

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic Affairs  
Committee

DATE: April 22, 1998

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College,  
Stone Ridge, N.Y.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Deputy Chairman Felicello and Legislators  
Every, Gerentine, Sinagra, Donaldson and  
Magarelli

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislators Dunn, J. Naccarato and Provenzano

OTHERS ATTENDING: Barbara Adams, President, UCCC;  
Gordon H. Howatt, Dean of Adminis., UCCC;  
Gerry Davidson, Director, UCDC;  
Peter Carofano, Director, UC Tourism;  
Tina Iapoce, Deputy Director, UC Tourism;  
Patty Jacobson, Marketing Analyst, UC Tourism;  
Glenn Hoagland, Exec. Dir., Mohonk Preserve

A quorum being present, Deputy Chairman Felicello called the meeting to order and recognized Gordon Howatt, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College.

Mr. Howatt presented the Ulster County Information Technology plan. The plan, according to Mr. Howatt, is a vision to move the college from its current antiquated level of technology to one that is state-of-the-art and designed to support all college operations. This plan will also serve county residents by augmenting economic and workforce development activities with technologies that reflect the work environment.

Barbara Adams, President of UCCC, then discussed the monetary amount that would be required to put the Information Technology Plan into place. The cost involved would be \$2,000,000. Conversation then took place between President Adams, Dean Howatt and Legislator Sinagra regarding the current loan from the county that UCCC is unable to meet. Legislator Sinagra

asked if there were any grants/funds that were available from NYS that could assist them toward their \$2,000,000 budget.

Unfortunately, President Adams stated there were no such funds available. Legislator Sinagra stated that he is against the financial package being submitted but is in support of the college improving itself.

Legislator Gerentine stated that it was important that this committee move the budget so that the Ways and Means Committee could have the opportunity to study the budget and look at the possible financial implications.

At this time, Legislator Donaldson made a motion to move the UCCC budget and Legislator Magarelli seconded it.

President Adams and Dean Howatt felt confident that if the Information Technology Plan were put into place, it would assist UCCC in becoming more competitive in the community college arena and thus enable UCCC to meet their financial responsibilities.

President Adams then presented two appointments to the UCCC Board of Trustees. The appointment for Alan DeForest to begin April 1998 was moved by Legislator Gerentine and seconded by Legislator Sinagra. The appointment for John Wadlin to begin May 1998 was moved by Legislator Sinagra and seconded by Legislator Donaldson.

Deputy Chairman Felicello then recognized Gerry Davidson, Director of UCDC, to give his report. There has been an increase of 1800 jobs from 1997 to 1998 and he felt we are really turning the corner and are on the way back to recovery.

The Hudson River Valley Care Center will be opening in the spring of 1999 and providing about 400 jobs.

Mr. Davidson then distributed a resolution for sponsorship by the committee for the company Hunter Panels, L.L.C. The approval is for the issuance by the Ulster County IDA of tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds.

Legislator Magarelli made a motion to pass the bond resolution and it was seconded by Legislator Every.

Mr. Davidson then shared with the committee that June 5 will be Ulster Connect Day and will be held at SUNY New Paltz. UCDC is giving this event widespread distribution.

UCDC is continuing to work on solving the work force issue. There is a virtual job fair on the web page. A transportation system throughout the county is being looked at in an effort to provide additional resources to transport people to their jobs. They are also looking at the technical programs schools that are offering to prepare graduates for the needs of companies. All in all, Mr. Davidson felt good about the progress being made.

Deputy Chairman Felicello then recognized Peter Carafano, Director of Ulster County Tourism, and Tina Iapoce, Deputy Director of Ulster County Tourism to give their report. Topics discussed were the following:

1. Tourism cabooses will open on May 22 and close October 25.
2. The 1998 Ulster County Travel Guide is being printed by Dodge Graphics and should be ready for distribution the beginning of June.
3. Tourism Expo in Glens Falls was a great success with over 600 packets being distributed to tour operators.
4. Legislative reception at Ski Windham held March 26 was well attended.

Events happening in the future include:

1. Destination Packaging Seminar - May 5 at the Nevele Grand.
2. Governor's Tourism Conference - April 27-28.
3. Consumer Travel Show at the Empire State Plaza Concourse - May 27.
4. Woodstock-New Paltz Arts & Crafts Fair - Memorial Day weekend.
5. Company's Coming - May 18. Kick-off program to the tourism season.
6. National Tourism Month - May 1998 will be celebrated with an exhibit in the Tourism Info Room as well as a Tourism Proclamation presented by Chairman Alfonso at the May session of the Legislature.

Mr. Carafano and Ms. Iapoce then introduced Patty Jacobson who is the Tourism Office new marketing analyst.

There being no further business, on motion made by Lj legislator Magarelli and seconded by Legislator Donaldson, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Felicello, Deputy Chairman  
Education, Culture & Economic Affairs Committee