

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
BOARD ROOM, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS, BRENTWOOD, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 20, 2020

The meeting was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board room of the Learning Resource Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus, in Brentwood, New York.

PRESENT:

E. Christopher Murray	Chair
Jim Morgo	Vice Chair
Shirley Coverdale	2 nd Vice Chair
Gordon Canary	Secretary
Theresa Sanders	Trustee
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Trustee
Kevin O'Connor	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Kaitlyn Gambina	Student Trustee
Louis J. Petrizzo	Interim President
Alicia O'Connor	Deputy General Counsel
Ashley Pope	Deputy General Counsel
Jeffery Pedersen	V.P. for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Mark Harris	V.P. for Business and Financial Affairs
Paul Beaudin	V.P. for Academic Affairs
Christopher J. Adams	V.P. for Student Affairs
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology
Carol Wickliffe-Campbell	Chief of Staff

Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting and convene the Board of Directors meeting at 4:05 p.m. Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee Morgo seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray called for a motion to approve the Association minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting. Trustee deLeon-Lopresti so moved, Trustee Canary seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray introduced Dr. Christopher Adams, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Association financial report for the period ending January 31, 2020.

Dr. Adams said he was happy to report that all of the cost centers within the Association were operating in the positive, with the exception of the Peconic Cafeteria. This was due to the strategic decision to change the Director of Dining Services who was a College employee earning a \$126,000 salary and put him under the Association. Dr. Adams said the Association's fund balance would take care of bringing that account back to running in the positive. He is also hopeful that once the Health and Wellness Center is marketed a bit more, they will be able to use that facility to make money in the Peconic Cafeteria.

Dr. Adams reported that he and Chair Murray had a conference call with the auditors and deferred to Chair Murray for an update on the conference call. Chair Murray said it was a positive conference call with the auditors and there were all indications the Association would receive a clean audit letter; there were no comments or material deficiencies in the report. Once they receive the report, they will forward it to the Board of Directors for their review and approval. Dr. Adams attributed the positive report to the hard work of Ms. Barbara Hurst and members of the campus leadership, who have worked hard to achieve the clean audits.

Dr. Adams then invited Student Trustee Kaitlyn Gambina to talk about the two student advocacy trips to Albany she had participated in. Student Trustee Gambina introduced a few members from Student Government who were present at the meeting and had also participated in the advocacy trips to Albany: Erin Wynn, Student Government President at the Ammerman Campus; Delina Dylan, SGA Secretary, Grant Campus; and John Duran, SGA President, Grant Campus. Student Trustee Gambina said that on February 4th they all went up to Albany for Higher Education Advocacy Day, representing the College. They got to meet with many local and state elected officials. They also went to the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus with Trustee Sanders. Student Trustee Gambina said it was a great educational experience where they got to voice their opinions and they felt that the elected officials listened to them.

Ms. Wynn added that they learned a lot about how the higher education system works, and they were able to use their voices to advocate for their school system. They felt it was a really good experience to be able to talk to senators and other elected officials and tell their stories so that they understand who they are speaking on behalf of when they are making their decisions. Ms. Wynn said the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus was another great experience where they were able to also voice their opinions. Ms. Dylan added that she also really enjoyed Advocacy Day because she thought it was interesting that not only did the elected officials listen but they were engaged with the students. Mr. Duran attended the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus for the second time and he was happy to have spoken with some of the senators, and engage in conversations about issues that were affecting the Island and some of the black and Hispanic communities.

Student Trustee Gambina added that they also got the chance to learn how the New York budget system works and had conversations related to funding and the College.

She thanked everyone who was involved in organizing the trips and said they were really appreciative of the opportunity to go on those type of trips.

Trustee Zarate who had also been on the advocacy trips, congratulated the students for the leadership skills that they demonstrated on those days and the stories that they shared, not only on behalf of themselves but also on behalf of all students. She said the officials were on the same page with the students, and were focusing on the students' needs, adding that it was great to see that they had an ear for the students, and were listening carefully to what the students need financially to be able to attend school.

Trustee Sanders said the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus was another great experience with 64 students in attendance. She noted it was great to be able to show that Long Island is diverse because it is not always perceived as being diverse. She said it was great to see the elected officials paying attention to the student's diverse needs.

Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting and reconvene the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:15 p.m. Trustee O'Connor so moved, Trustee deLeon-Lopresti seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Canary
Secretary