

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Chair**

Trustees: Haji Adan; Jaime Alicea; Kathryn Crockett; William Gilberti; Paul Mello; John Sindoni

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Dr. Reginald Braggs; Anne DeLand; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Shannon Nolan; Michael O'Connor; Justin Pritchard; Nicole Schlater; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

Guests: Mohammad Sharif Jafari

Call to Order

At 8:23 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the Education Committee meeting to order.

Faculty Senate

Trustee Alicea introduced Olin Stratton, Faculty Senate President, for his report. Professor Stratton began with a review of the Student Affairs Committee charge to review campus resources to be sure that faculty know which resource works best depending on the situation. He mentioned that work on credit for prior learning has made great strides as has the comparison of face to face and online classes. Faculty are working to identify those courses and why there is a difference content in the modalities. The AI ad hoc committee finished this year with a syllabus statement utilizing the red light, yellow light, green light analogy. Faculty can use it or not, but the syllabus statement will clarify where AI can be used, areas to be cautious in, and areas where it is not allowed at all. We are encouraging faculty to have this in their syllabus for fall. Professor Stratton offered his thanks to Provost Urtz for her support of faculty over the years and stated that faculty need to be involved in the search process for a new provost. Professor Stratton reviewed faculty ideas as they relate to the new Academic Affairs Master Plan, explaining the process the Faculty Senate took, which included brainstorming ideas at an all-campus town hall, revisions to those ideas based on the strategic plan, and prioritization of the list based on importance and ease. Professor Stratton reviewed the ideas as they relate to each goal of the strategic plan: Goal 1 – Academic Success; Goal 2 – Student Experience; and Goal 3- Communication.

New Business

Academic and Student Affairs Six-year Report

Trustee Alicea introduced Anastasia Urtz, Provost & Senior Vice President, for an update on the Academic and Student Affairs Six-year Report. Provost Urtz began with an overview of curriculum highlights, including 24 new or revised programs since 2019. She also reviewed learning support that was developed including Association of College and University Educators (ACUE); Quality Matters; Norma Foody Endowed Professorship; human-centered design; compression planning; EAB Starfish (Lazer Success); Inside Track: evidence-based coaching; and student STEM research and community-engaged learning experiences. Additional highlights

include expanded Opportunity Programs and Counseling Center; established Box of Books project; joined NC-SARA (fully online programs and services); reorganized College into Schools; launched English Language Institute; secured over \$10M to support curriculum development, organizational capacity building and partnerships; and secured \$47M for applied technology and healthcare-related teaching spaces in Whitney and Ferrante Halls.

Academic and Student Affairs Master Plan

Provost Urtz continued her report with an update on the new Academic and Student Affairs Master Plan. She provided an overview of elements of the plan that Trustees can expect to see, including: helping students plan academic program pathways to career or transfer prior to enrollment; strengthening student outcomes in STEM mathematics; exploring new programs: patient care technician; respiratory therapist; graphic design/content creation; non-credit welding certifications; embedded credentials in Gen Ed courses; online Gen Ed Certificate; developing “off-ramps” to alternate, in-demand credentials to mitigate academic performance issues; developing “on-ramps” for incumbent workers seeking specific leadership skills to support workplace promotion; implementing NYS Opportunity Scholarship for adults; design of specific high school pathways to OCC for English Language Learners; continuing to encourage consistent class attendance to strengthen academic success; continuing to improve supports for students with disabilities as a strategy to attract diverse learners; personalized student communications to build belonging; focus on strengthening retention of residential students; standardize design and delivery of online courses, including mixed modality courses and programs; and optimize Navigator caseloads at 1:150 students.

Updates

Middle States

Provost Urtz continued her report by introducing Dr. Malkiel Choseed, Professor, and Erin Vaccaro, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management, to provide an update on Middle States. Middle States Co-chair Choseed began with an overview of the accreditation process, noting the site visit will be on campus in spring of 2026. We are currently in the process of completing the self-study document which is shared with Middle States in advance of their visit. The self-study is a 100-page report that demonstrates OCC has met the standards of accreditation. There are seven standards reviewed in the self-study and the draft is in process. We are sharing the document with strategic groups, including the SUNY Council for Assessment, to look for critical edits. There will be multiple opportunities for groups to provide feedback as well through a web form. OCC has done some amazing work over the last 8 years since our last accreditation cycle and we need to be sure we are telling this story in a way that they can see that work. Ms. Vaccaro provided an overview of the events that took place this spring to be sure the campus is prepared for the visit. These include four Art of Accreditation events where we reviewed the standards, evidence inventory, and had a mock site visit. There were efforts recently as well to reach students through a four-question survey and we received over 300 responses which is strong. We will review the responses to see what we can do better.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
Jaime Alicea
Chair, Education Committee