

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : March 9, 2016, 5:00pm
LOCATION : College Lounge, Vanderlyn Hall, Ulster County Community College
CHAIRMAN : Mary Wawro, Chairman – Present
RECORDER : Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS PRESENT : Leg. David B. Donaldson, Deputy Chairman, Leg. Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Leg. James H. Delaune, Leg. Craig V. Lopez,
OTHERS PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster; Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director, Arts Mid- Hudson; Melanie Forstrom, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Amy Drayer, Executive Director, CASA; Michael Berg, Director, Family of Woodstock; Julie Dempsey, President, UC Library Association; Margaret Menard, Director, UC Library Association; Teresa M. Brundage, Aid to Leg. Lopez; Cassandra Burke, Intern for Leg. Jennifer Schwartz Berky
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN WAWRO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:05 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE.

At Chairman Wawro's request, the committee and program members introduced themselves, as there are many new members.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2016, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Donaldson

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion to approve the minutes of this Committee from January 20, 2016 was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported By: Dr. Alan P. Roberts, President

Resolution: No. 156, No. 157

Reported: President Roberts reported on enrollment. President Roberts presented an enrollment "dashboard" that will be available to all committee members. The dashboard is updated daily, and will show things such as enrollment, FTEs, student demographics, finances, and budget information. President Roberts stated that SUNY Ulster "lives and breathes with enrollment". The College will be asking the State for an increase of \$285 to base aid. President Roberts stated that the State is not living up to their part of the agreement, and hasn't been since 2008. President Robert's mission since arriving

at SUNY Ulster is to help make students more successful. The increase in state aid would help to bring in more services for students.

At the end of January, the College was projected to be short 56 FTEs. At the end of Spring registration, the projection was 35 FTEs short. As a result, the College froze spending. The projection for the spring was not much better. The projection for Collegian students was 75 FTEs; the actual number came in at 105 FTEs. Instead of being 35 FTEs short the College is only short 9 FTEs. President Roberts reported that students at the high school level have increased; enrollment is up 30%. President Roberts reported that students who take advantage of this program are ahead when they get to college and can complete their degree within a year. Leg. Donaldson stated that this is a great way to capture high school students, and it gives them the incentive to come to SUNY Ulster.

President Roberts reported that the College has applied for consideration of offering an Early Pell program. Early Pell is designed to give federal dollars to high school students. High school students would be able to use federal money to pay for college. In addition to tuition, the money could pay for books and transportation as well.

Michael Berg added that Kingston High School has a Student Success Center designed to assist students with college applications and applying for financial aid.

President Roberts stated that Resolutions 156 & 157 are part of the process to bring water to the campus. President Roberts stated that the resolution for an increase in base aid (New Business) will be submitted for the April meeting.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No.156:

Text of Motion: Adopting and Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6NYCRR part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Extension Of A Public Water Supply Line To The SUNY Ulster Campus- Capital Project 469- SUNY Ulster

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 156 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Donaldson stated that Resolution No. 156 is long overdue and the committee was in agreement.

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.157:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Easement Agreement With Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely Allowing The County, As Local Sponsor For Ulster County Community College, Access To Privately-Owned Real Property In The Town Of Marbletown For Purposes of Running A Water Line Through Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely's Real Property, And Authorizing The Commissioner Of Finance To Tender Payment For Such Easement

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 157 was unanimously approved.

Motion #4 to Approve Ulster County Community College to Present Their Base Aid Proposal at the April Meeting:

Text of Motion: Authorizing Ulster County Community College to present an increase to base aid proposal at the April meeting

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed. Motion 4 was unanimously approved.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY

Reported By: Melanie Forstrom

Resolution: No. 113

Reported: Melanie Forstrom reported that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County operates on a 3-3.5 million dollar budget. While what they are asking for does not seem like very much the money received is essential for their operations. Melanie Forstrom reported that the staff is committed to diversifying the funding. When Cornell Cooperative was established they were 1/3 County funded, 1/3 State funded, and 1/3 federally funded. This has since changed. Cornell Cooperative receives about \$8,000-\$10,000 from federal funding, and the State “matches” the County’s contribution. Melanie Forstrom reported that the 4-H Club Program is not grant fundable. The requested contribution is essential to the 4-H Club Program. The Veterinary Science program run by Cornell Cooperative is a feeder for SUNY Ulster’s Vet Tech program.

Leg. Donaldson complemented Cornell Cooperative stating “they do a great job” and “the money we give them is well spent”. Leg. Donaldson added that the money the County gives Cornell Cooperative is used to leverage money from other places, stating that Cornell Cooperative turned \$300,000 into \$3,000,000. Leg. Donaldson called Cornell Cooperative “one of the best economic development engines” the County has.

Motion #5 to Approve Resolution No.113:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Of Ulster County For 2016appropriations- Legislature

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 113 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Chairman Wawro pointed out that much of Cornell Cooperative's funding is "earmarked" for specific uses and that Cornell Cooperative needs funding that could "fill in the holes".

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES- (CASA)

Reported By: Amy Drayer, Executive Director

Resolution: No. 115

Reported: Amy Drayer reported that CASA is run by 1-Full Time staff member, 1-Part Time staff member, and anywhere from 25-40 community volunteers who are court appointed to foster children. This allows the children to spend less time in foster care, and the goal is to give the children a safe and permanent home. Amy Drayer reported that currently there are 28 volunteers (5 of them are non-advocates) advocating for 51 children.

Leg. Donaldson added that CASA is one of the most cost-effective programs. Placing 1 child saves the County about \$100,000, and CASA will only be given \$36,000. Leg. Donaldson stated, "It is a conservative approach to ensure these kids are taken care of, and we're saving money at the same time."

Motion #6 to Approve Resolution No.115:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) For 2016 Appropriations-Legislature

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 115 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Schwartz Berky asked for the demographics of the children being served. Amy Drayer added that CASA is currently looking into mentoring especially children age 12-21, stating "they need more". The goal is for these children to go to college, get jobs, get social security cards and licenses, and to be contributing members of society. Leg. Donaldson added that the volunteers are professionals, who donate their time.

ARTS MID-HUDSON

Reported By: Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director

Resolution: No. 116

Reported: Linda Marston-Reid stated that ARTS Mid-Hudson works in Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess counties. The goal of ARTS Mid-Hudson is to not only have arts and cultural organizations stay in Ulster County and grow, but to thrive. These organizations are important to tourism and quality of life in Ulster County. Over the last 5 years, Linda Marston-Reid has seen the amount of proposals that have been submitted to ARTS Mid-Hudson. Over the last 3 years, ARTS Mid-Hudson has hired a part-time grant

writer. Linda Marston-Reid stated that the money is carefully distributed. Linda Marston-Reid added that they have discovered that many organizations could not apply for funding, so they asked ARTS Mid-Hudson to consider providing program support. Previously, Linda Marston-Reid asked the committee to consider giving 30% of the appropriations for ARTS Mid-Hudson specifically to program support. Linda Marston-Reid added that they were looking into the possibility of using other 501(c)(3) organizations as sponsors for some of the smaller programs that aren't eligible for funding.

Leg. Schwartz Berky added that 8 years ago the Ulster County Arts Council was dissolved, because it was not performing properly, due to a lack of resources. The original agreement was to give \$50,000 every year with 5% (\$2500) to pay for the administration of the program. Linda Marston-Reid stated, "we are trying to up the ante".

Leg. Donaldson added that grants use to be decided based on which legislator you knew. When Leg. Donaldson became the chairman he ended this practice and gave the charge to distribute funds evenly and equally.

Motion #7 to Approve Resolution No.116:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Arts Mid-Hudson For 2016 Appropriations-Legislature

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.116 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Donaldson asked about the split in funding (70% & 30%) and 30% repeat funding. Linda Marston-Reid responded that 70% of this funding would be used for capacity building and 30% of this funding would be used for programming (i.e. studio tours and events like the Ulster County Festival of Dance. Leg. Schwartz Berky asked that the committee be added to the circulation list.

FAMILY OF WOODSTOCK

Reported By: Michael Berg, Director

Resolution: No. 117

Reported: Michael Berg reported that the Supervised Visitation Program was authorized by Family Court for non-CPS situations. Family of Woodstock is now providing 50% more services. Michael Berg passed out an *Analysis of Supervised Visitation*. Chairman Wawro asked if the difference between arranged visits and held visits meant cancellations. Michael Berg confirmed this. Michael Berg added that many custodial parents are not supportive of this process and often times cancel the visitation. The percentage of cancellations is consistent. Michael Berg added that this process allows staff to give feedback and advice to the parents. Leg. Schwartz Berky added that it is also an opportunity to steer the parents towards services. Michael Berg pointed out that while they let the parents know what is available that is a Family Court function. Leg. Schwartz Berky also asked about the number of sessions. Michael Berg stated that on average they are doing slightly less than 7 sessions per child per family. Michael Berg added that in many cases the court is being asked by the non-custodial parent to give permission for

them to regularly see their children, and this program and the observations being made help the court to make these decisions. Chairman Wawro added, "it's huge, it's hard for the parents sometimes, but for the good of the kids". Michael Berg pointed out that the issue is not usually the relationship between the non-custodial parent and the child, but the relationship/conflicts between the parents.

Michael Berg also updated the committee on the success of the 180 Program, a pilot program run by DCJS (Division of Criminal Justice Services). A brief discussion ensued.

Motion #8 to Approve Resolution No.117:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Family Of Woodstock, Inc., For The Supervised Visitation Program For The 2016 Appropriation-Legislature

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.117 was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Reported By: Julie Dempsey, President & Margaret Menard, Director

Resolution: No. 120

Reported: Julie Dempsey reported that Ulster County is the only split county in the State. In Ulster County, there are 21 libraries total: 17 libraries are Mid-Hudson Libraries and 4 are Ramapo Catskill Libraries. The UC Library Association has recently added e-zines (electronic magazines) and in the process of launching a mobile app (it's in the testing phase). The UC Library Association would like to come back in May to present the app and will hopefully have more statistics to share. Leg. Donaldson asked about e-zines. There are currently 94 magazines, with children's magazines and Spanish magazines being added. Leg. Schwartz Berky asked if you could access academic journals. Right now there is no access to academic journals. Cassandra Burke (Intern for Leg. Schwartz Berky) added that the College Library has access to academic journals. Leg. Schwartz Berky suggested a relationship between the College and the Ulster County Library Association may be beneficial.

Motion #9 to Approve Resolution No.120:

Text of Motion: 2016 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.120 was unanimously approved.

Motion #10 to Approve Resolution No.118:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature to Execute An Agreement For The Maintenance Of Facilities For The Ulster Performing Arts Center For The 2016 Appropriation-Legislature

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.118 was unanimously approved.

Motion #11 to Approve Resolution No.119:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature to Execute An Agreement With Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc, For 2016 Appropriations- Legislature

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.119 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Chairman Wawro wanted to note that while there was no representative present at the meeting there will be someone temporarily. Leg. Donaldson added that the rep was "let go" stating he made "odd comments" and the "books are messed up". Larry used to be the Director, he will be back in the interim.

Motion #12 to Approve Resolution No.125:

Text of Motion: Re-appointing A Legislative Representative To The Ulster County Cooperative Extension Board

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.125 was unanimously approved.

Motion #13 to Approve Resolution No.126:

Text of Motion: Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Community Actions Committee Inc., Board Of Directors

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.120 was unanimously approved.

Motion #14 to Approve Resolution No.151:

Text of Motion: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act (MIPPA) With The New York State Office For The Aging

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Donaldson

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No.120 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Lopez questioned why this resolution would come to this committee and not go through Social Services, because often it would need to go through two committees. Leg. Donaldson pointed out that the Office of the Aging reports to this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Wawro reminded the committee that the next meeting will be Monday, April 11, 2016, at 5PM at the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Motion #15- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Donaldson and seconded by Leg. Lopez and Chairman Wawro declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Danielle Wayman, Recorder
Minutes approved on April 11, 2016