

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS, BRENTWOOD, NY  
BOARD ROOM, LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER  
MAY 8, 2025

The meeting was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board room of the Learning Resource Center, in Brentwood, NY.

PRESENT:

Shirley Coverdale	Chair
Gordon Canary	Vice Chair
Kevin O'Connor	Secretary
E. Christopher Murray	Trustee
Belinda Pagdanganan	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Jerome Bost	Trustee
John Dolan	Trustee
Danna Floyd	Student Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Ashley Pope	General Counsel
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	V.P. for Student Affairs
Angelica Rivera	V.P. for Human Resources
John Bullard	Associate Dean of Finance

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 4:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale moved to the swearing in of Dana Floyd as Student Trustee. Suffolk County Clerk Vincent Puleo swore in Student Trustee Floyd. After the signing of the oath of office, photos were taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale asked Carol Wickliffe-Campbell, Chief of Staff and Interim Associate Vice President for Workforce Development, for the recognition of guests. Ms. Wickliffe-Campbell recognized and thanked Tim Freeman, representing Legislator Bontempi and welcomed the many members of the Faculty Association for joining the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Public comments on agenda items: none.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee O'Connor so moved, Trustee Zarate seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously (9-0).

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale then introduced Associate Dean of Finance, John Bullard, to present the College's financial report. Mr. Bullard reported for FY'25 budget, there has not been much change since last month's meeting. Revenues are still strong and trending above budget. Unfortunately, expenditures are trending above the budget as well. That is due to some of the personnel costs and employee benefit costs that were discussed at the last meeting. The College is currently projected to be slightly over on the use of fund balance, but we will do whatever is necessary to stay within our budget allocation as we move towards the end of the year. For 2025-26, the College submitted its budget to the County Executive on April 22<sup>nd</sup> after it was approved at the last Board meeting. The College will present the budget to the Legislative Education and Diversity Committee on May 28th and the legislature is set to vote on the College's budget on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bullard then introduced Andrew Lee, a principal at Clifton, Larson Allen, to give the presentation on the College's audit for FY'2024. (please see attached presentation).

\*\*\*\*\*

President Bonahue then asked Dr. Patty Munsch, the Vice President for Student Affairs, to speak on the recent work of the Financial Aid office as it relates to the Audit findings. Dr. Munsch reported that the Audit findings are related to reporting, which is complex. One finding concerns verifying the accuracy of the data submitted to the Clearinghouse, and the other in discrepancies in reported enrollment which occur as a result of the College reporting certain data as separate branch campuses, while reporting other data as one institution. The Office of Financial Aid is working collaboratively on addressing the two Audit findings with the College's IT Department, as well as with an assigned representative from the National Student Clearinghouse, through which the College reports its data. VP Munsch is confident that the team will resolve both of the findings successfully.

President Bonahue then asked Shady Azzam-Gomez, Vice President for Information Technology Services, to speak concerning the audit findings which relate to the College's Information Security policies. The Audit findings asked us to review our access controls, which the College has in place, but they are not sufficiently documented through a policy and a procedure. Therefore, we are working on a policy and procedure to document our practices, and focusing specifically on ensuring that employee's access to certain systems is terminated if the employee switches departments/functional areas. We will be reviewing employees' access every 6 months, and will work with the functional groups to ensure that both the departments and ITS are up to date on all users who should and should not have access to each group's systems. The Audit also addressed a lack of policy on replacing or making changes to our networks. We have a procedure to address these processes, but no formal policy.

We have therefore added this policy to our agenda, and should have it in place by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

President Bonahue provided an overview of College Resolutions 2025.22 to 2025.32, which included two resolutions concerning accepting federal work study funding for our students. Dr. Bonahue mentioned that the College recently learned that in its fiscal 2026 budget, the Trump Administration has recommended cutting the Work Study Program by over 80%. Currently the program supports 185 students for some work hours each week, usually on campus, and for many of them it's their first job, and a valuable experience.

Dr. Bonahue also pointed out that Resolutions 2025.28 and 2025.29 would allow the College to accept and allocate three quarters of a million dollars for the supplemental educational and opportunity grant, which provides supplemental funds for our neediest students, students whose financial situation is so dire that it qualifies them not only for Pell grant, but also for supplemental funds. This program serves 1,721 students. We learned this week that proposed budget for 2026, which is currently being reviewed in the House, would remove this program entirely.

Dr. Bonahue asked Vice President Munsch to speak concerning proposed Resolution No. 2025.32, concerning the change to the student meal plan. Dr. Munsch explained that the Food Services Committee recommends that we expand our meal plan opportunity for our students to utilize meal plans at whatever point they are on campus, no matter how many credits they are taking from us, and to support the meal plan. In support of other recommendations coming from the students, we also plan to offer new dining options at Ammerman and Grant campuses. Dr. Munsch further explained that the students felt very strongly that the current meal plan did not have sufficient funds in it and should be increased. Notably, for some students the meal plan is covered by their financial aid, and students see it as an opportunity to eat on campus. In response to a question from Trustee Canary, VP Munsch explained that the Eastern Campus food service continues to be managed by the Student Association, and not by Aramark. Peconic Café continues to operate. There is no meal plan on the Eastern Campus, it's a self-operated food service, although students have expressed interest. However, students will have an opportunity to use Toast, a software system that accepts apple pay, which is in high demand by students.

Chair Coverdale called for approval of College Resolutions No. 2025.22 through 2025.32. Trustee Bost so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to approve College Resolutions No. 2025.22 through 2025.32 was approved unanimously (9-0).

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025.22 – Setting Dates, Times and Locations of 2025–2026 Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

**RESOLVED**, that during the academic year 2025–2026, meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the following dates:

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>
September 18, 2025	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
October 16, 2025	Media Room, Culinary Arts Center Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
November 13, 2025 <i>Retreat</i>	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
December 11, 2025	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
January 15, 2026	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm
February 19, 2026	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
March 19, 2026	Lecture Hall, Montaukett Learning Resource Center Eastern Campus, Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
April 16, 2026	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm
May 14, 2026	Board Room, Learning Resource Center Grant Campus, Brentwood, New York	4:00 pm
June 18, 2026	Lecture Hall, Montaukett Learning Resource Center Eastern Campus, Riverhead, New York	4:00 pm
August 20, 2026 *	Alumni Room, Brookhaven Gymnasium Ammerman Campus, Selden, New York	4:00 pm

1. There is no meeting scheduled for July.

\* Subject to change on County Legislative action on the College Budget.

Dated: 5/8/2025

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.23 – Adopting Class Size Proposals for CUL120 and CUL132**

**WHEREAS**, there are specific class size provisions as set forth in Appendix H of the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Suffolk, Suffolk County Community College and the Faculty Association that charges the Class Size Committee to review and propose class sizes, and

**WHEREAS**, the Class Size Committee convened, reviewed, and has recommended an increase in the seat limits for the following courses, as outlined below:

Course	Current Seat Limit	Revised Seat Limit
CUL120: Hospitality Marketing	27	35
CUL132: Hospitality Supervision	23	35

, and

**WHEREAS**, the recommendations of the Class Size Committee were submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who accepted the recommendations, and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the class size provisions of Appendix H of the Faculty Association collective bargaining agreement, the recommendations of the Class Size Committee must thereafter be submitted to the College's Board of Trustees for approval, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Class Size proposals to take effect in Fall 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.24 – Accepting a Grant Award from the County of Suffolk for a Marsh Restoration Field Monitoring, Data Collection, and Analysis Service Contract**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant award in the amount of \$145,605 from the County of Suffolk, a municipal corporation of the State of New York, acting through its duly constituted Department of Economic Development and Planning, for a Marsh Restoration, Field Monitoring, Data Collection, and Analysis Service Contract, for the period of April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College has been designated as the Contractor to receive funds from the County to conduct marsh restoration field monitoring, data collection, and analysis services, for the Phase I Enhancing Coastal Resiliency through Integrated Marsh Management Project, and

**WHEREAS**, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that said grant award, in the amount of \$145,605, from the County of Suffolk, a municipal corporation of the State of New York, acting through its duly constituted Department of Economic Development and Planning, for a Marsh Restoration, Field Monitoring, Data Collection, and Analysis Service Contract, for the

period of April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, is hereby accepted, and the College President, or his designee, is authorized and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, that the 2024–25 College operating budget be amended to reflect the applicable portion of this grant award.

Project Directors: Dr. Kellie McCartin, Assistant Professor, Marine Biology  
Amy Dries, Co-Principal Investigator, Professional Assistant 1, Biology

Note: No Full-Time position

\*\*\*\*\*

**REOLUTION NO.2025.25 – Accepting a Grant from the State University of New York (SUNY) for the SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellowship**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College has received a grant in the amount of \$20,000, from the State University of New York for the SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellowship for the period of September 9, 2024 through July 31, 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, the fellowship will offer one full-time SUNY faculty instructor the opportunity to gain advanced experience and foster expertise in simulation education, and

**WHEREAS**, matching funds are not required, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that a grant, in the amount of \$20,000, from the State University of New York (SUNY), for the SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellowship, for the period of September 9, 2024 through July 31, 2025, is hereby accepted, and that the College President, or his designee, is authorized to execute and empowered to execute any necessary documentation, including a contract, with the administering agency, in such form as shall be approved by the College General Counsel, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the 2024–25 College operating budget be amended to reflect the grant award.

Project Director: Dr. Cheryl Shaffer, College Associate Dean of Nursing

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION 2025.26 – Accepting a Federal Grant for the 2025–2026 Federal Work Study Program (FWSP)**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College has applied to participate in the Federal Work Study Program (FWSP) authorized under Part C of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Education Amendments, and

**WHEREAS**, the application has been approved in the amount of \$478,706 and

**WHEREAS**, the federal regulations allow the sum of \$75,000 or 10 percent of the allocation, whichever is less, to be set aside for the Job Locator & Development Program, and

**WHEREAS**, this federal grant must be matched by a 25 percent contribution, and

**WHEREAS**, amendments to the law became effective in October 1986 allowing five percent administrative expense allowance based on total student expenditures for FWSP, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the total federal allotment of 2025–2026 Federal Work Study Program in the amount of \$478,706 and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that \$47,871 be set aside for Job Locator Program, with the College matching contribution of 20 percent to be provided by in-kind contributions, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Federal Work Study Program's five percent administrative allowance be charged against FWSP and deposited in the appropriate account, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the On-Campus Work Study Program shall continue to be matched by a 25 percent contribution by the College and that the Off-Campus Work Study Program be matched by a 25 percent contribution from the respective participating off-campus agencies, except for the Community Service Employment, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the off-campus agencies shall contribute their respective shares of Employer's FICA and Workmen's Compensation except for the Community Service Employment.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.27 – Approving the Allocation of the 2025–2026 Federal Work Study Program (FWSP)**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College is composed of three campuses, and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Aid Office on each campus offers financial assistance via the Federal Work Study Program, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the following distribution of the 2025–2026 Federal Work Study funds by campus is hereby approved.

Original FWSP Federal Allocation	\$478,706
Less: Transfer to Job Locator Program	<u>-47,871</u>
Remaining CWSP Federal Allocation	\$430,835
Plus: 25% of Institutional Share of Student Wages	<u>+ 107,709</u>

Total FWSP Funds Available	\$538,544
Less: 5% Admin Expense Allowance of Campus Wages	<u>- 23,935</u>
Total Student Wages Available	\$514,609

Campus Wage Distribution of Federal College Work Study Allocation

Ammerman Campus	(44%)	\$226,428
Grant Campus	(42%)	\$216,136
Eastern Campus	(14%)	<u>\$ 72,045</u>
Total Campus Wage Distributions		\$514,609

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.28 – Accepting a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) for 2025–2026**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College has applied to participate in the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program as authorized under Subpart 2, Part A of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and as amended by the Education Amendments,

**WHEREAS**, the application has been approved in the amount of \$771,758, and

**WHEREAS**, amendments to the law became effective in October 1986 allowing a five percent administrative expense allowance based on total expenditures for FSEOG, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the 2025–2026 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$771,758 be accepted, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant allotment be deposited in the appropriate accounts, after reducing that allotment with five percent of FSEOG expenditures as administrative expense being charged to the FSEOG account.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.29 – Approving the Allocation of the 2025–2026 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG)**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College is composed of three campuses, and

**WHEREAS**, the Financial Aid Office on each campus offers financial assistance via the FSEOG program, be it therefore



**RESOLVED**, that the following distribution of the 2025–2026 FSEOG funds by campus is hereby approved.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

Federal SEOG Allocation	\$771,758
Less 5% Administrative Expense for Grants	\$-38,588
Remaining SEOG Allocation for Student Grant Disbursement	\$733,170

Campus Distribution of SEOG Grants

Ammerman Campus	(44%)	\$322,595
Grant Campus	(42%)	\$307,931
Eastern Campus	(14%)	\$102,644
Total of College Grants		\$733,170

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.30 - Awarding a Contract for the Roof Replacement of the Smithtown Science Building on the Ammerman Campus (CP 2149)**

**WHEREAS**, the construction phase of capital project No.2149 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 roof replacement at the Smithtown Science building on the Ammerman Campus were solicited and opened on April 24, 2025 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, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the College President or his designee is authorized to enter into a contract with Interboro Contracting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,971,250.00 for the Roof Replacement contract of the Smithtown Science Building at the Ammerman Campus, upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the College General Counsel.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.31 – Accepting the Independent Auditor’s Report for the Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County Community College contracted with the independent CPA firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, to perform an annual audit of the financial operations, and

**WHEREAS**, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP has submitted an independent audit report to the College, and

**WHEREAS**, the Interim Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs has reviewed the report and recommends that it be accepted, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees accepts the independent audit report prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.32 – Authorizing a Change in the Student Charge for Participation in the Aramark Semester Meal Plan**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 2015.3 duly adopted on April 9, 2015, the Board of Trustees authorized the College to impose a nonrefundable charge of \$100.00 upon students on the Michael J. Grant and Ammerman Campuses enrolled for nine (9) or more credits in a semester for participation in the Aramark Semester Meal Plan, under which participating students receive a nonrefundable meal card/balance to be used for food and vending transactions on said campuses, and

**WHEREAS**, following consideration of student feedback, the food service committee and Student Affairs leadership recommended changing the meal plan charge to a sliding scale corresponding to the number of on-campus credits for which a student is registered, beginning with the Fall 2025 semester, and

**WHEREAS**, the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs concur and recommend this change, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, effective beginning the Fall 2025 semester, the College is hereby authorized to impose a nonrefundable charge corresponding to number of registered on-campus credits in a semester, as reflected below, upon students enrolled in classes on the Michael J. Grant and Ammerman Campuses that begin before 4:00 p.m. in a semester for participation in the Aramark Semester Meal Plan:

<b>Number of On-Campus Credits</b>	<b>Semester Meal Plan Charge</b>
Students registered for 3–5.5 credits	\$25
Students registered for 6–8.5 credits	\$50
Students registered for 9–11.5 credits	\$100
Students registered for 12 or more credits	\$150

and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs is authorized to promulgate procedures for the implementation and management of such charge, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that such charge shall not be considered a fee and shall not be reimbursable under any employee tuition reimbursement plan.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale called for the Committee reports.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported for the Student Success Committee. The committee met on April 28th. The meeting focused on the implementation of a new college-wide CARE team model to address student concerns and support student success. This team consists of college-wide administrators who meet regularly to gather and review information about at-risk students and deploy interventions to assist. Co-chairs, Dr. Julia Kiley, Director of Mental Health and Wellness Services, and Jennifer Forney, Director of Disability Services presented the model which includes a national research and standardized rubric for assessing student mental health and emotional well-being and discuss its positive impact and collaboration with various departments. The team also shared their plans for expanding outreach, improving the referral process and implementing a new software to streamline case management.

Vice Chair Canary reported for the Governance Committee. The committee met on May 5th. Discussion was had about selecting a Trustee to receive nominations for the slate of officers to be voted on at the June 12th meeting. Chair Coverdale will reach out to the Trustee discussed to see if they will be able to take on this task.

General Counsel Ashley Pope explained a new, proposed procedure for publishing approved board resolutions on the College website. Rather than printing individual resolutions for Board officer signature, Legal Affairs will generate a summary of action taken, and authenticate the accuracy of same, similar to the method that the SUNY Board of Trustees currently uses. This will reduce reliance on paper, room for error, and the need for last minute changes or reprints based on which BOT officer attends each meeting. The Committee agreed and going forward Legal Affairs will generate the summary of action for timely posting. General Counsel Pope reviewed an updated BOT Self-Assessment Policy, which has been reviewed as part of the ongoing comprehensive policy review. The updates align with the expectations of Middle States Standard VII. The Committee agreed with GC Pope's recommendations, and a formal resolution to approve the updated policy will be included on the agenda for the June 12, 2025 meeting for the Board's consideration. There was no new business brought to the Committee's attention. The next Governance Committee meeting will be Monday, June 9th. Agenda items will include: Continuation of Policy Updates. Additional items may be identified prior to the next meeting, and added to the Agenda as needed.

Trustee Canary then asked if he could give a quick update on the Board self-assessment findings. In the area of mission and planning activities, trustees identified areas of opportunity as follows: trustees desire to maximize opportunities for feedback from meetings with the community groups to ensure college plans are responsive to community needs. The College's current strategic plan covers 2022 through 2027. As the College nears the end of the current plan and begins development of a new

strategic plan, this presents an opportunity to consider and identify relevant goals and priorities. In the area of policy, Trustees identified areas of opportunity as follows, the current comprehensive policy review and update taking place presents an opportunity to ensure policies are up to date, and that policy roles are appropriately delineated. Trustees remain committed to ensuring conflicts of interest policies are up to date and upheld. In the area of community relations and advocacy, Trustees noted a current board policy governs flow of communication to ensure questions, concerns, and requests are referred for appropriate follow up. Trustees appreciate receiving information and calendars of events for the robust programming taking place across all campuses and in support of the College. Other areas of opportunity identified include leveraging external professional development opportunities for trustees to receive updates on best practices, adjusting board meeting times to 4:00 p.m. to support working trustees ability to attend meetings, a format for new trustees orientation activities, maximizing opportunity for trustees to join or lead board of trustee committees, and including committee meeting information in the Board of Trustees Portal, so that trustees not on committees can receive and review this information outside of the public report out at the board meetings.

Trustee Pagdanganan reported for the Foundation. For the past two years, David Sperling's DREAM Foundation has committed to presenting 15 SUNY Suffolk students with a \$1,000 scholarship award. The second cohort of 15 DREAM scholars will be graduating at the end of this month. As a result of our strong partnership with the DREAM Foundation, they have made another commitment to award a third cohort of 15 scholars with \$1,000 each this fall. The Foundation has received its second \$25,000 sponsorship gift for a service repair bay in the new Automotive Technology Building, from Competition Automotive Group. Maggie Eng-Salvaggio continues to meet with Long Island owners and dealerships to discuss sponsorship opportunities. By the end of this week, all 173 of our graduating nursing students from the class of 2025, will have completed their application to take their N-CLEX licensure exams. The cost for this exam was underwritten by funds raised from the Jane F. Shearer School of Nursing luncheon. At the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary nurse pinning ceremony, taking place on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> this class of graduates will be the first to receive a pin that includes reference to the Jane F. Shearer School of Nursing as part of its design. This year's pins are being given as a gift to each graduate, with the cost for these pins being underwritten by the Shearer and Vidovich families. Last Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, College governance and the Foundation hosted the annual faculty appreciation luncheon to recognize the 2023 and 2024 recipients of SUNY Chancellor's Awards as well as Governance Awards for Excellence and Service. During the program, twelve individuals were recognized for their outstanding achievements and exemplary commitment to the college and its students.

Sean Tvelia, Chair of the Association's Board of Directors reported for the Association. The Board of Directors met on April 29<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting the Board discussed the current budget, how the campus developed their budget and areas for improvement. Additionally, the Board continues to discuss the structure and relationship between the board and the campus offices that administer the student activities fee and revisions of the bylaws that are continuing.

Student Trustee Floyd reported that during her campaign for student trustee, she had met with a few of the SGA students from Eastern and Ammerman campuses. They discussed how they could bring the three campus student governments together and work as one team. She plans to spearhead an initiative where they can have meetings every semester, with the goal of getting on the same page and put forth initiatives for all three campuses. She noted that even though there are three separate campuses, it is all one college community.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale moved to the Chair's report. She recognized the six SUNY Chancellor awardees, noting the SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are conferred to acknowledge and provide statewide system-level recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. Through these awards, SUNY publicly proclaims its pride in the accomplishment and dedication of its instructional faculty, librarians, and professional staff. She recognized and congratulated the six awardees as follows: Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Joseph Gansrow: Professor of English at the Michael J. Grant Campus; Excellence in Faculty Service: Dr. Diane Fabian, Professor and Academic Chair of Commerce and Health Careers at the Eastern Campus, and Dr. Christine Davidson, Professor of Mathematics at the Ammerman campus; Excellence in Professional Service: Lisa Behnke, Professional Assistant II, Academic Advisement and Mentoring Center at the Ammerman campus; Excellence in Librarianship: Bruce Seger, Professor of Library Services at the Michael J. Grant campus; Excellence in Classified Service: Maggie Eng-Salvaggio, College Gifts Coordinator.

Lastly, she announced the nomination process for Board Officers for 2025-2026 will be the same process as last year, and she will be reaching out to the trustees.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale moved to the President's report. President Bonahue reported on the following:

*Enrollment Update:*

President Bonahue noted the College is ending the spring semester with enrollment growth of about 7%. The College hopes to maintain that momentum into the summer. President Bonahue then reviewed the Enrollment Update handout, currently enrollment for summer and the beginnings of fall are up 15%. He noted that deregistration has not yet occurred, however the College is happy to see that compared to last year the student enrollment looks good. Also, in regards to things that are contributing to enrollment growth, he gave an update on the unified call center, which he originally mentioned in the fall. Currently, a call coming in to any campus will now be answered by the next available representative, regardless of which campus the representative is on, which allows us to smooth out bottlenecks. The College has instituted some training so that the call center employees are not just answering phones, they're answering questions as they now have some basic information about almost all of the student

facing services, such as admissions, student records, financial aid, etc. The Ammerman campus never had a call center, and so calls used to be routed to specific offices. For the first eight weeks of the spring semester, the College received just under 13,000 phone calls, which are basically requests for information. The staff have been able to handle 11,200 of those for an answer rate of 86%. The College considers this a great performance considering that the Ammerman campus, the largest campus, never had a call center, and probably there were some calls that were going unanswered. The College believes this new focus on getting students information more quickly, is helping our enrollment numbers as well.

#### *Academic Affairs:*

The College continues to see a lot of interest in the Beacon Program, where local high school students can earn college credit through Suffolk. President Bonahue reviewed an enrollment report for the program which shows small but continued growth over the last three years in both number of student and the number of courses they are taking. He noted that earning college credit while a student is still in high school can represent tremendous savings for a family. The College's yield from the Beacon Program has historically been rather low for some years, it is now around 10%. The College would like to increase that yield and is planning to step up communications in partnership with school districts that let families know of this opportunity. He thanked and recognized Trustee Dolan, who's been very active in promoting the Beacon Program with many school districts and their superintendents.

#### *Budget & Advocacy:*

President Bonahue shared the College had just learned today that it has been exempted from the MTA tax. He believes that all of the constant advocacy efforts on behalf of the College led to this decision. He thanked all the trustees, legislators, the Faculty Association and administrators for their continued support and advocacy on behalf of the College. This will save the College about \$500K a year.

#### *Year-End Celebrations:*

Last Friday, the College celebrated the Governance and Chancellor Award winners. The College also received an award from the American Association of Community Colleges. It was nominated for a best practice award in the area of college corporate partnership, the College was one of four awardees in the country. The College's partnership with Northwell Health was recognized. Although the College did not win the top prize it was great for the College to be recognized.

For the second year in a row, the College learned that it has a Jack Kent Cook scholarship winner. This is a premier scholarship for community college transfer students. It provides up to \$55,000 a year to support community college transfer students. The recipient is Udiya Diwanamuni who is a physics major, she is one of 90 winners of this highest scholarship honor for community college students. She has applications out to several Ivy League and other top schools.

#### *Looking Ahead:*

- Monday, May 19th the Annual Honors Convocation will take place at the Shea Theater of the Ammerman campus. County Executive Romaine, and several legislators are expected to attend.
- Tuesday, May 20th is the ELL Graduation at the Van Nostrand Theater at the Grant Campus.
- Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> is Commencement for the College, with two ceremonies, the first at 10:00 a.m. where Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey is expected to bring greetings and the second at 2:00 p.m. where County Executive Romaine has agreed to bring greetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Public Comments were given by Dr. Dante Morelli, President of the Faculty Association. Dr. Morelli addressed the board, mentioning that the number of full-time faculty has declined over the years, even as enrollment rose to the 2021 levels. He mentioned that some retirees, who have joined the meeting today, have contributed to the college for 30, 40, and even 50 years. He spoke about the value of the Faculty Association membership, their retirees and their concerns regarding the countywide health plan with EMHP that was discussed at the April board meeting. This discussion caused confusion and anger among the membership, who wondered if their insurance coverage would be terminated. He called for the Board to focus on pressing concerns, such as building infrastructure, including HVAC issues at the Ammerman Campus. The union called for the Board to prioritize transparency in all discussions, especially those affecting their healthcare, and to take immediate action to address longstanding infrastructure challenges.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property, and to seek or receive legal advice, which is made confidential by law. Trustee Bost so moved, Trustee Dolan seconded. The motion to enter into Executive Session was approved unanimously (9-0).

Chair Coverdale requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Bost so moved, Trustee Zarate seconded. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously (9-0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is June 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Montaukett Learning Resource Center on the Eastern Campus, Riverhead, New York.

\*\*\*\*\*

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin O'Connor  
Secretary