From the Census Milestone comparing 2022 and 2021, we were down 6.01%. Comparing Fall 2022 to Fall 2023, non-degree student enrollment is up and visiting student enrollment is essentially the same. Comparing Summer 2022 to Summer 2023, non-degree student enrollment is up and visiting student enrollment is down. The Registrar's office continues its outreach with mailings, Slate text messaging, email, and telephone calls to new and continuing students.

Asst. VP Follick presented the new student enrollment trends comparing Fall 2023 to Fall 2022, which reveal an increase in first-year and transfer applications, admits, and registrations, as well as in transfer re-applications, re-admits, and registrations. As of September 1, 2023, the Placement office tested 2,888 students, with the vast majority testing on campus and the remainder remotely.

Concurrent enrollment, for students who take their senior year at NCC, is expanding throughout the County. Continuing participating schools are Baldwin (25), East Rockaway (6), Mineola (6), and West Hempstead (4). Lynbrook (2) and Plainedge (2) are new additions. The application process for dual enrollment, for students who take courses at their high school and are taught by high school faculty with NCC faculty as mentors, was recently launched and in less than one week we already have more than 100 students interested in taking courses during the Fall semester, and we expect the numbers to rise significantly by the next Board meeting.

The Fall Open House is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 2023. Invitations and posters have been sent to local high schools, county agencies, and local libraries, and postcards sent to high school seniors. Recruitment sessions at local high schools are underway for Fall 2024 and new, enhanced recruitment material is being sent to the community.

Trustee Weiss, upon hearing that 2,888 students took the placement test, with particularly high numbers for math, expressed her continued dismay with what she characterizes as over-testing of students who are unable to register before passing these exams for which the validity and reliability are uncertain. Aware that Chair Kaplan of the Math Department has been working diligently to reduce the math numbers as much as possible, she is hopeful that her fellow Trustees will make it their goal to move all placement testing in the same direction as for English and Reading, wherein students no longer have developmental Reading and instead are part of the English Department and get support through an additional integrated course.

Asst. VP Follick noted that discussion with Chair Kaplan, Dean DiStefano, and Academic Senate Chair Hynes-Musnisky to address placement testing has been planned for the near future. Trustee Weiss, acknowledging her awareness of Asst. VP Follick's agreement in commiseration, replied that the conversation should be finished, as the concern, supported by Trustee DeGrace, dates back many years and should already have been resolved.

Asst. VP Follick added that a variety of approaches, such as SUNY Free Application Week and other summer initiatives, have helped enhance recruitment and increase enrollment. Parents are concerned about costs, and our intensified marketing of academic programs in the local community has our numbers trending in the right direction. Trustee Weiss asked whether we know how many students who applied during SUNY Free Application Week have become NCC students? Asst. VP Follick responded that he will supply that data at the October Board meeting after the Census Milestone date. Dr. Conzatti reinforced that we are required to track this information.

Trustee Weiss recommended the latest *NY Times* Sunday magazine section, which was devoted to education and included articles on why students are no longer choosing to go to college and the comparison between the US system and those of other countries that offer much lower-cost or free education even through graduate school.

Asst. VP Follick announced that the Fall 2024 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be changing dramatically, but the full ramifications are not yet clear.

Chair D'Agostino asked if there were any other items for the Committee to consider. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Brandi

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Secretary to the President and
the Board of Trustees