

OFFICIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
PROCEEDINGS AND VERBATIM DISCUSSIONS OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE 20th of
April, 2023, VIA IN-PERSON & ZOOM
VIDEOCONFERENCE

PRESENT:

EDWARD J. BONAHEUE, President

GORDON D. CANARY, Trustee

KEVIN M. O'CONNOR, Trustee

BELINDA PAGDANGANAN, Trustee

GEMMA DELEON-LOPRESTI, Trustee

PRISCILLA ZARATE, Trustee

E. CHRISTOPHER MURRAY, Chairperson

JAMES MORGO, Trustee/Vice Chairperson

Start time: 9:02 a.m.

ORIGINAL

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 CHAIR MURRAY: We're going to get
3 started.

4 TRUSTEE CANARY: Everybody should
5 rise for the pledge of allegiance.

6 [AFTER RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE
7 OF ALLEGIANCE, THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
8 OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
9 COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY
10 THE CHAIRMAN, CHRIS MURRAY.]

11 CHAIR MURRAY: So, I'm going to
12 call the Board of Trustees meeting to
13 order, and I'm going to ask Carol
14 Wycliffe-Campbell to introduce her
15 guests.

16 MS. WYCLIFFE-CAMPBELL: Good
17 morning. I would first like to
18 introduce Legislator Mazzarella, chair
19 of the education committee.

20 MR. MAZZARELLA: Thank you.

21 MS. WYCLIFFE- CAMPBELL: Tom
22 Lukman, from Comptroller Kennedy's
23 office.

24 MR. LUKMAN: Greetings from our
25 comptroller.

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2 MS. WYCLIFFE-CAMPBELL: Jose
3 Riquelme, our STA President. Ethan
4 Rothberg, our STA president elect. And
5 Samantha Portillo, our incoming student
6 trustee.

7 MS. PORTILLO: Hello.

8 TRUSTEE CANARY: Congratulations,
9 Samantha.

10 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Thank you,
11 Carol. And Mr. Chairman, if I may, just
12 to kind of connect to mission here at
13 the beginning of this meeting, if I
14 could also recognize Jose for just a
15 minute. Jose had a terrific experience
16 in participating in a local conference,
17 and I wanted to just give him just a
18 minute to share about that experience.

19 Mr. RIQUELME: Good morning,
20 Trustees. I'm honored to stand before
21 you today to share my experience
22 volunteering for the New York State
23 Association for Bilingual Education or
24 the NYSABE conference that occurred last
25 month. As someone who is passionate

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about education and the learning of languages, I knew that I wanted to get involved with NYSABE's mission to promote bilingual education. And let me tell you, the conference did not disappoint. We, the volunteers, all came to volunteer for different reasons, but we are united in our desires to make a positive impact on bilingual education. I had the chance to meet people from all walks of life; educators, parents, students, and community members. I was struck by the passion and dedication that each person brought to that event. I must say, the Suffolk student leaders presence at the conference was of great importance. By attending the event, we had the opportunity to learn about bilingual education and the struggles faced by bilingual students and educators. And I have no doubt that we, as student leaders, can serve as advocates for bilingual education by spreading

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2 awareness and promoting its benefits.

3 In closing, I want to thank
4 NYSABE for organizing such a wonderful
5 event and for giving the volunteers an
6 opportunity to be a part of this. I'm
7 grateful for the connections I've made
8 and the experiences I had, and I look
9 forward to continuing to support
10 bilingual education in any way I can.
11 Thank you.

12 TRUSTEE CANARY: I have a
13 question. I'm not going to let you off
14 the hook here. So, thank you. Thank
15 you for being a representative there,
16 and thank you for that update. So, what
17 would you say is the one thing that this
18 Board, these members, could do to help
19 foster and encourage bilingual education
20 advancement?

21 MR. RIQUELME: I think definitely
22 continue the conversation, attending
23 more conferences like this. And it
24 could go for other great benefits. I
25 really decided to get involved in this

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2 conference to sort of highlight --
3 selfishly, sort of highlight the sort of
4 leaders we have at Suffolk. So I went
5 out of my way to sort of seek these
6 conferences and seek these volunteer
7 opportunities for the students to sort
8 of highlight what we have going on here.
9 I hope that answers your question.

10 TRUSTEE CANARY: Yes, it does.
11 Thank you, you make us proud. Thank you
12 very much.

13 MR. RIQUELME: Any other
14 questions?

15 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you.

16 At this point, I would like to
17 request a motion to adjourn the Board of
18 Trustees meeting and call the Board of
19 Directors meeting to order. Motion?

20 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: Motion.

21 TRUSTEE CANARY: Second.

22 CHAIR MURRAY: All these in
23 favor, say aye.

24 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

25 [WHEREUPON THE MOTION MADE AND

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED, THE
3 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
4 SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS
5 ADJOURNED AND REOPENED.]

6 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you, we're
7 now into the Board of Directors. So I
8 would like to request a motion for the
9 approval of the minutes of the March 16,
10 2023 Board of Directors meeting.

11 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: Motion.

12 TRUSTEE PAGDANAGAN: Second.

13 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in
14 favor.

15 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

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

18 CHAIR MURRAY: At this point, I
19 would like to present Vice President for
20 Student Affairs, Dr. Patricia Munsch, to
21 present the association's financial
22 report.

23 DR. MUNSCH: Good morning,
24 members of the Board. As you can see
25 from the student association financial

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2 report, we have received the final
3 installment of the student activities
4 fee for the spring 2023 semester. We do
5 anticipate needing to utilize reserve
6 funds for some of our key programs and
7 services as we wrap up our academic year
8 and continue to work with students to
9 recognize their outstanding achievements
10 and to onboard our new students during
11 our new student orientation process in
12 August. I do want to alert you that
13 both the Campus Kids and Suffolk Kids
14 Cottage, our childcare centers, are
15 still awaiting the Operating Grant funds
16 and their Block Grant funds. So we do
17 anticipate that both of those will have
18 an influx of additional funds over the
19 course of our next couple of meetings.

20 Do I have any questions regarding
21 the financial report?

22 CHAIR MURRAY: Would the Eastern
23 Campus, you didn't mention the food
24 service that --

25 DR. MUNSCH: I am excited to

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2 share that the Eastern Campus food
3 service, from last month to this month,
4 did run primarily flat, and so that's a
5 great indication of the work that's
6 being done out there regarding our food
7 service manager, and the leadership from
8 the Eastern Campus. So last month their
9 net profit was \$6,803. This month, it's
10 \$6,794, so that's a promising number for
11 us as we think about food service moving
12 forward.

13 CHAIR MURRAY: That's great,
14 thank you.

15 DR. MUNSCH: Thank you, have a
16 nice day.

17 CHAIR MURRAY: At this point, I
18 would like to request a motion to
19 adjourn the Board of Directors meeting
20 and call the Board of Trustees meeting
21 to order; do I have a motion?

22 TRUSTEE ZARATE: Motion.

23 TRUSTEE MORGO: Second.

24 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in
25 favor?

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2 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

3 CHAIR MURRAY: Any opposed?

4 {No response.}

5 [WHEREUPON THE MOTION MADE AND
6 SECONDED WAS VOTED ON AND CARRIED, THE
7 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
8 SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS
9 ADJOURNED AND REOPENED.]

10 CHAIR MURRAY: At this point, I
11 would like to request a motion for the
12 approval of the minutes of the March 16,
13 2023 Board of Trustees meeting; can I
14 get a motion?

15 TRUSTEE PAGDANAGAN: Motion.

16 TRUSTEE MORGO: Motion.

17 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in
18 favor?

19 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

20 CHAIR MURRAY: Any opposed?

21 {No response.}

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

24 CHAIR MURRAY: At this point, I
25 would like to introduce Vice President

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023
2 for Business and Financial Affairs,
3 Dr. Mark Harris, to present the college
4 budget and the college financial
5 records. Mark?

6 DR. HARRIS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair, members of Board. So, first
8 let me thank the subcommittee for the
9 many hours of committed time to really
10 go through the different iterations of
11 the fiscal '24 budget that will be
12 presented today. We had some very
13 constructive conversations pertaining to
14 the direction, from a financial
15 perspective; looking at costs, looking
16 at revenue to include what we will get
17 from the State, also the County's
18 continued support, as well as with
19 respect to our tuition and fees. So we
20 had multiple, multiple meetings over the
21 past couple of months. And we took a
22 different approach, really, with how we
23 developed the budget this year, where we
24 tried to develop what the revenue
25 structure would be, and then back into

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 how to present the -- the cost mainly
3 from an operating perspective, giving
4 some of the continued inflationary pulls
5 that we have.

6 So, I'd also like to thank the
7 members of my finance team, John
8 Bullard, and other members who worked
9 hard to really develop the budget. When
10 we do the budget, it's crunch time
11 within a very short period of time, and
12 right after the Board potentially
13 approves this budget, we have to then
14 submit that package to the County and
15 then to the State, so it's very
16 involved. So I would like to give
17 recognition to John and the rest of the
18 team, but also to the budget managers,
19 the cabinet officers who worked with
20 each other, worked with the departments
21 as a whole to really identify areas for
22 opportunities to reduce some of the
23 costs that we have, understanding that
24 they would have to find some
25 opportunities to still execute what

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2 their strategic objectives are.

3 Before I get into the fiscal '24
4 budget presentation, I want to give just
5 a brief highlight on fiscal '23, mainly
6 from the fund balance projected numbers,
7 because that will then serve as the
8 baseline when we're talking about our
9 fiscal '24 starting fund balance.

10 So, last month when we presented
11 the financial highlights, what we had
12 projected was pretty much holding the
13 original budgeted fund balance use of
14 13.6. So, during the budget process, we
15 went through and really analyzed where
16 we were from a revenue perspective, but
17 also from a cost perspective as well.
18 So based on the financials that were
19 submitted, we are modifying the use of
20 fund balance from \$13.6 million, now
21 we're saying that based on what we have
22 seen, we will be reducing the use of
23 that fund balance by about \$1.2 or \$1.3
24 million. So that's positive for us.

25 So when I walk through the fiscal

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2 '24, I will highlight where that fund
3 balance ending for fiscal '23 is
4 projected to be, and I wanted to just,
5 for the caveat, that based on ongoing
6 transactions, based on discussions with
7 SUNY and based on still the cost
8 mitigation efforts that we have, that
9 number will change based on the efforts
10 that we have. So, again, the fund
11 balance that we're expecting is going to
12 be less than a 13.6; about 12.4 give or
13 take.

14 So then I'll just move straight
15 into our fiscal '24. So, for the fiscal
16 '24, the first thing that we did was
17 really split our discussion into two
18 components where we looked at the impact
19 of inflationary cost or factors, and
20 then just challenges just based on daily
21 operations. So, there are a couple of
22 factors that we discussed, mainly the
23 contractual increases two of the three
24 bargaining units. And then a big
25 portion of it that really influenced the

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2 increasing cost for us, was really the
3 increase in the EMHP. So when we looked
4 at what the EMHP impact is going to be
5 to the college starting past
6 January 2023, when we trend that out for
7 the full year -- twelve months -- it
8 will be about a \$4.2 million or a 12%
9 increase. And this is something that we
10 did not anticipate that the increase was
11 going to be that significant. So in
12 addition to the EMHP benefits that we
13 have to pay on a monthly basis, the TRS
14 and ERS is going to add another \$400,000
15 to the budget. Right now we pay about
16 \$13 million on a yearly basis, and then
17 when we look at just utility costs and
18 other related energy costs, it's about
19 17.7% that we're anticipating on top of
20 the about 20.7% increase that we're
21 seeing for fiscal '23. So the cost from
22 an inflationary perspective, and
23 especially for our CPI, will be
24 increasing. So we did our best to put a
25 number that will capture those increases

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2 over the next fiscal year. Again, the
3 numbers, plus or minus, may increase
4 depending on how inflation moves. And
5 then other operating costs that we have
6 factored in, really because the cost of
7 instructional supplies. One of the
8 things that we talked about last year
9 and that spilled over into this year is
10 just the cost of, for example, paper.
11 When we looked at it, paper went up by
12 about 40%, right. So, to offset some of
13 those costs, one of the things that we
14 have been pushing is really to move to a
15 more digital or automated component of
16 it, so we relying less on really
17 printing, because one; the paper and
18 then two; just the printers, et cetera.

19 And then other challenges that we
20 considered are really looking at SUNY's
21 funding. So this budget includes a flat
22 funding from SUNY of about
23 \$50.2 million. There has been some
24 discussions where different components
25 of the New York State government is

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2 requesting or submitting an increase for
3 about 4%, which would mean an additional
4 \$2 million. But, as of today, we have
5 not gotten word what percentage increase
6 that may be. So right now, from a
7 conservative perspective, we're holding
8 the budget as flat. The big component
9 for us is really HEERF. For the past
10 three years, we have had significant
11 amount of HEERF funding that really
12 backstocked our revenue component. And
13 for the existing budget that we're in,
14 we have about \$5 million -- \$5.1 million
15 included. Fiscal '24, that number
16 becomes zero, so we have a negative
17 baseline from HEERF to start, and then
18 we have to use whatever remaining
19 balance we have from HEERF within
20 another month, so no more HEERF.

21 The other piece that we have
22 factored into the conversation is really
23 the mix between our full-time students
24 and part-time students, and the
25 equivalent FTE, and how that really

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2 impacts our revenue perspective. And
3 then we have ongoing mental health, due
4 to the lingering effects from COVID. We
5 have spent a substantial amount of
6 resources to really provide mental
7 health coordinators and other support,
8 not just to students, but also for
9 employees. And then the other piece,
10 not just us, but most community colleges
11 and colleges as a whole, really have to
12 deal with the decrease in graduation
13 rate, but also because of certain
14 demographic shifts as well.

15 So, in looking at those
16 inflationary factors, but also some of
17 the challenges that we have, we wanted
18 to show some actions that we have taken,
19 some purposefully and some just by just
20 natural attrition, so included on slide
21 three is really a -- some data points
22 looking at different classification of
23 employees that we have going from
24 fiscal '19, projected fiscal '23, but I
25 just wanted to clarify that the data

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2 that is presented here is really looking
3 at February to February, right, so there
4 may be some changes based on current,
5 especially in fiscal '23.

6 So, what this demonstrates is
7 that as enrollment --

8 TRUSTEE DELOEN-LOPRESTI: Sorry,
9 I just want to suggest that we maybe go
10 back to slide share in case people can't
11 see it.

12 MR. CLARK: They have a lot of
13 slides that do not show.

14 TRUSTEE DELOEN-LOPRESTI: Okay.

15 DR. HARRIS: So this slide really
16 is to represent how the different
17 classifications that we have had changed
18 over time. So even though our
19 enrollment has been decreasing, what
20 this demonstrates -- whether direct
21 action or indirect actions -- we have
22 seen some changes in different
23 classifications. So the delta looked at
24 '19 versus '20 and then looked at '19
25 verses '23. So when we looked at the

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2 number, we're talking if we compare the
3 '19 verse current year, again up to
4 2022, it's about 30.8% delta between the
5 numbers. So it demonstrates that the
6 college really has been very active in
7 reducing some of the direct costs that
8 we have. Some fixed costs and some
9 variable costs, as well, recognizing the
10 importance of trying to have a balanced
11 budget that really represents our
12 approach.

13 In terms of our FTE cost, what we
14 wanted to present is how the costs
15 really have shifted or increased over
16 this four-year period. So, again, if we
17 were to look at an enrollment trend and
18 then look at our FTE cost, we could see
19 how they're going into opposite
20 directions, right, so at no point will
21 we have any conversion here. In 2022,
22 if we look at instructional cost, based
23 on our actual cost, we're talking about
24 a 28.8%, between '19 and '20. When we
25 look at our enrollment over the same

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 period of time, it's about a 20.5%
3 decrease. So there has been direct
4 actions to reduce costs. However,
5 again, based on inflation and based on
6 contractual obligations, our FTE cost
7 really is outpacing really the reduction
8 in our enrollment. And then our
9 year-over-year cost for our FTE
10 typically increases based on increases
11 to our contractual obligations, also
12 based on our operations and maintenance
13 cost and a primary factor that is based
14 on FTE, so in some cases we may have a
15 head count that increased, but based on
16 the mix of full-time and part-time
17 students, our FTE numbers are down. And
18 then in recent years, what really has
19 inflated our cost is the increase of
20 CPI, or inflation as a whole.

21 So, based on that backdrop, we
22 went to work to really put together our
23 fiscal '24 budget, and these are the
24 following assumptions. As indicated
25 before, right now the \$50.2 million that

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2 were included in the budget from SUNY
3 assumed that it's flat funding. And I
4 will tell you, flat funding is the worst
5 case for us. In prior years, SUNY's
6 model was based on a three-year weighted
7 average. So, based on our FTE,
8 sometimes the numbers that we will
9 receive in appropriation from SUNY will
10 be less, so the past two years, at least
11 for us, we could build a budget based on
12 flat funding from SUNY. And then a 2%
13 increase in County funding, and again,
14 this is where, on behalf of the Board
15 and the college as a whole, we thank the
16 County for its continued support in
17 providing funding, even with
18 inflationary costs that are faced by the
19 agencies. And the other piece -- and I
20 will walk through it in the upcoming
21 slides -- a potential increase once
22 reviewed by the board and approved of,
23 of about \$172 a year in tuition. And
24 that will provide about \$2.3 million
25 additional funding to us.

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2 The other piece of this, while we
3 recognize that there has been a
4 reduction in high school graduation, and
5 the retention component that we struggle
6 with, we are including a 2% increase in
7 enrollment and retention, which would
8 generate about \$1.6 million. And the
9 reason for that is, last year when we
10 presented the fiscal '23, we talked
11 about a reset year and some initiatives
12 that the college will take and has been
13 embarked on in order to tend that slide.
14 So program specific campaigns, targeted
15 e-blasts, new student orientations,
16 assigned advisors, where a pilot program
17 is going on, and then the micromesters
18 campaign that is ongoing with the goal
19 of really improving our retention, but
20 also our enrollment relative to 2023.
21 And then also -- we are a little bit
22 aggressive, but also looking at the
23 other revenues from workforce
24 development, continued education from
25 our facilities and making about half a

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 million dollars there.

3 In terms of the cost assumptions,
4 we're doing about a 1% increase, net 1%.
5 And the reason for that is, when we
6 looked at what our run rate in terms of
7 costs have been over the past years, we
8 feel comfortable that with the increases
9 that are in the works or increases from
10 inflation and other contractual
11 obligations, the run rate warrants about
12 net of about 1% increase. And then as
13 discussed before, one of the biggest
14 components is really the benefits, and
15 how that will impact the budget which
16 represents about 7.8%. The other costs,
17 about 12.8% reduction. And again, in
18 the introduction I mentioned the stellar
19 work by the budget managers really going
20 through and scrubbing their budgets to
21 give about a 12.8% reduction.

22 Computer refresh, deferment, and
23 again the campuses, about ten plus
24 percent reduction in their operating
25 budget. And, again, when we talk about

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2 the 10%, the number may seem as if it's
3 not that big, but outside of personal
4 services, the variable cost of the
5 campuses are very, very small numbers.
6 But the campuses and other budget
7 managers really went in and scrubbed
8 those numbers to see how best we can
9 reduce some of the costs, at least for
10 the fiscal '24.

11 Last year we presented the
12 enrollment trend, but the one piece that
13 I would like to highlight here, when we
14 look at say fiscal -- fall '19 to fall
15 2022, where the decrease in enrollment
16 was about 20.5%. And then if we look at
17 the same fall 2019 to the fall of 2023,
18 we're seeing about a 18.9%, we factored
19 in the 2% again based on the strategic
20 enrollment initiatives that are being
21 embarked here to retain students, but
22 also to gain new students.

23 And then some other initiatives,
24 really increasing the number of
25 financial aid workshops, and exploiting

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 new program partnerships with other
3 colleges on Long Island. We believe as
4 we continue to work on those
5 initiatives, we will definitely see,
6 one; a stem in the slide, and but also a
7 positive turnaround in the enrollment
8 that we are projecting.

9 So, the hard reality is we have
10 to increase revenue from all angles.
11 So, we explored really increasing our
12 tuition. Keeping in mind that we have
13 held tuition frozen for four years, but
14 because of inflation, we are at the
15 point where we had to look at increasing
16 the tuition and fees incrementally. So
17 one of the things that we did to make
18 sure that we're, you know, making the
19 best decision possible for our students
20 is really look at the impact that
21 tuition increases have had in our
22 enrollment. And again, the data that
23 we're presenting here, it's just based
24 on hard facts. Yes, recognize that
25 there are some external factors that may

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 influence the difference between, say,
3 enrollment and tuition increase, but
4 what we have found is that there has
5 been very little to no change in
6 enrollment as a result of tuition
7 increase. So, the data on slide seven
8 really helped us to make that decision.
9 Again, we're not saying that there are
10 no impacts at all, but what we're saying
11 is that there were no direct impacts
12 with increasing tuition and our
13 enrollment.

14 So what we presented to the
15 Budget and Finance Subcommittee were
16 some different scenarios on tuition
17 increases in terms of percentages and in
18 terms of dollars, and what the potential
19 impact is. So, we presented multiple
20 scenarios, up to 3.5%, working with the
21 Budget and Finance Subcommittee as well
22 as a Board of Trustee member who
23 represents the students. We agreed that
24 the most beneficial thing to the
25 college, the students and all the

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 stakeholders would be about a 3.1%,
3 which represents a \$7 increase in the
4 per credit. For a full-time student,
5 that's \$170 a year. \$170 a year. At
6 the bottom of this chart, you will see
7 the Pell data from 2018 to 2024 that we
8 have included. So what this represents
9 is, even with an increase in our tuition
10 of about \$170, a student who receives
11 full Pell will still be able to come to
12 school and have enough funds left over
13 for other instructional supplies. For
14 example, if you go all the way back to
15 2018/'19 when our tuition was \$5,220,
16 the students receiving a max Pell would
17 have an excess of about \$875, which
18 would represent about 14.36%. In
19 2023/2024, the max Pell is \$7,395, so
20 with that \$170 increase, bringing our
21 full tuition to \$5,640, the students
22 will have a 23.73% excess left from
23 Pell. So for the most needy students
24 who receive Pell, even though it's a
25 \$170 increase over the full year, the

1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4/20/2023

2 amount of Pell increased. If you look
3 from 2022 to 2023, the increase is about
4 3.06% in Pell awards, which is higher
5 than the increase in tuition that we are
6 proposing. So we wanted to demonstrate
7 that we factored these into the
8 discussions in looking at the impact of
9 tuition.

10 And then on the next slide, what
11 I wanted to do is just show the trend of
12 our tuition increases and the major fees
13 from fiscal '18. So, as I mentioned
14 before on the fiscal 2021/'22 in the
15 current year, we have held tuition and
16 fees flat for four years. Specifically
17 because, recognizing the challenges that
18 students were facing, especially during
19 the Coronavirus, but this year again,
20 based on the fact that inflation has
21 really, really outweighs our revenue
22 potential, and our costs have increased,
23 there was a discussion on the need to
24 raise tuition incrementally. And again,
25 I want to stress it's \$170 over the full

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2 year.

3 The other component to raising
4 tuition that we factored in is how we
5 compare to other Long Island schools.
6 So over the four-year period, looking at
7 Stony Brook, Farmingdale, SUNY at Old
8 Westbury and Nassau, you can see that we
9 have been lower than all of those other
10 four schools. So if you look at the
11 bottom slide where we talk about Suffolk
12 County 2020 through 2023, that \$5,640,
13 even with that \$7 increase per credit,
14 we're still about \$7 lower than Nassau
15 who has not yet announced what their
16 increase is, right. So the point is
17 that we have held tuition for four
18 years, and still remain the lowest, even
19 behind those other four schools. In
20 terms of the 2019 relative to 2022, what
21 we have seen is that even with the
22 increases that we have made, there is
23 still a deficit in how much our FTE
24 revenue is covering our FTE cost. In
25 2019, the FTE revenue was covering about

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2 90.1% of our cost, and in 2022, you
3 could see that number dropping by 17.1%,
4 so we are definitely trending in the
5 wrong direction in terms of revenue
6 relative to cost. So at no point, there
7 will be any conversion between revenue
8 and cost.

9 With that said, the final
10 fiscal '24 budget was constructed. So
11 again, with flat funding from SUNY, we
12 are expecting \$50.2 million with the
13 County giving us the 2% to about
14 \$50 million, and then with a 3.1%
15 increase, the projection of about 2% in
16 enrollment, we're about \$80 million in
17 tuition. And then with fees, and other
18 revenues. So our total revenue for
19 fiscal '24 is \$197.9 million, but then
20 if you look at our cost, we are about
21 \$210.8 million. So that means, again,
22 that we're still in a period of where we
23 will rely on our fund balance. But one
24 of the advantages we have, it's over the
25 past two years, we were able to recoup

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2 revenue because of HEERF, while at the
3 same time reducing some of our cost. So
4 really increasing our fund balance that
5 will help us to at least weather the
6 next few years. And then at the bottom
7 of the screen, as I mentioned before,
8 fiscal '23 we're projecting \$12.2
9 million use of fund balance, and that's
10 down about \$1.4 million as originally
11 budgeted. So when we then factor a
12 \$12.9 million in fiscal '24, if all
13 things remain the same, we're saying
14 that we would have about \$18.9 million
15 in fund balance.

16 And then the last two slides that
17 I would just like to briefly talk
18 through, and I will thank Ben -- Ben
19 Zwirn -- for the piece of it because one
20 of things that we have always talked
21 about is the ratio of revenue from
22 State, County and student tuition. And
23 the discussion has always been that
24 students were carrying about 40% to 50%.
25 One of the things that we wanted to use

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2 this slide to do is clarify the amount
3 of contribution or scholarships or
4 additional revenue and support that the
5 State has been providing to students.

6 So, from 2017 then we looked to
7 2022. So, in '22, the total aid was
8 about \$38 million, right, so that would
9 include Pell, it would include State and
10 other sources. New York State in 2021,
11 2022, provided an additional
12 \$8.8 million to students in the form of
13 TAP, Excelsior Scholarship, New York
14 STEM, TAP part-time and World Trade
15 Center Memorial Scholarship, et cetera.
16 So the State, in essence, has provided
17 some opportunities for students to
18 absorb some of those costs. So I wanted
19 to show that even though the students,
20 yes, are still picking up a larger
21 portion of the revenue, the State has
22 also increased our contribution
23 indirectly by about \$9 million. And I
24 would be remiss not to mention the
25 support that the County continues to

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2 provide from a capital structure
3 perspective, to ensure that the learning
4 experiences for the students are at the
5 highest.

6 And then the last slide really
7 just gives a breakdown of really the mix
8 in how the revenue is spread. So, if we
9 look at the fiscal '23 that we
10 submitted, the County, it's about 25%.
11 If we exclude the scholarships that the
12 State provides, the State will be about
13 26%. And then the tuition and fees,
14 students are picking up about 22%. And
15 again, a big component of fiscal '23 was
16 3%, which was with HEERF. And then the
17 scholarships, we're talking Pell, we're
18 talking State aid, and other
19 scholarships was about 23%. If I look
20 at, say, fiscal '24 -- and we will
21 update the slides -- the State is about
22 30% when we factor in the other
23 scholarships and the County is about
24 26%. We have pretty much 1% in
25 miscellaneous, and that number dropped

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2 about 2%, because we no longer have
3 HEERF. Regardless, the budget that
4 we're presenting, it's going to be
5 challenging, primarily because we still
6 have to ensure that we drive retention,
7 we still have to ensure that we drive
8 enrollment. But I think most
9 importantly for us, we have to ensure
10 that we manage our costs. The Board,
11 the President and the cabinet are
12 committed to ensuring that we look at
13 how we operate from a fiscal
14 perspective, making decisions, and what
15 priorities there are that will have the
16 greatest yield.

17 So, Mr. Chair, members of Board,
18 this is the college's fiscal '24 budget.
19 And again, thanks to the State, thanks
20 to the County for the support they have,
21 but I think most importantly to the
22 students who decide to come here, stay
23 with us, and also promote Suffolk County
24 as a very, very, very diligent college.
25 Any questions from anyone?

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2 CHAIR MURRAY: Yes, I have
3 questions and some comments. First of
4 all, I would like to thank you and the
5 rest of the staff for the outstanding
6 work that you do. You explained it in a
7 way that I can understand, so that is an
8 accomplishment, and I appreciate all the
9 hard work that you have done and you and
10 your staff has done.

11 DR. HARRIS: Thanks.

12 CHAIR MURRAY: Just a couple of
13 questions, comments about operations.
14 As you mentioned, the assumption is that
15 the State budget will be flat this year,
16 which is what the governor has proposed.
17 I know both the State senate and the
18 State assembly have included a 4%
19 increase, and you said that's going to
20 be about two million -- if that's what
21 the assembly does, then that will be
22 about a \$2 million addition, that's not
23 factored into this budget; is that
24 correct?

25 DR. HARRIS: That's correct.

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2 CHAIR MURRAY: Right now we kind
3 of had hoped, and we put our meeting off
4 until I think last week is that we'd
5 have a budget so that we'd be able to
6 figure that amount into the budget. But
7 given I think other issues that have
8 nothing to do with the community
9 college, we don't have a budget yet to
10 determine, so I --

11 TRUSTEE MORGO: October.

12 CHAIR MURRAY: I appreciate the
13 fact that you took the most conservative
14 and cautious approach and hopefully
15 we'll have good news. Whether this
16 week, next week or some point soon.

17 On the EMHP, that's the medical
18 insurance that is paid to the County and
19 that's, you're saying, that's increased
20 \$4.1 million?

21 DR. HARRIS: Correct.

22 CHAIR MURRAY: That is a large
23 increase over prior years. And that is
24 something we have absolutely no control
25 over, that is dictated by the County,

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2 that was kind of a shock to everybody on
3 the Budget and Finance Committee and the
4 college that it was such a large
5 increase. But we have no say in it, and
6 you're going to see if there's a
7 resolution if we have to make a payment
8 today or shortly, and that had a huge
9 impact on the budget over and above all
10 the other inflationary pressures that
11 have been felt, that was clearly
12 something that took us by surprise a
13 little bit.

14 I know we have budgeted into the
15 amount a 2% increase in enrollment, I
16 just like observation that in spring of
17 this year, our enrollment actually went
18 up, which is a first time I think in
19 five years that we've had an increase in
20 enrollment. We want to continue to work
21 and improve on that success. But we're
22 not just picking this number out of the
23 air, this is a number that we feel that
24 we can meet. It's a challenge, it is an
25 important challenge, but the

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2 administration has done a tremendous job
3 in implementing new programs and ability
4 to sell the school, and has worked on
5 the retention of students that enter the
6 school to keep them in school so that
7 we're on the right path. And
8 ultimately, our fiscal well-being
9 depends on putting bodies in seats. The
10 tuition, and that has been the biggest
11 challenge, there are reasons for that
12 that are also not related to the school;
13 one being demographics, there are just
14 not as many eighteen-year-olds
15 graduating from high school as there
16 have been in the past. And so we worked
17 very, very hard, and I appreciate all
18 the hard work that Dr. Bonahue has done,
19 and the rest of the school has done in
20 trying to increase tuition. And we're
21 finally -- he's only been here a year
22 and we're finally seeing success in that
23 aspect, so I think that's a very
24 encouraging sign.

25 Obviously the committee and this

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2 Board takes very seriously the idea of
3 raising tuition, it's a last resort type
4 of situation. For the past four years,
5 we have held tuition flat, which most
6 colleges haven't, most community
7 colleges haven't and we did that with
8 the hope of increasing enrollment, but
9 also because of the times. COVID had
10 put tremendous pressure on families, the
11 community, and while -- so, we felt that
12 we could contribute to helping the
13 situation by keeping tuition flat for
14 four years. This year's tuition
15 increase is \$170 for a full-time student
16 for a year. If you figure that over
17 five years, that comes about to about
18 thirty dollars, or thirty-five dollars a
19 year increase. We kept it to an
20 absolute minimum. I know there were
21 differences of opinion, maybe wanting
22 more, but we really felt that that was
23 the lowest possible increase that we
24 could do. So, again, and I think Mark
25 has gone through the cost savings

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2 elements of what we've done, keeping the
3 head count of employees down, working to
4 save money every way we can, and just
5 the effort was tremendous. Also part of
6 that increase, as Mark has also pointed
7 out, is covered to some extent by
8 student aid, so most of the students
9 aren't going to feel the \$170 impact in
10 the tuition, because some of the
11 students that receive student aid, that
12 will be paid for by the student aid, so
13 we are trying to maximize in some ways
14 the amount of money we get from the
15 Federal government and the State
16 government in the form of student aid.
17 So, again, trying to get money from
18 whatever sources we can.

19 So, from my opinion, I think this
20 is a very appropriate budget and it's
21 very challenging times, and I'm again
22 very thankful to Mark, his staff, and
23 the President, for all the hard work
24 they have done to be fiscally prudent,
25 and we still have a healthy fund

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2 balance, we're still in good shape. And
3 again, thank you.

4 DR. HARRIS: Thanks.

5 TRUSTEE MORGO: You said some of
6 the things I was going to say --
7 chairman usually goes last, but okay.

8 Mark, when I went through this
9 last night, as you know, we
10 communicated. This gives context, and
11 with everything you mentioned, Chris
12 mentioned EMHP, no more HEERF, you
13 really gave us context. But I think
14 what gives us the most context is slide
15 ten, because after all of this, all that
16 we've endured, all the cost saving
17 measures that you had, we're still the
18 lowest tuition on Long Island, we're
19 still the most affordable college on
20 Long Island. And I think that's a very
21 -- as Chris mentioned, this is complex,
22 this is a complicated place,
23 \$210-\$250 million budget is not easy to
24 deal with, but if you look at this, this
25 gives very simple context, what a good

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2 job the college is doing for their
3 students of Suffolk County. So,
4 terrific job, thank you.

5 DR. HARRIS: Thank you.

6 CHAIR MURRAY: Any other
7 questions for Mark? Questions or
8 comments. So we will we have the budget
9 resolutions as part of the resolution
10 package and --

11 DR. HARRIS: Correct.

12 CHAIR MURRAY: -- we're voting on
13 them shortly.

14 DR. HARRIS: Mr. Chair, real
15 quickly, item 7, resolution 2023.26, you
16 had mentioned EMHP. So for the month of
17 January and where the County's still
18 having the ongoing challenge from an IT
19 perspective, we are just getting
20 January's for submission, which is about
21 \$3.4 million relative to the last one
22 that we received for December, it's
23 about a \$400,000 increase relative to
24 that. And then you indicated the
25 resolution for the budget operating of

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2 \$210.7 million, \$4.2 million of which
3 will be a grant for a total of \$215
4 million and then 2023.28 really
5 represents the increases in fees as
6 well. So, I just wanted to highlight
7 those.

8 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you.

9 DR. HARRIS: Thanks.

10 CHAIR MURRAY: At this point, we
11 have resolutions. I think I would like
12 the college to talk a little bit about
13 the naming rights agreement that will be
14 part of it, a lot of the resolutions are
15 accepting grants, which is always a good
16 thing; people giving us money. And then
17 as Mark had mentioned, two of the
18 resolutions are regarding the budget and
19 that being the tuition and fee schedule.
20 But if you have some additional
21 comments --

22 PRESIDENT BONAHOUE: Absolutely.
23 Mr. Chairman, thank you. And Dr.
24 Harris, thank you, again, on behalf of
25 the college staff and the cabinet.

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2 Mark, you've been an awesome leader for
3 all of us in the cabinet, and thank you
4 very much for leading us through the
5 cost savings that we've identified this
6 year, and for making this presentation
7 today.

8 DR. HARRIS: Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Trustees, on
10 the resolutions, just a few items. In
11 Dr. Harris's presentation, he noted that
12 one of the things we project for next
13 year is an increase in auxiliary
14 revenues of a half million dollars,
15 resolutions one through five are grants
16 and contracts for special projects and
17 continuing education. As you know, we
18 will continue to be as entrepreneurial
19 as possible in order to fund these
20 special opportunities for students, and
21 to work with employers on economic
22 development. We've doubled the amount
23 of activity this year in noncredit
24 continuing workforce education.

25 Item six, Trustees, includes

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2 communication from Belinda
3 Alvarez-Groneman of the College
4 Foundation Board of Directors, stating
5 that the family of Jane Scherer, who was
6 a beloved employee of the Eastern Campus
7 who passed away a few years ago, is
8 interested in making a major gift of a
9 half million dollars to the foundation
10 in recognition of Jane and her service
11 to the college. The gift will support
12 both student scholarships and overall
13 enhancement of the nursing program.

14 Foundation staff is ready to work
15 on the structure and details of a gift
16 agreement that becomes a contractual
17 document. For a major gift at this half
18 million dollar level, the practice has
19 been to share the preliminary
20 information with the Board, because it
21 will result in a naming opportunity as
22 per Board policy. Under that policy, a
23 gift at this level would not involve the
24 naming of a facility, but it would
25 qualify for the naming of a program,

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2 which in this case would be -- again,
3 contingent upon final execution of the
4 agreement. It would result in something
5 like the Jane Scherer School of Nursing.
6 We would not change any overall branding
7 of the college, but we would use the
8 Scherer School of Nursing or something
9 along those lines that we would work out
10 with the family. So we've done some
11 research on this, we've done some
12 research about the appropriateness of
13 this and we can respond to any questions
14 that you may have on that.

15 Finally, for item ten on your
16 resolutions, please notice, as I've
17 previously reported and as Dr. Harris
18 mentioned on the slides, we're taking
19 every step to streamline positions in
20 every category, including exempt senior
21 administrative positions. With the
22 recent departure of two senior staff,
23 our plan is to redistribute duties
24 internally, and replace only one of
25 those staff. What this means is that

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2 two of our current administrative
3 positions are being expanded, and so
4 some adjustment of the existing
5 positions in title and compensation is
6 appropriate. But please note, this is
7 not a new position -- this would not be
8 a good time to add new positions -- this
9 is simply an adjustment to an existing
10 position, and this adjustment allows us
11 to eliminate one exempt position
12 entirely and save on those costs. Just
13 wanted to mention that about the
14 resolutions this month.

15 CHAIR MURRAY: Great, thank you
16 very much.

17 Any questions? If not, I will
18 request a motion for approval of college
19 resolutions 2023.20 through 2023.29, can
20 I get a motion?

21 TRUSTEE MORGO: Motion.

22 CHAIR MURRAY: Second?

23 TRUSTEE CANARY: Second.

24 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in
25 favor, say aye.

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2 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

3 CHAIR MURRAY: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you.

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

8 CHAIR MURRAY: So, at this point,
9 we move to committee reports. I don't
10 know if Kevin, do we have anything to
11 add on the budget and finance?

12 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: It's always
13 difficult to follow you and Jim, but
14 I'll just say this, and again I commend
15 Dr. Harris and his staff, and I did take
16 -- the notes I wrote are notes -- the
17 budget process is incredibly thoughtful.
18 And I think the way we went through it
19 and the level of detail it was presented
20 and the way it was presented, I think
21 really reflects the angst that we
22 actually had at the Board about raising
23 tuition, recognizing that it does put a
24 burden on the students that don't get
25 aid. But I think it's the right answer

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2 at the time. I think presented as it
3 is, and I think you highlighted many of
4 the things that we debated, and I just
5 appreciate that it was a collaborative
6 effort, the budget process, and
7 Dr. Bonahue, the challenge to increase
8 enrollment and, as importantly, increase
9 retention. Students make a decision to
10 come here, and it's our job to make sure
11 that they stay here. So, the way you
12 had described, and I don't get the
13 benefit of seeing the meetings you had,
14 but the way you sort of provided that
15 color for us as Board members about the
16 sort of the rallying of the young people
17 that come here and what we're trusted
18 with and the efforts that are going to
19 go on to make them successful in the
20 school was really in my mind the most
21 important part of going through that
22 budget process. Finding that out, you
23 know, there's a lot of numbers here, so
24 our mission is to educate and to elevate
25 the students that come here. And so I

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2 got that out of this process, so I just
3 wanted to thank everybody, your staff,
4 for this, because I think it is a
5 challenge that's been thrown out there
6 that's embedded in this budget more so
7 the impact of that on the budget is
8 greater than the small -- the tuition
9 increase -- I don't want to say small,
10 but tuition increase, making sure that
11 happens. So, I look forward to
12 following through that -- following up
13 on that through the rest of the year.

14 PRESIDENT BONAHE: Thank you,
15 Trustee O'Connor. We do accept the
16 challenge of growing enrollment and
17 keeping the students that we have,
18 delivering excellent service and
19 excellent educational experience to
20 those students. Everything we talk
21 about on campus is focused on how do we
22 help the students navigate their college
23 experience, how do we put them on the
24 pathway to success, keep them on a
25 pathway to success, ensure that they

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2 will be successful and achieve their
3 educational goals, whatever these goals
4 may be. And so, we accept that mission
5 of student success because it includes
6 both opening the door to new students
7 and keeping the students that we have,
8 retaining those students. We need that
9 challenge of a 2% enrollment increase,
10 and so that's what is included in the
11 budget, thank you for acknowledging
12 that.

13 TRUSTEE MORGO: Chris, in the
14 spirit of commendations, I'd like to
15 commend the budget and finance chairman.
16 No, I'm serious. It was good to have
17 someone who really understands
18 complicated operating budgets. You did
19 a much better job than your predecessor
20 would have ever done.

21 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: It was the
22 education I got here that did that.

23 TRUSTEE CANARY: Along the lines
24 of commendations, we really need to
25 highlight and thank the outstanding

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2 efforts of our professors and adjuncts,
3 who do a fantastic job standing up there
4 in front of the students in the
5 classrooms or in front of the cameras
6 for the Zooms, but again, we are blessed
7 with an outstanding faculty and I think
8 we always need to acknowledge them
9 publicly.

10 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Thank you.

11 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: I will say
12 this just to follow-up then, and I spoke
13 to Dr. Bonahue about this. I was
14 actually with friends and a young
15 student here had a bad experience in his
16 first semester as a Freshman, and came
17 here in second semester. And he was
18 disillusioned at school, he met a
19 professor here, and so both of his
20 parents have been so complimentary of
21 him, and I've met this young man, and
22 he's back in school, he wants to be in,
23 and that's part of one of the professors
24 here so.

25 CHAIR MURRAY: Any questions --

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2 Kevin, are you done?

3 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: I'm done.

4 CHAIR MURRAY: Any questions for
5 Kevin on the budget and finance? I know
6 we talked about that the majority of the
7 meeting. Next, student success?

8 TRUSTEE PAGDANAGAN: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. The Student Success
10 Committee met last week with the Center
11 For Social Justice to learn more about
12 the video series called By Design. The
13 series was created by a collaborative
14 effort between the center, the radio and
15 television academic department, and the
16 students in the program. The series
17 focuses on different historical elements
18 that created this current segregated
19 community across Long Island. Faculty
20 are invited to review the videos and
21 discuss ways to incorporate their course
22 learning outcomes. All of the videos
23 include discussion guides to provide
24 support for faculty to utilize these
25 videos as learning tools. I'd like to

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2 thank Dr. Munsch and her staff for all
3 our meetings and bringing all these good
4 topics along student success, thank you
5 so much for all your help. That's our
6 report.

7 CHAIR MURRAY: Any questions? If
8 not we'll move to governance. Gordon?

9 TRUSTEE CANARY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman. Governance met on Monday,
11 the 17th at about 3:40. Myself, Chair
12 Murray, Jim Morgo, Shirley Coverdale,
13 President Bonahue, Ala; our deputy
14 general counsel and Gail Canahan; our
15 ably recording secretary, thank god for
16 Gail. Meeting called to order, status
17 of the Suffolk Community College
18 association's governance structure was
19 further discussed. Deputy General
20 Counsel Ala Brodsky informed the
21 committee that Dr. Patricia Munsch, Vice
22 President of Student Affairs, shared
23 with her the name of the student from
24 each of the three campus student
25 government organizations who have been

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2 identified as candidates. President
3 Bonahue shared that Dr. Munsch has
4 advised him that the student trustee
5 elections are over, and that a new
6 student trustee has been elected and she
7 is with us this morning.
8 Congratulations.

9 MS. PORTILLO: Thank you.

10 TRUSTEE CANARY: All candidates
11 have now been selected and the legal
12 affairs office will begin working on
13 gathering the necessary documents and
14 drafting the resolutions. DGC Ala
15 Brodsky will review the association
16 bylaws and advise the Committee what
17 changes will need to be drafted for the
18 restructuring to occur and we are hoping
19 that we could see a resolution possibly
20 on the May meeting. If not, June, but
21 maybe May.

22 Committee Chair Canary then
23 advised the Committee that Board of
24 Trustees, Board of Ethics member,
25 Anthony LaPinta's, term expired on

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2 March 15th of this year. The Committee
3 all agreed that they would like to ask
4 Mr. LaPinta to continue on the Board of
5 Ethics for another term. DGC Brodsky
6 will reach out to Mr. LaPinta and find
7 out if he is interested in serving
8 another term, which Ala did and the good
9 news is that Anthony is willing to serve
10 again. So, we will have a resolution on
11 that to reappoint.

12 No new business was discussed.
13 Again, the items identified for the May
14 Governance Committee meeting will
15 include, again, status update on
16 establishing the new Board of Directors
17 for the association, Governance
18 Committee meeting scheduled for May 8th,
19 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We adjourned at
20 4:15.

21 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you. Any
22 questions for Gordon?

23 If not, Personnel Committee?

24 TRUSTEE DELOEN-LOPRESTI: I just
25 have an update on the presidential

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2 evaluation process which is under way in
3 accordance with our policy, it's for the
4 2022/2023 school year. It involves
5 conducting a survey by Scantron, it's
6 being conducted via email, so it's an
7 electronic survey, but also for external
8 survey participants, it's being
9 conducted by snail mail because we
10 realized last year that not everyone
11 responds to an email from an outside
12 source asking for survey results. So
13 we're hoping for better results from
14 external constituents this year.

15 But just an overview of the
16 survey itself, internally we interviewed
17 -- surveyed student members of the
18 college, members of the Board of
19 Trustees, all of the Board, union
20 leadership, the President's cabinet, the
21 entire cabinet. And externally, we have
22 a sampling provided by Dr. Bonahue of
23 business and community leaders, as well
24 as elected leaders in the legislature
25 and the County executive. And the Board

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2 uses -- the nature of the questions are
3 very objective and evaluative as to the
4 President's performance, in terms of his
5 leadership skills, his ability to engage
6 the community and business leaders. And
7 we use that information to evaluate the
8 President, but the Board also uses a lot
9 of the objective measures including
10 student retention, student success,
11 enrollment numbers, the ability to
12 implement a strategic plan. So, that's
13 just an update, we are in line with the
14 timeline. And that's it.

15 CHAIR MURRAY: Thank you. Any
16 questions?

17 If not, Advocacy? I don't know
18 if you met.

19 TRUSTEE ZARATE: Thank you,
20 Chair, we did not meet, but I do want to
21 bring up a point. Dr. Bonahue did an
22 amazing job at representing the college
23 at the NYSABE conference which brought
24 seven hundred attendees, all of whom
25 were educators, parents and community

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2 leaders, and community-based
3 organizations, and bringing awareness of
4 what the college has to offer to our
5 Long Island students. So, thank you.

6 CHAIR MURRAY: Any questions?

7 We'll go to Facilities, I don't
8 know if you met?

9 TRUSTEE MORGO: We did not,
10 Mr. Chairman; however, the President
11 briefed the Executive Committee on the
12 use of the unused tennis courts by
13 Eversource, training for wind energy.
14 Ed, are you going to talk about that at
15 all?

16 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Yes, I will.

17 TRUSTEE MORGO: Okay.

18 CHAIR MURRAY: The Foundation,
19 Bel?

20 TRUSTEE PAGDANAGAN: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chair. The Board of Directors of
22 the Foundation has received its annual
23 independent financial audit from Bonadio
24 & Company, the Foundation's independent
25 auditors. The audit finds that the

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2 Foundation's financial statements and
3 the related disclosures are in
4 conformity with applicable financial
5 reports framework, and they have issued
6 an unmodified opinion on the financial
7 statements of the Foundation. In
8 addition, they did not identify any
9 deficiencies in internal control
10 considered to be material weakness.
11 Next, the Board of Directors of the
12 Foundation has established the Northwell
13 Mather Harbor View Medical Services
14 fellowship. This fellowship will
15 support five current employees of the
16 medical services provider who are
17 enrolled as students at the college's
18 medical assistant program. The
19 workforce development initiative
20 provides full tuition for the cohort and
21 prepares them for their roles in the
22 Port Jefferson health care destination.
23 This fellowship joined several others
24 that the Foundation has recently
25 launched, including the Tony & Luke

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2 Russo Veterinary Science fellowship and
3 the New York Cancer and Blood Services
4 fellowship. Also the New York State
5 Troopers Memorial Fund will continue to
6 support a scholarship established in
7 passed trooper's memory, by providing
8 two \$500 awards that will be presented
9 to one incoming and one continuing
10 student pursuing a career in law
11 enforcement.

12 I also have two save-the-date
13 reminders; the first one is the
14 Foundation in collaboration with
15 Governance will host their annual awards
16 luncheon on Friday, May 5th, at
17 Lombardi's on the Bay in Patchogue.
18 This event provides an opportunity to
19 recognize and honor several outstanding
20 faculty and staff members by celebrating
21 their dedication to academic excellence
22 and service to our students. And also
23 we have the Annual Foundation Golf
24 Classic, which is scheduled on Monday,
25 June 5th, at the Port Jefferson Country

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2 Club. Invitations will be arriving
3 shortly. That's our report.

4 CHAIR MURRAY: Any questions? I
5 would encourage everybody to attend the
6 golf outing. Every year we have a
7 pretty good turnout, and it's a very
8 nice affair. At least if you can, go to
9 the dinner. And then the student
10 trustee, but Zack is not here today.
11 But as mentioned, I believe next month,
12 May's meeting, will be his last meeting.
13 And he's done a great job, and we
14 welcome Samantha Portillo who will be
15 joining us in August -- I guess it would
16 be in June or August.

17 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: We'll figure
18 it out.

19 CHAIR MURRAY: With that, that's
20 the end of the committee reports. The
21 Chair's report, I already kind of gave
22 with regard to the budget, so we'll move
23 President's report.

24 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chairman. And Trustees, thank you,

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2 as always, for your contribution of time
3 and service. Thank you, Dr. Rios, for
4 hosting us here at the Ammerman Campus.
5 And let me also take this opportunity to
6 recognize our association and governance
7 leaders that are with us here today.
8 Professor Nina Acquavita, is this your
9 last meeting?

10 MS. ACQUAVITA: Yes.

11 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Nina is from
12 the chair of the congress of the Eastern
13 Campus. Nina, thank you for your
14 service and shared governance, and come
15 visit any time. Josephine Makowski is
16 here from AME. Thank you, Josephine,
17 for being here. Dr. Dante Morelli, from
18 the faculty association, thank you as
19 always, Dante.

20 Trustees, just a quick enrollment
21 update. As you know, our enrollment is
22 up for the spring semester. As soon as
23 we have a final reckoning at the end of
24 the spring, we'll get it out to you. It
25 seems hard to believe, but we're also

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2 now enrolling students in summer and
3 fall, although it's still very early in
4 the process, we'll give you some updated
5 numbers shortly.

6 Trustees, last month I shared
7 with you some information that came --
8 we pulled some information both from the
9 Comptroller's office and from SUNY
10 business intelligence on the number of
11 students in Suffolk County with
12 out-of-district waivers. We've now
13 begun to review that data and we do have
14 some immediate steps we're going to be
15 able to take before the end of the
16 semester. We're immediately launching a
17 kind of an in-your-own-backyard campaign
18 to reach out to students in Suffolk
19 County who have requested waivers to go
20 out of Suffolk County, and just to
21 remind those students that we're here,
22 remind their families that we're here,
23 we're an outstanding value, we have the
24 lowest tuition, as we reported, and also
25 we'd like to provide them with a survey

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2 so that we can get more information on
3 what they're looking for.

4 Over the longer term, we will
5 also have a better sense of which
6 regions of the County have students that
7 are heading elsewhere. And, again, we
8 know that the Fashion Institute is a
9 special situation, but we do have some
10 students heading off to Nassau,
11 typically from the western parts of
12 Suffolk County. So, we will be able to
13 do some additional outreach with our
14 admissions staff, to those high schools
15 in western Suffolk County, not only for
16 student-facing activities, like outreach
17 and tabling and admissions days, but
18 also outreach to principals and guidance
19 staff so that we can understand more
20 about what students are looking for and
21 what's going into their decisions.

22 Also, this Sunday is Open House
23 at all three campuses, and of course
24 that's always a great opportunity for us
25 to help all students, especially new

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2 students who are still making up their
3 minds and need information about
4 Suffolk. As you know, SUNY has allowed
5 the vaccination mandate to expire, thank
6 you, SUNY. And so we are again throwing
7 those doors open as wide as possible
8 trying to remind everyone that now any
9 student can attend any program. And if
10 you delayed, if you didn't feel
11 comfortable coming to campus, we
12 certainly want every student to be back.
13 Finally, on the enrollment side, as the
14 spring has unfolded, we're getting a
15 little bit more information about the
16 new program with Stony Brook, we do have
17 128 students that have referred -- among
18 the many that were referred back to us
19 from Stony Brook, 128 have expressed
20 specific interest in the Seawolves At
21 Suffolk Program and of those, almost 100
22 have begun their application for
23 Suffolk. And so, we look forward to
24 getting more to put on that in the days
25 ahead.

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2 On the financials, again, thank
3 you, Dr. Harris, thank you so much. And
4 Trustees, thank you for having held
5 tuition unchanged throughout the
6 pandemic, to be sure that Suffolk
7 provides the greatest value as possible
8 to our families, to our students. I
9 think the budget that we've recommended
10 is a responsible budget. It will
11 challenge us, but the tuition increase
12 will not allow us to stand still, we
13 will continue to look for savings both
14 in terms of personnel services and in
15 terms of those areas other than
16 personnel services as well as try to
17 grow revenues in every area, and really
18 to be focused on how we -- not only how
19 we meet students, but how we do that
20 efficiently.

21 Just a couple items, it's a long
22 meeting today, but just some good news
23 that I really just have to take a minute
24 to share. On Tuesday, Trustees, we
25 received confirmation of a major

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investment in the college that will really transform the impact that our welding and manufacturing programs can make with workforce development here on Long Island. As part of our efforts to bring more visibility to our workforce programs, you know that I've met with major employers, I also made a presentation last year at Long Island Manufacturing Day at the Cradle of Aviation last fall. At the event, I met Command Master Chief Petty Officer Josh Sturgill, one of the highest ranking non-commissioned officers in the US Submarine Command who provides leadership for construction and manufacturing related to the submarine fleet and the defense manufacturing supply chain. Master Chief had visited our facility at the Brentwood campus, and he looked in on our manufacturing and welding programs, and he said you know what, this is exactly what we need. And then John Lombardo and Laurie Goleta

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2 continued to work with him, continued to
3 work with folks from the Navy League
4 advocates for the defense sector here on
5 Long Island. And on Tuesday, two days
6 ago, Master Chief returned to campus for
7 a presentation and a Q&A with defense
8 manufacturers. And at the end of this
9 presentation, he announced that to
10 better support workforce development
11 critical for a national security, the
12 Navy is awarding \$2 million in
13 scholarships to Suffolk Community
14 College for scholarships for our welding
15 and manufacturing program. This
16 investment will essentially enable us to
17 make these programs free to many
18 students.

19 The idea that we can make these
20 students free and get these students out
21 on the job faster, into the
22 manufacturing companies where they're
23 going to be involved directly with
24 defense manufacturing with the supply
25 chain that's needed to build submarines

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2 is a huge endorsement of our program
3 and, of course, a huge step forward for
4 supporting the manufacturing. And in
5 doing so, we have the honor and
6 responsibility of being part of really
7 an imperative national priority. So,
8 \$500,000 in the Foundation, \$2 million
9 in the college, we're doing it.

10 Finally, Trustees, as Trustee
11 Morgo said, you know the college's
12 partnership with National Offshore Wind
13 Training Center, or Nowtech, is moving
14 forward. Last week we completed the
15 licensing agreement that will allow for
16 temporary use of college grounds for
17 workforce training, and it means that
18 Nowtech will be able to do that in a
19 matter of weeks rather than a matter of
20 months. I want to thank the Executive
21 Committee for reviewing that licensing
22 agreement. And I can report that
23 Nowtech immediately jumped into action
24 and has begun installing the equipment
25 needed for the first training program,

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2 the GUS or Get Up Safely program. By
3 next month, I think Nowtech will be
4 bringing a new audience of trainees to
5 campus, which will give the college a
6 lot more visibility to folks who are
7 already working in the energy sector and
8 will demonstrate our continuing
9 alignment both with workforce
10 development and with renewable energy in
11 particular.

12 Speaking of renewable energy,
13 Trustees, June 1st is the date we have
14 set for the opening of our renewable
15 energy and STEM Center -- have we
16 confirmed whether it's 9:00 a.m. or
17 2:00 p.m.?

18 DR. MUNSCH: For the business
19 community, that will start at 1:45.

20 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: So at 1:45,
21 2:00 p.m., very good. On June 1st, the
22 opening of our renewable energy and STEM
23 center, we will invite the whole
24 community, especially our friends in the
25 business community, our friends at

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2 National Grid, our friends in elected
3 office, and just to celebrate this new
4 facility. Mr. Chairman, that concludes
5 my report, I'll be happy to receive any
6 questions or comments.

7 TRUSTEE MORGO: Ed, what's the
8 relationship between Nowtech and MERS I
9 thought they were doing the training
10 here.

11 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Yes, so,
12 Nowtech is the 501C3, which is overseen
13 by the Federation of Labor, Suffolk
14 Community College and the Building
15 Trades Counsel. Nowtech commissions
16 MERS, basically as a turnkey operation
17 to provide the training.

18 TRUSTEE MORGO: So MERS is still
19 going?

20 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Yes, sir,
21 exactly.

22 CHAIR MURRAY: Any other
23 questions?

24 TRUSTEE CANARY: Just a comment,
25 that's really exciting that we are

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2 embarking on this critically important
3 training. You can well imagine sending
4 workers out, miles out, into the ocean
5 with heavy seas and having them transfer
6 from a transport ship to one of these
7 wind-generating facilities, just the
8 transfer alone is a dangerous operation
9 and they're going to climb up 200/250
10 rungs of ladder to get up to the
11 generating facilities, tremendous
12 amounts of potential for injury. So
13 this training is so critically important
14 to the safety of those workers. And
15 this is starting -- this very a exciting
16 offshore wind initiative, and we're part
17 of it, we're right there. Really
18 exciting.

19 TRUSTEE MORGO: As I said, going
20 into the executive session, it's only
21 been about four or five years and it was
22 always a question of how involved the
23 college was going to be. And it was
24 some months in a row, some of us
25 remember. But bringing these

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2 not-for-profit umbrellas on campus, and
3 I made a very bad pun the last time, I
4 said this kind of cements our
5 relationship. But it does.

6 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: And you did it
7 again.

8 TRUSTEE CANARY: And we get
9 tennis courts refurbished with the
10 training facility is then removed, so we
11 make out on the deal from that
12 perspective as well.

13 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: It's a
14 win-win.

15 TRUSTEE CANARY: My grandfather's
16 name was Gus, his name was Gustav, we
17 called him Gus.

18 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: And
19 Mr. Chair, we acknowledged our visitors
20 at the beginning. I wanted to
21 acknowledge Mr. Nick Davila, Vice
22 President from the Association of
23 Municipal Employees was able to join us.
24 Nick, thanks, we always appreciate your
25 partnership with the AME, thank you.

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2 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: Just one
3 moment. Dr. Bonahue, your ability to go
4 out into the community and sort of
5 source a \$2 million scholarship is --
6 should not go unnoticed or uncommented
7 on. And you've --

8 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: It's a team
9 effort. Thank you very much, it's a
10 team effort.

11 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: You are out in
12 the community, you know -- I'm out and
13 I'm not sure a day goes by that I don't
14 hear your name being involved in things.
15 And so, I just want to, I guess this
16 morning I heard about the electric
17 vehicle that is going to be used to
18 shuttle people within the industrial
19 park from here.

20 PRESIDENT BONAHEUE: Correct.

21 TRUSTEE O'CONNOR: And that's
22 because of your involvement with the HIA
23 and organizations that are not
24 traditionally education-based, but
25 basically understanding that what we do

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2 here is part of a larger community. So,
3 and your involvement in all of those
4 things goes a long way to raising the
5 visibility of this organization, so I
6 just wanted to acknowledge that.

7 PRESIDENT BONAHE: As a
8 community college, we have to be
9 involved with workforce development, we
10 have to be involved with community
11 development, we have to be involved with
12 economic development in general. So,
13 really, the whole staff is involved with
14 getting out into the community. But I'm
15 certainly trying to set that tone, so
16 thank you for acknowledging that.

17 CHAIR MURRAY: I think it's
18 important, I think this is -- kind of
19 the larger picture is, you know, when we
20 talk about enrollment, and we talk about
21 the traditional students who come,
22 graduating and are looking to go onto
23 four-year schools. I think the one way
24 we can increase our enrollment, increase
25 our presence is just as you said; to be

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2 part of the economic development, job
3 training, it's a -- I think it's
4 exciting, the things that we are doing,
5 I think it broadens our mission, I think
6 it broadens our attractiveness for
7 students or other individuals to utilize
8 our services, and we've had a great deal
9 of success in the last year, year and a
10 half. And this last thing with Navy,
11 with the submarines, and protecting our
12 country, I think it's just wonderful.

13 TRUSTEE CANARY: Just one more
14 point, to our County partners who are in
15 the room today, I think you heard some
16 really exciting things that are
17 happening here, the Seawolves at Suffolk
18 Program, an incredibly thoughtful and a
19 great program that's going to help
20 increase our enrollment. The
21 out-of-district tuition waiver analysis,
22 trying to get to the heart of why are
23 these students not coming to Suffolk, I
24 think that's an important initiative
25 that's going to help us greatly, and all

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2 these grants and all good stuff.

3 CHAIR MURRAY: Great. So now
4 that we've patted ourselves on the back,
5 at this point I would open it up to
6 roundtable, any other discussions? If
7 not, I'm going to request a motion to
8 enter into executive session to discuss
9 the medical, financial, credit or
10 employment history of a particular
11 person or corporation, or matters
12 leading to appointment, promotion,
13 demotion, discipline, suspension,
14 dismissal or removal of a particular
15 person or corporation.

16 Can I have a motion?

17 TRUSTEE ZARATE: Motion.

18 CHAIR MURRAY: Second?

19 TRUSTEE CANARY: Second.

20 CHAIR MURRAY: All those in
21 favor, say aye.

22 COLLECTIVE RESPONSE: Aye.

23 CHAIR MURRAY: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIR MURRAY: We will not have

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2 any business after this.

3 [WHEREUPON THE MEETING OF THE
4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS CLOSED BY THE
5 CHAIRMAN, E. CHRISTOPHER MURRAY AT 10:24
6 a.m.]

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2 CERTIFICATION

3
4 STATE OF NEW YORK)

) ss

5 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)
6

7 I, KRISTEN STEIN, a Shorthand Reporter
8 and Notary Public within and for the State of
9 New York, do hereby certify:

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

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
14 my hand this 20th day of April, 2023.

15
16 *Kristen Stein*



17
18 KRISTEN STEIN
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SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE v. BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 20, 2023
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING

[illegible]

Signature of BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING