

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
April 1, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Haji Adan (virtual); Jaime Alicea (virtual); Dr. Donna DeSiato; William Gilberti; Paul Mello; Alicia Oberlender; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Michael O'Connor; Justin Pritchard; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Sue Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

Call to Order

At 9:33 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting

Trustee Tryniski provided an update on the agenda items covered during the meeting.

Education Committee Meeting

Trustee Sindoni provided an update on the agenda items covered during the meeting.

Student Government Update

Trustee Sindoni introduced Trustee Oberlender who offered an update on Student Government. She stated that they are working more closely with the clubs this year to provide additional support. New SGA elections are coming up with the deadline this Friday and voting the final week of April into the first week of May. She offered a reminder to the Trustees to attend any of the club events since they are open to the public.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced OCC Foundation Executive Director Mr. Noce to provide an update. Mr. Noce explained that \$3.176 million has been raised of \$7 million goal for the capital campaign with additional gifts pending. He has been spending time with Dr. Hilton and potential donors and have a few very important meetings this week. Things are moving forward in the quiet leadership phase with strong areas of support in scholarships and emergency student funding. Mr. Noce shared the postcard that all Trustees should have received for Day of Giving on April 16. The goal is to reach 176 donors in one day and we have a confidential donor who will provide a \$30K donation if we meet that goal.

Chair's Report

Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations

On motion by Trustee Tryniski, and seconded by Trustee Mello, the Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award nominations were unanimously approved.

Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar for 2025-26

Trustee Sindoni reminded Trustees that a draft meeting calendar for 2025-26 was in their materials and to review it for any discrepancies, letting Julie Hart know in advance of the next meeting on May 13, 2025.

Nominating Committee Appointment

Trustee Sindoni commented that Dr. DeSiato has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee as we look to develop a slate of officers for the upcoming academic year. She will need two additional trustees to volunteer. If any are interested, please contact Julie Hart as soon as possible as the draft slate of officers will be due at the meeting on May 13, 2025. During the meeting, Trustees Mello and Adan offered to participate. Julie Hart will work to establish a series of virtual meetings to discuss this further.

Board Retreat – May 2, 2025

Trustee Sindoni commented that this is another reminder of the Board of Trustees retreat scheduled for May 2, 2025. More information will be forthcoming on this as the date approaches. Trustee Sindoni asked for topics of interest for the agenda.

President's Report

President's Update

Trustee Sindoni introduced Dr. Warren Hilton, President, for his report. Dr. Hilton offered his congratulations to Provost and Senior Vice President Anastasia Urtz as she moves on as President of SUNY Adirondack. Also, thanks to Dr. Larry Weiskirch and Professor Olin Stratton for all of their work this academic year and the collaboration that takes place with them at OCC.

With the onset of the new Strategic Plan, it was determined that it was best for the non-academic departments to utilize an Operational Plan vs. a 5-year Administrative Review. These operational plans also contain their 4DX WIGS and LEADS so it provides an easy way to track progress on these important initiatives. Current data from Lazer Success shows that faculty and staff have raised over 1,000 more flags than this time last year and have successfully closed an additional 700 flags during that same time. For spring 2025 to-date, we have had a total of over 5,355 flags raised with 5,166 closed – 56.1% of them positively.

Dr. Hilton provided an update on sports at OCC. He commented that men's and women's Wrestling competed for the first time in program history this season. The men's team finished in 3rd place at the NJCAA Northeast District Championships, and wrestler Enver Bulatov won the 197 lbs. weight class at District's and earned the right to compete at the NJCAA National Championship. Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field competed for the first time in program history this season too and had several new personal bests, and school records were set across multiple events in the 4-meet indoor season. Club Ice Hockey competed in the newly reconfigured and strong eastern division of the Upstate New York Club Hockey League. Women's Basketball finished the season with 26 wins and just 8 losses, and they won the 2025

MSAC Championship as well as an at-large bid to the NJCAA Division 3 National Championship in Rochester, MN where the team finished in 6th place. There were multiple all-conference and all-region honorees for the Women's basketball team, and we anticipate several students earning All-American honors as well. The Indigenous Student Center grand opening is tomorrow, April 3, and we will be unveiling our new land acknowledgement at that time as well. The state budget is not approved yet but we are hopeful it will be soon. We are hearing there will be a free community college plan but we are not certain of the details just yet. We are also hopeful we will have additional state support for community colleges.

*Resolution to modify health and dental benefits for Unrepresented Administrators and Retirees (Management Confidential)

On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the resolution to modify health and dental benefits for Unrepresented Administrators and Retirees (Management Confidential) was unanimously approved.

Executive Session

At 10:14 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, noting that no additional business will be taken upon return from session. **On motion by Dr. DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:40 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Mello, 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 10:40 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees