

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 12, 2016 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: SUNY Ulster, Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room, Clinton Hall
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Mary Wawro
RECORDER: Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
PRESENT: Legislators Schwartz Berky and Lopez
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Lydia Reidy- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Alan Roberts- President, Ulster County Community College, Chris Nguyen- Vice President for Administrative Services, Ulster County Community College, Ken Crannell- Deputy County Executive, Teresa Brundage, Aid to Legislator Lopez

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion No. 1: Moved to Approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2016, meeting

Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Schwartz Berky

Discussion:
None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Schwartz Berky, and Chairman Wawro

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes approved

Chairman Wawro asked the Committee to pick a date for the October meeting. Numerous dates were discussed, and the Committee decided to meet on October 17, 2016, at the County Office Building at 5:00 PM.

Chairman Wawro asked Dr. Alan Roberts President of SUNY Ulster to address the committee. President Roberts began by expressing his excitement about reaching the College's enrollment goals, stating that Vice President for Administrative Services Christopher Nguyen will explain this in relation to the budget and the fund balance. President Roberts reported that he had attended a Chancellor's Meeting with all the SUNY Presidents, their work on a strategic marketing plan for recruitment and that he will have good news to report at the next meeting regarding some potential

new initiatives. President Roberts reported that he had a chance to meet with SUNY New Paltz President Don Christian on Friday and that they are coming to an agreement that in President Roberts' opinion will be one of the most successful things the College has ever done. President Roberts reported that he can't say for sure yet, but it's on the way. President Roberts stated that this will change the nature of the way we do business. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell reported that the County and the College had been involved in a way that has been very proactive, adding that the capital planning has been excellent this year. President Roberts added that the College has worked very closely with the County on the capital program; that Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell walked the campus to see what needed to be fixed, and that the County pointed out things that the College did not see. Chairman Wawro agreed that it is always good to have a fresh set of eyes. Legislator Schwartz Berky asked if the County is sharing a Sustainability Coordinator with the College. President Roberts acknowledged the importance, but as of now, there are no shared services. Vice President for Administrative Services Chris Nguyen added that in regards to the capital projects he is very appreciative of the relationship with the County. Vice President Nguyen shared some of the projects that are scheduled for the next five years. The two projects that were added are the window replacements and the water tank replacement. Vice President Nguyen reported that the fund balance is approximately \$558,000.00. Based on last month and the current projections, the year to date fund balance will be increased by \$9,000.00 if the Board of Trustees approves it. Vice President Nguyen expressed his commitment to being fiscal and frugal with College funds. President Roberts added that last spring the College had a lower fund balance, and the fund balance this year may reach \$700,000.00. Vice President Nguyen stated that he is more conservative than President Roberts and he wouldn't mention numbers, but he would not be surprised to report to the committee next month that the fund balance has reached \$700,000.00. Vice President Nguyen wanted to close the loop on enrollment and shared that he had requested enrollment projections, and last week the College is at about 99% of the budgeted enrollment. President Roberts referenced the Chancellor's meeting and 95% of the institutions reported that their enrollment is below their projections. President Roberts reported we came in where we wanted to be in regards to enrollment. Chairman Wawro congratulated the College on reaching their enrollment goals. President Roberts in closing mentioned that the Human Services Program is expanding and the Prison Program should be moving forward within the next couple of weeks with a cohort of twenty-three to twenty-four students.

Chairman Wawro asked Lee Reidy- Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to address the committee. Executive Director Reidy began by congratulating the College. Executive Director Reidy briefly discussed the changes happening with Health Alliance. Executive Director Reidy reported that Cornell Cooperative had been approached in regards to low-income nutrition programs and local gardening. Executive Director Reidy reported that the budget request was sent to the County (both the County Executive's Office & the Legislative Office), and asked if the committee had seen it. Chairman Wawro stated that she had not seen it yet. Executive Director Reidy stated that Cornell Cooperative is requesting the same amount as last year \$350,000.00 and they requested an additional \$50,000.00 to update the Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan. The Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan was last done in 1996 or 1997. Executive Director Reidy added that the State would provide matching funds through the Department of Agriculture. The protection plan will break out each town, update farms, etc. The protection plan will allow the County and farmers to apply for additional funding and grants they would not otherwise be eligible for.

Executive Director Reidy reported on the harvest, stating “we have a really good apple crop”. Executive Director Reidy added that the apples were earlier this year. Executive Director Reidy also reported that the grapes managed the cold weather, some of the new varieties took a hit, but the rest of the grapes (Niagara, Concord, etc.) managed well.

Executive Director Reidy reported they had begun work (September 1st) on a new program the Relatives as Parents Program in addition to the program they already have. Cornell Cooperative received a four-year grant from the State for kinship care. This grant will target low-income families that are headed up by a relative who is not the parent of the children. Executive Director Reidy reported that they would be hiring a part-time outreach person to make sure the word gets out. Executive Director Reidy added that they are looking into the possibility of starting another group in Ellenville. Executive Director Reidy reported the group in Kingston is pretty robust. And that they are looking to add more people to this group. Executive Director Reidy expressed her excitement over this new program. These programs (Relatives as Parents and Kinship Care) provide education and support. Executive Director Reidy stated that they are not mandated reporters. They work with the relatives to provide education, support, and techniques as most of these relatives have not raised children in many years. They also work with the children to educate them. Executive Director Reidy pointed out some of the difficulties these children face. Executive Director Reidy added that many of the parents are incarcerated (mostly drug related). Executive Director Reidy added that it is very hard to reach these families because they do not make it known, that they are raising these children for fear they may be taken away. As a result, there are many programs that are available to these families that they are not aware of.

Executive Director Reidy reported that Cornell Cooperative is in the process or re-negotiating their New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) contract. Executive Director Reidy stated that this is the largest contract we have. They provide education and facilitation for the work being done to keep the water clean in the watershed above the Ashokan Dam. This contract would give \$1,000,000.00 for projects in Ulster County. Executive Director Reidy added that many towns would be able to take advantage of this. Executive Director Reidy explained that money comes through Cornell Cooperative to hire a planner for the County who works specifically with the watershed areas. The planner works out of the Department of Environment. The planner helps provide better communication and voices the County interests.

Executive Director Reidy announced an upcoming fundraiser (October 2nd). The fundraiser will be held at the Stoutridge Winery in Marlboro. Executive Director Reidy added that their Board President owns Stoutridge Winery and is donating the winery and the wine. Executive Director Reidy explained that the winery is an estate winery; they can only sell the wine from their farm. The winery has three solar arrays, and the wine making is gravity fed, they do not use electric to move the wine. Executive Director Reidy added that for an extra \$25.00 you can get a tour of the winery and also noted that the distillery is now open.

Legislator Schwartz Berky asked Executive Director Reidy when the earlier Farmland Protection Plan was from. Executive Director Reidy stated that the Plan was last done in 1997. Executive Director Reidy added that the County has a Farmland Protection Board, and they review land to be considered as part of an “ag district” adding that the Farmland Protection Plan was the catalyst for this.

Chairman Wawro advised Executive Director Reidy that her budget request was received, and added that she was excited for the Cornell Cooperative's fundraiser.

Resolution for the September 12, 2016, Session of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

Resolution No. 401: Approving the Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Kathleen Dittus, Esq. – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50,000.00 entered into by the County- Kathleen Dittus, Esq. – Office for the Aging.

Motion No. 2 **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 401**

Motion By: Legislator Schwartz Berky

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained the increase is due to restructuring. Legislator Lopez questioned that math. Legislator Schwartz Berky asked if Kathleen Dittus has always been the lawyer. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell confirmed that she had been the lawyer for a long time; he went on to explain that she is paid an hourly rate (\$100.00 per hour). Legislator Schwartz Berky asked Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell to explain the reason for the change in the amount of the contract. Deputy County Executive explained the restructuring. Legislator Schwartz Berky clarified her question and asked where the demand was coming from. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell reported that the Office for the Aging is seeing about 32 new seniors a month.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Lopez, Schwartz Berky, and Chairman Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Schwartz Berky

No. of Votes in Favor: 3

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
Minutes Approved: October 17, 2016