

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair of the Board**

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

Staff: Jenna Alexander; 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 8:34 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the Education Committee meeting to order. Trustee Alicea was in attendance virtually but due to concerns with his connection, asked Trustee Sindoni to preside over the Education Committee meeting.

Faculty Senate

Trustee Sindoni introduced Olin Stratton, Faculty Senate President, for his report. Professor Stratton began by noting the Senate had significant bylaws changes approved in January, working to bring the adjunct faculty into the conversation. Changes also took place in representation based on the Schools model. Faculty are working hard on Middle States and Scholastic Standards is taking up a lot of the time of the Senate as they revised the Academic Rules. The hope is that the revisions will make the rules easier to understand for all students. This has been a slow process as the Senate has worked on this the entire academic year. All of the edits have been completed and will go live today. Faculty are concerned with the Executive Orders coming from Washington, wanting to make sure students feel safe, comfortable and able to learn at their best. An AI Ad Hoc Committee was developed and will look for ways to teach students how to use it effectively. A syllabus statement will be developed first and faculty will serve on the College's Community of Practice starting this fall. Dr. Lisa Miller, who was chairing the Curriculum Committee, has left the College and former chair, Mike Oppedisano, has stepped up to take over. They are winding down their work for the semester. The Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (LOAC), under the leadership of Professor Lisa Hoff, has completed all the academic six-year reviews. Work has started on the academic master plan and faculty input will be on those priorities.

Trustee Sindoni introduced Provost & Senior Vice President, Anastasia Urtz, who offered her thanks to Faculty Senate President & Professor, Olin Stratton, and OCCFTA President and Professor, Dr. Larry Weiskirch, for their tremendous work with the Faculty Senate and the Unions this year. They have both worked diligently to help build this institution up and strengthen it moving forward. Provost Urtz then provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

New Business

GPS at OCC

Trustee Sindoni introduced Jenna Alexander, Assistant Dean of Student Support Services, to provide an update on the GPS for College Series at OCC (Growth, Progress & Skills). Ms. Alexander began by reviewing the development of the GPS program and then an overview of the offerings for the 2024-25 academic year. She provided an in depth look at the programs and current attendance rates for the sessions. She also provided data related to spring 2025 retention rates for students who attended the programming in fall 2024. Currently, there are 160 unique students who have attended at least one session for spring 2025. She then provided a sampling of student feedback, as well as a student testimony. There are new additions to the program for spring, including evening and virtual options and Career & Transfer Services sessions.

English Language Institute

Trustee Sindoni introduced Justin Pritchard, Dean of Instructional Services, to provide an update on the English Language Institute. Dean Pritchard commented that he is privileged to work with the program. He started it as English Faculty and the program moved it with him as Director of CTLI. He began with an evolution of language support at OCC, comparing previous support models including Accuplacer and CBO Language Development. He then provided an overview of the current ELI Courses – levels 1 through 3, and the additional support available to students, including conversation circles, individual tutoring, situational English, ELI placement, and walk-in tutoring. Dean Pritchard then provided a timeline for most students participating in the program with the goal to enter level 3 in either English for Medical Purposes, Technical Purposes, or Academic Purposes - these all segway into credit-bearing English 103. He also commented that he was pleased that the Faculty approved testing accommodations for ELI learners in 2023 – a large part of their success depended on this. There is also a new agreement in place with Syracuse City School District for both adult learners and delivery of the program at external locations including CNY Works and West Side Learning Center. Trustees should note that this program is completely funded through grants and external sources. Dean Pritchard provided an overview of developments taking place this academic year and beyond, and then introduced the ELI faculty of Levy Solomon, Kathy Elbadawi, Grace Garner, and Paul Worden. He discussed the growth of the program and how well it is responding to the community's needs. There have been 170 unique students served in the program since 2022 with 22 ELI completers enrolled at OCC for the 2024-25 academic year. He then provided student testimonial videos.

***Resolution to Deactivate Part-Time Academic Program: Nursing AAS**

On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Gilberti, the resolution to deactivate a part-time academic program: Nursing AAS, was unanimously approved.

***Resolution to Adjust Maximum Credit Limit for the Health Studies Certificate**

On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the resolution to adjust the maximum credit limit for the Health Studies Certificate, was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Trustee Sindoni adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees