

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Via Microsoft Teams or in-person in Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaimie Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Neil Strodel; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Dr. Casey Crabill; Kathleen D'Aprix; Anne DeLand; Karen Fabrizio; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Linda Kelley; Amy Kremenek; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O'Connor; Megan Peryea; Mary Plunkett; Bridget Scholl; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Anne Smith; Timothy Stedman; Naomi Stewart; Nina Tamrowski; Dr. Christopher Thuot; Susan Torme; Anastasia Urtz; Debbie Waters; Steffani Williams

Call to Order

At 9:10 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Trustee Sindoni requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **On motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Owens, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

Chair's Report

Trustee Sindoni began the meeting by offering his condolences for former Trustee Donald Mawhinney who passed away recently. The meeting was stopped briefly for a moment of silence in Mr. Mawhinney's memory.

Appointment of Committee Chairs

Trustee Sindoni explained that it is his responsibility to appoint committee chairs at the first meeting of the new academic year. He asked that Trustee Jaime Alicea continue as chair the Education Committee and Trustee Mark Tryniski continue as chair the Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee. He thanked them both for their service.

Executive Order #202.60

Trustee Sindoni explained that due to the pandemic, Governor Cuomo implemented an executive order that allowed public boards to host their meetings virtually instead of in-person. That order has been extended until October 4, 2020. At that time, if the order is not extended again, OCC board meetings will resume in person starting with the November 17, 2020 meeting. Language was included in the Trustee packets explaining the necessary modifications that will need to be made should a Trustee wish to continue their attendance virtually.

President's Report

***Resolution to Approve Updates to the College Policy Manual**

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Littlejohn, the resolution to approve updates to the College Policy Manual was unanimously approved.

*Resolution to Approve Faculty Emeritus

On motion by Dr. DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the resolution to approve faculty emeritus designation for Professor Teresa Godiers, Dr. Christina Granato, Dr. Robert Jaquin, Dr. Kevin Moore, Professor Selma Moore, Professor Kathleen O'Donnell, and Dr. Art Peterson, was unanimously approved.

SUNY Updates

Dr. Crabill continued her report with SUNY updates. She explained that a new Chancellor has been appointed, Dr. Jim Malatras, and he has been busy with COVID-related activities. He has provided some very strong requirements on testing which will have a strong financial impact on the College. Everyone goes through screening process before coming on campus which we believe provides awareness to the seriousness of the pandemic. We have tested all residence hall students and they were required to quarantine before classes started. There was one positive test result and that person, along with his suitemates, was quarantined in Shapero with no other issues. A second positive result occurred after Labor Day weekend, again, with no repercussions. The Chancellor has challenged campuses to prepare surveillance plans, and we are utilizing the R-factor (transmission rate) in Onondaga County each day to determine our next steps. We'll watch that for a seven-day period – if it goes above 1.2, we will take the saliva tests we've been using with SUNY Upstate and make them available to faculty and staff, and then select 25% of our students each week and offer them the test. We have also implemented wastewater surveillance which is sampled daily through a process at SUNY Upstate. Results are reported to us so we can spot any presence of disease on campus. Financially, the saliva test will cost \$15,000 a week; wastewater is \$300 per day per machine (we have two). We are confident in our conversations with SUNY Upstate that what we are doing is sufficient. In response to a question from Trustee Owens about air filters in each building, Dr. Crabill responded that they have all had upgraded filter systems put in place, and due to the smaller population on campus they are working well. In response to a question from Trustee Sindoni, Dr. Crabill responded there are no fall sports at any SUNY community college in New York. At the suggestion of NJCAA, we have developed a task force to review our options for winter and spring sports. There would need to be a significant change in the current pandemic to allow it and there are also financial implications to look at as well. We are in a position where the state has held back 20% of aid across the board – TAP, EOP, etc., but told the College that we have to still make the TAP scholarships whole. We are living in suspended animation with our budget but are cautiously optimistic.

Fall Semester Updates in Notes and Pictures

Dr. Crabill introduced Roger Mirabito, Executive Director of Communications, to provide an update on what campus looks like now. He began with our drive-through commencement, the checkpoint for entering campus, Student Central and current classroom configurations.

Dr. Crabill took a minute to recognize our Facilities Team, Campus Safety & Security, Audio-Visual and Information Technology Teams, and our Purchasing Department for their work preparing us to return to campus during the pandemic.

Presidential Priorities 2020-21

Dr. Crabill mentioned that if anyone has any concerns about the submitted priorities to let her know.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

No report at this time.

Education Committee

No report at this time.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Trustee Neil Strodel to provide an update on the OCC Foundation. Trustee Strodel commented that the OCC Foundation is planning an array of programs and activities this fall, including a virtual dining event fundraiser on Thursday, November 12th. The OCC Foundation hosted 1977 alumna Diana Robertson and her husband, Drew, on September 21st. Diana is a graduate of the OCC Drama program and she currently works at New York University in New York City. She and her husband are highly interested in supporting OCC students and their success, particularly relative to building their writing capacity. OCC Foundation Board Chair Jim Seeley, an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King, and Mary Snyder, Chief Counsel with SRC, began their new officer terms in September. Treasurer is Alex Henn with AXA/Equitable, and Board Secretary is Nancy Bottar. Finally, OCC Foundation Executive Director Kathleen Stress resigned her position in September - Amy Kremenek is currently filling this role and a review of the structure to best meet the goals of the Foundation, specifically relative to fundraising to support student success, is currently underway.

Executive Session

At 9:52 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 DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:10 a.m., **on motion by Trustee DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Owens, 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 10:10 a.m.

Prepared by:

Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:

John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees