

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair, Board of Trustees

Trustees: Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens (videoconference); John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Anne DeLand; Kathy D'Aprix; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Dr. Pat Kenny; Kevin MacLachlan; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O'Connor; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Timothy Stedman; Olin Stratton; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Dr. Shawn Wiemann; Monifa Wilcox; Steve Wiley; Dr. Eunice Williams

Call to Order

At 8:34 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the Education Committee meeting to order.

Faculty Senate

Trustee Sindoni introduced Olin Stratton, incoming Faculty Senate President, to provide an update. Professor Stratton introduced himself to the Board of Trustees and thanked Professor Tamrowski, his predecessor, for her work the last four years. The landscape for faculty will be different in the fall and they are addressing that now. There are faculty leaving the college for other opportunities either at OCC or other colleges. We are now going from a full-time faculty of 142 to 107. With retirees, the College is losing a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge but are relieved that some are staying on as adjuncts which will assist with the transition. Professor Stratton continued with additional information on policies and procedures that the Senate is reviewing and offered his thanks to everyone for their work on enrollment. The College is seeing gains and it's a positive improvement.

New Business

Student Retention Strategies

Student Success Roles

Trustee Sindoni introduced Anastasia Urtz, Provost & Senior Vice President, who began her report with an update on Student Retention Strategies. She introduced Dr. Scott Schuhert, Dean of Students, to provide an overview on Student Success Roles. Dr. Schuhert provided an overview of the history behind altering the Schools model and the retention data that helped reinforce the decision. He then reviewed the four new schools which are: School of Arts, Communication, Business and Entrepreneurship; School of Health, Wellness and Human Services; School of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and School of Technology, Engineering and Computing. Dr. Schuhert then reviewed the staffing models for the new schools, bringing the student/advisor ratios to levels comparable to our opportunity programs. He reinforced that the decisions were research-based and are endorsed by the National Institute for Student Success at Georgia State University, utilize the Inside Track coaching methodology, and Achieving the Dream recommendations. Dr. Schuhert then reviewed the operational highlights including cohorts by major, special schools-wide engagement, partnering with special populations, early alerts in Lazer Success and predictive analytics.

Faculty Professional Development

Dr. Schuhert introduced David Furney, Dean, Instructional Services, to provide an update on Faculty Professional Development. Mr. Furney began with an overview of ACUE, an online credentialing program for faculty. He reviewed the 4 available micro-credentials in effective teaching practice and shared that to-date, OCC has had 103 participants and 43 full-certificate completers, of which 78% are full-time faculty. A survey of the participants shows that 100% would recommend the program to a colleague, modules were helpful in refining their teaching practice, and found the content relevant to their work. The faculty who completed the certifications also reported an increase in agreement that students can be successful in their courses and that instructors can influence how students perceive their intelligence. Mr. Furney continued his report with an overview of Quality Matters, another online teaching certification for faculty. He explained that this is a rigorous two-week course and faculty must complete and have their course approved for certification. So far, there have been 30 faculty participants. Mr. Furney then reviewed some upcoming initiatives within CTLI – the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation. There will be a new ACUE cohort, the College recently became members of NISOD – National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, and professional development institutes and communities of practice are being developed. Mr. Furney completed his report with an overview of digital badging through Credly.

Curriculum Innovation

Mr. Furney introduced Dr. Patrick Kenny and Dr. Shawn Wiemann, both faculty in Social Sciences at the College and Co-PI's for the Cornerstone for Living Program: LBL 101: Enhancing Student Learning and Retention. The grant, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Teagle Foundation, was a \$250,000 grant that the College was awarded from 2021-2023. The goals of the project were to create a common intellectual experience rooted in the liberal arts that would foster a sense of community for OCC students, increase persistence and retention for liberal arts students, and bring curricular coherence to the liberal arts degree and to the Gen Ed tracks in other degree programs. The program consisted of enduring questions and texts and included the course LBL 101: Introduction to the Liberal Arts. This is a three-credit class, capped at 20 students, and a required course for all Humanities students. The course provided an opportunity to foster engagement and community through a content-rich course with a first-year seminar component. The success of the program is noted through numerous presentations and a mention in a recent New York Times article. Moving forward, they will continue to collect data, encourage the class in other programs, apply for additional funding, and assist Teagle as they promote similar projects at other community colleges.

There being no further business, Trustee Sindoni adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees