

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME** : September 10, 2014  
**LOCATION** : Howard St. John Room, SUNY Ulster County Community College, Stone Ridge, NY  
**CHAIRMAN** : David B. Donaldson, Present  
**RECORDER** : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College  
**LEGISLATORS**  
**PRESENT** : Legs. Craig Lopez, Mary Wawro, Lynn Archer and Donald Gregorius  
**ABSENT** : None  
**OTHERS**  
**PRESENT** : Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, representing SUNY Ulster County Community College; Melanie Forstrom, representing Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Teresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg. Lopez; Thomas Kadgen, as Observer for The League of Women Voters; and Fawn Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee.

**QUORUM** : Yes

**A QUORUM BEING PRESENT AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS BEING IN ATTENDANCE, CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:10 pm.**

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**MOTION #1:**

**Text of Motion** : Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of August 6, 2014.  
**Motion Made** : Leg. Lopez  
**Seconded** : Leg. Archer  
**Voice Vote** : Yes  
**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Lopez, Gregorius, Wawro and Archer.  
**Opposed** : None  
**No.in favor** : 5  
**No. Opposed** : 0  
**Disposition** : Motion passed – Minutes of the August 6, 2014 meeting of this committee unanimously approved as presented.

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**SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

**Report by** : Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration

**Report** : Dean Komdat gave updates on various events, including the College Scholars luncheon where the top 10% of graduating high school seniors attending Ulster are honored. When asked, the Dean said of the top 10%, about 14 students are returning to Ulster this year and 12 students are new. On enrollment, Dean Komdat said we are keeping pace with last year and our high school Collegian Program is doing well. He was pleased to report that there are 14 new Collegian classes being offered at Kingston High School.

The Dean also reported that faculty negotiations have been concluded; however, we have not received confirmation from the committee that faculty have accepted the terms of a new contract. He discussed the bids for Kelder Center for the exterior work

which includes the roof, chimney, soffits, siding, entrance and stabilizing the foundation. The second part of the work will be on the interior. We don't have a cost estimate yet, but all of the exterior bids went through County Purchasing.

Dean Komdat said he had finally gotten the generator engineering study and it is under review. The original estimate was for \$350,000, but it is now in the \$1.05 million range. He said originally we were looking at back-up generators on a limited scale; however, with the amount and length of the power outages we have we can lose entire days. We are looking at this as being an added value for the community. He also said the college has renegotiated its Web hosting and its Angel Shell hosting back in-house, so our exposure has increased. The Dean said he has not yet had a chance to give the Executive's Office an update on this. Leg. Gregorius asked about the state's contribution and Dean Komdat said this would be a state/county split.

On the water project, Dean Komdat reported the college is still working with the County Attorney on eminent domain to deal with the easement situation. Both the Towns of Marbletown and Rosendale have endorsed the project as has the DEP. Chairman Donaldson asked what the people who own the property want in order to give the easements. The Dean said they want to hook up to the water and that is something the college cannot do. He said the town would have to extend the water district in order for them to tap into the pipe and the college has no control over that.

On Sophie Finn, the abatement bids are out and the bid should be awarded this week. We expect the actual construction to start November 1<sup>st</sup>. Dean Komdat said he is working with Chris White on a resolution for approval of the bids for the October meeting of this committee.

**Resolutions** : None

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**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY:**

**Report by** : Melanie Forstrum, Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development

**Report** : Ms. Forstrum reminded the committee that the annual Harvest Festival would be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Ulster County Fairgrounds. It is an educational and fun day and invited everyone to attend.

She said 4-H Club participation program doubled its enrollment from 220 in 2010 to 461 in 2014, but there are still 2.25 staff members. She said in 2014 they served over 1400 youth through the club program, mentoring program and school enrichment program. Ms. Forstrum said many of their programs such as the Mentoring Program, Future Focus Career Development and the International Exchange Program have brought in almost \$75,000 in grant funding. These programs help reach under-served youth and it is her goal to reach even more.

She said the Mentoring Program is dependent upon some of the grant funding and she has visited seven of the nine school districts in the county to work on expanding the program. She also discussed the Japanese Exchange Program and how well it has been received by the participants.

**Resolutions** : None

**ULSTER PERFORMING ARTS/BARDAVON:**

**Report by** : No Report. Resolution #313 to restore funding introduced by Chairman Donaldson. Leg. Lopez moved resolution for discussion. Leg. Wawro seconded. Discussion :

Leg. Gregorius asked if it was legal to do this and Leg. Archer asked if it was for the 2012 funding and if funds were available. Sr. Legislature Clerk Fawn Tantillo was in attendance and she said that it was at a time when Legislature Clerk Karen Binder had just passed away, and things were in a bit of an upheaval and this just seems to have gotten lost. Also, it appears UPAC had thought it was their 2013 appropriation and just realized this was incorrect. While nobody could comment on the legality, the general consensus was that since it had already been appropriated, it was alright. The resolution is asking for funding to come from the contingency account. Chairman Donaldson said other people got their appropriation but not until 2013 and the intent was to give it to them. The question as to the disposition of unencumbered funds at the end of the fiscal year arose and Ms. Tantillo said they go back into the general fund. Leg. Archer said she would like to see a resolution approving giving them the funding contingent upon the filing of the appropriate paperwork.

**Resolution** : **Resolution No. 313 for the September 23, 2014 session of the Legislature**

**MOTION #2 – RESOLUTION #313:**

**Text of Motion** : Requesting transfer from contingent account to restore funding for the 2012 appropriation – Bardavon/Ulster Performing Arts Center-Amending 2014 Ulster County

**Motion Made** : Leg. Archer

**Seconded** : Leg. Lopez

**Voice Vote** : Yes

**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro

**Opposed** : None

**No.in Favor** : 5

**No.Opposed** : 0

**Disposition** : Motion passed. Resolution #313unanimously approved.

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**CONTRACT AGENCIES REQUEST FOR FUNIDING –  
AWARENESS INC. PROGRAM & FEDERATED SPORTSMEN:**

**Report by** : No report. Chairman Donaldson asked for discussion on the requests. There was discussion on the Awareness Program request but there was not enough information for the committee to make a decision. Chairman Donaldson asked that the Clerk be asked to invite Marie Shultis to attend the next meeting.

On Federated Sportsmen the committee noted that there had been no response to requests for additional information. Leg. Lopez said he believes that the funding goes towards pistol safety he will look into it. No action was taken by the committee

(Recorders Note: Subsequent to this meeting this Recorder was advised by the Clerk of the Legislature that Awareness Incorporated Program and Federated Sportsmen do not report to this committee. Chairman Donaldson has cancelled any further actions or requests.)

**CONTRACT AGENCY REQUEST – ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC:**

**Report by** : There is no report. Chairman Donaldson said Mr. Lamoree submitted his request in writing and referred the committee to their packets. Chairman Donaldson said he noted the request for \$5,000 in additional funding and he would want to be sure these additional funds go where they want them to go. Leg. Archer asked if the programs are county-wide and the Chairman said he believed mostly Esopus, Kingston and Ellenville. Chairman Donaldson said he supported this group but he preferred the funds to go to things that will continue to be used, rather than something that is more a one-shot thing. Leg. Archer would like to know whether they will be an increase in participation if there is an increase in funding. Chairman Donaldson said the concern would be that it is being used more towards the City of Kingston and these are county funds. Leg. Archer agreed and said she would like to see more participation across the county and would like more information. Leg. Gregorius would like to know how they come up with the dollar amounts. Chairman Donaldson requested that the Legislature Clerk be asked to have Mr. Lamoree appear at our next meeting.

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**CONTRACT AGENCY REQUESTS:**  
**LIBRARIES/MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM,**  
**BARDAVON/UPAC & ARTS MID-HUDSON, INC.**

**Report by** : No report. Chairman Donaldson opened the floor for discussion. It was noted that The Mid-Hudson Library System's request for level funding was approved at the August meeting of this committee. The request for level funding of Bardavon/UPAC for the 2011 appropriation was approved by resolution by this committee previously tonight and the committee felt their request for the 2015 appropriation was approved also.

A discussion was had regarding the request by Art Mid-Hudson, Inc. for an increase of \$11,000 for the 2015 appropriation. Leg. Gregorius gave a brief synopsis of why we are using an outside agency for this purpose. It was noted that they were formerly Dutchess County Arts Council and one of the reasons they changed their name was to prevent possible problems. Chairman Donaldson said he supports giving them the increase since it gives the artists in this county more funds which brings in more dollars to the county. Leg. Gregorius said the Festival of Voice brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars in tourist money and they started with funding from this program. Chairman Donaldson proposed a supporting resolution.

**MOTION #3 – SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

**Text of Motion** : Supporting the request of Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. to increase its funding in the 2015 Ulster County budget from \$46,000.00 to \$57,000.00.

**Motion Made** : Leg. Gregorius

**Seconded** : Leg. Wawro

**Voice Vote** : Yes

**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro

**Opposed** : None

**No.in Favor** : 5

**No.Opposed** : 0

**Disposition** : Motion passed. Supporting resolution for Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. unanimously approved.

**CONTRACT AGENCY REQUESTS – ULSTER  
COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:**

**Report by** : No report. Chairman Donaldson opened the matter for discussion. There was insufficient information available. Leg. Lopez said he would speak with Leg. Kenneth Ronk. No action was taken by this committee.

(Recorders note: Subsequent to this meeting, it was learned that Soil & Water no longer reports to this committee. Chairman Donaldson does not wish to take any further action.)

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**CONTRACT AGENCY REQUESTS – COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA):**

**Report by** : No report. Chairman Donaldson opened the matter for discussion. It was felt that the \$4,000 increase requested was fair and reasonable, especially in view of the fact that the Ulster County Family Court is adding a third judge and it is expected that the case-load of CASA will increase. The Chairman proposed a supporting resolution.

**MOTION #4 – SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

**Text of Motion** : Supporting the request of Court Appointed Special Advocates to increase its funding in the 2015 Ulster County budget from \$24,000.00 to \$28,000.00

**Motion Made** : Leg. Gregorius

**Seconded** : Leg. Wawro

**Voice Vote** : Yes

**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro

**Opposed** : None

**No.in Favor** : 5

**No.Opposed** : 0

**Disposition** : Motion passed. Supporting resolution for Court Appointed Special Advocates was unanimously approved.

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**CONTRACT AGENCY REQUESTS – SUPERVISE VISITATION PROGRAM (F.O.W.):**

**Report by** : No report. The \$20,000.00 request for funding has no increase for 2015 and there was no discussion. Chairman Donaldson asked for a supporting resolution.

**MOTION #5 – SUPPORTING RESOLUTION:**

**Text of Motion** : Supporting the request of Supervised Visitation Program (F.O.W.) for the 2015 Ulster County budget in the sum of \$20,000.00

**Motion Made** : Leg. Wawro

**Seconded** : Leg. Gregorius

**Voice Vote** : Yes

**In Favor** : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro

**Opposed** : None

**No.in Favor** : 5

**No.Opposed** : 0

**Disposition** : Motion passed. Supporting resolution for the Supervised Visitation Program (F.O.W.) was unanimously approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION #6:**

There being no further business before this committee, on motion duly made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Archer and carried, Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved: October 15, 2014