

## ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

### Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME** : August 11, 2015, 5:00pm  
**LOCATION** : Ulster County Community College, St. John Business Seminar Room, George Clinton Hall, Room 118, Stone Ridge, New York  
**CHAIRMAN** : David B. Donaldson, Chairman – Present  
**RECORDER** : Natasha Tagliafierro, Assistant, SUNY, Ulster County Community College

**LEGISLATORS**

**PRESENT** : Legs. Donald Gregorius, Leg. Mary Wawro, Leg. Craig Lopez

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT** : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster County Community College; W. John Dunn, Interim Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County Community College; Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Marketing/Outreach/Admin. Assistant, Arts Mid-Hudson; Eve Madalengoitia, Director of Programs & Art Services, Arts Mid-Hudson; Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Association President & Director of the Highland Library, Ulster County Library Association; Jody Ford, Ulster County Library Association; Margo Menard, Ulster County Library Association; Lee Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

**QUORUM** : Yes

**A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:10 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE.**

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**Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:**

**Text of Motion:** To approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2015, regular Committee Meeting.

**Motion made:** Leg. Lopez

**Seconded:** Leg. Wawro

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motions to approve the minutes of this Committee of July 15, 2015, were unanimously approved.

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**Motion #2 to Approve Minutes:**

**Text of Motion:** To approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2015 Joint Mtg. w/ Ways and Means Committee.

**Motion made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Lopez

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motions to approve the minutes of the Joint Mtg. w/ Ways and Means Committee of July 15, 2015 were unanimously approved.

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**Motion #3 to Approve Minutes:**

**Text of Motion:** To approve the Minutes of July 21, 2015, Special Committee Meeting.

**Motion made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Lopez

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motions to approve the minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of July 21, 2015 were unanimously approved.

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**ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Reported by:** Alan P. Roberts

**Resolution:** None

**Reported:** President Roberts stated that he wanted to thank the committee for the opportunity to be here and looked forward to getting to know each of the committee members on a different level and he is looking forward to new growth, revision and new opportunities and he is excited about the partnership with the community. President Roberts said I am a native of Upstate New York graduated from community college went through the SUNY system graduated from Albany State and took a detour to Florida for 26 years where I worked at a school similar to Ulster and we had phenomenal growth over the 26 years we had about 2,000 students and finished with about 30,000. President Roberts said it was a growing community college we learned a lot of lessons and had a lot of problems and when you have that many new students you don't know where to put them with financing with new building and growth in the community. It was a great opportunity; I was an adjunct instructor, full-time faculty member, department chair and Dean of health science. President Roberts said I learned a lot about health care and the nursing program and our nursing program is an amazing program and if you look at something we need to continue to grow, it's the health care program and we are going to continue to look at that. President Roberts said the grand opening of the new Kingston Center is on the 18th and the first class will be on the 24th and we are looking for new opportunities there especially with the High school right there with dual enrollment and the hospital right next door for new programs and new offerings.

President Roberts said my job for the next 6 month is getting to know everyone here and my answer to any question you have is yes we can do that. President Roberts said I looking forward to working with everyone, please feel free to come by my office or invite me by your office, if you would like an in-depth presentation on one of our programs or even if you have some suggestion on an area that is untapped we might be able to do, would love to hear it. President Roberts said economic development is the key to community college if you look at where we are positioned we have the opportunity to change the life of students and the industry in our area. Leg. Donaldson said that he was impressed that when they interviewed Dr. Roberts that there were no community organization that he was not a part of and that was very impressive and that President Roberts is a great fit for the college.

Leg Donaldson said an issue is housing and most people support this issue and it could help us get the numbers up. President Roberts stated we need to do something to increase enrollment and with the high school enrollment dropping that is our major fear is our continued growth to the intuition and we have tackled those situations before and we need to think about recruiting a little different. President Roberts

said we have to focus on maintaining and retaining the students we have, community colleges are notorious for not being able to retain students and it's the nature of our students, they come in and struggle because they come in without the adequate skills and are not able to do basic math and writing and it is discouraging but we lose on an average national basis about 50% of incoming class are gone by the following fall. President Roberts said we have had the discussion how are we going to save these students and so we don't have to worry about recruiting new ones in business they said it's always easier to keep a customer than to try and get a new one, it's a 7 to 1 ratio. Our efforts are going to be focused here.

Leg. Donaldson asked Chris White if he had anything to add about Sophie Finn. Chris White stated that he toured the building with the County executive and Dr. Roberts and we have a punch list that we are working on, but it's changed rapidly over the past two to three weeks. Chris White said that grand opening is Tuesday at 10am and looks forward to classes starting and the staff is very excited.

Interim Dean John Dunn said we are actively working on the program and the Police academy was supposed to start on the 17th that was the actual deadline but we are working on that. Leg. Donaldson asked how fall enrollment is looking? Interim Dean John Dunn said the fall enrollment today was down about 65 but the final registration will not be in for a while. We did have some deregistration due to non-payment but we are going through that process now. Interim Dean John Dunn said it's a very busy time from now until the end of September even without a move and everyone is fully operating.

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### **Ulster County Library Association**

**Reported By:**

**Resolution:** None

**Reported:** Julie Kelsall-Dempsey wanted to thank the committee for the continued support for the past two years. A new program that we are offering is Ancestry which is a genealogy program that we had in six libraries and now will be able to offer in all 21 libraries in the County. We are also looking into getting e-magazines, e-books and streaming movies have done very well. I supplied you all with information that show trends from January to January and usage is increasing and we are seeing that increase in the access from home with the e-books. Leg. Donaldson are you looking at the e-magazines and you are able to use your library card and access? Julie said that you are able to download it and read on your computer or tablet. Leg. Donaldson said it will work like e-books with a monthly consumer report? Julie said the library would subscribe to let's say people magazine and we would pay a higher price and you would have multiple uses and the publisher says that you can have x amount of people download it, and they are beautiful. Leg. Donaldson said they have come a long way.

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### **Arts Mid-Hudson**

**Reported by:**

**Resolution:** None

**Reported:** Thank you for your continued support, we did request a slight increase of about \$8,000.00 in funding to give out to the organization and an additional \$4,000.00 for administrative duties. There is a lot more activities going on in Ulster County and an increased awareness of the Arts in Ulster County. Separate from the funding it's been 7 or 8 years and something that we keep hearing are organizations that are looking for programs for general operating support, we want to start that conversation before we get to the contract state assuming there is funding we are able to adjust. for organizations that are

struggling to come up with some capacity building program and organization that have a weekend event or festival because that is all they do and they are not eligible for funding. There is a hole that we are seeing and we want to see if there is a way to help these organizations with the Ulster County money that they can't get from the State or current Ulster County funding. Leg. Donaldson said our funding is set up not for continues funding but more of seed money and is set up to help people and have been around and need a better web presence. It's been great and has really helped Woodstock school of art has a great program but now that we have done this for 7 or 8 years limited number of organizations that can apply and they have done a lot of capacity building and all the money has changed and they come to us and they are looking for money to get things done. Leg. Donaldson put together what is the best way to approach this, I like the idea of capacity building, for example, the festival voice and it was seed money that came out of this community and that is the result that we like. That is the issue that they have to keep coming up with new projects and if we could just give them \$5000.00 or \$6000.00 dollars we could help with the issue of them chasing that money. Leg Donaldson said this committee needs to think about what perimeters we want to place on this grant money. It's possible to use some of the money to use the funds for Ulster to keep these programs going. Leg. Gregorius what the strategy and that there is not a lot of brick and mortar and this program brings in a lot of people and there is a lot of return for what we put into this and the more people we can get involved. It will help the restaurants, gas stations and shops and it brings people back. I don't want to lose tract that this is a big driving force of income for the County and we can really grow and it's the best bang for your buck. Leg. Wawro said if you can't pay for the basic expenses of the organization than it's not really worth it. Eve said Outreach and marketing needs to be a big focus and that will bring more people in and we just need the County to support them with a little bit of money.

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### **Community Action**

**Reported By:** Leg. Donaldson said a funding request from Community Action was sent in requesting a total of \$74,750.00 more with 50% from Ulster County at \$37,375.00, 25% from City of Kingston and they are looking at trying to get funds from the banks and local foundations. Leg Donaldson said we have given them more money in the past few years I believe \$5,000.00 more last year and the year before it was specifically to get the kitchen up and running. We gave most of the organization slightly more because we had the money in the budget. We are going to need a justification for this and my issue is that this is for a roof and there is also a problem in Community Action when it comes to their dinners they seem to be concentrating in Kingston area and Community Action is for the whole County and they need to focus on other areas in the county like Ellenville and Saugerties. Leg Gregorius said it seems like they are asking for more money and it's hard to make an impact when they are looking for more money for infrastructure. Leg Donaldson said we have not given money for infrastructure before and that doesn't mean that we can't but we can discuss. Leg Donaldson said my concern is that this is a great deal of money for a roof, they should be going out and getting grant money. The building is historic and it was the old number four school in the 1700 -1800's. Leg. Gregorius said do you know if he has helped with grant writing? Leg. Donaldson he needs to be searching for grants for these. Leg.Gregorius said maybe we can give him help to find someone that can steer him in the right direction. Leg. Donaldson advised he wanted to confirm that Community Action last year Ulster County gave them \$21,750 and they are requesting \$37,375 for this alone and not the programs.

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### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**Reported by:**

**Resolution: None**

**Reported:** Lee said I brought a report that has some highlights of programs that we are doing, budget request was submitted asking for \$350,000 same as last year that has made a huge difference for us and am using grant dollars for the programs we are running. We have about 40 grants and contract and have about 35 individuals working for us, but we do have a big deficit in our administrative area.

Lee said There is another request in our budget for \$50,000 that is part of a grant program to work with county and planning department to update the agricultural protection program there is money from the State of New York the last time the plan was done was 1997. They have a big PR program going on and the State set aside 20 million dollars for farmland preservation in the Hudson Valley and they have a meeting coming up September 3rd that will get out more information, but the big push is to get the plan updated Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan just redid there's and it is something extension could do but it is more of a County project and there is a request in for that.

Ulster County fair more than 50,000 thousand people came out and we had some hot days and we saw the bigger crowds coming out in the evening and we are working on the education programs and making them more attractive to the evening crowd. The number exhibits were up and the number of exhibitors was up over 450 children enrolled in 4-H youth development program specifically clubs this is the highest it has been in the past 10 years. We had over 250 children exhibits at the Ulster County Fair. The agricultural society has done a great job of keeping that fair as a very country rural suburban and reflective of our Agricultural heritage. We had a new exhibit this year in the historic barn that has been there for many years, the poultry barn was turned into a museum. It was a very positive showing. We have a major program creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play and it has created awareness and has helped fund a lot of grants for Ulster County, and I count this as a real success.

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**Motion #4- TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Wawro and seconded by Leg. Lopez and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015

Natasha Tagliaferro, Recorder  
Minutes approved on September 8, 2015