

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 22, 2022**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on March 22, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.  
in person, via ZOOM, and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Gina Virtuoso, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Kevin Clark, Financial Secretary  
Mr. William Ross  
Mr. Jerald Wolfgang  
Mr. Maurice Jackson, Student Trustee

**Board Members Present via ZOOM**

Mr. Jason Cafarella, Chairperson  
Ms. Sheila Smith

**Board Member Excused**

Ms. Bonnie Sloma, Secretary  
Ms. Katherine Alexander

**Administration Present**

William J. Murabito, Ph.D., President  
Ms. Deborah Brewer, Director of Foundation  
Ms. Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
Ms. Barbara DeSimone, Director of Public Relations  
Dr. Fabio Escobar, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Mr. John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Mr. Jesse Goldberg, Chief Information Officer  
Mr. Christopher Herbeck, Assistant Director of Grants  
Mr. Wayne Lynch, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Robert McKeown, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Mr. Brian Michel, Assistant Vice President of Economic Development  
Ms. Julia Pitman, Vice President, Student Services  
Ms. Lydia Ulatowski, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Barbara Walck, Assistant to the President

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m. and asked Student Trustee Jackson to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the military.

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso asked for a roll call for board members on zoom: Trustee Smith and Chairperson Cafarella were present virtually.

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso stated the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Joseph Potaliva, NCCC Veterans Services Coordinator introduced the Vietnam Vets, and stated they were presenting NCCC with a check for \$20,000.

The IRC Presentation entitled “Instructional Videos” was presented by Professor Barbara Buckman. President Murabito thanked Professor Buckman for her video and her work in the art gallery.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso asked if Board members wanted any item removed from the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Vice Chairperson Virtuoso and seconded by Trustee Wolfgang, that the Board approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 board meeting, Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. Motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso stated last month Trustee Ross requested further information on the Grant Tracking Chart. Assistant Vice President Brian Michel and Assistant Director of Grants Christopher Herbeck provided this information. Trustee Ross questioned the Personnel Status Chart and asked if candidates are applying for positions. Assistant Vice President Catherine Brown explained the process. Vice Chairperson Virtuoso asked Board members if there were additional questions regarding the Information Items. The following items were received and filed: Grant Tracking Chart, Personnel Status Chart, Foundation Report, Facilities Update, and Program Modifications: Baking and Pastry Arts, Certificate; Baking and Pastry Arts, AAS; Psychology, AS.

## **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso wished Trustee Bonnie Sloma a Happy Birthday, as tomorrow is her birthday. Vice Chairperson Virtuoso discussed the Board Bylaws, at the last board meeting, the bylaws were distributed and Chairperson Cafarella asked for board members to review and submit edits to Barb Walck; she did not receive any changes. Trustee Ross questioned the emeritus status for trustees. Article 28 in the bylaws mentions trustee emeritus, and he feels this needs to be re-examined by the Fiscal Committee especially for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. President Murabito provided some suggested changes to the bylaws and recommends an advocacy committee to review the bylaws and bring back the recommendations to the board.

It was moved by Trustee Wolfgang and seconded by Student Trustee Jackson that the Chairperson appoint a bylaw committee. Motion carried unanimously. Trustee Wolfgang and Student Trustee Jackson volunteered to be on this committee.

Chairperson Cafarella and Trustee Clark will serve on the Middle States Steering Committee. Vice President Ulatowski provided an explanation of the steering committee process which needs to follow the guidelines and timeline that Middle States requires. She is in the process of forming the steering committee. March 2025 will be the site visit by Middle States.

Vice Chairperson Virtuoso states the Student Government Association would like to meet with our board in April for an informal discussion. Student Trustee Jackson states a date needs to be determined.

The following event dates were provided, please let Barb Walck know if you are interested in attending:

May 4 Niagara Falls Educational Scholarship will hold its annual scholarship at Antonio’s Restaurant.

May 7, Buffalo State will hold their Gala celebration.

May 12, NFCI will hold their graduation and medal ceremony.

Commencement is Saturday, May 14 at 10am. Board members are highly encouraged to attend.

Friday, May 13, dinner will be held at Savor Restaurant with our keynote speaker SUNY Trustee Eunice Lewin, faculty speaker, and the student speaker.

Barbara DeSimone, Director of Public Relations, provided information on commencement, one ceremony in the main gym, and following the ceremony, refreshments will be provided outdoors.

Lastly, we congratulate President Murabito for being selected to the Buffalo Business First Power 250. The magazine was passed around the table.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Murabito discussed the following:

- On February 16, President Murabito and Trustee Wolfgang met with the Lewiston Brickyard Brewing Company to discuss the expansion in the Rainbow Mall, to possibly open a brewery operation/restaurant.
- President Murabito is involved with weekly Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEM) meetings. Vice President Pitman is our contact person and NCCC staff are participating to develop a new enrollment plan.
- On February 17, President Murabito and others from NCCC attended the 914<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing graduation at the Niagara Falls Air Base.
- We are following the latest information from a COVID meeting; we have dropped the mask requirement on campus, although it remains in effect in the residence halls/common area. We are currently monitoring the rates.
- The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee continues to meet; there are numerous events planned for this celebration.
- President Murabito participates in the Student Government Association meetings, they are meeting every two weeks and have a very efficient group working together.
- The flight academy meetings continue, discussing capital investment, proposals, etc.
- We are meeting with Northlands on collaboration with the Build Back Better grant program.
- President Murabito attended a recent campus safety committee meeting. Security Chief Ross Annable attended this meeting to explain our safety plan.
- The Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy Graduation was held March 8 at noon. NCCC Officer Christopher Janik received the Jeffrey A. Incardona Memorial Award. This award is selected by the cadets, and is about heart, personality and commitment. Congratulations!
- We swore in NCCC Robert McCartney as a peace officer to allow him to attend the next Law Enforcement Academy class.
- On March 29 at 4:00 p.m., in the Dining Commons, there will be an unveiling of the Dr. Bloneva Bond Mosaic, celebrating Women's Black History Month. This is a community project with Alfred University, Art Force 5, Niagara Falls School District and NCCC. All are invited to attend.
- On April 2, the Niagara County Sheriff's Department is sponsoring an egg hunt on our campus grounds.
- Trustee Ross asked about Stavatti Aircraft. President Murabito stated Stavatti are still in the process renovation. Stavatti is also part of the P-Tech partnership program.
- October 22, 2022 is the Foundation Diamond Gala. Foundation Director Deb Brewer stated the cochairs will be Jason and Nicole Cafarella, Foundation Chair Jerry Wolfgang, and Alumni Committee Chair Martin Drake. More details will follow.

## **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

The Student Trustee Report was provided by Maurice Jackson.

## **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

The Faculty Observer Report was provided by Dr. Julie Woodworth.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Smith asked Assistant Vice President Catherine Brown to discuss the Human Resources Strategic Plan. She also discussed a new Position Control Committee. Trustee Wolfgang discussed programs that are not bringing students in. Student Trustee Jackson asked about the deactivation of music programs. Vice President Ulatowski stated this was for private music lessons.

### **FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Vice President Lynch provided the Business and Finance Updates.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

There was no Good & Welfare.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the Robert Michael Sdao Memorial Board Room.

It was moved by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Ross to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Walck  
Assistant to the President