

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 1, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Hannah Durand; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Stephanie Aldrich; Dr. Agatha Awuah; Kathy D’Aprix; Anne DeLand; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O’Connor; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Timothy Stedman; Nina Tamrowski; Dr. Christopher Thuot; Susan Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Dr. Eunice Williams

Call to Order

At 8:42 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Owens, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

No additional report at this time.

Education Committee

No additional report at this time.

Student Government Update

Trustee Durand noted that there are new officers starting for the spring 2023 semester and work continues to develop a calendar of events. The SGA members are looking for a better online platform to assist with pushing information out to students. Unity Day is coming up on February 22 and we are pleased to be hosting, among other events, a Diversity Silent Disco.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D’Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. She began by stating that alumni and fundraising efforts are in full swing with Russ Corbin leading those efforts. We began with an Architecture event and have scheduled a Syracuse Crunch game, a healthcare alumni event, and an event at Syracuse Stage. Efforts continue to help build community, including a recent visit to GiGi’s Playhouse which supports children with autism. This will be a strong connection to our College for Living program. There is now a student representative on the OCCF Board and Megan Detor has joined the team as a Coordinator of the OCC Foundation office. The December fundraiser hosted by the Hospitality Department and supported by Key Bank was a success. We also have scheduled a February 23 event dress performance at the Redhouse with invitations to follow. Along with the College’s

student success efforts, funds raised from upcoming events will be used for student success initiatives with a DEI focus. Col. Eileen Collins has been confirmed for a visit to campus in conjunction with the Girl Scouts. It is a day-long event on campus with over 500 interested students.

President's Report

SUNY Updates & Advocacy

Dr. Hilton began his report by thanking Dr. Eunice Williams who has taken on the role of Interim Vice President of Human Resources with the retirement of Bridget Scholl. Mark Manning is leading the search for her replacement. Thanks to Sue Tormey for her assistance with the development of the Legislative Priorities document and to Roger Mirabito for his development of the Report to the Community, which Trustees have a copy of. Dr. Hilton continued with an update on matters related to county, state, and federal support. Last semester, the Onondaga County legislature generously approved capital funding of over \$35 million. We are very thankful for their support and wait anxiously to learn if the state will match those funds to give us a total of almost \$70M. These capital funds will be used for various projects, including renovation of the academic spaces where we train our healthcare students, a Workforce Development Lab, and much needed work to our campus infrastructure. Additionally, \$5 million of the county capital funds, and \$5 million of the state capital funds of the match will be used for the construction of our clean room. We are also thankful for the federal support that Senator Schumer provided to us via the Omnibus Bill that was recently passed in Congress with an additional \$2 million in funding for equipment that will help us expand and enhance our healthcare programs. Next, I would like to provide three updates related to the State University of New York. First, we are very fortunate to have a new chancellor. Dr. John King began his tenure this month. I have spoken with Dr. King and he confirmed that he will be visiting all of the SUNY campuses. We are looking forward to him visiting OCC in the next month or so. In December, at the SUNY CC Presidents meeting we discussed taking a coordinated effort regarding providing talent for the semiconductor industry. We are still working on what the effort will look like, but the intent is to provide Micron and other semiconductor companies in NY a structured way to understand our program offerings and recruit talent. Lastly, the advocacy agenda for additional funding at the state level continues. You may remember that the agenda includes three items: making the floor permanent, an additional increase in funding of 4% for next year, and an additional \$60 million to support workforce and enrollment efforts.

Community Partners Update

Dr. Hilton continued his report on OCC's Community Partners. As you may recall, OCC is a part of the Amazon Career Choice Program. Amazon pays for their employees' tuition upfront to attend OCC. I am happy to report that we have five individuals at present in the program who will be joining us as students at OCC this spring semester. With regards to Micron, you may recall that several of us visited Virginia in December. During the visit we were able to tour Micron's Manassas chip fabrication plant. Additionally, we were able to connect with colleagues from Norfolk State University and Northern Virginia Community College. Both institutions are educational partners with Micron. We will be using what we learned from this trip to continue to build out our academic offerings, our plans for the clean room here at OCC, and our community engagement events such as Chip Camp.

Student Success Challenge

I am happy to report that new student enrollment for the spring semester is up 27% which is the equivalent of 47 students. We are grateful for the work that our Enrollment Management team does under the leadership of Vice President Sarah Gaffney. We know that these gains in new student enrollment are only one side of our enrollment picture. The other side, and probably more important piece of enrollment is student success, specifically retaining and graduating the students we have. To focus the College on student success, our leadership team spent the fall semester participating in an Aspen Institute College Excellence Program to engage us in activities focused on the goal of improving student outcomes. Specifically, we learned how to engage in the development of actionable next steps to strengthen the alignment between the Executive Council operations and our specific Student Success Challenge which is to Close the Achievement Gap. Our goal, as highlighted in the OCC 2021-2026 Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, is to reduce the achievement gap by 50% by 2026. To that end, there will be various initiatives that we will be undertaking over the next three years to accomplish our goal. I believe everyone at the College has a role to play in improving the student success of our underrepresented minority students and first-generation students. I also believe based on my experience that our efforts will lead to greater student success for all students at OCC. One next step is that myself and a few of our trustees will be participating in the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program during the spring semester to identify opportunities for strengthening board engagement in the College's student success agenda, aligning the work of the board to the College's goals for student success, and addressing overcoming challenges in our large-scale institutional change. The progress to achieving this very important student success will be tracked via a student success challenge dashboard and reported on in various venues over the next three years. I look forward to a collective and collaborative path forward in improving the student success of our OCC students.

Chair's Report

Honorary Degree, Founder's, and Trustee Award Nominations

Trustee Sindoni reminded Trustees that it is time for nominations for the Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Awards. Any suggestions should be sent to Julie Hart by February 25, 2022.

Retreat – April 21, 2023

Trustee Sindoni commented that the date for the Board of Trustees spring retreat is scheduled for **April 21, 2023**. He anticipates a ½ day program to allow for an in-depth look at the budget and enrollment.

*Reappointment of Lori Dietz as Director of the OCC Housing Development Corporation

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Mello, the resolution to reappoint Lori Dietz as Director of the OCC Housing Development Corporation was unanimously approved.

Audit Presentation by The Bonadio Group

Trustee Sindoni introduced Mark Manning, Chief Financial Officer, who, in turn, introduced Jonathan Miller and Shelby Reeves from The Bonadio Group. Mr. Miller presented the 2022 OCC annual financial audit and explained the responsibilities of the audit firm and the findings of the same. Various tests and assessments were performed, and it was noted that the firm found

no material weaknesses or deficiencies, and that business systems are operating effectively and that the financial information the Board of Trustees regularly receives is appropriate.

*Receipt of the 2022 Onondaga Community College Audit

On motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Alicea, receipt of the 2022 Onondaga Community College Audit was unanimously approved.

Executive Session

At 9:40 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called for a motion to enter into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105, Article 7f of the Public Officers Law to discuss financial matters. **On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Owens, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:25 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Mello, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to move out of Executive Session and return to the board meeting.**

There being no further business, Trustee Sindoni adjourned the board meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees