

Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Via Microsoft Teams or in-person in Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair

Trustees: Jaimie Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Tara Owens; Eleanor Petrucco; John Sindoni; Neil Strodel;

Staff: Dr. Agatha Awuah; Stephanie Aldrich; Jacqueline Barstow; Michael Borsz; Lara Chappell; Dr. Casey Crabill; Karen Fabrizio; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Linda Kelley; Amy Kremenek; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Carol Obernesser; Michael O'Connor; Calvin Prothro; Bridget Scholl; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Timothy Stedman; Nina Tamrowski; Dr. Christopher Thuot; Susan Tormey; Anastasia Urtz; Dr. Sean Vormwald

Guest: Mark Folsom

Call to Order

At 9:30 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

Swearing-in of Student Trustee Eleanor Petrucco

Trustee Sindoni facilitated the swearing-in of Student Trustee Eleanor Petrucco and welcomed her as a Trustee.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Trustee Sindoni requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Owens, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

Chair's Report

NYCCT Conference

Trustee Sindoni began his report by providing a brief overview of the recent NYCCT Conference that he attended virtually. He was impressed by the level of engagement of the attendees and noted that most of the community colleges are facing the same challenges. They encouraged Trustees to help with solutions to those challenges with such ideas as: more frequent collaboration between student trustees; helping to establish relationships with local businesses who might need the services of the college; frequent communication with elected officials; and ensuring that the board vacancies are filled with trustees who meet the needs of the college. Trustee Sindoni mentioned that he was concerned about the lack of conversations surrounding students concerns and needs, which he knows are at the forefront of OCC's mission and vision.

***Resolution to Award an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree to Roderic W. Groat**

Trustee Sindoni asked Dr. Crabill to provide some background information on the Honorary Degree designation. Dr. Crabill reported that Roderic Groat, also known as Rod Wood to most of us, has spent the last 60 years serving his community and his country with honor. After earning his GED Rod joined the United States Army in 1960 where he was a member of the 504th Military Police Battalion. He was stationed in New Jersey, Georgia, Washington, California, and

France. Following his service to his country, Rod returned home to Central New York and started taking classes at OCC while also working in the broadcasting industry. He earned 24 credits while taking classes in our former home at Midtown Plaza as he climbed the ranks through local radio stations. In 1976 he was hired by Channel 9 to anchor the news and never left. For 31 years he and Carrie Lazarus anchored the evening news together, forming one of the longest running anchor teams in the country. For his professional accomplishments Rod is a member of the New York State Broadcasters Hall of Fame and he is on the Syracuse Press Club's Wall of Fame at the Onondaga County Civic Center. Thanks to his service to our country his name also appears on the scrolls of military veterans at the Onondaga County War Memorial. Rod and his wife Nanette (who passed earlier this year) raised five children. They also have nine grandchildren. For his service to his country, his community, and the wonderful example he has set for all, I'm asking you to approve an honorary degree for Rod Wood.

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Dr. DeSiato, the resolution to award an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree to Roderic W. Groat was unanimously approved.

Contract Extension for Dr. Casey Crabill, President

On motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Dr. DeSiato, the contract extension for Dr. Casey Crabill, President, was unanimously approved.

Deferred Compensation for Dr. Casey Crabill, President

On motion by Trustee Owens and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the deferred compensation for Dr. Casey Crabill, President, was unanimously approved.

President's Report

2021 Bellwether Awards Finalist

Dr. Crabill introduced Dean Michael O'Connor to provide an update on the College's recognition as a finalist for the Bellwether Award. Dean O'Connor began with a history of developmental education in reading and writing at OCC and explained what the College has done in this area. The project that was submitted to Bellwether, To Save Developmental Education, We Ended it, was judged a Top 10 Bellwether Finalist in the category of Planning, Governance & Finance. As you may recall, the College was a finalist last year for Box of Books. This year's presentation will be virtual on January 25, 2020 with winners announced January 26. Dean O'Connor noted that he hasn't seen work like we have done at any other campus in the country.

COVID Protocol

Dr. Crabill introduced Dr. Sean Vormwald, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Health & Safety, to provide an update on COVID protocol. Dr. Vormwald began with an overview of our reopening plans that were submitted to SUNY for fall 2020. He showed visuals of the signage that was posted on campus as well as an overview of our screening process. He explained our enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols as well as our work station assessments to ensure the safety of staff. Dr. Vormwald then shared capacity measures that were put in place for the classrooms and residence halls and discussed in detail the pooled saliva testing for students and staff. He also reviewed how the wastewater surveillance works and what our dashboard looks like on the SUNY website.

SUNY Updates

Dr. Crabill continued her report with SUNY updates. She explained that NYCCT and NYCCAP are working together to discuss the community college funding request for next year. OCC was host to Chancellor Malatras last week. He visited our COVID-19 Testing Center and some of our workforce areas on campus then had meetings with Executive Council and Student Government.

Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

No report at this time.

Education Committee

No report at this time.

OCC Foundation

Trustee Sindoni introduced Trustee Neil Strodel to provide an update on the OCC Foundation. Trustee Strodel explained that the focus of the OCC Foundation continues to be on raising friends and raising funds, with a concerted effort to strengthen communication with friends of the College, donors, and prospective donors, as well as to identify opportunities for individuals and organizations to support our goals. The OCC Foundation traditionally holds a fall fundraiser, typically a dinner like the Celebration of Success. This year with the global pandemic, the traditional in-person dinner wasn't possible. Instead, the OCC Foundation hosted its first "virtual dinner," called Dining at a Distance where nearly 150 guests enjoyed locally sourced and prepared foods and tuned into a virtual fundraiser on the evening of Thursday, November 12th. In addition to ticket holders, the event sponsors were Community Bank; C&S Companies; SRC; Bond, Schoeneck & King; Solvay Bank; Bottar Law; Digital Hyve; Visions Federal Credit Union; and the YMCA. The event was a big success with nearly \$16,000 raised in support of the Lazer Response Fund. Please watch your mail for the latest issue of "The Foundation Connection" newsletter, which features a tribute to the late OCC Trustee Don Mawhinney, profiles of students and OCC alumna Karinda Shaynes and her family, two alumni who appeared recently on the show "Shark Tank," and the College's new Geospatial Technology program. This biannual newsletter is distributed in the spring and fall. Finally, the holiday end-of-year appeal will soon be sent so we ask for your consideration of the OCC Foundation in your holiday giving plans.

*Resolution to Establish the Norma E. Foody Endowed Professorship

On motion by Trustee Owens and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the resolution to establish the Norma E. Foody Endowed Professorship was unanimously approved.

Student Government

Trustee Sindoni introduced new Student Trustee Eleanor Petrucco to provide an update on Student Government (SGA) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). Trustee Petrucco explained that while meeting and working virtually is not ideal, the students of PTK and SGA have continued to host successful events and contribute to the campus. PTK is hosting a coat drive on campus and is working with Dr. Weeks Elementary to assist them with donations for the holidays. She mentioned that PTK recently hosted a Cooking with Casey event that was well attended. SGA hosted some Halloween events on campus and provided outreach to students who might have had concerns with the recent election. A few clubs are also hosting virtual events and making the best of with what limitations we have.

Executive Session

At 10:30 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 financial matters. **On motion by Trustee Owens and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

At 10:40 a.m., **on motion by Trustee Alicea and seconded by Trustee Strodel, 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 10:40 a.m.

Prepared by:

Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:

John Sindoni
Chair, Board of Trustees