

**HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting – October 16, 2024

Chairman Stalteri called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in Johnson Hall, Room 202.

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

Trustees Absent: Mr. Zugai

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

Also Present: Mr. Tim Rogers, Director of Campus Safety; Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans; Mr. Jeffrey Steele

Chairman Stalteri led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes - September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting
- b. Financial Statement as of 9/30/2024

Mr. Testa moved that the consent agenda items for the October 16, 2024 regular meeting be approved.

Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from a community member was received regarding their appreciation for the improvements done on the Nature Trail. Herkimer College was able to secure funding from SUNY for these improvements and repairs, which are almost complete.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

Administration and Finance:

Mr. Laino and Mr. Oriolo recently met with representatives of the Mohawk Valley Small Business Development Center at MVCC's thINCubator, which provides free advisement, education, and research to small businesses and entrepreneurs in Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, and Montgomery counties. They also assist in writing business plans. It is hoped that there will be a presence not only at Herkimer College but also in Herkimer County.

The capital projects are moving forward according to plans. The Physical Education roof project has begun and is going well. There may be a couple change orders. Drawings for the roadway and parking lots are being finalized.

Mr. Rogers spoke about the following four resolutions and policies, which were recommended by SUNY to all colleges to address civil disobedience. These policies, which will be added to Herkimer College's Board of Trustees Policy Manual, set forth SUNY's campus policies and ensure a shared understanding of strategies to deliver on the College's core mission for supporting a safe and inclusive climate. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Laino also met with local police authorities to ensure that a plan is in place.

Resolution 24-2 Camping and Use of Tents on Campus Policy was presented.

Mrs. Crandall moved to approve Resolution 24-2, as presented.

Mr. Reardon seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Resolution 24-3 Posting Policy was presented.

Mrs. Crandall moved to approve Resolution 24-3, as presented.

Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Resolution 24-4 Identification Card Policy was presented.

Mr. Drumm moved to approve Resolution 24-4, as presented.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Resolution 24-5 Model Policy: Freedom of Expression and Assembly Student Policy and Procedures was presented.

Ms. Prymas moved to approve Resolution 24-5, as presented.

Mr. Testa seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Academic Senate:

Dr. Adjodha-Evans reported on the following:

- Updates to the core competencies of the SUNY General Education Framework: revision of the existing Information Literacy core competency to explicitly identify artificial intelligence and the establishment of a new core competency in Civic Discourse. Campus-level development and discretionary early adoption of student learning experiences on artificial intelligence and civic discourse will begin immediately and effective fall 2026, system-wide implementation of the updated core competencies of the SUNY General Education Framework as a requirement for new students entering all associate and baccalaureate degree programs.
- The College needs to address Artificial Intelligence (AI), which the Senate is working on adopting a policy for students.
- To address Bookstore issues with students and faculty, College staff met with management from the bookstore to address the need for better accessibility and understanding for our students.

- The need to address a civil disobedience policy. This is not being received well by students and will be a point of contention. Language is unbalanced, causing a backlash.
- Received a grant from SUNY for an on-campus Interfaith Space.
- There will be a ribbon cutting for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) office and Interfaith Space in 2025.

Chief Academic Officer Update:

Provost Oriolo announced that the Competitive Analytics program has been approved by the New York State Education Department.

Chief Student Services Officer Update:

Mr. Dutcher gave an update on recruiting initiatives, including high school and classroom visits, college fairs, Instant Admit Days, and meetings with guidance counselors. The Herkimer County Guidance Counselors Association will be on campus on December 5th and will be given tours and classroom visits.

The County is once again providing support to the College by providing \$300 for transportation needs to each school district that sends their students to the College's Open House on November 1, 2024.

A press conference highlighting the benefits and expansion of the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program at Herkimer College was held on October 9th. ASAP is a transformative two-year model that has been widely demonstrated to increase student completion rates and narrow opportunity gaps. There are 150 at-risk students in the program.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Stalteri reminded the Board of the Torchbearer Awards Ceremony on October 18th.

FOUNDATION & AUXILIARY REPORTS

NYCCT: Trustees Patrick Russell and Isabella Crandall were recently honored at the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) 70th annual conference banquet on October 5, 2024 in Saratoga Springs.

Isabella Crandall received the NYCCT 2024 Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement. This is the highest accolade that NYCCT awards to a trustee. It recognizes extraordinary leadership and achievements as demonstrated by the incomparable Trustee Bushnell, throughout or in part of the term of her service as a trustee, to the trustee's local college or the community college system.

Patrick Russell received the NYCCT 2024 Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service. This award honors Trustee Rapp, whose extensive work in establishing and leading community colleges is legendary. Because of the geographic reach of his work, this award honors individuals who go above and beyond to contribute time, effort, and/or ideas that offer opportunities to students, faculty, and/or staff at the local community college, or the regional or statewide level.

There was a discussion with members of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustee about the two boards meeting again after the holidays.

The Board discussed a handout from NYCCT, *Equitable Funding for New York's Community College Students*.

College Foundation:

The Foundation's recent Day of Giving Campaign grossed approximately \$17-18,000.

Housing:

Occupancy has been holding steady. Other than some roommate issues, things have been fairly quiet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Drumm moved, at 7:00 p.m., that the board adjourn to Executive Session to discuss, under provisions of Section 105f of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Dr. Ainsworth seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Mrs. Crandall moved, at 7:30 p.m., that the board reconvene.

Mr. Russell seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Drumm moved to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Ainsworth seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

slh