

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Chair**

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Haley Madej; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: 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; Erika Sheets; Olin Stratton; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Monifa Wilcox; Dr. Eunice Williams

Call to Order

At 8:00 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the Education Committee meeting to order.

Faculty Senate

Trustee Alicea introduced Olin Stratton, Faculty Senate President, to provide an update. Professor Stratton mentioned that faculty are excited to be back in the classroom for the spring semester. The Faculty Senate passed some initiatives this past fall to help English Language Learner students, which includes extended times on exams. The Senate charged an Ad Hoc committee to review the Faculty Emeritus designation and provided a list of suggestions to the President for his review, knowing that the Board of Trustees has final approval. For the spring semester, a new system has been put in place for the plenaries, making them more inclusive by including invitations to professional administrators. This worked well for the January plenary as attendance was up. The Faculty Senate will discuss this format further, particularly as it comes to voting. Faculty liaisons have been selected for each school and discussions continue as to faculty advising. Advising can be difficult as Faculty aren’t here 12 months a year, but are content specialists so are important to the process. Work continues on DL’s – the number of students allowed per class – to determine what’s best for students and what remains profitable for the College. Provost Urtz charged department chairs with the conversation and they in turn asked the Senate to formally review it. Faculty also continue to advocate for release time instead of stipends, which will allow them to continue to do the external work needed as they struggle with overload and other things pulling on their time.

Academic Programs Update

Trustee Alicea introduced Anastasia Urtz, Provost & Senior Vice President, who turned the meeting over to David Furney, Dean of Instructional Services, to provide an update on new programs and micro-credentials in development. Mr. Furney explained that new programs anticipated for fall 2024 include Commercial/Heavy Equipment Certificate and AAS; Healthcare Administration AS online; Humanities & Social Sciences AA online; Health Sciences AS; Welding Certificate and AAS; and Teaching Assistant II & III Micro-credential. Mr. Furney continued with revised programs anticipated for fall 2024 which include Adolescent Education AA, Business Technology AAS, and Computer Information Systems AAS (with a Database and Networking Microcredential). Non-credit workforce development programs currently in process include FANUC Robotics Training; Phlebotomy (hybrid format); Pharmacy Technology online;

and Licensed Practical Nurse. Mr. Furney continued with two programs being deactivated, where deactivation will allow for the programs to be reviewed and potentially redone. These are Building Trades AAS and Geospatial Technology AAS. There is a program also being recommended for discontinuance – Apprentice Training: Electrical AAS. This program was already deactivated (Trustee Document #21-32), but they have made a final determination to discontinue it as well.

Resolution to Discontinue Academic Programs: Apprentice Training Electrical AAS
On motion by Trustee Sindoni and seconded by Trustee Owens, the resolution to discontinue Academic Programs: Apprentice Training: Electrical AAS, was unanimously approved.

Resolution to Deactivate Academic Programs: Apprentice Training Building Trades AAS and Geospatial Technology AAS
On motion by Trustee Mello and seconded by Trustee Owens, the resolution to deactivate Academic Programs: Apprentice Training Building Trades AAS and Geospatial Technology AAS was unanimously approved.

Schools Update

Dr. Scott Schuhert, Dean of Students, continued the report with a brief update on the new Schools model. He reviewed the information shared at the last board meeting about the logic behind the model, and then provided a brief snapshot of current enrollment within each school from spring of 2023 compared to spring of 2024. All are seeing increases with the exception of Liberal Arts & Sciences, which saw a 1.3% decrease. Areas within the Schools where they anticipate continued growth is that of student to staff ratios. For Fall 2023, the increase in enrollment caused those ratios to be larger than what was expected. Work continues to decrease those ratios as much as possible and to retain transferring students.

Student Success and Wellbeing Update

Dr. Schuhert continued with an update on Title IV guidance. He explained the Dear Colleague letter from November 7, 2023 and the protections clarified in that letters. He then reviewed OCC's compliance with the same, stating that the new standards have been implemented and we continue to work through this with the Bias Response Team and through our student conduct system. Dr. Schuhert then discussed the First Amendment situations occurring on campus and that our expectation is to follow the legal requirements and ways in which to address the situation.

Dr. Schuhert turned the presentation over to Erika Sheets, Director of Counseling and the Community Care Hub, who reviewed ways in which the College supports students in distress. She reviewed the federal education definition of homelessness and explained Syracuse's ranking of 5th in the country for housing shortages. Ms. Sheets continued with the current state of emergency housing in the area, including Cayuga, Onondaga and Oswego Counties, where homelessness is up 30% over last year, and family homelessness up 41%. Of those that are homeless, 75% have never been homeless before. In Onondaga County, transitional housing is full for several months, emergency housing is full, and low-income housing – apartment complexes and rooms and private apartments – are all full or have low availability. Ms. Sheets explained that the implications of this are students living in cars on campus and bathing at the YMCA; hygiene issues; food insecurity; lack of academic focus; and residence life situations. A comparison of fall and spring 2023 shows the urgency of this situation. The number of homeless

students referred to the Community Care Hub increased from 3 to 7; the number of students residing on campus over the age of 30 doubled from 3 to 6; and the number of homeless students staying in the residence halls during break periods more than doubled from 12 to 26. Ms. Sheets continued with a discussion on short and long-term planning. For the short term, we will focus on current students and develop a plan with the Department of Social Services, including a navigator on campus. The long-term plan includes developing options for housing-insecure families which includes single parents with young children. Ms. Sheets then discussed WeCARE, which is a committee on campus that focuses on the wellbeing and success of students on campus. She reviewed the procedures for submitting a concern and for fall 2023, 162 We CARE reports were submitted, an increase of 8% over the previous fall. Of those, 96 were referred to Counseling. Ms. Sheets then provided an overview of the services provided in the Counseling and Community Care Hub offices. For fall 2023, Counseling saw 68 crisis appointments, 239 mental health appointments, and 50 Lazer Success referrals. The Community Care Hub saw 3 AOD appointments, 177 food pantry visits, issued 241 bus passes and 539 meal passes. Ms. Sheets reviewed the intensity scale for the visits to Counseling and that the majority of visits are level 1 (low) at 46.7%, level 2 at 21%, and level 3 at 32.3%.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
Jaime Alicea
Chair, Education Committee