

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting**  
**February 11, 2025**  
**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Whitney 210**  
**Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Vice-chair**

**Trustees:** Haji Adan; Jaime Alicea; Kathryn Crockett; Dr. Donna DeSiato; William Gilberti, Paul Mello; Alicia Oberlender; John Sindoni (virtual); Mark Tryniski

**Staff:** Stephanie Aldrich; Dr. Agatha Awuah; 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; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

**Guests:** Gregg Evans and Shelby Reeves, The Bonadio Group

**Call to Order**

At 8:30 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the board meeting to order. Trustee Sindoni was participating virtually so preferred that Trustee Alicea run the board meeting should there be issues with his connection.

**Swearing-in of New Trustee Haji Adan**

Trustee Alicea facilitated the swearing-in ceremony for new Trustee Haji Adan and welcomed him to the Board of Trustees.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Committee Reports**

**Student Government Update**

Trustee Alicea introduced Trustee Oberlender who offered an update on Student Government. She explained that there have been two changes in officers, including the addition of a Wellness officer. They have been busy planning events for the semester, and just held a Silent Disco that was well attended.

**OCC Foundation**

Trustee Alicea introduced OCC Foundation Executive Director Mr. Noce to provide an update. Mr. Noce explained that an important change that took place recently was that of the scholarships and the disbursement of the same. In working with Financial Aid, they determined it best to release funds for both spring and fall of each year at the same time so the offer amount of the scholarships could be included in the acceptance letters. Now, students can see their Financial Aid awards, along with potential scholarships. The Capital Campaign is still in the silent phase, and they are currently recruiting campaign leadership. The Foundation has brought in just over \$2 million in cash and pledges towards the \$7 million goal. Things are moving in the right direction and within the next six months we should see increased activity. There will be a series of salon events where we bring donors and partners closer to us. In response to a question

from Trustee Tryniski, there is no set date for the public announcement of the campaign. In response to a question from Trustee Sindoni, Mr. Noce will provide materials for the Trustees in advance of the launch of the campaign.

### **President's Report**

#### **SUNY Update**

Trustee Alicea introduced Dr. Warren Hilton, President, for his report. Dr. Hilton provided an update on the Governor's budget including the new SUNY Free Community College program. Eligibility is for New Yorkers ages 25-55 who do not have a college degree and who choose to attend full or part-time. All public community colleges in NY are participating and the program covers tuition, fees, books, and supplies after all other financial aid is applied. The fields that students can pursue in the program include: Advanced Manufacturing; Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity; Engineering; Technology; Nursing and Allied Health Fields; Green and Renewable Energy; and pathways to Teaching in shortage areas. Colleges will provide dedicated advising and other support to these learners. In collaboration with community college presidents and faculty, SUNY invited community colleges to seek grants of up to \$50,000 to develop a campus action plan focused on strategies designed to successfully serve more adult learners: marketing and recruitment; credit for prior learning; co-requisite models; availability of academic offerings and non-academic support in-person on weekends/evenings; transparency on course schedules and access to priority registration; sense of belonging; online and blended learning practices; and aligning campus policies with adult learner needs. Proposals for the grants are requested by February 20, 2025. In order to be sure this is a successful program we need to be diligent and strengthen our advocacy efforts. A copy of our recent Legislative Priorities document was provided to each trustee and Dr. Hilton will continue meeting with local elected representatives over the next few weeks.

#### **NEH Grant**

We have learned that the College is a recipient of a NEH – National Endowment of the Humanities – Grant in the amount of \$200,000. The application, "Centering Haudenosaunee Places, Archives, and Texts as Educational Resources: Connecting Onondaga Community College and the Skä-Noñh Great Law of Peace Center," was approved. NEH received 25 applications and made 4 awards, OCC being one of them. Congratulations to Drs. Shawn Wiemann, Annie Tuttle, and the Grants Office for a successful application.

#### **Enrollment for Spring 2025**

As of 2/5/25, spring full-time enrollment is up 4.3%; part-time enrollment is up 2.4%; credit hours up 4%; and headcount is up .4%.

#### **Board of Trustees Assessment**

Dr. Hilton mentioned twice a year we will report on how we are meeting the goals developed from the recent board assessment. Included in our materials was a spreadsheet showing how we are meeting those goals. Another report will be provided at the annual meeting in June. Julie Hart provided a brief explanation of the spreadsheet and attached information.

\*Resolution to approve Onondaga Community College's Emergency Succession Resolution for 2025

**On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Trustee Gilberti, the resolution to approve Onondaga Community College's Emergency Succession Resolution for 2025 was unanimously approved.**

\*Resolution to endorse a feasibility study for new program in Pre-Engineering

**On motion by Trustee Mello, and seconded by Dr. DeSiato, the resolution to endorse a feasibility study for a new program in Pre-Engineering was unanimously approved.**

\*Resolution to determine professional service: Professional Administrator's Position Titles

**On motion by Trustee Tryniski, and seconded by Trustee Adan, the resolution to determine professional service: Professional Administrator's Position Titles, was unanimously approved.**

### **Chair's Report**

Honorary Degree, Founder's and Trustee Award Nominations

Trustee Alicea 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 – May 2, 2025

Trustee Alicea commented that this is another reminder of the Board of Trustees retreat scheduled for May 2, 2025. More information will be forthcoming on this as the date approaches.

Housing Development Corporation and Onondaga Community College Association Financial Audits and Annual Reports

Trustee Alicea noted that these items from the college affiliate organizations are provided annually to the trustees to encourage transparency.

\*Resolution to approve the appointment and reappointment of Directors of the Housing Development Corporation

**On motion by Trustee Sindoni, and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the resolution to approve the appointment and reappointment of Directors of the Housing Development Corporation was unanimously approved.**

Audit Presentation by Representatives from the Bonadio Group

Trustee Alicea introduced Mark Manning, Chief Financial Officer, who, in turn, introduced Shelby Reeves and Gregg Evans from The Bonadio Group. Mr. Evans presented the 2024 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.

### **Executive Session**

At 9:16 a.m., Trustee Alicea 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 Gilberti and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

**At 10:15 a.m., on motion by Trustee Tryniski and seconded by Trustee Mello, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to move out of Executive Session and return to the board meeting.**

**\*Receipt of the OCC Audit**

**On motion by Dr. DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Sindoni, the motion to approve receipt of the OCC audit was unanimously approved.**

**\*Resolution to appoint Ingerman Smith, LLP, as Special Counsel**

**On motion by Trustee Tryniski, and seconded by Trustee Adan, the motion to appoint Ingerman Smith, LLP, as General Counsel, was unanimously approved.**

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the board meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Prepared by:  
Julie Hart  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:  
Jaime Alicea  
Vice-chair, Board of Trustees