

**HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting – April 22, 2024

Chairman Stalteri called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in Johnson Hall, Room 202.

**Trustees Attending:** Dr. Ainsworth; Miss Cingranelli; Mrs. Crandall; Mr. Drumm; Mr. Gregory; Ms. Prymas; Mr. Reardon; Mr. Stalteri; Mr. Testa

**Trustees Absent:** Mr. Russell

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

**Also Present:** Laura Dutton, Superintendent, Poland Central School District; Mr. Robert Batson, Vice President, Poland CSD Board of Education

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Minutes
  - i. February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting
  - ii. Financial Reports as of 3/31/2024

Mr. Drumm moved that the consent agenda items for the April 22, 2024 regular meeting be approved.

Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Robert Batson, Vice President of the Poland Central School District Board of Education, thanked the board for allowing him to speak and recognized the College's recent achievements. It is his hope that the College will maintain the no-tuition status of the College Now program for Herkimer County students enrolled in the 2024-2025 academic year, as it has been a tremendous help for schools. Mr. Stalteri thanked Mr. Batson for his remarks.

Mr. Laino remarked that the College is holding the line again and not looking to charge for College Now programs but asked that Mr. Batson work with the College by referring students who Admissions could speak to regarding enrollment at Herkimer College.

**PRESENTATION**

*Resolution 23-16: Recognition for Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans for YWCA Salute to Outstanding Women Honor* was presented:

*RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Herkimer County Community College does hereby approve recognizing Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans for her outstanding service as a leader, educator, and advocate, and for her recent Outstanding Woman award in the Education category, given by the YWCA Mohawk Valley.*

Mr. Laino remarked that due to a conflict, Dr. Adjodha-Evans regretted that she was unable to attend this evening's meeting but expressed that she was very grateful for this recognition by the Board.

Ms. Prymas moved to approve Resolution 23-16, as presented.  
Mrs. Crandall seconded the motion.  
Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

## **OFFICER-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT**

### **Administration and Finance:**

*Promotion and Tenure:* Provost Oriolo gave an overview of the process of promotion and tenure and provided a background on each recommended faculty candidate.

Promotion as presented:

#### Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor:

- Rabab Hassan – Electrical Technology

#### Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor

- Jennifer Herzog – Biology
- Dr. John McLean – Social Science
- Lindsey Taube – Mathematics

Ms. Prymas made a motion to approve promotion recommendations, effective September 1, 2024, as presented.

Mr. Drumm seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Tenure as presented:

- Rabab Hassan – Assistant Professor, Electrical Technology
- Dr. Eric Vernold – Assistant Professor, Education

Mrs. Crandall made a motion to approve Tenure Recommendations, effective September 1, 2024, as presented.

Mr. Gregory seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

### *Reappointments:*

Mr. Laino provided the Board with reappointment/non-reappointment recommendations, effective September 1, 2024.

*Resolution 23-14: Addition of New Title – Chief Diversity Officer* was presented. Mr. Laino explained that SUNY would like a Chief Diversity Officer at all institutions. The decision was made to request a new job title of Chief Diversity Officer and to advertise this position internally only to full-time faculty. The faculty member's load would be reduced to half time, and a stipend

would be added for DEI duties. Mr. Laino met with the Chancellor to explain the plan, and the Chancellor is pleased that the College is trying to close on this matter.

Dr. Ainsworth moved to approve Resolution 23-14, as presented.

Ms. Prymas seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

*Resolution 23-15: Addition of New Titles – Director of Marketing and Communications and Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications* was presented. The addition of the two new titles will more accurately reflect the actual job duties of these positions. Only the titles will change.

Dr. Ainsworth moved to approve Resolution 23-15, as presented.

Mr. Gregory seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

Mr. Laino updated the Board on advocacy. All of Herkimer College's capital requests are in the state budget. SUNY is holding the line, and more details will be known once the budget is finalized. The college budget and fee schedule will be presented at next month's board meeting.

Mr. Laino discussed housing initiatives.

The Late Night Breakfast will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 p.m. The Emeriti Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at noon. Trustees were extended an invitation to attend both events.

Mr. Laino reported that he and Mr. Dutcher recently attended the NJCAA conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. One of his goals was to secure as many national championships as possible to be held at Herkimer College. This would result in a better economic impact for Herkimer and would also help with management of the FSA budget. Athletic Trainer Kyle Roepnack was announced as the 2023-24 NJCAA Athletic Trainer of the Year at the convention.

Ms. Ruffing announced that Commencement is Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. in the Gymnasium. There are 306 probable graduates. Reminders with details will be sent to trustees.

Mr. Laino recognized Miss Cingranelli as a scholar and student athlete who was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at a ceremony in Albany on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Also recognized earlier that day at a Phi Theta Kappa awards ceremony was student Rebecca Swart, as she was named to the PTK Honor Society All-New York Academic Team.

Mr. Reardon asked for an update on a workforce development position. The Board approved for Mr. Laino to move forward with the position and job description.

**Chief Student Services Officer Update:**

Mr. Dutcher reviewed the enrollment report.

Mr. Dutcher reported that Student Government Association (SGA) elections took place. The new president of SGA is James Zugai.

Accepted Students Day will take place this Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Herkimer College hosted its first Esports Invitational Super Smash Bros Ultimate tournament on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dutcher is working with high school principals to allow him to speak to students in classrooms about the benefits of higher education at Herkimer College.

**Chief Academic Officer Update:**

Mr. Oriolo discussed learning acquired through work or life experience. Workforce development continues to be worked on. A Trane representative was in the area last week.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Stalteri reported that there has been no communication from SUNY regarding the presidential search.

**NYCCT**

Mr. Gregory announced that the deadline for nominations for the annual NYCCT awards program is June 19, 2024. The annual conference and awards reception/banquet will be held in Saratoga Springs on October 3-5, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Testa moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Drumm seconded the motion.

Vote-Unanimous. Motion adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

slh