

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ART, EDUCATION,  
TOURISM AND COMUNITIY RELATIONS, HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup>  
DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008

---

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman  
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman (Absent)  
DONALD J. GREGORIUS  
THOMAS "TJ" BRIGGS  
MARY F. SHEELEY  
SUSAN CUMMINGS  
CATHERINE TERRIZZI

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
MARIANNE COLLINS, Dean of Advancement & Continuing Education, UCCC  
TODD ZEFF, Coordinator, RISE Program, UCCC  
KATHLEEN KEYSER, Counselor, RISE Program, UCCC  
LISA BERGER, Ulster County Tourism  
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present and Chairwoman Zimmer not yet being present, Leg. Sheeley called the meeting to order at 5:12pm. A motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008 was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Cummings and upon voice vote the minutes were unanimously approved. Leg. Sheeley then recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College:

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Burlingham advised the committee that enrollment for the fall semester was up over budget projections. Enrollment for the Spring is also ahead of last year and is looking very strong. The college is starting registrations for Winternet and that is also looking good, even though we started a week later than last year. She reminded the committee that two-thirds of the college's budget is predicated on enrollment.

Dean Burlingham then referenced a letter, copies of which were distributed, from President Donald Katt to Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum regarding the Police Academy. The Dean said a meeting was held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at which time the Sheriff advised that he had decided to no longer participate in the Police Academy and would be convening their own MPTC classes. At the meeting was President Katt, herself, Egidio Tinti the Coordinator of the Police Academy, and Gerald Keller, Chief of the Kingston Police Department. Also present, in addition to the Sheriff, was Undersheriff Frank Fallutico and several other members of the Sheriff's staff.

The two phases of the Police Academy were discussed by the Dean, who said the only difference between the two phases is during the January to July phase we also run those classes such as fire arms training, that are necessary for sworn officers. In the case of the sworn officers, the municipality that is sponsoring them pays the tuition. Unsworn students take the training as pre-employment training and have to pay 100% of their tuition themselves. Both sworn and non-sworn students can earn up to thirty college credits by taking both phases of the program.

Dean Burlingham said that over 70% of the unsworn students are picked up by various police agencies. She advised the Committee that she had explained the economic factors to the Sheriff and that if he decided to come back we would be more than happy to have him do so.

Chairwoman Zimet said the only reason she knew about this was because she had received a call from UCCC Trustee Alison Lee. She called Frank Dart, Chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee and he also knew nothing about it, nor did several other people she contacted. She wanted to set up a meeting with all parties before the Criminal Justice Committee meeting next Tuesday. Chairwoman Zimet said a new program by the Sheriff's Department is not on their agenda, and she would like to know why the Sheriff feels he has to do this. Dean Burlingham explained that the Sheriff cannot convey college credits but also advised that the Sheriff was concerned about the intake process.

The Dean said at present there are eighteen people in the Academy. Eleven are unsworn and seven are sworn. Of the seven sworn, three are City of Kingston, which means the Sheriff's Department would only have four officers if they were running independently. Dean Burlingham said the college would continue to run this program.

Dean Burlingham also distributed an Executive Summary entitled "Ulster County Community College Water Acquisition and Distribution System". She said in talking about student housing, one of the first things the neighbors wanted to know was about water and availability. Because of those questions, we have looked at the water issue independent of the housing issue.

The new Facilities Master Plan is being drafted, the Dean said, and as soon as the Board of Trustees has an opportunity to review it, it will be passed on to this committee. The new Master Plan calls for an additional 40,000 square feet of instructional and student service space and renovation of Hardenberg Bldg. The college has been looking at different options for over a year. The Dean said that forty-one years ago the water system was designed to serve a campus that existed in 1967. There has been minimum expansion since that time. She said we are just meeting the New York State Fire Code standards of flow and pressure in our hydrants.

Dean Burlingham said college officials had met with the High Falls Water Department and they would supply up to 50,000 gallons per day. She said purchasing the water is one thing; getting it to the campus is another. The nearest point of connection is just over the Rt. 213 bridge. Then it would have to go along Lucas Avenue to Leggett Road and along Leggett to the back of the campus for a hook-up. The Dean said that if there were a fire we would have a problem. She also said that if there is a fire in Stone Ridge there would also be a problem because they use some of our water and it would not be sufficient.

Chairwoman Zimet said she spoke with Alison Lee and Chairwoman Zimet feels the college needs to be careful of the perspective of how this gets out to the community; that this is not a back way into student housing. Marianne Collins said she had accompanied President Katt to almost every meeting held with homeowners and the most important thing to them was the water issue. Leg. Cummings said water has always been an issue out here from the time the college was built.

Leg. Terrizzi, on another matter, asked what effect the Governor's proposed budget cuts would have on the college. Dean Burlingham advised that there would be a \$334,000 decrease in our current budget; however, that can be covered by our six percent enrollment increase. In addition we are continuing to cut discretionary spending and there are two full-time faculty positions and two administrative positions that are currently on hold. She advised that President Katt said we still potentially face a cut in January which could affect the March allocation. We are going to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Chairwoman Zimet then recognized Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement and Continuing Education at UCCC, who introduced Todd Zeff, Coordinator of the RISE Program. Mr. Zeff outlined the statistics for the month of October and said the participation rate was 100%, and that the program has shown significant improvement over last semester. He said one of the RISE students was graduating in December and another in May, but said she was a Safety Net student and could not be officially counted in RISE.

Dean Collins gave her thanks to the whole committee, particularly to Leg. Gregorius and said this program would not be where it is today without their help. The current state of the program is very good and there has been a lot of improvement and good follow-up. She said President Katt sent a letter to the Commissioner to renew the contract. The Commissioner called and wants the two departments to meet and review the current contract and any proposed changes.

Leg. Terrizzi said she understood the capacity to be thirty and that they now have ten and have the potential to grow by twenty. She asked if there is anything that can be done to increase the program. Dean Collins said there have been some new regulations. Leg. Gregorius discussed the importance of the participation rates and said we should be doing everything we can to keep those participation rates up. He reminded everyone that the Social Services budget was one-third of the County budget.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy prefaced her report by noting that Mason Kithcart, a long-time caretaker at Cornell Cooperative Extension who recently passed away, was in reality an employee at Ulster County Buildings & Grounds, and his assignment was always to CCE's quarters.

She advised that the Annual Dinner was held last Friday at Hillside Manor where the honorees were "Friends of Extension" for the past nine (9) years. Ms. Reidy informed the Committee that the 4-H Award was given to Chuck Garrison, who has been doing the 4-H auctions at the Ulster County Fair for many years. She also discussed the ailing teenager from Accord/Kerhonkson and the turkey auctions to raise funds for her. Also at the dinner, a philanthropic award was given to Sperry, Torcchia, CPAs for the work they have done for Cooperative Extension over many years.

Ms. Reidy also discussed the make-up and election of the Board of Directors and distributed a pamphlet which describes most of the areas in which Cooperative Education is involved, including families, environment, youth, farms and essential skills. She said there would be a free Family Budgeting Seminar called "Making Ends Meet" on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Plattekill Head Start building. Ms. Reidy distributed a information sheet listing all of the upcoming programs sponsored by Cooperative Education in December, including a "kissing ball" make-it-yourself program. A brochure on a seminar on Agricultural Renewable Energy was also distributed. This seminar is being sponsored by Hudson Valley AgriBusiness.

In concluding her report, Ms. Reidy said that word-of-mouth is the best advertising and these workshops have been oversubscribed; however, if any of the committee members know of people who could benefit by one of these workshops, especially the energy and budgeting ones, that they should try and let them know.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded Chairwoman Zimet recognized Lisa Berger, here representing Ulster County Tourism, as Rick Remsnyder was unable to attend.

Ulster County Tourism:

Lisa Berger gave the report in the absence of Rick Remsnyder who was excused. She discussed Gov. Patterson's proposal to cut \$1.5 million from next years I Love NY budget. Her office is aware of what its allocation will be and we will see a little reduction. She said it is important that the people in Albany understand that these are essential funds. Each year we have to put in an application for matching funds and ours was submitted at the end of last year.

Ms. Berger said there are three areas of promotional focus for 2009. They are 1) destination for outdoor recreation; 2) the Quadracentennial; and 3) the promotion of local food, cuisine, etc.

Ms. Berger advised that on the next day a Committee will meet to review six proposals on the hiring of a Public Relations firm to place Ulster County feature stories in the media across the country.

On the information kiosk in the Town of Shandaken, it was installed on Route28 near the end of the Catskill Mountain Railroad. She said we are planning one at the end of the Rail Trail in the Town of Shawangunk. At present, we are waiting for the Town Supervisor to give us some additional information. Maintenance of the kiosks was discussed.

On the Quadracentennial Ms. Berger and the Committee discussed the budget cuts and their effect on plans. She also said the Flotilla will be landing in Kingston on June 9<sup>th</sup> and her office will be planning an event around it.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet spoke on behalf of Office for the Aging and on behalf of Veteran's Service Agency.

Office for the Aging & Veterans' Service Agency:

Chairwoman Zimet distributed a thank you letter from Anne Cardinale, Director of Office for the Aging thanking the Committee for their support during the 2009 budget process. She also distributed copies of e-mails between Leg. Robert Parete and Ms. Cardinale regarding flu shots being given through the Care-a-van.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Sheeley and Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting duly adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Salanitri, Recorder