

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 17, 2023**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on January 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.  
in person, and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Jason Cafarella, Chairperson  
Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Katherine Alexander, Secretary  
Mr. William Ross  
Ms. Gail Tylec  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang  
Mr. Aidan Freischlag, Student Trustee

**Board Members Present via ZOOM**

Ms. Sheila Smith

**Board Members Excused**

Mr. Kevin Clark, Financial Secretary  
Mr. David Haylett, Jr.

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Alissa Cummings, Assistant Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Mr. John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Dr. Fabio Escobar, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Harold (Hal) Legg, Director of Public Relations  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Brian Michel, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs, Economic Development  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President

Chairperson Cafarella called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and stated the meeting was being recorded and live streamed. A roll call of board members on zoom: Trustee Smith was present virtually.  
Chairperson Cafarella asked Trustee Tylec to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the military.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Cafarella asked if Board members had any questions regarding the Consent Agenda items. Trustee Ross commented on the Empire State Grant. Assistant Vice President Brian Michel stated we are waiting to hear the outcome some time in February. It was moved by Chairperson Cafarella and seconded by Trustee Ross that the Board approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 board meeting, Executive Session minutes from the December 20, 2022 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Cafarella asked Board members if there were any questions regarding the Information Items; there were no questions. The following items were received and filed: Grant Tracking Chart, Personnel Status Chart, Foundation Report, and Facilities Update.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Cafarella stated as part of the ByLaw Committee, we are scheduling an Awards Committee meeting, due to a retired faculty member applying for Emeritus.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Murabito discussed the following:

- President Murabito asked Assistant Vice President Barbara DeSimone to introduce her new employee. Welcome to Harold (Hal) Legg, as the new Director of Public Relations. Mr. Legg is pleased to join the NCCC team and he provided information on his background. Welcome Hal !
- President Murabito provided a women's and men's basketball schedule. He noted the February 11 basketball game vs. Monroe Community College will be televised on ESPN 2. President Murabito encouraged all board members to attend the basketball game and show their support.
- President Murabito asked Vice President Ulatowski to provide information on the Middle States Accreditation Kickoff meeting held on January 12. She was encouraged by the positive survey results which produced 30 plus volunteers. She thanked the numerous board members who attended. She stated Dr. Virginia Taylor will be our writer for this process; Dr. Taylor provided some background on her experience with assessment and outcomes. Trustee Virtuoso added he was on the previous Middle States Accreditation and how beneficial it was as she learned so much about the NCCC and this process. Dr. Fabio Escobar and Andrew Yeager are the co-chairs and discussed the handout they provided. Dr. Escobar asked for feedback from the board members stating what they feel needs to be better aligned. Trustee Tylec asked about the previous Strategic Plan and how successful were the priorities.
- President Murabito asked Barbara DeSimone to discuss the re-branding of NCCC. Barb discussed the process since November 2022 and the next steps. Board members should let Chairperson Cafarella know if they would like to be interviewed by the re-branding company.
- President Murabito discussed the Cannabis conference held on January 11. The recording of keynote speaker Dr. Laszlo Mechtler message will be forwarded to board members when available.
- The past week, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) held a shared governance zoom conference.
- The annual Tech Wars took place last week, which was attended by approximately 800 students from various high schools.
- President Murabito was invited by Dr. Clark Godshall to meet with Niagara Orleans Superintendents.
- An Advocacy handout was provided to board members, this was received from NYCCAP and outlines the program from SUNY regarding community colleges.
- The new SUNY Chancellor has had several meetings with SUNY presidents. He plans on visiting our campus soon.

**STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

Student Trustee Freischlag provided his report.

**FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

The Faculty Observer Report was given by Dr. Elizabeth Sachs, Faculty Senate President.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Smith read the following resolution:

Job Description – Director of Evening College

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Niagara County Community College hereby approve the title of Director of Evening College.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
BOT 23-01

It was moved by Committee Chairperson Smith and seconded by Trustee Alexander to approve the Job Description – Director of Evening College as presented. Motion carried unanimously. President Murabito discussed the ideas and opportunities for this new endeavor.

**FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Committee Vice Chairperson Virtuoso read the following resolution:

**SUPPORT OF SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION – Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**

Purpose/Background:

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the SUNY Board of Trustees ratified a resolution that establishes the benefit of resident tuition rates for the Spring 2022 term and the 2022/23 academic year for any undergraduate and graduate students at the State University of New York State-operated campuses who (a) currently hold a non-immigrant visa and who are nationals of countries that have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and (b) are currently ineligible for resident rates of tuition.

Whereas Niagara County Community College welcomes refugee populations; and

Whereas Niagara County Community College supports SUNY's history of responding to populations in need by designating the citizens/residents of locations devastated by natural or manmade disasters as New York residents for tuition purposes; and

Whereas the United States Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security is authorized to designate a foreign state (or any part thereof) for Temporary Protected Status upon finding that extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state prevent its nationals from returning safely, unless permitting the foreign state's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States is contrary to the national interest of the United States; and

Whereas Niagara County Community College supports the SUNY Board of Trustees' extension of the benefit of resident tuition to students who are nationals of countries that have been designated as Temporary Protected Status as a humanitarian response which acknowledges these students' inability to return to their home; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that Niagara County Community College supports the actions of the Chancellor, or designee, and hereby who is, authorized to amend the State University of New York Guidelines on Residency for Tuition Purposes to, within the confines of New York State Education Law, make graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the State-operated institutions of the State University of New York, who are attending these institutions on non-immigrant visas and are nationals of a country that has been granted Temporary Protected Status, to be considered eligible for resident tuition for the Spring 2023 term and the 2022/23 academic year; and, be it further

Resolved that the Niagara County Community College Board of Trustees, operating under the program of the State University of New York, will take action to support students from Temporary Protected Status nations consistent with the spirit of this policy.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Jason J. Cafarella  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
BOT 23-02

It was moved by Committee Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Tylec to approve the Support of SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution – Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Lynch provided the Business and Finance Update. Trustee Wolfgang discussed the importance of our faculty, administration, and staff can engage in obtaining higher enrollment numbers.

It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Student Trustee Freischlag that the Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss contract and personnel matters at 5:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Student Trustee Freischlag and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board come out of Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

#### **GOOD & WELFARE**

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Ross to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Katherine D. Alexander  
Secretary