

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

-----x

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Minutes

-----x

Via Conference Call

October 15, 2020
4:04 p.m.

Stenographically recorded and
transcribed by Donna C. Gilmore,
a Notary Public within and for
the State of New York.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

3 **BOARD MEMBERS:**

4 E. Christopher Murray, Chair

5 Shirley Coverdale, Vice Chair, Trustee

6 Gordon D. Canary, Trustee

7 Kaitlyn Gambina, Student Trustee

8 Kevin O'Connor, Trustee

9 Belinda Pagdanganan, Trustee

10 Priscilla Zarate, Trustee

11

A L S O P R E S E N T:

12

Louis J. Petrizzo, General Counsel, Interim President

13

Ashley Pope, Deputy General Counsel

14

Ben Zwirn, Director Legislative Affairs

15

Christopher Adams, VP for Student Affairs

16

Mary Lou Araneo, VP for Institutional Advancement

17

Mark Harris, VP for Business and Financial Affairs

18

Angela Rivera, VP of Human Resources

19

* many others, unidentified

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 CHAIR MURRAY: Good afternoon,
3 everybody. This is the Board of Trustee
4 meeting for the Suffolk County Community
5 College Board of Trustees.

6 I'd like to start with the Pledge of
7 Allegiance, and if Trustee Gordon would
8 like to lead us in that.

9 TRUSTEE CANARY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 [FOLLOWING THE RECITATION OF THE
12 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, THE MEETING OF THE
13 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
14 COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY
15 CHAIR E. CHRISTOPHER MURRAY AT 4:04 P.M.]

16 CHAIR MURRAY: At this time I'd like
17 to request a motion to adjourn the Board
18 of Trustees meeting and call the Board of
19 Directors meeting to order.

20 Kevin, will you make that motion?

21 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: I'll make that
22 motion.

23 CHAIR MURRAY: And Gordon, will you
24 second it?

25 TRUSTEE CANARY: Gordon Canary,

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 seconding the motion.

3 CHAIR MURRAY: And all those in
4 favor, please say aye.

5 Any opposed?

6 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
7 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

8 CHAIR MURRAY: So we're now in the
9 Board of Directors meeting. I request a
10 motion for the approval of the
11 meetings [sic] of the September 17, 2020
12 Board of Directors meeting.

13 Kaitlyn, will you make that motion?

14 TRUSTEE GAMBINA: Motion.

15 CHAIR MURRAY: And Priscilla, will
16 you second that motion?

17 TRUSTEE ZARATE: Second.

18 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in favor
19 please say aye.

20 Any opposed?

21 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
22 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

23 CHAIR MURRAY: So the minutes are
24 approved.

25 At this time I'd like to introduce

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 the Vice President of Student Affairs,
3 Dr. Christopher Adams, to present the
4 Association financials.

5 VP ADAMS: Thank you, Chair Murray,
6 and good afternoon, Members of the Board
7 of Directors.

8 It's my pleasure to give you the
9 report that runs from September 1, 2020
10 to September 30, 2020.

11 I wanted to let everyone know that
12 in each cost center that we are operating
13 in a very positive fashion. A lot has to
14 do that we received the first installment
15 of the student activity fee in
16 mid-September in the amount of \$1,361,812,
17 and we are expecting, later on during the
18 month of October, another 340,453. And
19 again, that will be distributed among the
20 various cost centers within the
21 Association.

22 I'm very happy to report that all
23 activity is going extremely well. We're
24 doing a lot more online activity than we
25 ever have in the history of the college,

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 so I'm very pleased with the amount of
3 lectures and games and engagement that is
4 happening with our students and involving
5 our students.

6 We did have two recent outside
7 activities that happened, one was a beach
8 cleanup that was sponsored by Senator
9 Boyle, and thanks to Trustee Gordon
10 Canary, who gave us this opportunity,
11 about 50 students came out on a Saturday
12 and cleaned up the beach at Robert Moses
13 State Park. It was a wonderful day, the
14 weather was really nice and we collected
15 pounds of garbage, and great community
16 service and it was good to see our
17 students, again, socially distancing,
18 wearing masks, but nevertheless doing
19 something that was very productive.

20 Last weekend, very happy to report
21 that again with Senator Boyle we
22 sponsored a food drive for all three
23 pantries that we have on each of our
24 campuses that are still open for our
25 students. That was a very successful

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 event. They were able to receive bags
3 and bags and bags of groceries, and also
4 some donations that will go directly to
5 the food pantries. So I want to thank
6 again Senator Boyle. I also want to
7 thank Angela from Senator Boyle's office,
8 and of course, our very own Trustee
9 Canary for that opportunity, two
10 wonderful days.

11 We are in the process now of looking
12 into doing a blood drive, because we all
13 know that blood services, because of the
14 COVID-19 pandemic we are short of blood
15 across Long Island, and we're looking to
16 do a blood drive sometime in October, but
17 we'll get back to you on some of those
18 details forthcoming.

19 I wanted to ask if there's any
20 questions concerning the board report for
21 the financials and the Association for
22 the month of September?

23 Okay. I also wanted to, at the last
24 meeting I was asked a question about the
25 fund balances within the Association. I

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 wanted to give you some details on that.

3 The audited financials from the
4 '18-'19 year showed us that we have
5 over \$2,219,836 in the fund balance
6 within the Association, and again, that's
7 a nice sum to have just in case something
8 happens within the Association, whether
9 there's a lawsuit or something happens to
10 our childcare centers or any of our
11 athletic bands, so it's good to have a
12 pretty good fund balance in there. We
13 expect, because our financials for the
14 '19-'20 year have not been audited as of
15 yet, they're expected to be audited in
16 the first week in December, I just wanted
17 to say that we're estimating at this
18 point that another \$400,000 from the
19 '19-'20 academic year will be sent over
20 to the fund balance within the
21 Association, but until the audits come
22 through in December and the auditor has
23 the opportunity to sit down with Chair
24 Murray and Director Barbara Hurst, and of
25 course my successor, we won't know that

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 actual number. But I'm very pleased to
3 say that we're very, acting very positive
4 in the Association when it comes to our
5 cash flow and things are looking very
6 good within the Association.

7 Are there any questions?

8 CHAIR MURRAY: What that means is
9 that we're in good shape within the
10 Association.

11 VP ADAMS: Yes, we are.

12 I just wanted to take a moment,
13 since we are on the Association, just to
14 thank a number of people, of course our
15 Board of Directors who have given us the
16 guidance to be successful over the last
17 couple of years. For those of you that
18 were around when I first inherited the
19 Association as a supervisor, we were not
20 doing so well within the Association,
21 there was many management recommendations
22 that had to be cleaned up within the
23 Association. But I'm very pleased,
24 because of the work of Barbara Hurst and
25 her team and the campus's administrators

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 we were able to create a number of
3 policies and a number of ways of
4 balancing our checkbook and doing the
5 things that we needed to do based on
6 those recommendations, that as you are
7 aware, over the last couple of years we
8 have no recommendations and I want to
9 keep that streak going. Although I won't
10 be here in December, I anticipate that
11 the '19-'20 audit will be very positive,
12 and again, I want to thank Barbara Hurst
13 for all of her work. She is someone who
14 is a great person and really gets to work
15 and I'm very, very pleased that we were
16 able to do that.

17 I also want to thank Neftali
18 Collazo, our Director of Athletics, who
19 runs our athletic program and we've had
20 arguably one of the better athletic teams
21 in the entire country, and that includes
22 Division I, II, and III. Although we've
23 been competing in Division III, I have to
24 say our athletic program is second to
25 none to anywhere in the country, and

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 that's because of the fine work of, of
3 course Kevin before Neftali, but then
4 secondly Neftali, and I just want to
5 thank them publicly for all of their
6 work.

7 So I just want to wind up with the
8 Association report. So again, thanking
9 the Board of Directors, our Student
10 Success committee, Belle Pagdanganan, I
11 just want to say thank you very much for
12 your guidance and your leadership in
13 Student Success over the last couple of
14 years; Kaitlyn Gambina, of course thank
15 you for your service on Student Success,
16 and of course, Priscilla Zarate, who has
17 given us a lot of guidance and help over
18 the last couple of years since I've been
19 working with the Association.

20 So I'm very happy to be able to
21 leave the Association in good stead and
22 know that it's going to be in good hands
23 going forward, and I just want to thank
24 everyone for their assistance and
25 obviously their dedication to making the

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 Association. Again, it's all for our
3 students, and I think we've gone above
4 and beyond to make sure that the
5 Association was run smoothly and there's
6 been no problems.

7 So Chair Murray, I'm going to turn
8 it back over to you, and thank you as
9 well for your guidance and your support
10 with our audits and helping us as well.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR MURRAY: Chris, I'd also just
13 like to say thank you for your hard work
14 for the college in all the different
15 capacities. You've really done a
16 wonderful service to the college,
17 especially this year in what is really a
18 difficult time. We congratulate you on
19 your move, but you will be missed and
20 hard to replace.

21 VP ADAMS: Thank you.

22 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: This is Kevin
23 O'Connor.

24 I echo what Chris said. The things
25 that you have accomplished while you've

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 been here, and certainly congratulations,
3 sad to see you go. And again, your
4 efforts to, for this semester
5 particularly were amazing.

6 So thank you and your staff.

7 VP ADAMS: Thank you.

8 TRUSTEE CANARY: And Mr. Chairman,
9 too, I would like to chime in.

10 Chris, it's been a real pleasure
11 working with you over these past six and
12 a half years of my tenure, and it's been
13 wonderful with the things that we've
14 worked on together, bringing some new
15 programs and initiatives in. You've done
16 an unbelievable job, again, with the
17 directors and the Foundation, and we
18 truly, truly appreciate all your
19 dedication and hard work, and know that
20 you have bright things coming ahead in
21 the future for you and wish you all the
22 best in your new position.

23 VP ADAMS: Thank you, Trustee
24 Gordon.

25 TRUSTEE COVERDALE: This is Trustee

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 Coverdale.

3 I'd like to echo my colleagues'
4 sentiments. Chris, it's been wonderful
5 to work with you on the occasions that we
6 have. You've always been one to go above
7 and beyond what is required. It's
8 evident that you really care about the
9 college and the students, and you will be
10 sorely missed, but we congratulate you on
11 your move forward.

12 VP ADAMS: Thank you.

13 TRUSTEE ZARATE: This is Trustee
14 Zarate.

15 Chris, I want to thank you so much
16 for everything that you've done for the
17 college, for our students and the
18 services, and your dedication has been
19 impeccable, and it's definitely going to
20 be a loss for the college.

21 But thank you for all your service
22 for our students.

23 VP ADAMS: Thank you.

24 TRUSTEE PAGDANGANAN: This is
25 Trustee Pagdanganan, and also on behalf

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 of the Student Success Committee.

3 We would like to thank you, Vice
4 President Chris Adams, for your
5 dedication, for your enthusiasm. You
6 came for our students. Their success
7 were always your top priority, and be it
8 in retention or completion of their
9 degree, and get them prepared for their
10 personal civic and professional lives.

11 We really wish you the very best,
12 and once again, thank you and good luck
13 in your next journey.

14 VP ADAMS: Thank you.

15 TRUSTEE GAMBINA: This is Trustee
16 Gambina.

17 I just want to echo what everybody
18 else says. Thank you, and you're my
19 advisor and you've taught me so much and
20 helped me throughout the year and a half
21 I've been on the board, and as student
22 government students all, we thank you for
23 all the work you have done, and we wish
24 you success in the future.

25 VP ADAMS: Thank you, very much.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 It's been a privilege and an honor to
3 serve at Suffolk County Community
4 College.

5 Thank you, all.

6 CHAIR MURRAY: Okay. At this time
7 I'd like to request a motion to adjourn
8 the Board of Directors meeting and call
9 the Board of Trustee meeting to order.

10 Belle, will you make that motion?

11 TRUSTEE PAGDANGANAN: I make the
12 motion.

13 CHAIR MURRAY: And Shirley, will you
14 second that motion?

15 TRUSTEE COVERDALE: I second it.

16 CHAIR MURRAY: All in favor?

17 Any opposed?

18 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
19 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

20 CHAIR MURRAY: All right. So now
21 we're back in the Board of Trustees, and
22 at this point I'd like to request a
23 motion for approval of the minutes of the
24 September 17, 2020 Board of Trustees
25 meeting.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 Kevin, will you make that motion?

3 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: I make that
4 motion.

5 CHAIR MURRAY: Gordon, will you
6 second that motion?

7 TRUSTEE CANARY: Trustee Canary
8 seconding the motion.

9 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in favor,
10 say aye.

11 Any opposed?

12 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
13 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

14 CHAIR MURRAY: The minutes are
15 approved.

16 At this time I'd like to introduce
17 Vice President for Business and Financial
18 Affairs, Dr. Mark Harris, to present the
19 college budget and college financial
20 record.

21 VP HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
22 and Members of the Board.

23 First off by talking a little bit
24 about the fiscal '20 year end. Right now
25 we are in the midst of the field work.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 We do have our auditors coming in next
3 Monday to start collecting the data. But
4 based on the projections that we were
5 given over the past two months, we're
6 still tracking to 3-million-plus that we
7 will put to our fund balance.

8 The one change that may take place
9 is the final action that the auditors, or
10 even SUNY, may recommend in how we treat
11 the 20 percent that the state did not pay
12 us for fourth quarter. So the amount
13 that is still outstanding in terms of
14 receivables and cash from the state is
15 about \$2.7 million. So there have been
16 some discussions where they want us to
17 either recognize it as revenue without
18 reserving a bad debt, and the direction
19 that I will recommend if we have that
20 choice is either recognize it as revenue
21 but also reserve for doubtful accounts.
22 But the comptroller from SUNY will
23 provide guidelines on how we need to
24 recognize that.

25 So in the event that we have to

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 treat it as a receivable without
3 recognizing a bad debt reserve for it,
4 then the \$3 million will definitely
5 increase by the outstanding payment of
6 the 20 percent. So I will keep the board
7 updated on what happens.

8 In terms of our cash flow, we
9 continue to maintain sufficient cash flow
10 to meet our short-term obligations. The
11 one thing to our cash flow for fiscal '21
12 that we're monitoring, it's really the
13 payment from the state for the Q1, for
14 fiscal '21. Normally, the budget would
15 have been approved prior to October, but
16 we were told that there was a change in
17 when SUNY would have approved the
18 college's budget, so that moved from
19 September to October. So we were told
20 that the first payment would be received
21 mid-November, and the assumption is we
22 will be getting about 80 percent of that
23 first quarter payment. So there would be
24 another balance of about \$2.7 million
25 held back.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 In terms of the fiscal '21 budget,
3 it is very too early for us to start
4 talking about what those projections are.
5 However, there are some noteworthy
6 transactions that may negatively impact
7 us, so we were advised that there would
8 have been a reduction or deferment or
9 cuts in our TAP and Excelsior programs.
10 There is still some uncertainty on how
11 that will look. However, what we were
12 told, based on couple of discussions we
13 have had with SUNY, is that we need to
14 make the student whole 100 percent, even
15 though that we are aware that we will be
16 getting a reduction, a deferment, a cut
17 of about 20 percent in our either a cash
18 payment or total payment. When we look
19 at what that impact would be to us, the
20 TAP, a 20 percent reduction or deferment
21 in TAP would mean that our cash would be
22 reduced by about \$2.3 million, and a
23 20 percent reduction in the Excelsior
24 payment would mean that we would be
25 reduced by another 354 -- \$355,000, and

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 then with a subsequent smaller grants or
3 payments from the state, talking about
4 \$300,000 we would be short about the
5 \$3 million in cash.

6 So when we look at the 20 percent
7 overall that the state planning deferring
8 or cutting from us and add that to the
9 \$3 million that potentially will be
10 deferred or cut based on the TAP and the
11 Excelsior program and any other programs
12 that they provide the students, there's a
13 potential \$13 million negative impact to
14 our cash inflow. But again, we're not
15 sure exactly when the final word will be
16 made on if this is going to be a
17 deferment or a permanent cut. But we
18 will keep the board informed.

19 The income and expenditure
20 statements that are presented to the
21 board only represent the transactions at
22 a very high level for what happened in
23 the month of September. And then we're
24 still trying to determine the final
25 credit or the non-credit revenue, the

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 cost impact based on numbers per
3 sessions, as well as the negative impact
4 that indicates the deferral, from the
5 state aid being deferred or cut. So
6 again, we're not in a position to talk
7 about the net impact on the fund balance
8 for fiscal '21, especially with these
9 items still outstanding.

10 So that's all I have to present
11 today in terms of the financials for
12 fiscal '20, the cash flow and the fiscal
13 '21 budget. So before I present the two
14 resolutions, take a moment to ask if
15 there are any questions pertaining to
16 what was just presented.

17 CHAIR MURRAY: So much good news,
18 it's hard to take it in.

19 VP HARRIS: It's hard to be the
20 bearer of bad news, Mr. Chair.

21 CHAIR MURRAY: That's all right.
22 You're keeping us informed, and we
23 appreciate that.

24 TRUSTEE CANARY: Mr. Chairman, don't
25 have any questions, just a statement.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 Ouch.

3 CHAIR MURRAY: Does anybody have any
4 questions? I think that was very
5 thorough, but anybody have any questions?

6 Thanks, Mark. So why don't we go on
7 to the resolutions.

8 VP HARRIS: I have two resolutions
9 to present to the board. Item No. 1 is
10 our monthly service payment to the county
11 for employee health insurance in the
12 amount of \$2,670,839.89.

13 And Item No. 4, it's an amended
14 resolution for sponsored services with
15 the county that was previously approved
16 in the amount of \$1,899,645.79. Since
17 this resolution was approved, the county
18 provided us with a corrected invoice that
19 represented a difference of \$61.65, so
20 we're presenting that modified resolution
21 to represent \$1,899,707.44.

22 Mr. Chair, those are the two
23 resolutions that I'm presenting to the
24 board for review and approval.

25 CHAIR MURRAY: At this time I'd like

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 a motion for the approval of the college
3 resolutions No. 2020.48 through 2020.51.
4 Are we able to -- Mark has just gone
5 through the financials. The other two
6 items are appointing directors to the
7 board of The Center for Social Justice
8 and Human Understanding. We were given
9 the resumes. They look like very good
10 candidates.

11 (Voice distortion, reporter
12 clarification.)

13 CHAIR MURRAY: Whether anybody has
14 any questions. If not, could I get a
15 motion to approve the resolutions 2020.48
16 through 2020.51?

17 Kaitlyn, will you make that motion?

18 TRUSTEE GAMBINA: So moved.

19 CHAIR MURRAY: Priscilla, will you
20 second those motions?

21 TRUSTEE ZARATE: Second.

22 CHAIR MURRAY: All in favor?

23 Anybody opposed?

24 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
25 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 CHAIR MURRAY: The motion is
3 carried.

4 Committee reports, I'm not sure how
5 much we have on this, but we'll go
6 through the list.

7 Kevin, did -- I don't believe we had
8 a meeting this month for the budget and --

9 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: We did not, and
10 I'm not sure what we can add to what Vice
11 President Harris said.

12 CHAIR MURRAY: And Student Success?

13 TRUSTEE PAGDANGANAN: We have no
14 report, Mr. Chair. We didn't meet this
15 month.

16 CHAIR MURRAY: Governance? Gordon?

17 TRUSTEE CANARY: No, Mr. Chairman,
18 Governance Committee did not meet. We
19 didn't have any items for our agenda. As
20 I had mentioned in executive session, the
21 issue with the Suffolk County Civil
22 Service Exam had been worked out. That
23 was over and done with, so we had no
24 follow-up on that matter, so again,
25 nothing to report from Governance.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 CHAIR MURRAY: Personnel, I know
3 Gemma is not here. I don't believe we
4 met this month either, so this is going
5 quickly.

6 Facilities, I have some ideas about
7 how could we revitalize that committee,
8 and I will talk about that at a
9 subsequent meeting.

10 Foundation, was there a meeting?

11 TRUSTEE PAGDANGANAN: Report, the
12 Shark Shuffle, the virtual Shark Shuffle
13 is still going on right now. It started
14 on October 12th and will end on
15 October 26th. Participants can still
16 sign up online and get individuals or
17 corporations to sponsor them, and
18 students feel free to visit the
19 Foundation's website for more information
20 on how you can join the fun this week.

21 And also, I want to give an update
22 on our Fall 2020 Scholarship. 98 percent
23 of our Fall 2020 scholarships have been
24 awarded. Deadlines have been extended to
25 December 31st for two scholarships, and

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 efforts continue to find qualified
3 applicants for the few remaining awards
4 that need to be made. The goal is
5 100 percent distribution by the end of
6 this semester.

7 Also, we are delighted to report
8 that we recently awarded the first of its
9 kind fellowship to one of our promising
10 veterinary technology students. The Tony
11 and Luke Russo Veterinary Science
12 Technology Fellowship was awarded to
13 Amanda Schneider. This Russo Fellowship
14 includes a \$3000 financial award and the
15 opportunity to gain valuable insight
16 about animal rescue operations. The
17 fellow will work closely with the
18 Yorkie911 Rescue of Smithtown, providing
19 annual health checks, cleaning and
20 nurturing to rescue all canine
21 populations.

22 And lastly, applications are now
23 open for scholarships to be awarded in
24 the Fall of 2021. Students and parents
25 can visit us online at the

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 sunysuffolk.edu/scholarship.

3 That's my report, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you. Any
5 questions?

6 Student Trustee Kaitlyn?

7 TRUSTEE GAMBINA: Yes, thank you.

8 Not much is happening. We're
9 getting used to having student government
10 meetings, club meetings, but we're still
11 struggling to engage, have students
12 engage in different activities, and just
13 in college, I know it's been hard this
14 semester. But there's not much happening
15 right now.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR MURRAY: Just on the
18 presidential search I did communicate
19 with Theresa today. She was not able to
20 make the meeting, but she said that they
21 are going forward. I know they had a
22 meeting recently to start interviewing a
23 new batch of candidates. So that's
24 starting to move forward. For obvious
25 reasons there's no little hiatus, but I'm

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 hoping that moves forward and we come to
3 a conclusion with regard to a permanent
4 new president.

5 For the Chair's report, the only
6 thing I really have to mention is the
7 financial situation that we're going
8 through is being gone through by every
9 other community college in New York.
10 Just this morning I got a communication
11 from the New York Community College
12 Trustees. We will be having an
13 Association of Trustees of the Community
14 Colleges of New York -- obviously -- and
15 we will be having a meeting later in the
16 month to try to coordinate some advocacy
17 with regard to the financial situation
18 with the schools. It's just a very
19 difficult time, it's very difficult to
20 get any kind of permanent or, you know,
21 answers from the state as to what is
22 going on, and Lou and Mark are doing a
23 great job and reacting to things, but we
24 need to also have advocates to try to
25 protect our interests at the college

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 level.

3 So that's really the Chair's report,
4 so I'll turn it over to Lou for the
5 President's report.

6 INTERIM PRESIDENT PETRIZZO: Thank
7 you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon to
8 everybody.

9 Before I give you my report, I've
10 asked Deputy General Counsel Ashley Pope
11 to give you a brief update on the
12 chancellor's new disciplinary policy for
13 students who engage in COVID violations.
14 This is a policy that the chancellor has
15 enacted on his, by virtue of his own
16 authority, does not require board
17 approval, but it does contain some
18 additions and some obligations that we
19 think are very important, and I would
20 just ask Deputy General Counsel Pope to
21 just give you an update on that right
22 now.

23 Ashley?

24 DGC POPE: Yes. Hi, good afternoon.

25 So on September 25th, the SUNY

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 Chancellor instituted a Comprehensive
3 Emergency Directive specifically to
4 address violations of COVID-19 safety
5 protocols that occur on state-operated
6 campuses and community colleges that are
7 part of the SUNY system.

8 Specifically, the chancellor issued
9 what's entitled a Uniform Sanctioning in
10 response to COVID-19 student violation
11 policy. And the intent of that directive
12 was to effectuate a fair and consistent
13 approach to policy violations across the
14 SUNY system. As Interim President
15 Petrizzo mentioned, the policy is
16 effective by virtue of the SUNY
17 Chancellor's directive without further
18 action by the college or the board of
19 trustees.

20 It became effective on October 1,
21 2020 at 8 a.m., very specifically. We
22 were required to notify all students
23 about this new policy via e-mail, two
24 times, which we have done. We also
25 updated our student Return to Campus

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 Guidelines document, which is a living
3 document on the college website, to
4 include a link to this policy and a
5 description of it.

6 The policy is in effect as long as
7 the emergency response to the COVID-19
8 pandemic is in place, and the policy will
9 end upon the order of the chancellor.

10 The chancellor has further directed
11 that the sanctions outlined in this
12 policy are to be applied following across
13 the, as dictated by each institution's
14 code of conduct. We do have a board of
15 trustees adoptive student code of
16 conduct. It outlines due process
17 procedures, which includes notice of
18 alleged violations to students, a fair
19 process for alleged violations to be
20 adjudicated and a process for sanctions
21 to be applied in the event of a student
22 is determined to be in violation of the
23 code of conduct. The code of conduct
24 also provides a mechanism for interim
25 measures when there's an immediate issue

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 that relevant here can endanger the
3 health and safety of the campus.

4 So specifically going to the new
5 policy that the chancellor put in place,
6 it applies to COVID-19-related
7 violations. These include COVID positive
8 intentional violations, and that would
9 mean students who know that they've
10 tested positive for COVID-19 or who know
11 they've had close contact with someone
12 who's tested positive for COVID-19 and
13 then exposed other individuals on campus.
14 That's a serious violation and a student
15 would be dismissed or suspended for such
16 a violation, and they'd be ineligible for
17 admission to any other state-operated or
18 community college during the pendency of
19 their suspension.

20 There's also a violation of failure
21 to self-isolate, and that would mean
22 students who've been directed by the
23 college or the local department of health
24 to self-isolate because they've tested
25 positive for COVID-19, and then if they

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 engage in conduct that violates the
3 isolation order, which would be
4 intentionally leaving isolation exposing
5 people. That, too, would be, would
6 subject a student to dismissal or
7 suspension and they would be ineligible
8 for admission to any other SUNY
9 institutions during the pendency of that
10 sanction.

11 There's also a violation of failure
12 to quarantine, and that quarantine is
13 typically when a student has been a close
14 contact of someone who is a known case of
15 COVID-19, and there's a range of
16 sanctions available in the event a
17 student fails to quarantine.

18 There's sanctions imposed for
19 hosting for resident or on-campus
20 gatherings, which wouldn't really apply
21 to us, we hope.

22 There's also sanctions for attending
23 prohibited on-campus gatherings, as well
24 as off-campus gatherings, hosting and
25 attending.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 There's sanctions that can be
3 imposed for failure to adhere to face
4 mask and social distancing requirements,
5 so specifically that's repeated or
6 intentional violations of face mask
7 covering or social distancing
8 requirements. In the event a student
9 does fail to do that, the available
10 sanctions include a suspension from
11 academic access and/or continued access
12 to the program via remote learning only.
13 It can also include an academic
14 suspension or permanent dismissal from
15 the institution.

16 There's a sanction imposed for
17 students who repeatedly fail to comply
18 with contact tracing efforts conducted
19 either by the college or the local or
20 state department of health. That, too,
21 can result in a suspension from academic
22 access with continued access to their
23 program via remote learning only if it's
24 available. There's no requirement to
25 create remote learning for them.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 And then there's failure to comply
3 with campus health protocols, which would
4 include failure to attend scheduled
5 testing appointments without sufficient
6 excuse, under the college's COVID-19
7 surveillance testing program, and it
8 would also include students who fail to
9 submit their daily health screening,
10 which we do have in place as an
11 electronic questionnaire. We do also
12 have a paper questionnaire for students
13 who can't use the electronic system or
14 who forget to do it that particular day.

15 For failure to comply with the
16 testing efforts, students can be subject
17 to disciplinary action and they are also
18 subject to administrative revocation of
19 their campus access. And then there's
20 legal mechanism for them to reinstate
21 that access by complying with testing
22 requirements.

23 There's also specific sanctions
24 available for student athletes and
25 student organizations. And when I say

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 these sanctions are available, really the
3 sanctions are ones that each of the
4 institution is expected to impose for
5 these specific violations if the student
6 is determined to have engaged in these
7 violations after following their local
8 code of conduct process.

9 So far, we have not had to use this
10 policy, but we are early on in our
11 testing program, admittedly.

12 Are there any questions?

13 INTERIM PRESIDENT PETRIZZO: Thank
14 you, very much, Ashley.

15 TRUSTEE CANARY: If I may, Lou, I
16 don't have a question, but I have an
17 interesting statement to make, because
18 Senator Boyle's office two days ago got
19 involved in a SUNY at Cortland student
20 who got suspended because of violations
21 of this new policy. So we have reached
22 out to our SUNY government liaison to try
23 to figure out how's the best way for an
24 elected official to advise a parent whose
25 child has been suspended.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 And I'll just give you a quick
3 background on this young man. He was
4 found guilty of three violations; one was
5 in a campus public area without his face
6 mask, that was number one, number two was
7 he was in a dorm room with more than the
8 allotted amount, maximum amount in that
9 dorm room, and then his third violation
10 was being in a dorm that he shouldn't
11 have been in at all. So these three
12 violations and he went through the code
13 of conduct and due process at Cortland.
14 They suspended him for the entire year,
15 they're not allowing him to do remote
16 education, and they are not refunding him
17 his tuition and room and board.

18 So needless to say that this is for
19 real, it is onerous, and already I've
20 been involved in a case.

21 CHAIR MURRAY: Thanks, Ashley. That
22 was informative and we'll see how these
23 things play out.

24 INTERIM PRESIDENT PETRIZZO: Yes,
25 Mr. Chair, this is an attempt by the

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 chancellor to develop a policy that can
3 be uniformly applied across all of the
4 campuses of SUNY. The concern that the
5 chancellor expressed to us is that he
6 didn't want a result in Potsdam
7 dramatically different than a result at
8 Stony Brook or Suffolk, and that the
9 purpose of the policy is uniformity in
10 dealing with these issues and dealing
11 with them in the same stringent manner
12 from Buffalo down to Long Island, and I
13 think that that's what he's accomplished
14 with this policy.

15 Our use of this policy will, of
16 course, be after warnings, and that is
17 our, the purpose of the notifications,
18 and we would be using warnings liberally
19 in terms of students who refuse to be
20 tested or commit violations of this
21 policy. But the provisions of it are
22 rather strict, as Trustee Canary has just
23 indicated. However, we were not given a
24 great deal of options here. This is a
25 policy that the chancellor has imposed by

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 virtue of his authority as the
3 chancellor, and we are directed to
4 comply, so we shall.

5 Thank you.

6 Moving on, if I may, if there are no
7 other questions?

8 As indicated by Vice President
9 Harris, the college budget tuition and
10 fee schedule is scheduled to go before
11 the SUNY Board of Trustees on
12 October 29th for final approval. We do
13 not anticipate any problems with that
14 approval process, and we are extremely
15 hopeful that following that process that
16 we will receive our first payment from
17 the state of New York for the '21 budget
18 year. We are already seven months into
19 that year and the payment would be
20 welcomed at this time.

21 Pool surveillance testing has been
22 begun for all students who come to campus
23 for classes and for any employee who
24 voluntarily agrees to be tested. My
25 thanks to campus Dean Rios and Deputy

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 General Counsel Ashley Pope for

3 developing the plan, and special thanks

4 to the School of Nursing Dean Cheryl

5 Shaffer for developing a clinical program

6 that is allowing us to have student

7 nurses assist with the testing on their

8 fellow students as part of a clinical

9 education experience. This is a terrific

10 example of innovative thinking on the

11 part of Dean Shaffer to solve a personnel

12 problem at the college and to serve

13 students. So we are very grateful for

14 her coming up with that solution. So far

15 we've done 910 samples of testing that

16 was done in 92 pools, so as you see, the

17 pools are running roughly about ten

18 individuals in a pool, and so far we've

19 had one positive test out of that 910

20 samples. So hopefully we can continue

21 with that record going forward.

22 Last week the governor and the

23 chancellor announced a three-tiered

24 approach to dealing with COVID hot spots,

25 or cluster zones, the so-called yellow,

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 red and -- forgot the other color right
3 now, but -- orange, there you go, the
4 orange zones. The chancellor has imposed
5 this issue upon us at the campuses. The
6 approach requires us if we fall into a
7 red or an orange zone to immediately
8 shift to fully remote operations and
9 essentially close down the campus to
10 students. A yellow zone requires
11 mandatory testing for all students,
12 faculty and staff who come to the campus.
13 Right now we are testing all students who
14 come to the campus, but not mandatorily
15 testing faculty and staff. In order to
16 be in a position to implement this should
17 we have the misfortune of coming into a
18 red or an orange zone, we will be
19 scheduling a tabletop exercise to run
20 through all that we must do in order to
21 accomplish this task, because should we
22 have to go into this, it's something that
23 will have to be done very quickly, so I
24 think it's good that we take an
25 opportunity to practice it and plan for

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 it.

3 The college is planning a virtual
4 Veterans Day celebration, which will give
5 us the opportunity to thank all the
6 veterans in our families for their
7 service and all of the veterans who are
8 faculty, staff and students at the
9 college. Photos of family members,
10 faculty and staff and students in uniform
11 will be displayed, as well as special
12 thanks from board members and
13 administrators. These special thanks
14 were videoed earlier in the month.

15 The New York State budget issues
16 continue to take up a great deal of our
17 time and our planning. They are now
18 compounded, as Vice President Harris
19 indicated to you, by the Tuition
20 Assistance Program and Excelsior mandates
21 that have come down from the governor and
22 the chancellor. We don't expect to see
23 any resolution of these issues until
24 after Election Day.

25 We continue to meet with our

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 partners in organized labor and the
3 environmental groups in the offshore wind
4 industry as we finally begin to see some
5 significant movement and progress in the
6 Offshore Wind Training Center. As this
7 program develops we will continue to
8 report any and all progress in this
9 important work force initiative to the
10 board.

11 We are continuing to distribute
12 Cares Act student grant funds and
13 institutional funds. The challenge now
14 is the allocation of those funds in light
15 of the state budget cuts and the cuts to
16 TAP and the Excelsior program. Clearly,
17 there is not going to be enough Cares Act
18 funding to make up for the state cuts and
19 for the cuts to TAP and Excelsior, so we
20 are working very carefully through these
21 funding shortfalls in an attempt to save
22 and an attempt to fund the most important
23 aspects of our institutional priorities.
24 And my thanks to Vice President Mark
25 Harris for his work in this area and for

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 the number of scenarios he has run
3 through to try to see where we are going
4 to come out at the end of this process.
5 So thank you, very much, Mark.

6 Finally, as was earlier discussed,
7 Vice President of Student Affairs Chris
8 Adams will be leaving us on October 23rd
9 to take over as the Chief of Global and
10 Regional Initiatives at Long Island
11 University.

12 Chris has been a tireless advocate
13 for students from the moment he arrived
14 at Suffolk, earning the well-deserved
15 nickname of the Energizer Bunny.

16 Chris has accomplished -- Chris's
17 accomplishments have been very impressive
18 at Suffolk. Working with data and the
19 counseling task force, he was instrumental
20 in crafting the college's mental health
21 program for students that has been
22 praised systemwide, with several SUNY
23 schools adopting the Suffolk program.
24 Hundreds of students have received the
25 help that they needed thanks to this

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 program and thanks to the work of

3 Dr. Adams.

4 Chris led the effort to make Suffolk
5 a tobacco-free institution. It was not a
6 popular effort at the time, but he did it
7 and he was successful at it. He's also
8 been a central figure in coordinating the
9 work of the LGBTQ-plus task force, the
10 Basic Needs task force, and the Black and
11 African-American Student task force,
12 leading to many changes at the college,
13 such as the all-gender bathrooms, the
14 chosen name policy and a braver space as
15 curriculum for faculty and students.

16 As part of his portfolio Chris also
17 oversaw the Center for Social Justice and
18 Human Understanding. As Vice President
19 for Student Affairs he led the
20 development of the Office of Veterans
21 Affairs, and because of his fondness for
22 5 a.m. bus rides to Albany, we allowed
23 him to coordinate advocacy efforts for
24 students with all of our state
25 representatives.

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes

2 He realigned the structures of the
3 Office of Special Events and Public Safety.
4 We had previously discussed his work in
5 the area of enrollment, especially his
6 work this year with the One-Stop
7 Enrollment days.

8 As a colleague and as a friend, I
9 can say that Chris will be sorely missed
10 around here and we will be sorry to see
11 him go. But we do wish him nothing but
12 happiness and success at Long Island
13 University, and we offer our heartfelt
14 thanks for all he has done for the
15 institution, and more importantly for all
16 he has done for our students.

17 Chris, all the best.

18 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

19 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you, Lou.
20 Appreciate that.

21 Next item is round table. Does
22 anybody have anything they want to bring
23 up?

24 If not, at this time I would request
25 a motion to enter into executive session

1 Board of Trustees 10/15/2020 Meeting minutes
2 and discuss the medical, financial,
3 credit or employment history of an
4 employee. We will not be doing any
5 business afterwards, so if I could get a
6 motion to go into executive session.

7 Belle, can you make that motion?

8 TRUSTEE PAGDANGANAN: I'll make the
9 motion.

10 CHAIR MURRAY: And Shirley, you want
11 to second that motion?

12 TRUSTEE COVERDALE: Trustee
13 Coverdale. I second the motion.

14 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in favor
15 say aye.

16 Any opposed?

17 [WHEREUPON, THE MOTION MADE AND
18 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED.]

19 CHAIR MURRAY: So you have the
20 call-in information for the executive
21 session and we'll talk in a few minutes.
22 Otherwise, I appreciate everybody who is
23 on the line today, and have a nice day.

24 [THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING WAS
25 ADJOURNED BY CHAIR MURRAY AT 4:53 P.M.]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

 I, DONNA C. GILMORE, a Shorthand Reporter
and Notary Public within and for the State of New
York, do hereby certify:

 THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of my original
stenographic notes.

 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 22nd day of October, 2020.

DONNA C. GILMORE