

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
March 31, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Vice-Chair

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

Staff: Stephanie Aldrich; Dr. Agatha Awuah; Dr. Reginald Braggs; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Kelly Larrivey; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Michael O'Connor; Wendy Ornoski; Justin Pritchard; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; James Taylor; Susan Tormey; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Monifa Wilcox

Call to Order

At 9:10 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the board meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

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

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee Meeting

Trustee Alicea provided an overview of the agenda and discussion.

Education Committee Meeting

Trustee Alicea provided an overview of the agenda and discussion.

Student Government Update

Trustee Alicea introduced Trustee Oberlender who offered an update on Student Government. Trustee Oberlender reported that SGA is in the middle of the election process, and this week is campaign week which ends Friday. Voting takes place next week, and currently there are three students running for president and two returning students running again.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Alicea introduced Louis Noce, Executive Director, OCC Foundation, to provide an update. Mr. Noce provided an update on the campaign, which is currently at \$4.95 million, and they are waiting on two additional gifts to come in. Micron's gift of \$1.1 million is not included in the campaign totals currently, but will be considered later. OCC's Annual Day of Giving is May 1 and our goal is 300 donors in 24 hours. There is an additional \$25K available from an anonymous donor if we meet our goal.

Chair's Report

Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations

On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Mello, the Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations were unanimously approved.

Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar 2026-2027 - DRAFT

Trustee Alicea noted that a draft calendar for next year was included in the meeting materials. If anyone has a conflict with these dates, please let Julie know. We will vote on this calendar at the May board meeting.

Nominating Committee Appointments

Trustee Alicea commented that Dr. DeSiato has agreed to once again chair the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. She will need two trustees to assist with this process and we expect only one meeting will be necessary. Haji Adan and William Gilberti both volunteered to assist. This group will develop a slate of officers to present at the May board meeting for approval at the June board meeting.

Board Retreat – May 1, 2026

Trustee Alicea reminded the trustees of the board retreat scheduled for May 1, 2026 from 8:00 AM to Noon in Whitney 210.

President's Report

President's Update

Trustee Alicea introduced Dr. Warren Hilton, President, for his report. Dr. Hilton began with Athletics. Fourteen student athletes from 10 different teams earned a perfect 4.0 Fall 2025 term GPA; 6 of those 14 also have perfect 4.0 cumulative GPAs. Athletics has reintroduced the OCC Athletics Hall of Fame after 15-year hiatus. The induction ceremony will be wrapped into the annual student-athlete awards banquet. Five inductees are a part of the 2026 class including: Mike Wheeler (WBB Coach), Chuck Wilbur (MLAX Coach), Sid Smith (MLAX), Cody Jamieson (MLAX), and Brittany Cohen (WBB). Wrestler Charlie Foster earned the NJCAA National Championship for 174 lbs weight class. This is just the second year of the program competing as a team and we sent a total of 6 men and 1 woman to the NJCAA national event in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Charlie will be recognized at the board meeting in May. The College also sent 2 athletes for the first time to the NJCAA indoor track and field championships in Topeka, Kansas. Paul Clark competed in the mile, and Hannah Wagner competed in the 60-meter hurdles and 800-meter race. Women's Basketball earned the co-MSAC championship and then secured an at-large bid to the NJCAA women's basketball championships in Brownwood, TX. The team finished the season with a record of 25-6 and earned 6th place finish in the country. Men's Basketball earned the MSAC Championship and saw a successful return to the Region 3 playoffs under first year Head Coach Mike Sugamosto. The team finished the season with a 21-9 record. Spring sports are all active and currently competing. Men's Lacrosse is currently ranked #3 in the country.

Dr. Hilton continued his report with student recognition. He commented that PTK award winners for this year are Gerald Collins, Claire Detor, and Junie Skellington. SUNY Chancellor's award winners include Vanessa Esposito, Katie Morgan, and Student Trustee Alicia Oberlender.

Dr. Hilton provided a brief overview of our Middle States reaccreditation. He began by thanking the Trustees for their participation and said that overall it was a great visit. Thank you to Dr. Malkiel Choseed and Erin Vaccaro, co-leads and Dr. Scott Schuhert, ALO, and all of the committee representatives for their work over the last three years. At the end of the visit, the hope is that read-out by the Middle States chair does not have any requirements, and only

recommendations or collegial advice. OCC did not receive any requirements, and only 1 recommendation. Great work by everyone achieving this incredible milestone. We'll start the process over in 5 more years and we continue to work on the collegial advice and recommendations.

Onondaga Community College has been named a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community college student success. The announcement of OCC's selection was made at the Achieving the Dream annual convening in Portland, Oregon. Each year, ATD recognizes a select group of institutions that demonstrate sustained, measurable improvements in student outcomes. Leader Colleges are distinguished for implementing evidence-based strategies that close equity gaps, strengthen student support systems, and drive long-term success.

Dr. Hilton continued by announcing the college has hired a new provost Dr. Hector Rodriguez. He comes to OCC from Hudson Valley Community College, where he has served with distinction as Associate Dean, Dean, and most recently as Executive Dean for STEM and Institutional Effectiveness. Prior to his administrative leadership, he was a professor, department head, and dean of engineering. Besides his higher education experience, Dr. Rodríguez built a successful career in the private sector as an engineer with Raytheon, General Electric, Infotech Aerospace Services, and Pratt & Whitney. Dr. Rodríguez serves as a Commissioner for the ABET Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission and as a peer evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech, and an MBA from the University of New Orleans. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York. Dr. Rodríguez is a native of Puerto Rico and will begin his work at OCC June 1.

Dr. Hilton provided a brief SUNY update on our conversion to Banner SaaS. SUNY has confirmed that the process for transitioning to Banner SaaS will begin during the spring semester with the bulk of the work starting in September 2026. While SUNY is paying Ellucian (Banner SaaS) for the technical work, we will have to commit additional resources including hiring a project manager and additional temporary staff in various departments as well as other administrative costs. Once the transition is made, it is estimated (by Ellucian) that we will save \$500,000 on average per year for the first 10 years.

*Resolution of appreciation for Mark Manning

On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Sindoni, the resolution of appreciation for Mark Manning was unanimously approved.

*Resolution to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Men's NJCAA Division III Cross Country National Champion: Paul Clark

On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Sindoni, the resolution to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Men's NJCAA Division III Cross Country National Champion, Paul Clark, was unanimously approved.

Executive Session

At 9:36 a.m., Trustee Alicea 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. No additional agenda items will be covered upon the return from Executive Session. **On motion by**

Trustee Mello and seconded by Trustee Adan, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.

At 9:51 a.m., on motion by Trustee Adan and seconded by Trustee Gilberti, 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 Alicea adjourned the board meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

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