

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaime Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Haley Madej; Melanie Littlejohn (virtual); John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Dr. Malkiel Chosed; Kathy D'Aprix; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Kelly Larrivey; Kevin MacLachlan; Mark Manning; Mary Crawford-Mohat; Roger Mirabito; Michael O'Connor; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Olin Stratton; Susan Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Erin Vaccaro; Dr. Sean Vormwald; Dr. Larry Weiskirch; Steve Wiley; Dr. Eunice Williams

Guests: Sarah Hazlewood and Alyssa Slayton: DeepSeas

Call to Order

At 9:33 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Swearing-in of Reappointed Trustee Jaime Alicea

Trustee Sindoni facilitated the swearing-in ceremony for reappointed Trustee Jaime Alicea. He thanked him for his continued service on the Board of Trustees.

Consent Agenda

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

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

No additional report at this time.

Education Committee

No additional report at this time.

Student Government Update

Trustee Madej mentioned the development of a collaboration with SUNY ESF to plant trees on campus and more information will be available on that at the next meeting. Student Government (SGA) is working on Color on the Quad for spring – a three-day event with lots of activities for students. SGA is also working with Career and Transfer Services to implement a survey for graduating students to help us with a better awareness of where students go when they leave OCC. The monthly SGA calendars have been a success and are posted across campus to keep the campus community apprised of activities.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D'Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. Ms. D'Aprix reported that the audit has been completed, even with only two employees currently in the Foundation offices. And, the Foundation brought in \$100k more in donations than compared to this same time last year. Work continues on a number of grants and other requests for funding, and they are working with the OCCF Board of Directors to ensure continuity in operations. They have contracted with a part-time accountant to assist with the books and prepare for the next audit which starts in the summer. The Foundation has finalized the fall scholarship payment of \$245K and are working to administer spring 2023 scholarships. A final amount will be available at the May Board of Trustees meeting. The first Topics on Tap event was held March 7 and was attended by over 60 guests. Local experts in the construction and architecture fields participated in a panel conversation. The next event is scheduled for May 30 and will focus on healthcare. There is strong interest in this event, and we expect it to be well attended. Communication will be coming to everyone soon for the spring week of giving and crowdfunding opportunities are available for anyone who wishes to participate.

Chair's Report

Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations

On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Dr. DeSiato, the Founder's and Trustee Awards nominations were unanimously approved. Resolutions will be presented at the May 14, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar for 2024-2025

Trustee Sindoni commented that included in the materials for the meeting was a draft calendar for next year's meetings. Please let Julie Hart know by the May meeting if you have any conflicts with the dates as they are presented.

Board Retreat – April 19, 2024

Trustee Sindoni commented that this is another reminder of the Board of Trustees retreat scheduled for April 19, 2024. It will begin at 8:00 am in Whitney 210.

Nominating Committee Appointment

Trustee Sindoni asked Trustee Littlejohn to chair the Nominating Committee in her role as Vice-chair of the Board. Trustee Littlejohn will then need to appoint two additional trustees to assist her with the development of a slate of officers to present at the May board meeting for approval at the June board meeting. This is also a good time to review upcoming trustee vacancies and confirm suggestions for the same. Dr. DeSiato volunteered to participate and they will solicit one other trustee to serve.

***Resolution of Appreciation to Tara Owens**

On motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the motion to approve the resolution of appreciation for Tara Owens was unanimously approved.

President's Update

DeepSeas Presentation

Dr. Hilton began his report by introducing Mark Manning, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Manning provided an overview of the College's work with DeepSeas (formerly Gray Castle) and introduced presenters Sarah Hazlewood and Alyssa Slayton virtually.

They reviewed the goals and objectives of the assessment, including the development of a formal plan moving forward. The Assessment covered 17 domains using NIST 800-171 and included a review of each of the categories. Assessment scoring and results were based on compliance with an industry standard framework. Risk assessment is an ongoing process and one that is never completed. Ms. Hazlewood explained that OCC has a findings summary of 48% and shows a moderate level of compliance in relation to industry standards. It is a good score with room for improvement, noting the average score for other higher ed institutions was 40%. The top 10 prioritized findings include: contingency planning; incident response testing; system and communications protection; device identification and authentication; awareness and training; media protection and marking; audit and accountability; audit storage capacity; access control – mobile device management; and maintenance – vendor tools verification.

Student Success

Dr. Hilton began his report with an update on student success initiatives at the College. He explained that fall to spring persistence of first-time full-time degree seeking students is up from last fall – from 77.6% in 2022 to 79.6% in fall 2023. This is the first time since the Fall 2015 these rates have been higher than 79%.

Student Success Challenge Projects

New projects are coming in for 2024-25 (8 total), and Executive Council has approved the continuation of one of last year's projects because it showed promising results. More information will be provided at future Board meetings once Executive Council determines the projects that will be funded.

4DX

Related to Student Success, the College will engage with Franklin Covey's 4 Disciplines of Execution process and tool to complement the work that the College will be doing to reach the goals of our Strategic Plan. Last fall, Extended Executive Council members read the 4DX book and Dr. Sean Vormwald, Director, Data Insights & Visualization, attended a conference to learn about how other higher education institutions have successfully utilized the 4DX process and tool. In February, Executive Council worked with our 4DX facilitator to start our implementation by creating our first annual goals. We are refining the goals and will share them, along with the KPIs from the Strategic Plan, with the campus community later this year. Suzanne Hays, our 4DX facilitator, will provide the Trustees with a short presentation at the retreat in April.

Legislative Priorities

This year's Legislative Priorities have been provided to you. Along with Sue Tormey, since November, Dr. Hilton has met with and/or communicated with over 20 NY legislators to advocate for additional operational aid for community colleges. Also, advocacy was done by members of this board, our students, faculty, staff, local businesses and Micron. The Community College Guarantee was not included in the budget or one house bills and the funding floor will continue but it is not yet legislation. Two weeks ago, upon learning that additional operational aid for community colleges was not included in the one house bills, Dr. Hilton spent time in Albany meeting with various legislators including our local delegation, the Assembly Higher Education Chair and the Speaker of the Assembly. Efforts are continuing by NYCCT and NYCCAP to advocate for additional operational aid.

SUNY Veterans Enrollment & Support Internship Program

OCC has been selected to be part of the inaugural SUNY Veterans Enrollment and Support Internship Program, which will be launched with support from Empire State Development. OCC will receive resources to support a paid internship for a student veteran to work in admissions or enrollment management to increase veterans' enrollment, engagement, and to help determine barriers faced by student veterans. The intern will also work to ensure enrolled military-connected students are referred to campus resources that will support their success. The internship program will be supported across all campuses by the SUNY Office of University Life in collaboration with SUNY Enrollment Management.

Women's Basketball

Congratulations to our Women's basketball team for once again winning their division, conference, and a place in the National Championship. They had a tremendous run in the tournament and finished 6th in the Country. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to sharing in their future successes on and off the court.

*Resolution of Appreciation for Dean Michael O'Connor, Dr. Malkiel Choseed, and Dr. Matthew DelConte

On motion by Trustee Alicea, and seconded by Trustee Sindoni, the resolution of appreciation for Dean Michael O'Connor, Dr. Malkiel Choseed, and Dr. Matthew DelConte, was unanimously approved.

Middle States Update

Dr. Hilton introduced Dr. Malkiel Choseed and Erin Vaccaro, Middle States co-chairs, to provide an update on Middle State and the visit to campus on May 14, 2024. A timeline of events, starting in fall 2023, were reviewed and preparations are underway for the self-study prep visit. Review of agenda items that are regularly discussed with the Board of Trustees include: discussion of Standard 7 expectations for the role of the governing body in institutional governance; discussion of the role of the governing board in the accreditation process, specifically involvement in the Team Chair's preliminary visit and the Evaluation Team visit; expectations for providing data and documentation to the Working Groups addressing Standards 1 and 7; the related entities policy, if appropriate; and questions about the accreditation process. Trustees were asked to review Standard 7 and goals for the meeting on May 14, and to be aware of how the Board of Trustees will help OCC meet and document the relevant criteria for Standard 7 and the entire Self-Study. This is also an opportunity to ask our Middle States liaison questions about the process.

Executive Session

At 10:35 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 Alicea, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:48 a.m., **on motion by Trustee and seconded by Trustee, 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 10:48 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees