

## BOARD MEETING

*For the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbia-Greene Community College was held on **Monday, March 21, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.** or thereafter in **Room 614** on the College campus, 4400 Route 23 Hudson, New York. The following matters were submitted for consideration and action.*

**Present:** Ned Schneier, Chairman; Bruce Bohnsack, Doreen Davis, Kelly Konsul, Peter Markou, and Laura Best-Macia, Student Trustee

**Excused:** Maryanne Lee, Peter O’Hara and Barbara Slutzky

**Others Present:** Carlee Drummer, President; Drew Ledoux, Dean of Student Development; Casey O’Brien, Dean of Academic Affairs; Dianne Topple, Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer; and Mary Garafalo, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

1. **Call to Order, 4:01 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call, quorum present**

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Request for Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Mr. Bohnsack; **Seconded:** Ms. Konsul

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No - 0; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution: Accepted**

5. **Request for Approval of the Items in the Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Ms. Davis; **Seconded:** Ms. Konsul

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No -0; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution: Accepted**

6. **Introduction of Guests and Items from the Floor**

The Board of Trustees honored Phil Abitabile with a plaque of Trustee of Emeritus for his twelve year of exemplary service. Phil Abitabile “Served collegially, thoughtfully, and with a student-centered perspective as a member of the Columbia-Greene Community College Board of Trustees”.

Mr. Abitabile was very grateful for the recognition of his service on the board and will forever be a part of this campus community.

## 7. **President's Report**

### ***Special Events***

- Last week, Dr. Rebecca Pinder conducted a “Sleuthing for Salamanders” night at the Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Siuslaw Model Forest. Participants received a brief training about research protocols and then headed into the woods to search for amphibians. Dr. Pinder also recently negotiated a formal partnership with the Cooperative Extension, a valuable resource for students interested in agriculture, environmental science, nutrition, sustainable energy, and the like.
- This Thursday, March 24, at 12:30 p.m., Western Civilization and History students have organized a program addressing Ukrainian history, culture, and the human dynamics of former Empire assertion of power in Eastern Europe. The featured presenter is Very Reverend Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, pastor of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, NY. Also joining the dialogue will be Father Janusz Jedrychowski of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hudson.
- The Admissions Office will welcome prospective students and their families to the first post-pandemic Open House on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the College’s outstanding faculty, learn about financial aid, tour the buildings and grounds, and meet alumni.
- On October 17, 2022, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the College will be hosting an Economic Forum to discuss post-pandemic workforce needs. Many thanks to Christine Cumming, a Foundation Board member, for helping us with John Williams, the President of the New York Federal Reserve, as the keynote speaker. The Forum will focus on employer needs and how the College can help prepare traditional and non-traditional students to meet those needs.

### ***Campus Visitors***

Dr. Lisamarie Spindler, the new Superintendent of the Hudson City School District, and Robert LaCasse, the Principal of Hudson Senior High School, recently met with Provost Timmons and Technology Division Co-Chairs Dr. Nicole Childrose and Marc Gilbert to learn about the possibilities for a pipeline program between the high school and the College and then toured the Auto Technology Lab. Dr. Spindler has a particular interest in the field, as she once worked at an auto body shop where she prepped cars to be painted. About that experience she commented, “I yearn to break stereotypes and encourage people to explore and try careers that are dominated by genders other than their own.”

***Budget Outlook***

- Vice President Topple already provided her report on the budget, but I want to echo that SUNY is quite optimistic about the support for the community colleges in the budget released by Governor Hochul. Highlights include reinstating the funding floor at 100 percent of the flat dollar amount allocated to community colleges in 2019-2020 (before the pandemic); eliminating the TAP Gap and expanding TAP for part-time and incarcerated students; and allocating \$57 million in new bonded capital for construction projects.

***Miscellany***

- This morning the College welcomed a new Deputy Sheriff, Joseph Bruno. Deputy Joe replaces Pat Mayo who earned a promotion to Criminal Investigator with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.
- Toward the end of 2021, Carl Florio from the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation contacted me to discuss providing scholarship support for students. I explained the great need to assist students who are not eligible for Pell or other financial aid but cannot afford to pay tuition. The outcome is that the Foundation received a \$500,000 check from HRBTF last week.
- The Board Retreat has been set for Saturday, June 4 – the day after the Foundation Golf Tournament! A number of Foundation Board members have indicated an interest in attending. The Retreat will be facilitated by Dr. Peter Smith from AGB (Association of Governing Boards), and the focus of discussions will be on enhancing community partnerships, specifically for business, health care, automotive technology, and construction technology. During his long tenure in higher education, Dr. Smith was the founding President of Community College of Vermont.
- President Drummer has heard that some employees are concerned with the increased gasoline prices and are lobbying to work remotely. Per President Drummer, "Columbia-Greene is a people-facing institution, and regardless of one's position, every employee plays a role in shaping the student experience at the College. Moreover, a number of responsibilities just are not conducive to remote work, and it would not be fair to those individuals to require them to be on campus while others "work" remotely." There were many ideas of how to resolve this concern. The Executive Team will further review this concern.

**8. Resolution No. 0322-2205 Approval of Tenure and Promotion**

**Motion:** Mr. Bohnsack; **Seconded:** Mr. Markou

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No - 0 ; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution: Accepted**

## 9. **Trustee Report**

- a. Chairman Schneier was asked to revisit the discussion of the Vaccine guidelines, from the February 2022 monthly board meeting.

With the following of SUNY guidelines, Chairman Schneier thought things were going very smoothly, and still encouraged everyone to social distance and wear a mask if you feel the need to do so.

- b. Student Trustee, Laura Best-Macia reported:

### **Athletics**

- C-GCC Twins competed in the annual RussMatt Baseball Invitational in Florida over spring break. The Twins were one of 250 colleges across all divisions for this tournament played at two former Major League Baseball spring training stadiums. Accompanying the team were Coach Ingham, Coach Haley-Berry, and Coach Berry. Other SUNY institutions participating include Adirondack, Brockport, Canton, Genessee, Hudson Valley, Oswego, Plattsburg, and Westchester.
- The Twins First Home Game is scheduled for Sunday, March 27th, at 1:00 p.m. versus Herkimer County Community College.

### **Student Activities**

- Juneteenth - The College Senate, in collaboration with the IDEA Committee, are mapping out plans to celebrate Juneteenth. The College is exploring opportunities to partner with local community organizations. Details are forthcoming.
- C-GCC will participate in the World-Wide Climate Teach-In on March 30th. Organized by Bard College, the Climate Teach-In is an effort involving 1,000 universities, colleges, K-12 Schools, and faith communities from around the world raising awareness about climate solutions and justice. Faculty and student representatives will provide information about climate friendly practices, kick-off a plastics and textiles drive that will be used to create artwork, and observe a short period of time with the lights out in part of the Main Building.

## 10. **Vice President's Report**

- a. Dean of Academic Affairs, Casey O'Brien reported:

### **Academic Affairs**

Earlier this month, Dr. Deborah Moeckel, Assistant Provost for Assessment and Community College Education at SUNY System Administration, presented to our faculty about the upcoming changes to General Education that were recently adopted by the SUNY Board. Our responsibility will be to review all new and existing courses and programs to ensure alignment with the new general education requirements and make all necessary adjustments. The College has developed an implementation plan, and we're well on our way to meeting the required milestones.

The leadership team from Hudson Link, an organization committed to offering higher education for incarcerated students, and a long-time partner of Columbia-Greene,

visited campus two weeks ago to discuss our new partnership with Green Haven Correctional Facility in Dutchess County. We currently have over 30 incarcerated students from Green Haven enrolled this semester, and both we and Hudson Link leaders are excited to set ambitious enrollment goals for the program. These goals can be worked on and fully realized once we receive approval from Middle States to operate Green Haven as an additional location, which requires a substantive change application. We're working with Hudson Link to submit that application as soon as possible.

Last week, we received the final drafts of all seven working groups' reports—which taken together includes nearly 150 pages of narrative that speaks to the College's compliance with all seven standards for accreditation. Because the self-study is limited to 100 pages, we expect the editing process to take some time, as we make difficult decisions about where we'll need to cut. Steve Gavlik and I, as co-chairs of the self-study steering committee want to extend our sincerest thanks to all members of the steering committee as well as all employees who have brought their hearts and minds together to write an open, honest, reflective, and ultimately useful narrative that will drive the College forward into the next decade.

In addition to this work, Dr. Gavlik and I are working with the President and our Liaison with Middle States to identify a Team Chair from a peer institution who will lead the review of our institution in Spring 2023. The Board will be updated as more information becomes available.

On April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Medical Assisting Education Review Board will be conducting a site visit to evaluate our Medical Assisting Program's candidacy for recognition by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. This will distinguish our program as one of the few SUNY community colleges with such a recognition. We want to thank the many people who helped contribute to this work, including Jessica Curley, Nicole Childrose, Christina Judisky, and other members of the Technical Professions division.

Our Automotive Department is also working hard on its five-year renewal application for continued recognition by the Automotive Service Excellence Education Foundation. I want to thank Marc Gilbert, Ed Smith, Margaret Choinsky-Farrell, and Kevin Roebke for their dedication to distinguishing our automotive program in the region.

Our project for converting from Blackboard to a new digital learning environment, Brightspace, is underway. The Distance Learning Committee as well as the IT Department are working together to map out the timeline, and we're currently in the process of coordinating training for faculty with the new system and getting our technical infrastructure up and running.

- b. Dean of Student Development, Drew Ledoux reported:

**Student Development**

*Achieving the Dream*

The College will host an Achieving the Dream Site Visit on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. ATD Coaches, Mary Ostrye and Donna Kragt, will meet with stakeholders from across campus including those on the ATD Core Team and subcommittees. The purpose of the visit is to assess progress made to date and strengthen the ATD action plan.

*Accessibility Services*

OAS is hosting a conference ‘It’s All in The Planning!’ on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Topics include registering with and requesting accommodations; learning the value of time management skills; and using assistive technology to meet academic needs. This conference is hosted in collaboration with the Offices of Accessibility Services at SUNY Delhi and Bard College.

*Health Services*

- C-GCC remains compliant with SUNY’s vaccination requirements. The Office of Health Services continues to verify students’ vaccination and booster status as those with an on-campus presence become eligible.
- There have been 0 positive tests for three weeks in a row through the College’s Pool Testing for students and employees.
- Students returning from spring break are strongly encouraged to complete a COVID test through the Office of Health Services. Extended hours for free testing will occur today until 7:00 p.m. and tomorrow, March 22, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., in the Cafeteria.

*Student Success*

- Application materials are being reviewed for the Director of Student Success vacancy with hopes to fill the role by the summer. This position will manage the day-to-day operations of the Student Success Center and facilitate a supportive environment to foster students’ holistic development. This role will be responsible for tutoring services, supplemental instruction, and efforts designed to support those experiencing barriers to their academic progression.
- The Student Success Center staff are planning a *Finish Strong* workshop series for the spring semester covering topics around academic success.

**11. Announcement of the April Meeting**

Monday, April 18, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

**12. Executive Session**

To discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

**Motion:** Ms. Davis; **Seconded:** Mr. Bohnsack

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No - 0; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution:** Accepted

**Entered Executive Session at: 5:04 p.m.**

**Motion:** Ms. Davis; **Seconded:** Mr. Markou

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No - 0; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution:** Accepted

**Exited Executive Sessions at: 5:28 p.m.**

**13. Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Mr. Bohnsack; **Seconded:** Ms. Konsul

**Vote:** Yes - 6; No - 0; Abstention(s) – 0

**Resolution Accepted**

**Adjournment at: 5:29 p.m.**

*Edward Schneier*

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Edward Schneier  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

*Mary E. Garafalo*

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Mary E. Garafalo  
Executive Secretary to the Board

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**March 21, 2022**

**Approval of the Minutes from February 28, 2022 Board Meeting**

**Capital Fund Expenditures**

- a. Warrant No. 43, Renovations and Improvements C06138

**Operating Warrant Approval**

- a. Warrant No. 02-22, Operating Warrant