

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Chair

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

Staff: Jenna Alexander; Dr. Agatha Awuah; Becky Buff; Anne DeLand; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O'Connor; Dr. Katharine Rumrill-Teece; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

Call to Order

At 8:20 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 still getting used to the new Schools reorganization, and things are popping up they didn't expect, including who should be voting on what. With increased enrollment, faculty are feeling overwhelmed, and many are working overload and the Senate continues to see if faculty can get more release time instead of stipends. The Senate continues to work to get even representation on Committees with the challenge of combined departments and are looking at a potential reorganization of the Senate for this purpose. The Standing Committees within the Senate are working to help fill the faculty liaison position to help bridge the gap between the faculty and the schools, while the Ad Hoc Committee is working on Emeritus Status for faculty and ways in which the College can honor them. Scholastic Standards is working on academic rules to make them more readable for students as well as developing a response to the AI tool. Many faculty choose not to use it, so the conversation continues about how to implement it and develop it in the academic rules. The Academic Support Initiatives Team is doing research on the First Year Seminar program as we know that this program helps students tremendously, but not every program can implement it based on credit limits. The Student Affairs Committee has been charged to review the Student Success Policy being suggested by the Board of Trustees and the Senate hopes to have a response by the next board meeting in January.

New Business

Retention and Graduation Rates by Program

Trustee Alicea introduced Anastasia Urtz, Provost & Senior Vice President, who turned the meeting over to Dr. Scott Schuhert, Dean of Students, to provide an update on retention and graduation rates by program. Dr. Schuhert began with an overview of 3-year graduation rates for fall 2019 for first-time, full-time students. He explained the rates for all students, then by gender and racial demographics. Dr. Schuhert then reviewed, by Schools, the 1-year retention rates and 3-year graduation rates for each Legacy program (2019-2022).

Updates

Schools Update

Provost Urtz continued her report by introducing Jenna Alexander, Assistant Dean, Student Support Services, to provide an update on the Schools. Ms. Alexander began with a review of the impact of Title III in developing a unified engagement focus at each school. She reviewed the roles within each school, the specialized training they received which included learning outcome topics and use of the Inside Track coaching methodology. Enhanced engagement for each school is research driven, helped to establish priorities, provided operational support, and included a CORE Plan – comprehensive outreach, response and engagement. Ms. Alexander then reviewed Lazer Success and Early Alert data and class registration initiatives for the spring 2024 semester. In reviewing the continuing student registration rates by school, spring 2023 compared to spring 2024, credit hours are up in all schools, with an average increase overall of 12.9%.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
Jaime Alicea
Chair, Education Committee