

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS, BRENTWOOD, NY
BOARD ROOM, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
DECEMBER 7, 2023

The meeting was held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board room of the Learning Resource Center, in Brentwood, NY.

PRESENT:

E. Christopher Murray	Chair
Shirley Coverdale	Vice Chair
Gordon Canary	Vice Chair
Belinda Pagdanganan	Trustee
Kevin O'Connor	Trustee
Samantha Portillo	Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Ashley Pope	General Counsel
Alla Brodsky	Deputy General Counsel
Sara Gorton	Interim V.P. of Business and Financial Affairs
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student Affairs
Kaliah Greene	Interim V.P. / Executive Director, Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Angelica Rivera	V.P. for Human Resources

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 10:06 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Canary. Trustee Canary held a moment of silence in recognition of the Pearl Harbor attack, and peace in the Middle East.

Chair Murray moved to recognition of guests. Ms. Wickliffe-Campbell introduced Tim Freeman, representing Legislator Bontempi; as well as Nick DeBello and Ryan McLarry from AME.

President Bonahue introduced Ms. Shannon O'Neill, College Director of Veteran Services to share a presentation she recently gave to the County Legislature and Consumer Affairs Committee on the College's Veterans Affairs program. Ms. O'Neill gave an overview of the students served, the programs provided, and the outreach and recruitment done on a local, State and National Level. The College currently certifies more students utilizing the G.I. Bill more than any other school in the SUNY system. In

the last academic year, the College served over 500 military-connected students, with a total of 364 students currently registered for the fall 2023 semester. This represents a 3% increase over the last fall, and has graduated a total of 63 students this past academic year. The College is also designated as a Vet Success on Campus Program with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and is one of only 104 colleges across the country with that special designation. In addition to the on-campus resources available to Veteran students, the College has great partnership with the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach where the College offers classes on base to assist the members with achieving their community college in the air force degree. Since 2018, over 100 of those members have received their CCAF degree, increasing the pool of applicants for administrators and leadership to choose from for promotion.

In addition, the College has successfully created a culture in which faculty and staff understand the needs of its military-connected students, with annual Veteran's Day ceremonies to honor all who served, a Salute Honor Society that honors graduates, with special honor cords to be worn at graduation. College staff can often be seen hosting tables anywhere from drill weekends at local reserve centers to a veteran run 5K series. The College serves on the SUNY Chancellor's Veteran and Military Action Council, and represents one of only six schools in the state. Furthermore, some of the College's administrators have been selected by the United States Army and Marine Corps on National Educators' Tours, presented at national conferences, and has had the opportunity to bring students down to the White House to speak on the senate floor and in the White House on the importance of veteran's resources at the community college level.

Chair Murray requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee O'Connor so moved, Trustee Pagdanganan seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

Chair Murray introduced Sara Gorton, Interim Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, to present the College Budget and Financial report for the month of November 2023. Ms. Gorton reported the FY23 financial audit was underway and the auditors from the Bonadio Group have been on site all week, doing their field work. This year, there is a new statement from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which is the organization that governs the College's financial reporting and how it issues financial statements. From time to time, they issue updates on reporting requirements. Last year the College had the implementation of GASB 87, which had to do with leases and how the College accounts for leases on its financial statements. This year there is GASB 96, which is how the College accounts for software and IT subscriptions. They are working to gather all the information necessary for the auditors. As always, the College requests that the auditors have the statements available for approval and review by the Board the February meeting; however, this year with another new standard implemented, it mostly likely will be by the March meeting. Based on the activity and the feedback so far, it looks like the College will probably use about \$11M of

the fund balance for FY `23, which is a reduction from the original \$13.6M that was originally budgeted.

For FY `24, Ms. Gorton reported that Fall revenue came in underbudget by \$500K, which represents about 1%. The College had budgeted a 2% increase in enrollment, and as far as reporting of FTEs and head count, the College was successful in completing that. However, that doesn't always equate to a 1:1 on revenue. Even though there was an increase in full-timers and in FTEs, once students hit twelve credits, they do not pay any additional revenue for credits they take over that. Budget revenue for Fall tuition is \$38M, and fortunately, over the past few months, the College has been able to offset the shortfall with increases in interest income. The College had budgeted \$12.8M fund balance usage. At this point, it's too early in the term to say if there's going to be any changes to the budgeted amount. Spring enrollment is in progress, and the College will update on the fund balance usage once those numbers are confirmed. There are also some expected significant expenses such as EMHP that will have new rates in January. Another area with a possible large expense is utilities, and depending on what the winter looks like, there may be increases or decreases in energy usage. The College will be tracking this closely and will adjust other spending areas if necessary. The College is constantly looking to implement cost-saving measures, looking for ways to bring in efficiencies, and finding long-term solutions for financial stability.

For FY `25, Ms. Gorton reported the College is preparing the budget call letter to go out to departments within the next two weeks. The letter asks the departments to prepare their budget requests by the end of January, and then they have meetings with each of the departments in the VP areas and campus Executive Deans to go over their budget requests and their needs and to start to formalize the budget. Two big factors that will affect the budget are the new rates for EMHP and State aid. State-based aid has not increased in the past three years. Generally, the State funded by FTEs. However, because of the drop in FTEs during the pandemic, the State has been giving floor funding. Both the Presidents and CFO's of community colleges have tried to come together and let the State know that even though enrollment is down, that doesn't mean that costs are necessarily down in conjunction, and that as costs and inflation go up, it makes it more difficult to provide excellent service to students without the support of the State. The College is hoping that this year will not be another flat New York State base aid. However, if it is, the College will continue to work to put together the best budget that is efficient and that provides great service to its students.

Chair Murray called for a motion to approve College resolution 2023.67 to 2023.76. Trustee Coverdale so moved, Trustee O'Connor seconded, the motion to approve resolutions 2023.67 to 2023.76 was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.67 - Awarding a Mechanical Construction Contract for Upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus

WHEREAS, capital project CP2149 has been approved by Suffolk County and the State of New York for funding, and funds have been appropriated by the Suffolk County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, public bids for the mechanical construction work associated with the replacement of high temperature water boilers and associated piping and equipment, as well as cooling tower condenser water pump replacement, for the Central Energy Plant (upgrades to the Central Energy Plant) on the Eastern Campus were solicited and opened on October 18, 2023, and

WHEREAS, these bids were reviewed and the qualifications of the lowest responsible bidder were evaluated by the College and the design consultant of record, and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the project schedule and avoid additional costs, on November 10, 2023, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, as authorized by the College's Procurement Policy and Article V(F) of the College Bylaws, conditionally approved entering into a contract with Premier Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$7,587,700 for the mechanical construction work associated with upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that effective as of December 7, 2023, the conditional approval by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees to enter into a contract with Premier Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$7,587,700 for the mechanical construction work associated with the upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus, is hereby confirmed and approved in all respects.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.68 - Approving Monthly Sponsor Services for Suffolk County Community College

WHEREAS, the State University of New York Regulation No. 602.7 requires Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees to review and approve all Sponsor provided services and their estimated value in advance of the service being rendered, and

WHEREAS, the regulation also requires the approval of the payment of each Sponsor Service satisfactorily performed, and

WHEREAS, health insurance is considered a Sponsor Service, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the health insurance payment to the County of Suffolk in the amount of \$2,627,615.88 for the month of September 2023 (*Attachment I*) is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.69 - Amending the College Operating Budget to Reflect an Increase in the Grant Award from the State Education Department for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 College operating budget provides \$495,482, including indirect costs, for a grant award from The State Education Department for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), and

WHEREAS, the grant award has been increased by an additional amount of \$85,018 bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$580,500, including indirect costs, and

WHEREAS, the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at Suffolk County Community College represents an academic and college preparatory service, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2023-2024 College operating budget in the amount of \$85,018 to provide for the increase in the grant award, and

WHEREAS, no matching funds are required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect an increase in the amount of \$85,018, including indirect costs in the amount of \$5,244, from The State Education Department for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), and the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract amendment, as approved by the College General Counsel, with the administering agency.

Project Director: Arlene Jackson, Assistant Dean, Continuing Education

Note: No full-time positions
No in-kind contribution required

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.70 - Accepting a Grant Subaward from the Education Strategy Group, LLC, made available through an Award from the Lumina Foundation, to Carry Out a Project Entitled “Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Education (REACH)”

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant subaward in the amount of \$30,000, from Education Strategy Group, LLC, made available through an

award from the Lumina Foundation (Sponsor), to carry out a project entitled “Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Education (REACH),” for the period of May 17, 2023 through October 31, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the REACH initiative will seek to transform policies, processes, and practices that benefit adult learners of color through institutional and cross-state learning, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a grant subaward, in the amount of \$30,000 from Education Strategy Group, LLC, made available through an award from the Lumina Foundation to carry out a project entitled, “Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Education (REACH),” for the period of May 17, 2023 through October 31, 2024, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract or subaward agreement, with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

Project Director: Daphne M. Gordon, Ph.D.

Note: No full-time personnel

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.71 - Amending the College Budget for a Perkins V Career and Technical Education Act Program Grant

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 College operating budget provides \$1,428,100.00 including indirect costs, from the New York State Education Department for the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Program for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the award has been increased by an additional amount of \$61,084.00 bringing the total amount of the grant award to \$1,489,184.00, including indirect costs, and

WHEREAS, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 College operating budget be amended to reflect an increase in the amount of \$61,084.00, from the New York State Education Department, for the Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, and the College President or his designee is authorized to execute a contract with the administering agency, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College’s Office of Legal Affairs.

Project Director: Dr. W. Troy Tucker, College Associate Dean of Sponsored Programs

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.72 - Authorizing the Acceptance of a Gift from the Suffolk Community College Foundation

WHEREAS, the Suffolk Community College Foundation, Inc. is the recipient of a donation of two surgical lights from Heartland Medical, Inc., valued at approximately \$3,500, in total, and

WHEREAS, the Foundation wishes to further donate this equipment to Suffolk County Community College to be refurbished and installed for use in a simulation lab on the Michael J. Grant Campus in support of the College's Surgical Technology Program, and

WHEREAS, the Campus Executive Dean, Campus Director of Plant Operations, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Project Management, and academic leadership have been consulted and have indicated a need for this equipment for instructional purposes in the Surgical Technology Program, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the College's acceptance of the two surgical lights, with a total value of approximately \$3,500, from the Suffolk Community College Foundation, Inc., for use in the College's Surgical Technology Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.73 - Awarding a Plumbing Construction Contract for Upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus

WHEREAS, capital project CP2149 has been approved by Suffolk County and the State of New York for funding, and funds have been appropriated by the Suffolk County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, public bids for the plumbing construction work associated with the replacement of high temperature water boilers and associated piping and equipment, as well as cooling tower condenser water pump replacement, for the Central Energy Plant (upgrades to the Central Energy Plant) on the Eastern Campus were solicited and opened on October 18, 2023, and

WHEREAS, these bids were reviewed and the qualifications of the lowest responsible bidder were evaluated by the College and the consultant of record, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is authorized to enter into a contract with WHM Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$147,200 for the plumbing construction work associated with upgrades to the Central Energy Plant

on the Eastern Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.74 - Awarding an Electrical Construction Contract for Upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus

WHEREAS, capital project CP2149 has been approved by Suffolk County and the State of New York for funding, and funds have been appropriated by the Suffolk County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, public bids for the electrical construction work associated with the replacement of high temperature water boilers and associated piping and equipment, as well as cooling tower condenser water pump replacement, for the Central Energy Plant (upgrades to the Central Energy Plant) on the Eastern Campus were solicited and opened on October 18, 2023, and

WHEREAS, these bids were reviewed and the qualifications of the lowest responsible bidder were evaluated by the College and the consultant of record, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the College President or his designee is authorized to enter into a contract with L.E.B. Electric, Ltd. in the amount of \$207,000 for the electrical construction work associated with upgrades to the Central Energy Plant on the Eastern Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.75 - Authorizing an Increase in the Hourly Wage Rate for Part-Time Employees at Suffolk County Community College

WHEREAS, due to the increase in New York State's minimum wage effective 1/1/2024, the hourly wage rate for part-time employees of Suffolk County Community College should, likewise, be increased, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the hourly wage rate for part-time employees of the College shall be increased as reflected on Attachment II, annexed hereto, effective 1/1/2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023.76 - Excused Absence by a Member of the Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, Trustee Gemma deLeon-Lopresti is unable to attend the December 7, 2023 meeting of Suffolk County Community College's Board of Trustees due to employment-related travel outside the country; and

WHEREAS, Trustee deLeon-Lopresti has requested that such absence be designated by the Board of Trustees as an excused absence, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Trustee deLeon-Lopresti's absence at the December 7, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting is an excused absence.

Chair Murray called for the Committee reports.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported that the Student Success Committee met on December 5th, at which Dean Tanya Velasquez, College-Wide Director for Career Services gave a presentation. Career Services provides guidance for enrolled students when it comes to preparation for entering the workforce. This includes resume writing, creating cover letters, mock interviews and what businesses are expecting from them. They have assessment programs, such as Focus II in the College Central network, that assist students in choosing a profession that will include their skills, values and interests. Career Services often works in conjunction with the Foundation, the Knapp Swezey scholarships, the Perkins Grant and have been specifically trained to work with veterans who are reentering civilian life. The College was recently chosen by Disney as one of their recruiting schools, one of only ten colleges chosen nationwide. The work that Career Services does with the students and even some alumni is highly encouraging and gives a pathway for life after the College.

Trustee Canary reported the Governance Committee met on December 4th. General Counsel Pope gave a status report on the successor Board of Trustees document management platform, advising the Committee that the College's IT Department is currently reviewing the SharePoint online collaboration software. A demonstration will be made available to the Trustees in the near future. General Counsel Pope advised the Committee that the Board of Trustees self-evaluation survey was deployed via email with a requested completion date of December 10th. Conversation was had about the updated draft policy sent to the Committee on use of email by Board of Trustees members for College business. General Counsel Pope advised that the changes addressed questions and concerns discussed during the October Governance Committee meeting. The Committee will review the updated draft and advise if they have additional changes or if it is ready to be presented to the full Board. Discussion was had regarding the Board's bylaws and existing requirements and practices for taking minutes of Board meetings. Discussion was had about the most efficient and cost-effective method for producing minutes in light of modern methods for recording meetings and the Open Meetings Law requirements. Discussion moved to the guidelines for public participation at Board meetings and potential updates to the bylaws to facilitate public participation on college business. General Counsel Pope will redline the bylaws based on this decision for review at the January Governance meeting. Discussion was then had regarding finalizing a date for the desired January Board Retreat on either January 12th or January 19th. The Trustees were all polled, and they hope to have a final date set soon. The Committee then discussed the standard topics

for new Trustee orientation. In addition to the list of topics provided by Legal Affairs, President Bonahue would like to ensure coverage of topics relating to the College's mission, the vision and strategic initiatives including academic programs, student support services, professional development, equity, workforce development and key data points relative to the mission, and the strategic work at the College, such as the persistence, graduation and similar metrics. The next Governance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16th. Agenda items include recommendations on the Board of Trustees email policy, the review of the proposed bylaws revisions, next steps for the Board of Trustees self-evaluation, demonstration of a Board portal replacement, and consideration of a policy on policies.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported for the Foundation. On December 4th, the Association of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders and Service Technicians, Local 200 visited the Ammerman Campus to present a donation in support of the Foundation's Education Without Limits Campaign. President Bonahue and the Foundation's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Diaz, along with cabinet leadership, were in hand to greet Union Business Manager, Richard Brooks, along with New York State Senator Mario Mattera. The second item highlighted was the Margaret Krumholz Memorial Scholarship. Margaret and her boyfriend, Thomas, graduated together from Suffolk County Community College in 1979, and were married soon thereafter. After graduating from Suffolk, Margaret and Thomas continued their undergraduate education together at Pace University with both ultimately launching successful careers as CPAs. In 2018, the family tragically lost Margaret and chose to establish a scholarship that would remember Margaret's vibrant leadership, love of family and desire to support and build her community through education civic action. The Margaret Krumholz Memorial Scholarship will provide meaningful support to promising Suffolk students. As long as selected scholars maintain a 3.5 GPA, the scholarship provides four semesters of support, totaling up to \$13,000 for each student. One new scholar is added each fall, forming a continuous cohort of students preparing to excel along their pathways to success.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported as the Suffolk Community College Association Liaison from the Board of Trustees. The Association Board of Directors met on November 1st. Barbara Hurst, Executive Director of the Association, reviewed the 2023/2024 budget's expenditures and net gains as of September 30th. The Board of Directors positions were nominated and voted on. Ethan Rothburd from the Ammerman SGA was elected as the Chairperson. Valery Marquez from the Grant SGA was selected as Vice Chairperson. and Professor Sean Tvelia was elected to the position of Secretary. According to the current bylaws, students will hold these positions for one year, while other members will hold the positions for three years. It was also discussed and agreed upon that the current bylaws need to be researched and brought up-to-date in various aspects, such as pronouns and titles. Executive Director Hurst is also getting in contact with other SUNY schools, looking at their Board of Directors structure within their college. Since this is the first semester with the new Board of Directors, all are of the understanding that this will be a fluid period of time, with changes being voted on and made accordingly. All involved are very eager to move forward and become successful.

Student Trustee Portillo then gave her Student Trustee report. On November 5th, she attended the College's open house on the Grant Campus. She met students from Brentwood, Wyandanch, Central Islip, Amityville, Deer Park and Farmingdale that were determined to attend the College for the 2024 fall semester. SGA and Campus Activities were present, as well as students from the mentoring program that helped to keep the event organized. She also attended the Veteran's Day ceremony on the Ammerman campus and helped students write letters for veterans. Student Trustee Portillo plans to also attend the Kwanzaa crawl trip tomorrow, which is an off-campus trip opportunity where students will learn how local black-owned businesses got their start and hear about the significance of Kwanzaa at the second annual Kwanzaa crawl trip. Student Trustee Portillo also had the opportunity to attend the annual NYCCT conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. She congratulated Trustees Pagdanganan and Morgo for receiving awards, adding it was an honor to be part of their special moment. At the conference she met other student trustees from different SUNY community colleges, who had the opportunity to share their experience with one another in regards to their roles as student trustees. This opportunity gave her more insight about her role as student trustee, and what is expected from her in the next couple of months. She thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Chair Murray moved to the Chair's report. Chair Murray shared he also had the opportunity to attend the NYCCT conference in Saratoga Springs. He said it was nice to be able to join President Bonahue and other Trustees to watch Trustees Pagdanganan and Morgo receive an award for their service. The Trustees also met other trustees from SUNY schools and were able share thoughts on issues and plans to collaborate when issues are presented at the State level that need some uniform opposition or support. He asked that if anyone had not yet responded to the survey for the retreat date to please do so they could finalize the date. He added the retreat is very important, and retreats have been very successful in the past. It's an opportunity to take a long-term view of what they are doing as a Board, as opposed to dealing with the business they have to deal with at every meeting.

Chair Murray moved to the President's report.

President Bonahue updated the Trustees on Public Safety. In the wake of the incident that happened on the Grant Campus in October, there is a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, with representatives from the Suffolk County Police Department to follow up on that incident. Leadership from the 3rd Precinct, the Academy and Suffolk County Emergency Services are expected to attend. The agenda will include how they can better coordinate responses in the case of an emergency, clarify procedures, assist the police with knowing more about the College's open campus, how it works on a day-to-day basis, and better let the college community know what to expect. The conversations

regarding public safety have led the leadership team to review the status of the surveillance cameras on all three campuses. There are over 350 cameras on all campuses. The cameras were installed over many years, as part of different projects. Over 80% are in good working order. About 60 of those 350 do not work. The College has allocated some funds to figure out whether it's a hardware or a networking issue. In some cases, the cameras were installed as part of a building project, but never networked with any plan for activation.

President Bonahue reviewed enrollment. After the October board meeting, there was an article in Newsday highlighting the enrollment gains and losses within the SUNY system. The article used the SUNY system's report on census data enrollments, which exclude students who are enrolling in late start classes. The College reviewed the data as it considers the goals set for increasing both headcount and FTE. It saw increases in both head count and FTE, and which is much better than a year ago when the College was seeing a decrease in the fall. Interim VP Greene provided a new side-by-side summary of head count and enrollment metrics, showing that total FTE (total number of classes taken by the total number of students) increased by approximately 1.5% close to the 2% goal. The head count enrollment also increased but not as strong. The State is not funding currently on an enrollment basis. The primary impact has to do with tuition revenues; once students are at a full-time enrollment (12 credits), they can take the additional credits for free. The FTE is helpful; however, it does help explain some of the disconnect between the increase in enrollment and the fact that the revenues have not caught up with the increase in enrollment.

In regards to Student Affairs, President Bonahue reported that the U.S. Department of Education has been working for years on an update of the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Usually the window for applying for financial aid opens in October; however, the new version of the FAFSA has not even been released. The new FAFSA has to be released by the end of December. At that point, the College's IT staff is ready to ensure that the College's IT systems are compliant with the new application. The financial aid offices at all campuses are ready to review and begin internal training to financial aid staff.

For Academic Affairs, reported that Dr. Irene Rios has stepped in to serve as the Interim VP for Academic Affairs. She has immediately gotten involved in the ASAP Grant from SUNY, and has been a great collaborator for the Executive Deans and for the Academic Affairs staff. New programs that commence in the spring semester are the Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate and the new degree program in Surgical Technology.

For the Facilities and institutional partnerships update, President Bonahue shared that the National Offshore Wind Training Center has continued to deliver training at the Grant Campus. The initial licensing agreement will expire in the spring, and there will likely be some delay in the renovation of the County's Crooked Hill Road Community Training Center that will be the long-term home for NOWTC. The College has been asked to extend the initial agreement, to rent some classroom space, and also to allow use of the pool and some additional kinds of training opportunities for those in-service

workers already on the job for retraining. He noted that the first wind turbine erected out off the coast of Montauk is now generating and for the first time is bringing wind energy into Long Island.

The College continues to explore with National Grid the potential for a significant geothermal project on the Grant campus. National Grid has asked permission to drill a test well on the Grant campus in January. The College is working on the contract with details for where and when they could do so without disrupting the campus. Next week National Grid is hosting a community event to share information about geothermal upgrades for residents along Wicks Road, to try and develop interest. National Grid also keeps the State apprised of their work and as their feasibility studies and financial planning becomes more detailed. The College will review it carefully to model and project how the project could accelerate and pay for some of the equipment replacements that it knows will be needed on the Grant campus.

In regards to the Financial update, President Bonahue said the College continues to work on its deficit, has been continually reviewing every vacancy that comes open due to retirement or resignation, and has made some hard decisions. As of this month, the College has a plan to absorb over twenty positions that have come open, and to delay consideration for posting some others. Positions are at all levels, from classified staff, technical staff, administrators, a small number of non-instructional FA positions. Based on numbers as of yesterday, this will be a potential savings of about \$3M this year and going forward.

In terms of Operations, the College is also continuing to emphasize efficiency and how it can optimize operations to find savings. Many departments have a computer classroom where twenty computers for example are loaded in with software needed for that department. However, if that classroom is only in use for, three or four sections out of a week, the College should be able to find ways to combine those resources that are held by different classrooms. It requires everyone to understand that efficiency is at a premium. Ultimately, it will mean that the College has to maintain and replace fewer computers, resulting in a substantial savings.

President Bonahue reported on current Advocacy efforts coming out of the community college trustees and the NYCCAP presidents. He reviewed handouts regarding the current ask for the community college system from NYCCAP, NYSUT and the SUNY system. It is an ask that the State close the gap between the funding levels that the counties are providing, including the charge backs that go from the counties to every other county, and the levels of funding that the State should be providing to community colleges if it were following the funding model that had been proposed from the outset of 33% from the County, 33% from the State and 33% from the students. The ask is \$97M in operating support for community colleges. The State has been very supportive of the university system as part of Governor Hochul's plan to have flagship universities, but many of the baccalaureate colleges have removed and lowered their entry requirements and are acting much more like open access institutions. The community college presidents and the NYSUT trustees have said, if the State will commit to the \$97M that

is needed to close the gap to get back to 33% funding model, then the community colleges will guarantee to use that funding and operations in ways that absolutely promote workforce and economic development for the benefit of all of its counties, families and employers. Additionally, the presidents are trying to orchestrate a letter writing campaign. They are especially eager to solicit the help of major employers that rely on community college graduates, including, for instance, our hospitals that are major employers in each county.

Lastly, President Bonahue thanked the Trustees for their continued leadership, and wished them a happy holiday season. He shared with the Trustees the College's holiday card. The President's Office is again collaborating with the Foundation to distribute a holiday card. This will be the third year they do a holiday card with a solicitation. Last year it generated over \$5,000, which was double from the previous year, and hopes to improve again this year.

Chair Murray called for Roundtable. With no comments for Roundtable, Chair Murray called for a motion executive session to discuss the proposed, pending or current litigation and to seek or receive legal advice, which is made confidential by law. Trustee O'Connor so moved, Trustee Canary the motion to enter into Executive Session was approved unanimously. With no business to follow executive session the meeting was adjourned a 11:03 a.m.

The Board of Trustees next meeting is January 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alumni Room of the Brookhaven Gymnasium on the Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Canary
2nd Vice Chair