

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: JOINT FINANCE AND PERSONNEL & HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: JUNE 2, 2017

PERSONNEL & HIGHER EDUCATION OTHERS PRESENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SEEBER
MCDEVITT
BROCK
MONTESI
LEGGETT
BRAYMER
GERAGHTY
SIMPSON

REPRESENTING SUNY ADIRONDACK:

DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT
ANN MARIE SOMMA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES &
TREASURER
RACHEL PATTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUNY ADIRONDACK
FOUNDATION
LARRY PALTROWITZ, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE COUNSEL
RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

PERSONNEL & HIGHER EDUCATION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS FRASIER
VANSELOW
HYDE

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
DEB PREHODA, WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
CHRIS DEBOLT, WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ALBERT NOLETTE, WASHINGTON COUNTY TREASURER
BRIAN CAMPBALL, WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
SEEBER
MCDEVITT
SIMPSON
GERAGHTY
VACANT

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Supervisors DICKINSON
MERLINO
STROUGH
BEATY
FRASIER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 2, 2017 joint meeting of the Finance and Personnel & Higher Education Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be heard on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/finance/>

Mr. Sokol called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Note: due to the lack of a attendance, Chairman Conover served to make a quorum of the Committee.

Ms. Seeber called the Personnel & Higher Education Committee meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Commencing the Agenda review, Ms. Seeber offered privilege of the floor Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President of SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack*, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Dr. Duffy thanked the Committee members for their continued support of the College and she encouraged all to take a tour of the construction so they could observe the progress made thus far. She thanked Sara Idelman, *Washington County Supervisor*, and Ms. Seeber for attending this years graduation and honoring two of their students. She mentioned a week ago the SUNY Board of Trustees approved the College's proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget which would be reviewed today.

Dr. Duffy remarked despite the disappointing allocation they would be receiving from the State this year, she felt the Budget they were proposing today was responsible one and she noted it was slightly less than 2% more than last year. She noted their tuition rate was the 7th lowest rate charged by SUNY Community Colleges in the State. She mentioned they invested in their infrastructure for Information Technology and had secured a number of grants to continue to offer some of the services that were imperative to the students without impacting the Budget.

Dr. Duffy informed she was pleased to report in regards to enrollment their admission applications for the Fall 2017 semester had increased by 17% over the previous year; however, she noted, the exact outcome of the fall registration could not be calculated until after the Fall semester commenced. She said registration for new students had increased slightly which she found to be encouraging. She noted the following programs had seen an increase in applications: Criminal Justice Substance Abuse; Culinary Arts; Nursing; Liberal Arts in Math & Science; Liberal Arts in Social Sciences; and Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

In regards to Programs, Dr. Duffy informed their faculty had been very busy not only teaching and guiding students but also developing new programs and pathways for students. She stated over the past two years they had registered eleven new programs or transfer pathways for their students all of which took a significant amount of work. She continued, the addition of these programs and transfer pathways indicated they responded to what was occurring in the region and the interests of their students. She added they were just approved to offer the “Arms to Farms” Program which was a one week Program that would be offered this summer for Veterans interested in the farming industry. She added they had also recently been approved to offer training to the employees of Global Foundries through their Continuing Education Program. She informed they were just notified they had been awarded a second Upward Bound Grant which would allow them to expand the number of area schools they partnered with that had a significant amount of low income students to obtain college degrees by offering college credit courses to them while they were still enrolled in high school.

Dr. Duffy advised the Excelsior Scholarship was going to be administered by the Higher Education Services Corporation which administered TAP for New York State (*Tuition Assistance Program*), as well. She mentioned they would be hosting some Excelsior Scholarship Workshops in June to assist and answer questions regarding this. She said there were still a number of open ended questions and as with any new program they anticipated changes would be forthcoming in future years. She informed the application process commenced on June 7th and ceased on July 21st which did not allow for a significant amount of time to assist students with the application process.

Dr. Duffy stated they were in the process of negotiating a contract with a possible location in the City of Glens Falls for the Culinary Program which was why she was not ready to make an announcement publicly yet. She informed they had been awarded \$500,000 to assist with a portion of the moving expenses. She remarked the expansion of the Culinary Program would not only assist the College with increasing enrollment but also support the hospitality and tourism industry here.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ann Marie Somma, *Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer*, who provided detailed review of the Power Point presentation outlining the proposed 2017-2018 SUNY Adirondack operating budget during which the Committee members posed many questions which were answered by Ms. Somma and Dr. Duffy; *a copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.*

During the Power Point presentation outlining the proposed 2017-2018 SUNY Adirondack operating budget, Mr. McDevitt questioned whether they were pleased with the occupancy level of the student housing and Dr. Duffy responded that they had exceeded the occupancy level for the last two fall semesters which they were satisfied with. She mentioned they had increased the programming and discipline they offered students to assist with decreasing the amount of poor decisions made by students.

Mr. McDevitt inquired what Dr. Duffy’s perspective was regarding the possibility arming the security

staff for the student housing and Dr. Duffy responded that it was not specific to the student housing but campus security in general. She informed the peace officers for the College, who were sworn public safety officers that all went through a slightly less intensive training than what police officers went through, approached them about a year ago and requested that they consider arming them for not only their own protection, but also to increase safety on campus. She stated there were ongoing discussions regarding this, as it was a very important decision that had many factors to consider.

Mr. Sokol asked whether other community colleges in the State armed their campus security and Dr. Duffy responded that the majority of community colleges that had Residence Halls armed their public safety officers but she did not have the specific number with her today. She pointed out the community colleges that armed their public safety officers were located in both rural and urban areas.

Brian Campbell, *Washington County Budget Officer*, inquired what the anticipated expense was associated with arming the College's public safety officers and Ms. Somma replied the first years expense would be about \$42,000, as it included the purchase of the necessary equipment, and thereafter the annual expenditure for training would only be around \$10,000, which was in addition to the training they already received. Mr. Campbell asked whether the insurance rates would increase and Ms. Duffy replied in the negative.

A motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Chairman Conover and carried unanimously to provide Finance Committee approval of the proposed 2017-2018 Adirondack Community College Operating Budget and provided for the necessary public hearing, thereby authorizing a resolution for the June 14th Board meeting.

The Washington County Community College and Finance Committees made mirroring motions which were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to provide Personnel & Higher Education approval on the proposed 2017-2018 Adirondack Community College Operating Budget.

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Somma stated she would like to discuss the Capital Request they submitted last year which included the purchase of some adjacent property which they referred to as the "Little Red House" located at 686 Bay Road. She advised the owner had been patiently waiting almost two years now to sell the property to them and they had sent a purchase contract to them for consideration; however, she noted, the College could not purchase property without authorization from both Counties. She stated two appraisals were obtained on the property, one of which was for \$136,000 and the other for \$138,000 which was why they felt their offer of \$137,000 was appropriate.

Larry Paltrowitz, *Legal Counsel for SUNY Adirondack*, informed the College was not permitted to own real property in its own name which was why the property would have to be owned by Warren and Washington Counties in trust for use of the College. He explained this was a requirement of the Education Law; he noted the entire College Campus was owned by Warren and Washington Counties in trust for the College.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Brock and carried unanimously to provide Personnel & Higher Education approval for the purchase of the aforementioned property as outlined above.

A motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to provide Finance Committee approval on the aforementioned purchase and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 14th Board meeting.

The Washington County Community College and Finance Committees made mirroring motions which were approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Personnel & Higher Education Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Brock, Ms. Seeber adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Simpson, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board