

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**DATE: October 30, 2013**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS STRAINER  
MCDEVITT  
MONTESI

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON  
WESTCOTT

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING SUNY ADIRONDACK:  
DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT  
DANIEL SILVEY, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
BRIAN DURANT, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS  
KAREN MOSHER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
RACHEL PATTEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUNY ADIRONDACK  
FOUNDATION  
JOAN SADY, WARREN COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK THOMAS, WARREN COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER  
EVELYN WOOD, SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF THURMAN  
DEB PREHODA, WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
ALBERT NOLETTE, WASHINGTON COUNTY TREASURER  
BRIAN CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER  
MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Community College Committee to order at 1:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Dr. Kristine Duffy, President, State University of New York (SUNY) Adirondack, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Ms. Duffy advised the first item on the agenda was a request for support of the SUNY Adirondack Capital Improvement Plan for 2014 in the amount of \$1,831,105, which included campus wide health/safety improvements in the classrooms, critical/deferred maintenance, program enhancements and energy improvements in the classrooms. She noted that \$915,552.50 of the funds would be received from New York State and the other \$915,552.50 would be derived from the capital chargebacks collected by the college.

Mr. Montesi questioned how much was available in the chargeback fund and Ms. Duffy replied that as of right now, not including the fall chargebacks, she estimated the total to be \$401,000. She said the proposed projects would be scheduled according to the funds available, as she was aware they did not have \$915,552.50 available in chargeback funds at this time. Mr. Montesi queried whether the number of students from out of this area had increased and Ms. Duffy replied affirmatively. She said the campus located in the Town of Wilton had increased the number of students enrolled from Saratoga County and the new student housing offered had increased enrollment of students not from the area, as well.

In response to a question posed by Mr. Montesi, Ms. Duffy apprised the number of students enrolled from Washington County and the northern municipalities of Warren County had increased. She stated she felt because student housing had been added the number of students enrolling in SUNY Adirondack from the outerlying areas of Warren and Washington Counties rather than attending colleges from out of the area had increased.

Albert Nolette, Washington County Treasurer, distributed copies of a financial report detailing the revenues and expenses of SUNY Adirondack for projects to date. A Supervisor from Washington County queried whether Mr. Nolette was satisfied that the fall chargebacks not accounted for would provide the additional funding required for the proposed Capital Project and Mr. Nolette replied in the negative. He explained that although the college had not accrued the \$915,552.50 required, he was content with the arrangement they were proposing to schedule projects based upon the amount of chargeback funds currently available to them.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to support the SUNY Adirondack Capital Improvement Plan for 2014 in the amount of \$1,831,105, which includes campus wide health/safety improvements in the classrooms, critical/deferred maintenance, program enhancements and energy improvements in the classrooms, and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

With regards to student housing, Ms. Duffy advised they were at 94% capacity which she felt was a remarkable achievement, as it was uncommon for a college in its first year of offering student housing to attain such a large capacity. She noted the goal for the Spring 2014 semester was to reach 100% capacity.

A Supervisor from Washington County questioned whether the security issues had been addressed and Ms. Duffy replied affirmatively. She stated twelve additional Peace Officers had been hired and the security office was stationed within the students residential hall, and she noted they continuously offered safety training. She advised she felt there was ample security coverage at the college; which included an effective working relationship with the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Strainer advised he felt there was adequate security, as he knew a few of the Peace Officers had law enforcement backgrounds. Ms. Duffy noted all of the Peace Officers had former military or law enforcement experience.

Mr. McDevitt queried whether any complaints had been received with regards to the meal plan offered for students in the housing and Ms. Duffy replied that the meal plan has worked well thus far. She said the vendor adjusted the meal plan according to the feedback received from the students.

A Washington County Supervisor asked whether there had been an increase in the number of students attending classes at the Queensbury campus as compared to the prior year and Ms. Duffy replied affirmatively. She pointed out that although the enrollment for full-time students had increased, enrollment for part-time students had decreased slightly. Brian Durant, Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, speculated the wider spectrum of courses offered and the times they were offered had contributed to the increase in enrollment at the Wilton campus.

Proceeding along to agenda item two, Ms. Duffy reviewed in detail a power point presentation with regards to the Nursing, Engineering, Science, Technology and Math (NSTEM) Initiative; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. She advised that mathematics was the core course that supported the aforementioned programs. She said the Facilities Master Plan was developed in February of 2011 and included an assessment of all the classroom space relative to the program and course offerings at the college. She stated this assessment was used to determine the current facility needs of the college, as well as the future requirements. The assessment, she apprised concluded the current facility was half the size required to accommodate the existing nursing and science programs. She explained that if the facility was expanded it would allow for the current programs to grow, as well as for new programs to be offered.

Ms. Duffy advised the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees created a task force in September of 2013 to research and recommend changes to the facility that would have a positive impact on the college and the surrounding communities, as well. She said they wanted to partner with the local Chambers of Commerce, The Workforce Investment Board and the local Economic Development Corporation to survey members of local industry as well as local educational providers to find out what type of training and educational programs the college may be able to offer. She noted a goal was to increase connectivity to Warren and Washington County industries. She added Global Foundries had approached the college about the possibility of partnering with them to create a regional training facility at their on-site educational facility.

Ms. Duffy apprised the goal was to capitalize on the existing strengths of SUNY Adirondack; provide focus on required business and industry skills and core competencies; and expand existing partnerships and investigate areas where new partnerships can be developed, as well. She noted the importance of the college in creating an ecosystem of collaboration where all partners work together to create a strong economically developed region.

In reference to the nursing program, Ms. Duffy apprised there were currently over 240 nursing students enrolled. She stated she felt the non credit certified medical billing program would grow, as it was projected to be an up and coming job in this area. She said after talking to area health care providers they were looking into possibly adding a health care management program and a medical assistant program. She noted SUNY Plattsburgh would be offering their Registered Nurse to Bachelor Registered Nurse program at their site on the SUNY Adirondack campus.

Ms. Duffy advised they were looking to expand upon their current Information Technology (IT) programs and possibly adding cyber security and health information technology as new programs. She said they would continue to work with their current partners such as CR Bard and Warren County to identify new opportunities to continue to grow, as well as recognize any gaps they needed to fill.

With regards to Advanced Manufacturing programs, Ms. Duffy stated since Global Foundries was projecting an expansion they were considering adding a semi conductor degree program. She said they worked in collaboration with Global Foundries, Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), and local school districts to offer an early college program where students spent half of their day taking classes at SUNY Adirondack and the other half of the day at their high school. She noted when they graduated from high school students in the program would have up to 28 college credits, as well as understanding and knowledge of the industry so they qualified for entry level manufacturing positions.

Ms. Duffy apprised if they could attract more students they would look into expanding the current electrical technology degree program. She said they were considering offering a non credit credential type quality assurance training program. She pointed out they would continue to promote the medical device industry by furthering the workforce development training offered and foster the relationships with local companies to ensure their needs were being met.

Ms. Duffy advised they would continue to support and leverage the diverse Adirondack environment by encouraging more economic development in the agricultural community of Washington County, as well as portions of Warren County. She encouraged individuals to provide contacts that the college could partner with to provide short term training, degree programs or resources to assist with advancing the agricultural community. She pointed out the college was well known for their culinary arts food and beverages program, as well as their hospitality program. She noted they were

looking into expanding upon natural resources conservation and environmental research by adding new courses, labs and a research center.

In reference to the next steps, Ms. Duffy stated the college would continue to seek out industry and educational partners. She said the college needed to change the way they approached funding and develop a financial strategy on how to fund the proposed project. She apprised they were considering statewide grant initiatives such as SUNY2020; however, she noted, the availability of grant funding to SUNY colleges was dwindling making it more competitive. She emphasized the importance of having the support of Warren and Washington Counties, as they were the local sponsors.

Ms. Duffy provided an example of a regional ecosystem which detailed how schools, working with higher education institutions and employer potentially impacted the economic vitality of a region. She said she wanted the college to demonstrate how they were going to assist in creating economic growth in the region.

Mr. Montesi questioned whether enrollment in the culinary program was increasing at the college and Mr. Durant replied the program had increased since moving to the new facility. He pointed out they were almost at full capacity for the current facility.

Mr. McDevitt advised he was impressed that all of the apprentices enrolled in training at the new Queensbury facility for the Local 773 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters were employed by Global Foundries. Mr. Strainer stated he was impressed by the clean room used to train their apprentices in advanced manufacturing located at the aforementioned facility. Ms. Duffy interjected if the college was to add a semi conductor program they would be interested in possibly partnering with the Local 773 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters to use their clean room for training purposes. Mr. Montesi pointed out that clean rooms were not only associated with the semi conductor industry, as they were pertinent to the catheter industry, which was prominent in the area.

A Washington County Supervisor commended Ms. Duffy for the transition of the college from an educational standpoint to incorporating programs and initiatives that would bolster the economy in the area, as well. She advised if anyone had any suggestions as to who the college should be contacting with regards to possible collaborations to please notify the college.

Mr. Strainer queried whether the college required a letter of support in regards to the SUNY2020 grant and Ms. Duffy replied affirmatively. She said there was no funding required, just a letter stating the Counties supported the college as they moved forward on a grant application to secure funding. Mr. Strainer advised he supported the college's initiative as he felt it encompassed the importance of retaining the current employers in both Warren and Washington Counties and assisted them with future growth. He noted it may prevent kids from moving out of this area when they completed school, as it would open up more job opportunities to them.

Mr. Montesi suggested the college look into solar energy, as it appeared to be an up and coming field. He advised he was meeting with a group about the possibility of installing solar panels on the old Ciba Geigy property. Ms. Duffy stated that the college would be interested in attending the meeting if that was permissible.

Dana Haff, Washington County Supervisor, queried whether the STEM building would cost \$50 million and Ms. Duffy replied in the negative. She explained the \$50 million encompassed the cost

of the entire capital project, which the STEM building was included in. Mr. Strainer pointed out not all of the financial burden would fall on the college and the Counties, as the college would be seeking financial assistance from local companies.

Mr. Montesi exited the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Mr. Haff advised that statistics showed nationwide college enrollment was decreasing. He stated he wanted to ensure the money was not being expended on the Capital Project to attract new students to make up for the decrease in enrollment. Mr. Strainer interjected he thought of the Capital Project as an opportunity, as he felt if there was no expansion the numbers would remain stagnant. He reiterated how he was impressed that the initiative included incorporating local businesses to assist with maintaining and growing their businesses, as well as partnering with them for financial assistance.

Mr. Haff stated that he understood the need for expansion to grow and keep up with technology; however, he said, he was concerned with how much financial support Washington County could afford to provide. Mr. Strainer pointed out the letter of support did not require a financial commitment. Mr. Haff suggested including census data with the feasibility study, as he felt this was relevant to the matter. A Washington County Supervisor interjected he felt the initiative would assist in retaining and attracting people to the area and assist the small and medium sized businesses from both counties to improve their manufacturing techniques and give them the opportunity for possible growth in the future. Mr. Durant apprised the college recognized that part of their initiative was to support the local communities with growth and expansion.

Discussion ensued.

Pursuant to the discussion, Mr. Strainer advised that due to a lack of a quorum he would present the request to support SUNY Adirondack on their application to the SUNY2020 grant at the November 6, 2013 Finance meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Community College Committee, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board