

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

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

Staff: Stephanie Aldrich; Deborah Barney; Derrick Carr; Mary Crawford-Mohat; Kathy D’Aprix; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Dr. Richard McLain; Roger Mirabito; Lindsey Reider; Sue Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Monifa Wilcox; Dr. Eunice Williams

Call to Order

At 8:59 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Swearing-in of New Trustee William Gilberti, Esq.

Trustee Sindoni facilitated the swearing-in ceremony for new Trustee William Gilberti, Esq., and welcomed him to the Board of Trustees.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

Trustee Tryniski recapped the agenda of the Finance Committee.

Education Committee

Trustee Alicea recapped the agenda of the Education Committee.

Student Government Update

Trustee Madej mentioned that new officers have been selected and they are working to integrate them into the inner workings of SGA. A number of officers will be moving off and graduating and offered her congratulations to them all.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D’Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. Timing is such that the Foundation meeting is tomorrow so a number of agenda items will not be able to be shared until then. The Week of Giving brought in just over \$14k and the Foundation picked up a few new donors, both corporate and individual. Other donations include one from the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County and an event for the same on August 12. The Topics on Tap event from earlier this year was a big success, and the event we had scheduled for next week is being postponed until fall so we can grow it appropriately. This event will focus on healthcare. The Foundation board will decide on the capital campaign at tomorrow’s meeting, and they are working on staffing for the office – potential for a seven-person team at some point in the near future.

Consent Agenda

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

Chair's Report

Slate of Officers for 2024-2025

Trustee Sindoni turned the report over to Trustee Littlejohn, Vice-chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Nominating Committee, to discuss the slate of officers for 2024-2025. Trustee Littlejohn explained that the current recommendations include that John Sindoni remain as Chair, Jaime Alicea become Vice-chair, and Paul Mello become Secretary. The slate will be voted on at the June 25, 2024 meeting. Should anyone have any concerns with the slate, they should reach out to Trustee Littlejohn before the June meeting.

Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar for 2024-2025

On motion by Trustee DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the Board of Trustees meeting calendar for 2024-2025 was unanimously approved.

*Resolutions for John H. Mulroy Founder's Awards; Ralph R. Whitney, Jr. Award; Trustee Awards; Student Trustee Haley Madej; and May Commencement

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Mello, the motion to approve the resolutions for the John H. Mulroy Founder's Awards; Ralph R. Whitney, Jr. Award; Trustee Awards; Student Trustee Haley Madej; and May Commencement were unanimously approved.

President's Update

Commencement 2024

Dr. Hilton began his report by reminding Trustees of commencement scheduled for this Saturday, May 18. He offered his thanks to the Trustees who could attend and mentioned he expects around 350 graduates. This is about the same amount as last year, keeping in mind that we now have a more formal commencement for December graduates.

Board of Trustee Assessment Recommendations

Dr. Hilton commented that based on the results of the Board of Trustees assessment that was completed and discussed at the retreat, a list of potential recommendations that the Trustees can focus on for the upcoming two academic years was developed. Please review these items, letting Julie Hart know of any concerns, and we will plan to vote on these at the meeting in June.

Presidential Updates

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on the Student Success Challenge. He explained that Executive Council is currently reviewing projects that were submitted for next year and we will have a final list of the approved projects at the June board meeting. Dr. Hilton continued with Athletics and offered his congratulations to our student athletes from the weekend - so many accolades including two national championships! The first was for women's lacrosse who beat Monroe Community College (Rochester, NY) 19-4 in the final game. Also, Bryn Whitman was once again named national champion in track and field in the discus for the second year in a row. Men's lacrosse finished 4th in the country this weekend, and we had tremendous success with a number of our other track and field athletes. We will plan to prepare resolutions of

appreciation for our national champions for approval at the June board meeting. Dr. Hilton continued with Middle States. He explained that the Trustees will be visiting today with Dr. Judith Sciple. She will review with Trustees their role in the Middle States reaccreditation, and she will be meeting with groups on campus today in preparation for our review in 2026. Dr. Hilton wrapped up his report with the New York State Budget update. He explained that after the board meeting today, he will head to the County Legislature to present our budget and ask for a slight increase in support from them. With the approval of the NYS budget, we have learned that we will once again receive the funding floor support, but it is still not legislation. We are also receiving one-time support of \$8 million to be split among the community colleges. In total, we will receive additional support of \$400,000 (pending County Legislative approval). This will hopefully remind everyone of the importance of a fund balance. In contrast, the four-year colleges received over \$100 million in additional support. The Chancellor is asking each of the colleges to work sustainably with their budgets and the additional funding provided to each college – both two and four-years – cannot be used as a bailout for those in financial trouble.

Executive Session

At 9:33 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 10:27 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Mello and seconded by Trustee Littlejohn, 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 10:27 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees