

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; Chaiya Renfroe; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Becky Buff; Kathleen D'Aprix; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O'Connor; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Sue Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

Call to Order

At 9: 15 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.

Chair's Report

***Resolution to approve the appointment of Olin Stratton, Dr. Larry Weiskirch, Galia Amor, and Chaiya Renfroe as Directors of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation**

On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Mello, the resolution to approve the appointment of Olin Stratton, Dr. Larry Weiskirch, Galia Amor, and Chaiya Renfroe as Directors of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation, was unanimously approved.

NYCCT Conference

Trustee Sindoni asked Trustee Tryniski to provide an update on his recent attendance at the NYCCT Conference.

Board of Trustees Assessment & Bylaw Revisions

Trustee Sindoni deferred to Dr. Hilton for an update on the Board assessment and bylaws. Dr. Hilton commented that you'll see suggested updates to the bylaws included in your packets. These are edits that will put us in stronger compliance with the criteria that we need to meet for the upcoming Middle States review. The language that has been added clarifies a number of items that you are already doing on a regular basis such as my evaluation, adoption of the audit, and your term limits. It's also a mechanism for accountability by having these items in the bylaws. I would ask that you take until the January 30 meeting to review these and provide Julie Hart with any feedback. We will then ask for approval at the same meeting.

The second item is the assessment. I know that the last one was completed in 2019, but these are another item that Middle States would like to see done biannually. I've included in your packets a paper copy of the assessment. We would like to propose that this be done in January, and we

will provide it electronically as a fill-in form. Once completed, you will have a way to identify areas of improvement. The assessment will also be beneficial as we work to implement the goals of the Strategic Plan. And, this helps to solidify what was learned in the Aspen workshops that Trustee Sindoni, Trustee Dykes and I attended. Results will be shared at the retreat in May. If I can answer any questions about the assessment, please let me know. I hope I have your commitment to complete this short exercise once a year.

President's Report

SUNY Updates

Dr. Hilton began his report with several updates regarding work at the SUNY system level. You may recall that in the state budget, SUNY was required to submit a Long-term Enrollment and Financial Sustainability plan. All SUNY schools have been asked in the last several weeks to submit information to contribute to the plan. Of note, OCC highlighted its strengths while displaying the need for additional local and state operating support. SUNY must submit the plan in January.

Earlier this month, I attended the NYCCT meeting. Our very own Mark Tryniski attended as well. I must recognize that OCC alum, Jasenko Mondom, who works for the SCSD, won the NYCCT Distinguished Alumnus Award for Civic Contribution; and former trustee and Interim President Meg O'Connell won the Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award.

In October, I spent two days in Albany. Much of the first day was for Community Presidents to learn about effective ways to continue DEI efforts in the wake of the Supreme Court Affirmative Action decision. The Presidents also discussed the advocacy agenda for SUNY CC budget requests. This brings me to the second day, where all SUNY Presidents were on hand to hear a state budget presentation that left most of us feeling dejected. As you may know, the state revenues are not aligned with projections and the state is projecting significant deficits for at least the next two years. With that, much of the second day was spent working on ideas for multi-campus collaborations, which are one way for SUNY to efficiently use resources. To that end, I am a member of two SUNY system taskforces. First, the SUNY Transfer Taskforce will help to usher in the next generation of transfer policies, services, and tools. The work that the Taskforce plans to do will improve the lives of students throughout New York, and make transfer easier, more consistent, and more transparent. Second, an emerging SUNY Workforce Taskforce is planning collaborative efforts to meet the demand for workers in areas of critical need.

Collaborative efforts related to seamless transfer are on the horizon with SUNY Oswego, SUNY ESF, and SUNY Poly. Additionally, we are working on a workforce development proposal to partner with as many as seven SUNY schools to develop advanced manufacturing/semiconductor training. Lastly, related to the workforce development taskforce, you will begin to hear about the Empire State Community College Guarantee. This advocacy effort is the SUNY CC ask to the governor and state legislature. We are asking for an increase of \$97M in operational support (not one-time funding) to prepare 20,000 career-ready students annually. This guarantee advances Gov. Hochul's economic development priorities and delivers the much needed workforce that our state needs. The guarantee is also aligned with the hard work of our faculty over the last several years as they have developed new curriculum that is responsive to the needs of our region and the state. And, the guarantee supports our Strategic Enrollment Management efforts.

*Resolution to approve the College's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on the Strategic Plan. He offered his thanks to all who have brought us to this place – a complete strategic plan. Our co-chairs, Lisa Hoff and Dr. Sean Vormwald, and committee members Dr. Agatha Awuah, Helaine Lubar, Daniel Nemeth-Neumann, Amy Proulx, Olin Stratton, Shayne Turo, and Dr. Eunice Williams. Your work was difficult but incredibly important. Included in your packets was information that Trustee Tryniski asked for on the Student Experience as well. Are there any questions on the plan as it is? I'll then ask the Chair for a motion to approve the resolution on the new 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the resolution to approve the College's 2023-28 Strategic Plan was unanimously approved.

Middle States

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on Middle States. He explained that work has begun on the Middle States review that will take place in spring of 2026. You are probably asking why so early? It's a process that is very involved. The next year or more will be devoted to writing the College's self-study. Included in your packets are the 7 Standards that we will be reviewing and writing about in the self-study to ensure we are meeting them completely. Preparation will then begin for the Middle States team's visit in 2026. My comments earlier on the assessment and revisions to the bylaws are ways in which you can help support this process. We also anticipate the need for you to meet with the accreditors in 2026 for the site visit. Until then, we will provide regular updates on our progress.

Student Success Update

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on Student Success. He explained that our best avenue to long-term sustainability is for all of us to focus on student success. To that end, we have and will continue to invest as much as possible in student success efforts. One of the investments we made was to fund several Student Success Challenge projects. You may recall that we launched the Student Success Challenge in January of this year as a result of our Executive Leadership team's involvement in an Aspen Institute workshop in the Fall 2022 semester. One of our Student Success Challenge Project teams has completed their project and we have data and information we can share. The project was an early move-in day/Welcome Weekend. It was a day set aside to move-in new first year students. Instead of our normal process where they went directly to the residence halls, this new process involved a centralized check-in process in the Gordon Student Center. Students had to meet with a staff member to check their financial aid before being allowed to move in. The new move-in day format reduced the number of unpaid balances by 70 students. Along with other weekend activities, student survey results were good with the majority of students satisfied with the events, more comfortable getting around campus, and feeling welcomed and supported by welcome leaders and staff. Some future considerations include rethinking the schedule (students don't like to get up early); being intentional with activities that are more hands on; enhancing communication prior to the day so students complete more beforehand; and require FAFSA and TAP applications be done as part of the Residence Life checklist. We are also planning a Data Summit in January. This is an event planned by the Student Success Council, in conjunction with Achieving the Dream, that provides faculty and staff an overview of where we stand in areas of retention and our early momentum metrics. It's a good opportunity to review where we are and what we can expect. I will close by noting that in this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for

the OCC Board of Trustees, our students, faculty, staff; and alumni; as well as the broader CNY community.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on enrollment. He introduced Sarah Gaffney, Vice President, Enrollment Management, to provide her report. Ms. Gaffney began her presentation with a comparison of overall enrollment, first-time, transfer, continuing and returning enrollment for this year and the same time last year. She then provided a brief history of how the growth happened, including a changed recruitment strategy; new enrollment pathway programs; growth in OCC's student-athlete population; a different approach to returning students; a change in our Res Hall welcome; and CRM work and growth. Ms. Gaffney then reviewed the open house schedule for 2023 and the success of the same and then tied the work she and her team have been doing to the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan and the goals within. She then provided an overview of a new branding effort the College is embarking on as it relates to OCC marketing-related resources and marketing.

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 Renfroe began by stating that new positions have been developed in SGA and they are looking at ways in which to get students engaged through events on campus. SGA has also been working to develop a survey on college hour based on changes that the faculty are suggesting.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D'Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. Ms. D'Aprix reviewed upcoming events as well as gift highlights, which include new scholarships for spring and an endowed scholarship for math students. The Foundation is starting a scientific calculator lending library sponsored by SRC and a new coordinator for Advancement Operations has been hired. The search continues for an additional fundraiser, but the market remains tight. The Foundation will be sending out a newsletter with information on how to support students through Giving Tuesday. Dr. Hilton was recently featured on TK99 and will be on WSYR's Bridge Street to discuss this further. Work continues on a campaign feasibility study and Ms. D'Aprix will have more information on that soon.

Executive Session

At 10:43 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 personnel matters. **On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Mello, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:58 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Mello and seconded by Trustee Renfroe, 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 10:58 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees