

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Haley Madej; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Stephanie Aldrich; Dr. Agatha Awuah; Kathy D’Aprix; Anne DeLand; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O’Connor; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Susan Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Dr. Eunice Williams

Guests: Gregg Evans and Jonathan Miller, The Bonadio Group

Call to Order

At 8:54 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Swearing-in of New Student Trustee Haley Madej

Trustee Sindoni facilitated the swearing-in ceremony for new Student Trustee Haley Madej and welcomed her to the Board of Trustees.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Trustee Tryniski, and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

There was no meeting held this month to report on.

Education Committee

No additional report at this time.

Student Government Update

Trustee Madej explained that Student Government has a new monthly calendar that includes events across campus. They are also posting all activities on D2L.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D’Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. Ms. D’Aprix began by stating that the year-end appeal, with support from Russ Corbin, Director of Alumni Relations, had a significant increase from last year. Mr. Corbin used different means to communicate with potential donors including texting and mailings. The campaign brought in just over \$30K. In the fall we distributed 246 individual scholarships for just over \$273,000. Many are spring only scholarships so those will be distributed soon. Emergency

funding is not included in this area. Trustees may be contacted to participate in a feasibility study for the Foundation's upcoming campaign.

President's Report

SUNY Update/Advocacy

Dr. Hilton began his report with several updates regarding work at the SUNY system level. The SUNY Transfer Taskforce, which was created to explore developing a more seamless pathway for students to transfer from one SUNY institution to another, sent its preliminary recommendations to the Chancellor and the Taskforce's President's advisory group of which I am a member. Related to Transfer efforts, we received funding from SUNY to work on transfer initiatives with SUNY ESF, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Poly and SUNY Cortland. Next, there is a SUNY Healthcare Workforce Taskforce focused on expanding SUNY's educational capacity in health care profession shortage areas, strengthening the pipeline of students in professions that have been hit hardest, and aligning education with health care industry needs. OCC is represented on two of this taskforce's workgroups: Derrick Carr, Project Partner Director (pipeline workgroup); and Nursing Professor Cindy Arcuri (capacity workgroup). We believe that this taskforce's recommendations will be for additional support at community colleges to increase capacity in our healthcare programs. The last taskforce, Workforce 2030, is specifically for community colleges to examine how the community college sector can prepare more workers in high demand jobs. The taskforce has been supporting the Empire State Community College Workforce Guarantee advocacy efforts; and is planning to feature in March the work that community colleges do to produce career-ready students in areas of critical workforce shortages.

Empire State Community College Guarantee

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on the Empire State Community College Guarantee. You may recall that I mentioned this effort at the last board meeting. This advocacy initiative is a request for an additional \$97 M in operating support for the SUNY community college sector. Recently, OCC hosted a Business Leaders Breakfast, and I wanted to share some of the topics and conversations that took place. In my remarks, I expressed OCC's appreciation to our employer partners for the collaborative relationships. We are grateful to work with them, ensuring career success for our students, expanding commitment to community engagement, and fostering the economic vitality of our region. We heard via video messages from our County Executive, Ryan McMahon and CenterState CEO President, Robert Simpson. Both messages emphasized that this is an exciting time for us in Central NY, but there are also unique challenges ahead - challenges that emphasize the importance of public and private partnerships. Both the County Executive and President Simpson shared their support for the Workforce Guarantee and commended OCC as well as other community colleges in the area for our commitment and expertise in providing needed skills and training. It is clear from the conversation at breakfast that more workers are needed in all sectors in Central NY. For OCC to increase our capacity to educate more students, we need additional operational support. This will allow us to hire more faculty and to provide the services students need while obtaining these degrees. The proposed *Empire State Community College Workforce Guarantee* is included in your materials. This is a commitment that OCC and SUNY community colleges are proposing to New York State which will ensure that our institutions are equipped with the resources necessary to help prepare the workforce of tomorrow. Thank you to those trustees who were able to complete the letters in support of this initiative.

Middle States Self-study Prep Visit – May 14, 2024

We have been provided with the date of May 14, 2024, for the initial visit from our Middle States liaison. We planned this on the same date as the May board meeting so that you would not need to come to campus for an additional meeting. As per the normal Middle States process, we plan to have you meet with the Middle States representative during the last half hour of the board meeting, from 10:00 – 10:30 AM. More information on this will be available at the March board meeting.

*Resolution to Change the Name of a Department: Office of Social Justice, Equity and Inclusion

Dr. Hilton continued his report with changes to the names of offices or departments on campus, which require board approval. The name change here – from Diversity Services to the Office of Social Justice, Equity & Inclusion - better represents the work that is done in that department. I would ask for your approval of the name change.

On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Littlejohn, the resolution to change the name of a department: Office of Social Justice, Equity & Inclusion, was unanimously approved.

Student Success Challenge

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on the Student Success Challenge. We are preparing to send out additional information soon to start the process again for 2024-25, once again accepting applications for projects that will help us to decrease the achievement gap for underrepresented minority students and first-generation students by 50% by 2026. You'll notice that included in your materials were the KPI's – key performance indicators. We will use these KPIs to help guide our work and to help accomplish the goals of our Strategic Plan.

Lastly, as it relates to student success, we all recognize the challenges for OCC students as it relates to transportation to and from campus. One of our students who lives near Columbus Bakery, which is roughly 4 miles from where we sit today, told us that it takes him about 1 hour and 15 minutes to get to campus using the Centro bus system. To assist our degree seeking students with their transportation needs we launched a pilot program with Lyft, the ride share company, to provide a \$10 discount for 10 rides per month as long as the ride originates or ends at OCC. We patterned the program after Harper College in Illinois which is more than twice the size of OCC. Using info from Harper, we conservatively estimate that using \$80K of our SUNY Transformational Fund dollars would last us two academic years. \$80K didn't even last one semester. Thus, we are making changes to the program and looking for additional financial support so that we can continue the program which one of our adult students called a life saver.

Syracuse Community Health Center will be opening an urgent care facility on our campus in Residence Hall C available to all students, employees and the community. By using SCHC, no one is turned away for not having insurance.

Chair's Report

Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations

Trustee Sindoni stated that information on the Trustee Awards is included in the material for this meeting. Any suggestions for nominations should be shared with Julie Hart by the end of February.

Board Retreat – April 19, 2024

Trustee Sindoni commented that this is another reminder of the Board of Trustees retreat scheduled for April 19, 2024. More information will be forthcoming on this as the date approaches.

NYCCT Board of Directors Meeting – April 13, 2024

Trustees Sindoni continued by saying that NYCCT is holding one of their regularly scheduled meetings at OCC in April. It is on a Saturday, but we are hoping a few Trustees will be able to attend. Once we have secured an agenda, Julie will forward it to all of you.

Board of Trustees Assessment

Trustee Sindoni mentioned that it is the time of year Trustees complete the annual assessment. Julie will email the link to you to complete it with a discussion on the results taking place at the retreat.

***Resolution to approve the reappointment of Directors of the Housing Development Corporation**
On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Owens, the resolution to approve the reappointment of Directors of the Housing Development Corporation was unanimously approved.

***Approval of the Updates to the Board of Trustees Bylaws**

On motion by Dr. DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the updates to the Board of Trustees bylaws was unanimously approved. Language will be added to call it a “strategic retreat.”

Audit Presentation by Representatives from the Bonadio Group

Trustee Sindoni introduced Mark Manning, Chief Financial Officer, who, in turn, introduced Jonathan Miller and Gregg Evans from The Bonadio Group. Mr. Miller presented the 2023 OCC annual financial audit and explained the responsibilities of the audit firm and the findings of the same. Various tests and assessments were performed, and it was noted that the firm found no material weaknesses or deficiencies, and that business systems are operating effectively and that the financial information the Board of Trustees regularly receives is appropriate.

***Receipt of the OCC Audit**

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the motion to approve receipt of the OCC audit was unanimously approved. The OCC Foundation audit is not complete at the time of approval, so this receipt of the Audit is pending a successful audit from the OCC Foundation.

Executive Session

At 9:59 a.m., Trustee Sindoni 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. **On**

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

At 10:49 a.m., on motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, 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 Sindoni adjourned the board meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees