

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, 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; Anne DeLand; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Kelly Larrivey; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Michael O'Connor; Wendy Ornoski; Leigh Petryssyn; Justin Pritchard; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; James Taylor; Susan Tormey; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Monifa Wilcox

Call to Order

At 8:29 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the Education Committee meeting to order.

Faculty Senate

Trustee Alicea introduced Faculty Senate President Olin Stratton for his report. Professor Stratton offered his thanks to Mark Manning, former Senior Vice President and CFO, for his work with faculty over the years and for leaving the college in strong financial footing. Professor Stratton then reviewed the departmental reorganization and the faculty request to split Humanities and Social Sciences into two separate departments, and to do the same with Mathematics and Natural Sciences. There is also a request for administration to revisit release time. David Furney, Dean of Health and Technology, will be presenting on this topic to the Chairs so that appears to be moving forward. The UF policy – the unearned F – has been a point of conversation for many people on campus. Professor Stratton reviewed the history behind the grade, why and when it was given, and the implications to student financial aid. After reviewing this with many departments on campus, Professor Stratton said the faculty will be reverting back to an administrative X that will be given only during two weeks of the semester – weeks 7 and 8. This is just before financial aid is dispersed and will hopefully alleviate any issues. Syllabi updates continue as faculty are working to simplify the language for students and be sure there is consistency across them.

New Business

Opportunity Programs: SUNY ASAP

Trustee Alicea introduced Leigh Petryssyn, Director of SUNY ASAP, to provide a report on the program. Ms. Petryssyn explained that SUNY ASAP stands for Advancing Success in Associates Programs. It originated in CUNY in 2008 and was started at SUNY in 2024 with 25 campuses; it now encompasses 34. The program was started at OCC in Fall of 2025 and includes 150 students. Program requirements include that students cannot be in any of the other opportunity programs and are required to attend individual meetings with program advisors twice a month and engage in one group activity each month. Students receive a stipend of \$350 per semester and \$50 a month on their Lazer Card. This is considered a politely intrusive advising model as it provides academic and holistic support and students can transfer from ASAP to the four-year college model, ACE, for continued support. Ms. Petryssyn provided an overview of

fall 2025 events along with data from the fall 2025 semester, including a 75.56% persistence rate from fall 2025 to spring 2026. The spring 2026 semester is going well, and current student engagement is strong.

SUNY Reconnect

Trustee Alicea introduced Sarah Gaffney, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Vice President, Enrollment Management, to provide an update on SUNY Reconnect. Ms. Gaffney provided an overview of what SUNY Reconnect is, who can participate, and what programs are eligible. There is hope we will be able to add additional programs as Reconnect grows. Enrollment in the program for fall 2025 was 182 students, winter 2026 had 23 students, and spring 2026 had 261 students. We will report back on summer data when it becomes available. There are a number of student support initiatives that Reconnect students have available to them, and future initiatives that the College will be putting in place.

*Resolution to endorse a feasibility study for a new program: Emergency Management, AAS
On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Adan, the resolution to endorse a feasibility study for a new program: Emergency Management AAS, was unanimously recommended.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
Jaime Alicea
Chair, Education Committee