



To be ratified at May 17, 2017 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
April 19, 2017**

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 3:00 PM in the Event room of the Student Center.

Trustees Present:

Hon. John Nonna, Chairperson, Hon. Andrew Spano, Vice-Chairperson, Betsy Stern, Vice-Chairperson, Robin Bikkal, Esq., Toni Cox-Burns, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Jonathan Kimiadi, Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, David Swope, Esq., and Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Joseph P. McLaughlin.

Cabinet Members Present:

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Peggy Bradford, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Shawn Brown, Chief of Staff, Pat D’Imperio, Vice President and Dean Administrative Services, Eve Larner, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Anthony Scordino, Vice President, Information Technology, Sara Tweedy, Vice President and Dean of Student Access, Involvement, & Success, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Continuing Education and Workforce Development.

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Nonna.

The Vice-Chairperson convened an Executive Session under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

****Motion: Spano/Mitchell – all in favor.**

Motion out of Executive Session

****Motion: Cox-Burns/Spano – all in favor.**

Ratification of Minutes

Trustees Stern and Mitchell made a motion to ratify the minutes of the March 15, 2017 board meeting. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

Welcome all! I hope everyone is enjoying spring. While it may be hard to imagine, the next time we gather like this is one day before commencement. Our college is bustling with activity as we prepare to bring the spring semester to a close.

Earth Day is Saturday, and two events here mark the occasion. Earlier today, Prof. Van Inwegen and his Engineering Club hosted an event on energy awareness in the Technology Building. Tomorrow, Prof. Medina hosts a guest speaker, Paulo Savaget an environmental scholar and visiting professor from Brazil, on the topic of "Green Growth & Eco-Innovation."

There is a variety of other special events this time of year, and as I said to my cabinet earlier this week, I encourage everyone to attend events as much as your schedules allow. They are great opportunities to celebrate our students, recognize their achievements, and thank the faculty, staff, and administrators who support our students.

Since the board last met, we hosted our Achieving the Dream leadership and data coaches for another two-day intensive review of our academic excellence and student success work. They recommended that we use the Institutional Change Assessment Tool for their next visit in October. It is a college-wide survey followed by a town hall discussion facilitated by our coaches. We've set the date for October 5-6 (Thursday to Friday) and will work with our Achieving the Dream committees to plan this event.

We have also concluded onsite interviews with our finalists for the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs. I sincerely thank everyone, board members included, who took time to meet with the candidates and provide input. Your comments have been very helpful in this process. We are on track to conclude this search soon.

In response to the Middle States request for a follow-up report in 2018, Faculty Senate will be providing recommendations on the process for producing this report. These recommendations will be particularly helpful for the new provost as he or she gets started. Thanks to Dr. Heather Ostman and her faculty colleagues for taking on this task.

After the meeting with the Governance Committee and Faculty Senate leadership last week, I sent a written response to a list of concerns raised by faculty senate. This was a helpful step in our ongoing work toward excellence in shared governance. In the interest of inclusiveness and transparency, I am happy to provide a copy of my response to anyone who would like it.

Finally, last we learned about the Excelsior Scholarship, which makes public higher education in New York State tuition free for families with incomes up to \$125,000 by 2019. The program phases in starting this year, and everyone here has been working diligently to learn the details and get this information to our students.

As you can imagine, I have been getting questions almost non-stop about what the Excelsior Scholarship means for the college and our students. We have included in your packets a sample of the media coverage. Like the other SUNY and CUNY presidents, I have expressed our excitement for this expansion of access to higher education. For example, we know that about 90 percent of our students who submit the FAFSA fall below the annual household income eligibility. At the same time, the scholarship requires full-time enrollment, which is not the best option for many community college students. And the scholarship does not cover the full cost of attendance, which also includes books and fees. We are carefully analyzing the potential impact of the scholarship on our enrollment, course offerings, and budget, especially in light of the fact that the increase in base aid for community colleges, at \$50 per FTE, is half of what we and SUNY advocated with the state legislature.

One of the calls I received last week was from journalist Soledad O'Brien to appear on her nationally syndicated show "Matter of Fact." I sat with her for a short interview, and I'd like to show that to you now.

(A short video was shown to all in attendance)

It was a pleasure to bring some national attention to Westchester Community College

C. Committees

Governance

Trustee Spano reported:

- We had discussion on the following topics
 - Board of Trustee evaluation
 - Presidential Evaluation Process
 - Board of Trustee Web page
 - Food and Housing in Westchester

The governance committee would like to make a motion to the full board that a sub-committee of the board draft a letter of appreciation for Dr. Peggy Bradford.

****Motion: Spano/Mitchell – all in favor**

Program & Planning

Trustee Jacknis reported:

- We had discussion on the following topics
 - Technology Presentation
 - Analytics for Student Success

The Program and Planning Committee would like to make a resolution that the board Health Information Technology Proposal.

****Motion: Jacknis/Spano – all in favor**

Student Trustee

Jonathan Kimiadi reported:

- The Student Government Association has elected new officers
 - President – Hamza Raja
 - Vice President – Cristal Alcantara
 - Treasurer – Keenan Long
 - Secretary – Ryan Dwyer
 - Director of Public Relations – Ben Neubardt
 - Student Trustee - Nicholas Singh
- A campus survey was conducted regarding extending library hours during finals. 758 respondents answered yes to extending the hours.
- The Academic Recognition dinner will be held on April 28, 2017 at the Doubletree hotel in Tarrytown.
- PTK – won three international awards in Nashville.
 - Distinguished Honors in Action Project

- Distinguished Officer – Ashleigh Riley
- Distinguished Advisor – Robin Graff

Tenure

The Program committee would like to recommend a vote on the following faculty members for Tenure.

1. Jessica Godin
2. Yvonne Rhode

****Motion: Jacknis/Bikkal – all in favor**

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Mitchell reported:

The committee discussed the following

- The 2017/18 College Operating Budget

Trustee Mitchell asked Pat D’Imperio to give the finance report.

Pat D’Imperio reported:

Resolution: Approval of the 17/18 College Operating Budget

***WHEREAS**, Westchester Community College seeks to provide accessible, high quality and affordable education and related services to meet the needs of its diverse community; and*

***WHEREAS**, Westchester Community College must balance financial stability with affordability to insure the continued success of its mission; therefore be it*

***RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College herewith approves the College’s 2017/18 Unrestricted Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$124,766,905; and be it further*

***RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College authorizes tuition and student fees, in accordance with the attached schedule for the College Operating Budget and Faculty Student Association, effective Fall semester 2017 subject to the approval of the SUNY Board of Trustees.*

****Motion: Spano/Mitchell – all in favor**

Resolution: Contract Ratification

WHEREAS, Westchester Community College is required to enter into agreements for the continued operation of the College; and

WHEREAS, the attached schedule represents those agreements approved by the College since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby ratifies the aforementioned agreements.

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
170545128 – AA	DANIEL GROMULAT	Hire pianist to assist in instruction of chorus classes. Services include playing piano and assisting in evaluation of performances	1/1/17 – 5/31/17	\$1,600
178191324 – CE	MAHOPAC SCHOOL DISTRICT	Renewal of contract for space and services used at extension school-based sites	1/23/17 – 5/12/17	\$9,000
178207126 - CE	PORT CHESTER – RYE UFSD	Renewal of contract for space and services used at extension school-based sites	2/6/17 – 5/12/17	\$3,435
178207325 – CE	THE URSULINE SCHOOL	Renewal of contract for space and services used at extension school-based sites	1/23/17 – 5/12/17	\$6,200
170510127 – CE	LAKELAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Renewal of contract for space and services used at extension school-based sites	1/23/17 – 5/12/17	\$3,285
179110124 - EOC	YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Rental of Saunders H.S. Auditorium in Yonkers for EOC Graduation and rehearsal	6/1/17 – 6/30/17	\$2,500
179110125 - EOC	YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Yonkers Police Department traffic control for EOC Graduation at Saunders High School in Yonkers	6/1/17 – 6/9/17	\$1,500 NTE
170310129 - SPS	STEPS PROGRAM, INC. D/B/A COLLEGE STEPS	To provide academic, social and/or vocational learning opportunities for students living with social, learning and/or communication disorders	1/22/16 – 1/21/18	\$0

****Motion: Stern/Bikkal – all in favor**

D. New Business

Chairperson Nonna invited attendees to address the Board

Professor Donald Shernoff

Addressed the Board regarding adjunct faculty office hours issues and students dropping out of math courses

Dr. Kwesi Amoa

Addressed the Board regarding class sizes

Alexander Kaidi

Addressed the Board regarding unfreezing the position for Alumni Director

Sergio Serratto

Addressed the Board regarding unfreezing the position for Alumni Director

Dr. Heather Ostman

Addressed the Board regarding no increase in tuition and the vote of no confidence

Professor Mel Bienenfeld

Addressed the Board regarding his discontent in methods of implementation in restructuring and new initiatives.

Professor Jodi Cotten

Addressed the Board regarding the reason for the vote of no confidence

The Vice-Chairperson convened an Executive Session under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss personnel matters.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

****Motion: Jacknis/Spano – all in favor.**

Motion out of Executive Session

****Motion: Cox-Burns/Mitchell – all in favor.**

Adjournment

****Motion: Nonna/Spano – all in favor.**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 17, 2017 at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees