

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of February 11, 2020

The six hundred thirty-fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Weiss at 5:35 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Edward Powers, Secretary;
John A. DeGrace, Wanda H. Jackson,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman, Bridget Russell, Student Trustee.

Absent: Jorge L. Gardyn, John R. Durso, Linda H. Green

Also in attendance: President Williams

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion that pursuant to Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees shall enter Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The Board will reopen its public session at approximately 6:45 p.m. on the 11th floor of the Administration Tower. Trustee Powers moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Vice Chair Weiss resumed the open meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Kathy Weiss, Vice Chair
Edward Powers, Secretary;
John A. DeGrace, Wanda H. Jackson,
George Siberón, Donna M. Tuman, Bridget Russell, Student Trustee.

Absent: Jorge L. Gardyn, John R. Durso, Linda H. Green

Also in attendance: President Williams

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2020. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Trustee Powers introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves that the rental fee be waived for use of Nassau Community College Physical Education Complex for the 2020 Nassau County Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged, scheduled from Thursday, May 28 through Saturday, May 30, 2020 and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all associated personnel and maintenance costs will be borne by the user.

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Powers moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Russell. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Trustee Jackson introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees, hereby approves that the following named faculty members are hereby granted sabbatical leave as indicated during the 2020/2021 academic year to pursue appropriate educational or professional activities to enhance their professional competence and/or service to the College.

One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Fall 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Thomas Bruckner	Physical Sciences	Associate Professor	9/2007	None
Robert Costello	Criminal Justice	Professor	9/1999	Fall 2009
Anna Feuerbach	Sociology/Anthropology/ Social Work	Assistant Professor	9/2012	None
Neela Bhattacharya Saxena	English	Professor	9/1996	2013-2014
Andrew Schopp	English	Professor	9/2002	2009-2010
Silvina Trica-Flores	Foreign Languages	Associate Professor	9/2006	Fall 2013
Nathan Wasserbauer	Art	Assistant Professor	9/2013	None

One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Spring 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Cheryl McBride	Art	Associate Professor	9/2007	None
Stephanie Sapiie	History/Pol Sci/Geo	Associate Professor	9/2005	Spring 2011

Full-Year Sabbaticals – 2020/2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Appt. Date</u>	<u>Previous Sabbatical</u>
Kathrine Jason	English	Associate Professor	9/1993	1999-2000 and 2012-2013
Mary Lannon	English	Associate Professor	9/2007	2013-2014
Gina Sipley	DCRAA	Associate Professor	9/2014	None
Beth Beatrice Smith	English	Associate Professor	9/2006	Spring 2014
Scott Walden	Philosophy	Associate Professor	9/2017	2013-2014
John Woods	English	Associate Professor	9/2007	2013-2014

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Jackson moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Vice Chair Weiss made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of four (4) items that do not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

4. First Reading & Discussion: Amendment Policy 1200:

Trustee Russell introduced Policy 1200, stating that the policy sets out the rules and procedure of the Board. The Board of Trustees, as the policy-making body, has the responsibility to establish, review periodically and evaluate the policies and procedures of the College, and amend the same when appropriate, subject to law. Being there were no comments, Dr. Williams certified that he has reviewed Policy 1200 and has submitted the policy for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

5. First Reading & Discussion: Amendment Policy 7500:

Trustee Russell introduced Policy 7500 Building and Program Naming, stating that the purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines that govern the permanent naming of physical and non-physical assets of the College. Being there were no comments, Dr. Williams certified that he has reviewed Policy 7500 and has submitted the policy for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

6. First Reading & Discussion: Amendment Policy 7510

Trustee Russell introduced Policy 7510 Plaque Recognition. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to support the efforts of the College and its students when a plaque is appropriate to honor an individual and when the honor may or may not be accompanied by a financial bequest. Being there were no comments, Dr. Williams certified that he has reviewed Policy 7510 and has submitted the policy for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

Dr. Weiss added that amendments were made to Policies 7500 and 7510 to ensure that, if a particular individual no longer meets the mission of our College, their names or plaques might then be removed.

7. Trustee Tuman introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College herewith authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to execute an amendment to the employment agreement between the College and Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, said amendment having been reviewed and approved by the members of the Board of Trustees.

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Jackson moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Siberón. Motion carried 7-0.

Dr. Williams reported on the following items:

Student Highlights

- He attended Student Government Association Executive Board and Student Senate meetings on Monday, February 10, 2020, and felt pride in witnessing our students in action in their official leadership roles. These students sit on Academic Senate committees, and during the latter part of the afternoon they reported on what had occurred.
- Kevin Rogers, SGA Vice President, is coordinating with NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) a trip to Albany for students to the Higher Ed Action Day on February 27, 2020. NYPIRG is a Statewide student-directed, non-partisan, not-for-profit political organization. Students will address the importance of NCC and will advocate for funding, among other topics.

Enrollment

- Spring 2020: Thanks to the diligence of so many, compared to the previous Spring, we improved from being down about 14% two months ago to about 8% a month ago to about 6.75% as of this day's reporting.
- Summer 2020: We aim to finish strong by leveraging online and other strategies.
- Fall 2020: We are looking to engage the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee of the Senate, the Institutional Planning Committee, the President's Cabinet, and the general College community for feedback to identify and/or act upon previously identified enrollment strategies that can be implemented as soon as Spring 2020, which will impact Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 enrollments.
- As we review data, it provides an opportunity to share our reality. He has been hearing from many people their concern that we are not enrolling enough new students. Compared to Fall 2019, however, new students in all categories combined (new, transfer, readmit) were up by 1.51%.
- Spring 2020: compared to the previous Spring, new students in all categories combined (new, transfer, readmit) were down by 4.59%. We were down by 5.58% and 6.75% for Fall and Spring, respectively.

It is apparent that a large part of our conversation needs to be focused on retaining current students. The numbers do not support the common perception that the issue is the lack of new students. Rather, this data recognizes a huge opportunity for us to continue to strategize more in regard to what we should be doing to hold onto our students returning from previous semesters.

Budget and Lobbying:

- The State budget was released last month, and the 100% funding floor for community colleges was not present in that budget. As a reminder, this would have provided community colleges with 100% of the State funding floor from last year. The current proposed state budget of \$2,947 per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) will place NCC, and many community colleges in the State, in an extremely dire situation. Please remember, balancing the budget last year consisted of budgetary adjustments in the form of analyzing and decreasing part-time and over-time, using \$6.5M of fund balance, raising tuition by \$250, and receiving 98% of the funding floor from the previous year — which equated to a \$2.4M increase in revenue dollars.

While 100% funding floor does not make us whole, it does place us in a better position when it comes to addressing the deficit we face each year due to annual rising costs, a decrease in incoming students, a decrease in returning students, and operating as an institution where more than 80% of the annual budget is composed of salaries and benefits. Balancing the FY21 budget to advance the goal of equitably supporting student access, completion, and post-completion success will need to be approached with strength, calculation, and a deep level of austerity. We will need to vigilantly address expenses, revenues, efficiencies, and redundancies.

- A breakfast meeting at which we will impress upon our State Legislators the importance of Nassau Community College to the community is scheduled for February 28, 2020. He is thankful for all our NCC allies and advocates who will attend this brief yet important gathering to share just how critical the College is to the community and to the Legislators' constituents.
- SUNY has made funding for Community College's one of its top priorities.
- He attended the annual NYSUT (NYS United Teachers, a 600,000-member higher education union) Community College luncheon with Donna Hope, Vice President of the NCCFT. The focus of the meeting was to discuss mutual concern and collaboration, pressing upon those in attendance the importance of funding for Nassau Community College.

General

Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, Chair, SUNY Board of Trustees, as part of her tour of all 64 SUNY institutions, visited campus last week. He thanked all who were able to quickly pivot and to play a role in her quick yet impactful meeting.

Closing

- Lindsey Angioletti has been hired as our new Director of Marketing and Communications. She joins us with more than 15 years of experience, having previously served as the Director of Corporate Communications at Altice. She had also been Associate Director of Public Relations at Hofstra University. Lindsey has extensive experience in marketing, advertising, and public relations. She started Monday, February 3, 2020, and has hit the ground running.
- We are in the final stages of the hiring process for the Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

He thanked everyone for the good work helping students. He remains extremely happy and humbled to serve as President of Nassau Community College.

Speakers

Frank Frisenda, President, NCCFT, reported that NCCFT Vice Presidents Donna Hope and Dawn Smith attended NYSUT's Lobby Day in Albany, along with our Political Action Committee Chair Uzo Osuno, to lobby for fair funding for community colleges. The two main talking points were: 1) a \$250 increase in FTE money, plus a new hybrid funding formula for community colleges, which would bring the FTE up to \$3,197; and 2) "TAP Gap", which means that the most TAP will give students is \$5,135, and NCC tuition is \$5,600, creating a \$450 "gap" for students to pay. He thanked Dr. Williams for accompanying Donna Hope, since it has been years since a President of NCC attended the luncheon.


John Joseph Budnick, former graduate of NCC, shared his concerns on the financial hardship imposed on students by the State's renegeing on its commitment, dating back as far back as 1959, that it was going to be responsible for one-third of the operating cost. Its portion is currently down to about 20%, and the State further cut the budget by almost a million dollars last year. He believes that the lack of financial support by the State has exacerbated the reduction of enrollment. He reminded the Board that its job is to lobby the Senate and the Assembly for more funding for the College.

Vice Chair Weiss announced the next Capital and Finance BOT Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Full Board meeting. The Board will open the public session between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. and resume the public session at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Vice Chair Weiss requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Powers moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward W. Powers
Secretary