

**HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting – February 26, 2024

Chairman Stalteri called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Robert McLaughlin College Center, Room 282/282.

Trustees Attending: Dr. Ainsworth; Miss Cingranelli; Mrs. Crandall (virtual); Mr. Drumm (virtual); Mr. Gregory; Ms. Prymas; Mr. Reardon; Mr. Russell; Mr. Stalteri; Mr. Testa

In Attendance: Mr. Laino; Mr. Dutcher; Mr. Oriolo; Ms. Ruffing; Ms. Woudenberg

Also Present: Ms. Katie Stables; Mr. Jeffrey Steele

Chairman Stalteri called on Mr. Russell to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Stalteri presented the following consent agenda items for Board approval:

- a. Minutes
 - i. November 27, 2023 Regular Meeting
 - ii. January 29, 2024 Special Meeting
 - iii. Financial Reports as of 1/31/2024

Mr. Russell moved that the consent agenda items for the February 26, 2024 regular meeting be approved.

Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Laino shared a note of appreciation from Carli Rightmier, Mohawk Valley Regional Representative for NYS Governor Hochul, regarding the governor's recent visit to Herkimer College for a special announcement. The event was very well attended by local community members, as well as constituents from the Albany and Rochester areas, and there was much positive feedback about the event and the College. Mr. Laino expressed that Herkimer College is "open for business." Governor Hochul also mentioned in her speech the \$12 million that the state will be investing at Herkimer County Community College.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Administration and Finance:

Mr. Laino reviewed a recent Board communication that illustrated enrollment over the past few years.

Mr. Laino recently conducted a meeting focusing on workforce development. Indications are that there will be money in the governor's budget for workforce development.

Mr. Laino, Provost Oriolo and Mr. Stock recently visited Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona to look at different trades, including HVAC systems and data analytics, in an effort to determine what trade programs could potentially be offered at Herkimer College. Mr. Laino reported that they observed welding, automotive and robotics labs while at Pima Community College and spoke to a student who went through the program, received certification and is doing very well with what was learned. The National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) partners with Trane for the HVAC systems program, and Trane would be the College's partner. Other different stakeholders would also be brought to the table. Mr. Laino will report back to the Board with additional information in the future.

Mr. Laino reported that some of the preliminary work for the capital projects is moving forward. Multiple projects will be occurring simultaneously. An RFP to hire a construction manager to oversee all the projects is being considered.

Academic Senate:

Mr. Steele reported that the Academic Senate met earlier today. Topics discussed included AI and the Academic Integrity Policy, advocacy, and different course modalities.

Chief Academic Officer Update:

Provost Oriolo reported that the College has been allocated \$1,075,000 from the Transformation Fund for the three projects reported on at the September board meeting. Many agreements with SUNY Poly exist through this plan.

Mr. Laino remarked that he has re-engaged with a representative from China who is very interested in working with the College. An international recruitment effort is currently taking place with China and Japan.

Chief Student Services Officer Update:

Mr. Dutcher reviewed the enrollment report.

Mr. Dutcher reported that the women's bowling team won the Region III championship, and the men's bowling team finished second at the Region III championship. Herkimer College is hosting the men's basketball regionals this weekend. Herkimer men's basketball team is currently ranked fourth in the country.

Open House will take place on March 22, 2024.

SUNY has awarded Herkimer College \$2,000 for transportation purposes with the aim of bringing transportation to the College. An additional \$8,000 will also be provided by the Foundation.

Controller Update:

Ms. Woudenberg reported that the audit cannot be presented at this time due to a delay in the Housing and Foundation audits, which need to be part of the College's audit. The balance sheet and other financial statements were reviewed. A long-term debt will be paid off this year.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Student Trustee Report:

Miss Cingranelli reported that a survey for a student hangout area was completed for the FSA. Students indicated that they preferred cafés with snacks and coffee in locations other than the Library. The results of the survey went to administration for their consideration. Barnes & Noble and American Dining Creations are partnering to create this area outside the Bookstore for students and community members.

In an effort to promote club awareness, SGA is working on advertising clubs and encouraging club members to participate in multiple clubs. Intramurals and flag football intramurals are also being considered.

Draft 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule:

Chairman Stalteri reviewed tentative dates for board meetings for the next academic year. As conflicts exist for the third Monday of each month, the schedule will be revised for board meetings to take place on the fourth Monday instead. Another draft will be presented to the Board for their consideration at the March workshop.

Recognition by EDsmart.org:

The Board offered congratulations to the campus community for being ranked the number one community college in New York State by EDsmart.org:

HERKIMER, NY, February 7, 2024 — Herkimer College has been ranked the number one community college in New York State by EDsmart.org.

EDsmart's ranking of the top community colleges in New York is based on a composite score derived from several key indicators:

- *Salary After Attending*
- *Average Net Price*
- *Retention Rate*
- *4-Year Graduation Rate*

Each of these factors contributes to the overall score, reflecting the economic value, affordability, student satisfaction, and academic success at these institutions. Data is gathered from the National Center for Education Statistics' College Navigator. Every school was given a ranking in each category listed above and then assigned a composite score with the highest score being 100.

Herkimer College is the only school to have received a perfect score of 100.

Presidential Search Process:

Chairman Stalteri reported that there are no updates in the presidential search process. Should there be any news, he will work with Public Relations to get a communication out.

FOUNDATION & AUXILIARY REPORTS

College Foundation:

Mr. Laino reported that the Foundation audit went well, as the stock market has been very consistent. Fundraising efforts could be better. Lighting and sound technology upgrades are

needed for the Sarkus Busch Theater, as the College cannot hold events without it. This technology is having to be outsourced, which is costly. About \$300,000-\$500,000 would be needed for upgrades.

Housing Corporation:

Mr. Laino reported that long-term debt has continued to decline.

NYCCT

Mr. Gregory announced two upcoming NYCCT events: Board of Directors meeting at Onondaga Community College on April 13, 2024; and the annual conference and awards reception and banquet in Saratoga Springs on October 3-5, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Ainsworth moved, at 7:16 p.m., that the board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss, under provisions of 105f of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Mr. Gregory seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Miss Cingranelli moved, at 7:47 p.m., that the board reconvene.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Prymas moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

slh