



Ratified at May 21, 2025 meeting

**Board of Trustees Meeting
April 16, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 3 PM in the Student Center Event Room.

Trustees Present:

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice-Chairperson, Deborah Raizes Vice Chairperson (via videoconference), Robin Bikkal, Esq., Susan Gerry, Esq., Hon. John Nonna, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith (via videoconference), Hon. Lyndon Williams, Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees Excused:

Clara Carnot, Sergio Serratto.

Cabinet Members Present:

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dawn Gillins, Acting Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Dolores Swirin-Yao, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Community Education and Workforce Development, Garrett McAlister, Acting Vice President, Information Technology, Dante Cantú, Vice President of Student Access, Involvement & Success, Ben Naylor, Chief of Staff & Vice President of Strategic Affairs.

Call to Order

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Ratification of Minutes

Trustee Nonna made a motion seconded by Trustee Gerry to ratify the minutes of February 19, 2025, and March 19, 2025, Board meetings. The motion passed.

INFORMATION AND DECISION

A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

Since our March meeting, we have been focused on STEWARDSHIP. STEWARDSHIP for resources to sustain SUNY Westchester's future as we face challenges like

- End of HEERF funding
- Federal funding uncertainties
- State budget floor funding shortfalls
- Growing enrollment as demographics such as the reduction in the high school age population and outreach to expand our market share with target groups like working and non-working adults.
- Increased competition for strategic marketing, partnerships, and development efforts to close enrollment gaps.
- Despite five consecutive semesters of growth, not enough to keep pace with Increasing costs like utilities, negotiated expenses, and continued inflation

All while never wavering from our mission, our commitment to student success, and our focus on the increasing need for holistic student support and services.

Legislative Advocacy

Focused on federal/state/local legislative actions – ensuring we are in compliance

- SUNY
- AACC
- ACCT/NYCCT
- NYCCAP (New York Community College Association of Presidents)
- Presidents' Alliance
- Business Council of Westchester
- Westchester County Association

Focused on certainty in uncertain times. In addition to supporting our students and staff, we are also committed to serving and supporting our community.

Community Relationships

On April 10, I and Foundation colleagues attended the memorial service honoring Congresswoman Nita Lowey – a great friend of Westchester Community College and ardent supporter of our students.

Save the date

April 30: WCC Foundation's Transforming Futures Together Gala.

May 17: In celebration of Yonkers Arts Weekend 2025, please join us at *Fashion in Motion*, hosted by the City of Yonkers and described as "more than a runway show – it's a celebration of bold ideas, fresh perspectives, and the future of fashion" and will feature creations by our Fashion Design students. 2 PM, Hudson River Museum, Yonkers.

Lastly, Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness reports the following data.

- Summer 2025 enrollment is well underway. Currently, 2,444 students are registered, reflecting an 18.9% increase compared to Summer 2024. Moreover, there is a 24.1% increase in Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) over the same period.
- Spring 2025 Enrollment has been finalized and submitted to SUNY. We are happy to report that the final undergraduate enrollment for Spring 2025 is 11,756, an 11.3% increase compared to Spring 2024, which had 10,560 students.
- Winter 2025 recorded 97.1 FTEs, marking the highest Winter FTEs ever. The enrollment for the term is 745.
- We are in the process of finalizing the First-Year Student Survey Report, based on responses from students who began in Fall 2024. Key highlights include:
- Nearly all students (96.1%) who completed the survey indicated that they felt welcomed by the College.
- A majority of respondents (61.2%) identified SUNY WCC as their first-choice college, citing factors such as affordability, proximity to home, strong reputation, and specific academic programs—particularly in nursing, health sciences, and veterinary technology.
- Most students (70.2%) reported plans to pursue degrees beyond an associate degree, with 39.1% aiming for a bachelor's degree and 31.1% intending to earn a graduate degree.

B. Board Chair's Report

Trustee Mitchell reported:

NYCCT (New York Community College Trustees)

- State budget

- Strategy regarding approaching the state regarding the budget.
- Board Meeting
 - A Board meeting is scheduled for next week.

Westchester County

- Meeting with County Personnel to discuss the college budget.

ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees)

- Currently working on informing the legislators of our needs.
- Annual Conference will take place in October in New Orleans.

Commencement

- May 15, 2025
 - Ceremonies at 10 am, 2 pm and 6 pm.

Governance Committee

Trustee Gerry reported:

The Governance Committee had discussion on the following:

- Policy on Posting and Signage
 - A resolution will be presented for approval later today.
- Naming Opportunities Policy

Program Committee

Trustee Jacknis reported:

The Program Committee had discussion on the following:

- Strategic Plan
 - Goals
 - Enhancing student experience
 - Continual Transformation
 - Fostering Academic Innovation
 - Strengthening our sustainability
 - Strengthening community impact and engagement

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Robeson Smith reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update
- Contracts

Trustee Robeson Smith asked Acting Vice President Dawn Gillins to go over the forecast for the month ending March 31, 2025, and the contracts.

Acting Vice President Gillins presented the contracts to the Board.

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>
25-9581-728	Gonzalez Consulting, LLC.	External evaluation services for the National Science Foundation NY HIS HUB Grant.	5/1/25 – 9/30/28	\$99,000 Grant funded.
25-0240-672	Evergreen Mechanical Corp.	Health Science Building sewage evacuation pump replacement	4/21/25 – 8/31/25	\$35,000
25-9131-040	VZP Digital, Inc.	Cart/C-print, Captioning-speech to text services	9/1/25 – 8/31/26	\$2000 Grant funded.

****Motion: Robeson Smith/Nonna – all in favor**

Resolution: Approval of the 2025-26 Westchester Community 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 ensure the continued success of its mission; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College herewith approves the College's 2025/26 Total Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$127,509,910 inclusive of the Unrestricted Operating Budget (\$107,966,000), Special

Programs and Satellites (\$16,708,097) and Island Accounts (\$2,835,813); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College authorizes a tuition increase of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per semester from Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$2,615.00) to Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$2,765.00) for full-time credit courses and an equivalent increase of 5.7% for part-time credit courses; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the following fee increases effective Fall 2025: 3% increase in Children's Center fees for infants and toddlers and 5% increase for preschoolers; an increase in the Academic Affairs Program Lab Fee for American Heart Association First Aid/CPR Certificate from \$20 to \$22 each semester; an increase in the Red Cross Lifeguard Training Fee from \$35 to \$48 each semester; adding a Malpractice Insurance Fee of \$17 to the Personal Training Internship Program each semester; For the Faculty Student Association increasing the Activities Fee from \$10.50/credit (max \$126) per semester to \$11.50/credit (Max \$138) per semester

****Motion: Robeson Smith/Nonna – all in favor**

Comment from Chairman Mitchell

This increase in the budget will bring in 245M but this is still below the gap that we must close.

Trustee Gerry reported:

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE POSTING AND SIGNAGE POLICY

WHEREAS, SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) recognizes the need to establish clear, consistent, and orderly guidelines for the posting and distribution of materials and signage across its campus; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy balances the College's commitment to freedom of expression with its obligation to maintain a safe, accessible, and clutter-free environment that supports its educational mission and complies with applicable laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the policy defines procedures for appropriate use of bulletin boards, signage, banners, flags, and hand-to-hand distribution, and clarifies distinctions between College community members and unaffiliated individuals and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the policy has been reviewed and endorsed by the Board of Trustees Governance Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SUNY WCC Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Posting and Signage Policy, a copy of which is attached hereto, effective April 16, 2025.

****Motion: Gerry/Robeson Smith – all in favor**

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment.

Alex Petrunak- Westchester Community College student addressed the Board regarding:

- Public transportation for students. Perhaps there is a college bus option that we can consider.
- Endless fees for students. How are they justified?

The 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 real estate contracts and negotiation issues.

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

Motion out of Executive Session

****Motion: Nonna/Gerry – all in favor**

Adjournment

****Motion: Robeson Smith/Gerry – all in favor**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Howell

Yolanda Howell
Secretary, Board of Trustees