

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting**  
**December 2, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Whitney 210**  
**Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Vice-chair**

**Trustees:** Jaime Alicea; Vicki Brackens (virtual); William Gilberti; Paul Mello; Alicia Oberlender (virtual); John Sindoni (virtual); Mark Tryniski

**Staff:** Dr. Agatha Awuah; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

**Call to Order**

At 9:22 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the board meeting to order. He agreed to run the meeting for Trustee Sindoni as his virtual connection was not stable. A few other trustees were virtual due to inclement weather conditions.

**Consent Agenda**

**On motion by Trustee Tryniski, and seconded by Dr. DeSiato, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

**Committee Reports**

**Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting**

Trustee Tryniski noted there was no need for an update as everyone was in attendance for the presentations.

**Education Committee Meeting**

Trustee Alicea noted there was no need for an update as everyone was in attendance for the presentations.

**OCC Foundation**

Trustee Alicea introduced OCC Foundation Executive Director Louis Noce to provide an update. Mr. Noce commented that the campaign is currently at \$4.4 million. The campaign committee has been assembled, and follow-up meetings have occurred.

**Student Government**

Trustee Alicea introduced Trustee Oberlender for an update on Student Government. Trustee Oberlender explained that they are looking to fill vacancies as two officers will not be returning for the spring semester.

**Chair's Report**

**\*Resolution to approve the appointment of Taitannia Knight and Adam Williams as Directors of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation**

**On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the resolution to approve the appointment of Taitannia Knight and Adam Williams as Directors of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation was unanimously approved.**

## Middle States

Trustee Alicea introduced Dr. Malkiel Chosed and Erin Vaccaro, Co-chairs of the Middle States Reaccreditation Committee, for an update. Dr. Chosed began by reviewing the accreditation process and the need for the same, with Ms. Vaccaro reviewing the history of the process to-date. Dr. Chosed shared the expectations for the spring 2026 site visit and ways in which the Trustees can prepare for what might be asked of them. The instructional process will continue for the Trustees at the February board meeting.

## **President's Report**

### Enrollment Update

Trustee Alicea introduced Dr. Warren Hilton, President, to provide his report. Dr. Hilton began by introducing Sarah Gaffney, Vice President, Enrollment Management, who provided an update on enrollment. Ms. Gaffney began with an enrollment lookback for fall 2022 – spring 2025. Fall 2025 enrollment was up once again in all categories, making 6 consecutive semesters of growth. Spring 2026 also looks strong, as do early numbers for fall 2026. Ms. Gaffney then reviewed SUNY Reconnect, including the history, allowable programs, and the fall 2025 numbers = 383 students. Financial Aid was next in the presentation, including FAFSA completion and the focus moving forward, along with upcoming marketing efforts.

## **Other Updates**

### Academic Momentum

Dr. Hilton continued his report on the SUNY Academic Momentum Campaign. A few months ago, SUNY announced a system-wide, multi-year initiative, the SUNY Academic Momentum Campaign (AcMo), designed to help more students complete their degrees on time. In many ways, OCC's progress on gateway English and Math, FAFSA completion, retention, and academic persistence/completion has given us an advantage as we complete this work. In some cases, this will provide an opportunity to continue and even scale efforts that are already underway. SUNY will contribute \$20,000 towards implementation, and there will be other resources available for this effort. The Student Success Council, in partnership with Interim Provost, Dr. Agatha Awuah, and Executive Director of Communications, Roger Mirabito, will be developing our campus action plan that will be submitted to SUNY on February 5, 2026. The Student Success Council has been empowered to invite members of the campus community - faculty, staff, and especially students - to contribute. I am confident that we will develop a plan that reflects our dedication to students, academic excellence, and innovation. We have responded to SUNY's proposed targets by submitting targets that align with the key performance indicators from our Strategic Planning Process— goals that reflect our campus and our students. SUNY has confirmed – and agrees with - our submitted targets. Discussion regarding the OCC AcMo targets occurred with the College Leadership Council, Student Success Council, and Executive Council. The work of AcMo will begin being measured with students enrolled in Fall 2026 semester with the goals being met as follows: fall-fall retention by Fall 2027 census; 100% graduation rate by August 2028; 150% graduation rate by August 2029; 30+ credits earned in first year by Fall 2027 census; English and Math gateway completion by Fall 2027 census; and FAFSA completion by Fall 2027 census.

### Budget Advocacy

Advocacy work has already started on the state budget, with a number of meetings taking place with our state and local electeds this past month to remind them of the valuable work done at

OCC. Also, I had mentioned previously the bill introduced by the state assembly to include a faculty or staff member on the board of trustees of community colleges – this is now with the Governor pending her signature. Included in your packets is the latest version of the bill, along with an opposition letter that was emailed by our Student Trustee Alicia Oberlender and Student Government president Yesvier Aviles Mendez. We aren't quite sure where this will land, but there are strong implications if it is signed into law.

#### Student Trustee

Congratulations to our own Alicia Oberlender for being selected as an inaugural member of the National Grid Foundation Youth Advisory Council. The council of twelve students from a variety of colleges in the Northeast represents the future of youth-driven philanthropy and community engagement. Selected students will convene quarterly to shape grant-making decisions, develop leadership skills, and drive meaningful community impact. Congratulations Alicia.

#### December Graduation

Over 100 students will walk in our December graduation ceremony, scheduled for December 16 in the SRC Arena.

#### Athletics

Dr. Hilton continued his report by offering congratulations to student-athlete Paul Clark for winning a national championship in cross country in Iowa earlier this month.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the board meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Prepared by:  
Julie Hart  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:  
Jaime Alicea  
Vice-chair, Board of Trustees