

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic  
Affairs Committee

DATE: August 14, 1996

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College,  
Stone Ridge, New York

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dunn and Legislators  
Felicelo, J. Naccarato, Todd,  
Jennings, Wadnola, Lomita and  
Provenzano

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Magarelli

OTHERS ATTENDING: Charles Schenck, Interim Dean of  
Administration, UCCC;  
Claire Burlingham, Controller,  
UCCC;  
Lee Reidy, Director, Cornell  
Cooperative Extension;  
Jean Ann McGrane, Acting Director  
U.C. Development Corporation;  
Joseph Munster, Ulster County  
Public Information Officer;  
Joan Every, U.C. Legislator;  
Jim Kelly Smith, U.C. Legislator

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and recognized Charles Schenck, Interim Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College.

Dean Schenck said he would be leaving the position of Interim Dean of Administration and that President Brown would be putting the name of Claire Burlingham before the Board of Trustees at their next meeting to be named as Acting Dean of Administration. He introduced Ms. Burlingham to the Committee, advising that she is presently the Controller, in charge of our finances. He also said she is a graduate of Siena College and is pursuing her Master's Degree at Marist College.

Dean Schenck presented, through Chairman Dunn, a Resolution regarding the updating of the facilities master plan as follows:

"WHEREAS, there is a need to update a facilities master plan and a need to conduct a physical space inventory in conjunction with the master plan; and  
WHEREAS, the College Board of Trustees approved the selection of Joy, McCoola & Zilch, P.C. to develop a master plan and Scott Page & Associates to conduct a physical space inventory; and  
WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees requests the Ulster County Legislature to enter into contract with these firms; and  
WHEREAS, the State University Construction Fund has allocated money for 50% of the cost of these contracts; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that the Education, Culture & Economic Affairs Committee approve that contracts be drawn by the College and College Attorneys and recommends such action to the Legislature."

The financial impact would be a total of \$63,500 to be shared equally between the State and County.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Provenzano and seconded by Leg. Jennings. There was no discussion and upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Dean Schenck then presented to the Committee another Resolution for the renovations to the Health Services area as follows:

"WHEREAS, the health services suite must be brought into conformity with American Disability Act requirements; and  
WHEREAS, the State University Construction Fund has approved funding for 50% of the renovation of the health services suite; and  
WHEREAS, the College Board of Trustees have approved the renovation of the health services suite; and  
WHEREAS, there was a single bidder for the renovations; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, the Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee hereby approves the awarding of the contract for the

renovation of the health services suite to Rahm Construction and recommends authorization by the Legislature for the College and County attorneys to draw contracts with Rahm Construction for renovation of the health services suite."

The financial impact would be \$39,838 shared equally between the County and the State. Dean Schenck noted that Rahm Construction is a local contractor and the fact that there was only one bidder was due to the fact that the project was too large for a small contractor and too small for a big contractor.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Jennings and seconded by Leg. Lomita. There was no discussion and upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Dean Schenck then presented a Resolution for the required Capital Project Request as follows:

WHEREAS, the State University of New York and the County of Ulster require that each unity submit a five year Capital Project Request annually; and  
WHEREAS, the College Administration has developed a program that consists of the following projects:

1. Roof replacement - Senate Gymnasium (SUNY funded 1995-96)
2. Roof replacement - Hardenberg
3. Modification to fume and exhaust system in Hardenberg's Chemistry Labs; and

WHEREAS, this Capital program will be updated upon completion of the facilities master plan; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, the Education, Culture & Economic Affairs Committee hereby approves the 1997-2002 Capital Program; and be it  
further

RESOLVED, that these programs be submitted to the State University of New York."

There is no financial impact attached to this Resolution.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Lomita and seconded by Leg. Wadnola. There was no discussion and upon voice vote was unanimously passed.

Dean Schenck then presented a Resolution for the approval of the firm of Brinnier & Larios as architects for the replacement of the roof on the Senate Gym. Dean Schenck said that there are two plys on the main roof which may have to be removed, and there is a question of the probability of asbestos removal. The County share for architectural cost should be from a low of \$9,000 to as much as \$25,000. The Committee discussed replacement costs and asbestos removal problems. Dean Schenck said Brinnier & Larios, with their

basic knowledge of this campus, and the fact that they were familiar with this particular roof, would be able to provide the most effective answers at the least cost. The financial impact would be from \$18,000 to \$50,000. The cost of the roof, considering asbestos removal, would be in the area of \$500,000. He detailed the current roof structure and the on-going problems with leakage.

The following Resolution was then presented to the Committee:

"WHEREAS, there is a need to replace the roof on the Senate Gymnasium; and  
WHEREAS, such roof replacement has been approved by the State University Construction Fund; and  
WHEREAS, such roof replacement is part of the Capital Project Request approved by the College Board of Trustees; and  
WHEREAS, the College Administration has reviewed Request for Proposals and recommends the firm of Brinnier & Larios to design and supervise the roof replacement; and  
WHEREAS, the College Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the appointment of the firm of Brinnier & Larios; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that the Education, Culture & Economic Affairs Committee approves that the Chairman of the Legislature enter into a contract with Brinnier & Larios and that such contract be drawn by the College and County Attorney and requests the Legislature to approve the entering into such contract pending approval of the College Board of Trustees."

The financial impact would be between \$18,000 and \$50,000 and would be shared equally between the State and County.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Wadnola and seconded by Leg. Jennings. There was no discussion and upon voice vote the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Dean Schenck, as a point of information, advised the Committee that during the past Winter there was major flooding on the campus affecting power outages and electrical wiring. He said we had made application to FEMA and received about \$6,000 from them for repair purposes.

Chairman Dunn asked about the College's water system. Dean Schenck said the wells are good; however, it is the infrastructure, such as piping that have been and will continue to be problems. He said we have had major breaks during the past year by Vanderlyn, the gym and the water tank. He said although the College is well-maintained it is aging and subject to the problems that go with an aging infrastructure. The Dean said that in the future the College will have to do some major rewiring and plumbing work and it is those things which are not seen that will create future problems. There will be no new buildings or new additions to buildings.

Leg. Jennings asked if the problems came from something other than age, such as hard water. Dean Schenck said he did not know the exact cause of the problems. Chairman Dunn said he would like to know more about these problems at the next meeting.

Leg. Lomita asked what is being done with the vacant space at the Business Resource Center. Dean Schenck said some alternatives were done in terms of contract companies and additional classroom space, but he did not have enough information to give a definite answer at this time.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Jean Ann McGrane, Acting Director of the Ulster County Development Corporation who confirmed that Jolie Milstein, Executive Director of UCDC, had resigned to become a full time mother to her new baby. UCDC is currently looking for a new Executive Director. Ms. McGrane said she will stay on until the end of August and the Board will be meeting to discuss its options and take a good look at UCDC.

Ms. McGrane said they are moving ahead with marketing and new business attractions. She advised the Committee to call if they wanted any of the new pamphlets or brochures. She said they have been getting a good response. She has also been working closely with IBM, Edgewater and Alan Ginsberg, who it is anticipated will be purchasing the IBM site. The question is whether we can utilize our resources to fill those sites.

Leg. Provenzano asked how there could be any negotiations with Mr. Ginsberg when he still does not own the buildings. Ms. McGrane said they were not in negotiations with Mr. Ginsberg but were essentially brainstorming, as he has some very good ideas. If he does not take over the buildings, IBM, Edgewater and the County will have to do that search process and we have to be competitive in the current marketplace.

Ms. McGrane continued with the report that the firm of Cross Borders Development is doing target marketing regarding the Canadian wood processing business. There was a conference of 26 firms from Canada in January as an informational session. She said we are trying to get them to relocate here; however, this is a long-term strategic move and there will be further meetings.

On business retention and expansion, the survey is complete and sixty-five responses have been sent to Cornell University. That is over an 80% response rate. The report should be back from Cornell by December, the latest. Ms. McGrane said during the survey they were able to contact the Department of Labor to help one of the responding companies get a decrease in their Workmens' Compensation rates.

Ms. McGrane said they were still waiting for the announcement of the Community Development \$900,000 Block Grant Award. There followed a general discussion of the U.C. Revolving Loan Fund. The Committee also discussed the IDA Loan Fund and the question by Leg. Provenzano as to whether the jobs created through its loans are secure jobs for workers. Nothing requires them to be maintained for a certain period of time. Ms. McGrane said she did not know, but would look into it.

Chairman Dunn said the IDA Loan Fund has raised the maximum to \$30,000 and has a very good success rate. For some businesses it is their last resort for financing. He said he would like 100% effectiveness and that loans are monitored. It is a small lending group but has been very successful.

Leg. Provenzano said she was not questioning the loans themselves but wanted to know if there was good follow-up. Chairman Dunn said he wanted to qualify the success rate. If someone said they are going to employ a certain number of workers, this is monitored by Peter Gallagher.

Ms. McGrane said, regarding the IDA, in the last three months there have been five applications approved, including the Ulster Business Complex for over \$51 million, Besicorp for \$1 million and Health Care Associates, the head trauma center, for \$37 million. She said over \$102 million has received initial approval and it is anticipated that over 500 jobs will be created. These figures do not include the IBM project. She said she sees a change in the quality of the projects that are now coming through which indicates a turn around in our economy.

There is also pending an additional application for \$2.5 million from the new HUD grant and there will be a public hearing on this application Monday night. That money will be used for additional non-specified loans.

She also discussed the reception hosted by UCDC for HITS, the horse show people. Leg. Jennings said there will be one more show this year around Labor Day. Chairman Dunn said HITS have a 5-year lease with an option to buy, and they will be coming back next year.

Ms. McGrane said UCDC's role in the Economic Development Zone has been expanded to Ellenville to include Schrade and VAW. Those properties are very attractive for businesses thinking about coming into the area.

She also spoke about the new media project, "How to Use Media in Your Business". This program is scheduled for August 22nd and will be held in two sessions.

Chairman Dunn advised that Mr. Gardner made the announcement that the old Schrade plant has been sold to a window sash maker. This will be the development of a former knife factory and is a sale, not a lease or rental.

The report of the Ulster County Development Corporation being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, who announced that the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, a County entity, had applied for an Agriculture and Markets Grant which was approved. Maureen Maloney Robb has just been hired to work on this program. The grant is for \$49,000, matched in kind and cash funds for a total grant of \$126,000. The purpose is for Ulster County to research and develop a plan on preserving and protecting farmland in Ulster County. It will eventually be sent on for State approval. Most of the money is earmarked for environmental groups. The grant was to have started as of August 1st, but she will have to ask for an extension as the application had to go through all of the channels. The Soil and Water Conservation Board has already been out doing mapping. She said we will end up with a solid base of information on agriculture in Ulster County. This is a joint venture with the Ulster County Development Corporation and Cornell University.

Chairman Dunn asked if Orange County had completed its plan and what was the outcome. Ms. Reidy said Orange County is now writing their implementation plan. She will have Ms. Robb bring that information when she appears before this Committee. The plan includes educating consumers to buy locally and eat seasonally. The grant was offered to all counties and Ulster was the fourth county to be awarded the grant.

Chairman Dunn asked Ms. Reidy if she could give this adequate coverage, considering the absence of some people from her department, and Ms. Reidy said there will be support people from other parts of her office working on it.

She also said the major part of the Children's Assistance Program (CAPS) has been approved, and the second part is now being submitted. This grant will be awarded to seven counties in the State and runs in conjunction with the Department of Social Services. It totals about \$130,000 with \$57,000 to Cooperative Extension. This is for nutritional teaching for families, and targets those families on food stamps who are eligible.

Chairman Dunn asked how many would be included in this program and Ms. Reidy said there are 179 eligible for CAP. There is also a Pre-CAP program for families that are not yet eligible. She said her office is getting ready to send out information packages to Legislators and will add that information to each file. The CAP program is funded with Federal block grant money.

Regarding the Master Gardener Program, they are training volunteers who are interested in obtaining gardening skills. They have been working at the Peace Park in Kingston and she also wants them to begin working with schools.

Ms. Reidy said it has been a hard year for agriculture in Ulster County. The corn is all ripening at the same time and people should not be surprised if that is reflected in the market. It was also a bad growing season all across the country.

She reported that the Environmental Management Council affiliation has not been an easy task. There is a lot of fear and concern that EMC will lose its identity, but she is trying to assure them that is not so. Interviews for a staff person will be scheduled within a few weeks.

Leg. Lomita asked if there would be some point in time where this union will not work out. He has been hearing that there are serious problems between the two agencies. He wanted to know if it was possible that this arrangement may be dissolved and Ms. Reidy said yes.

Leg. Felicello asked about the new tax breaks for farmers and if Ms. Reidy had any information on that. She said she would have Ben Carlos from her office call him, since she does not have the expertise in that area. She knows some information has just been sent out to apple growers.

Leg. Felicello said school districts are concerned because it will mean a large loss of tax revenue. Ms. Reidy asked if this was a land use we want to be encouraged and do we want to pay the price. It has already been decided on the State level. Chairman Dunn said he believes these questions should be directed to the Real Property Board.

Leg. Wadnola said Federal subsidies to farmers seem to have raised prices already, and Ms. Reidy said that would probably be reflected in prices across the board. There followed a general discussion of price supports in various states, both on a federal and a regional level.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Joseph Munster, Ulster County Public Information Officer.

Mr. Munster advised that on the matching funds application we have to apply for the maximum amount which is \$352,000; the same as last year. Of that request, we will probably get about \$51,000 this year. 90% will be for Ulster County and 10% for the two regions we are a part of. The figures will probable be about \$12,000 to CATS and \$8,000-\$9,000 to Hudson Valley Tourism.



He will be attending the New York State Fair and will be located in the horticulture building. He will be using the garlic balloon and wants to push the Garlic Festival. He will be distributing many varieties of garlic at the booth.

Regarding the low power radio station, Mr. Munster said he had been recording a month in advance but is not doing only two weeks in advance as things change so quickly. He is working with Nordika Holochuck of Sea Grant in Cornell Cooperative's office, and the radio announcer is Ms. Holochuck's brother. Ms. Holochuck is also printing up a bookmark flyer/insert about the low power radio station. She also has miraculously gotten the New York State Thruway Authority to make and install signs.

Regarding advertising, Mr. Munster said there will be a two-month Harvest Festival and he expects to have flyers printed in-house. He will also have ads in the Bergen Record, the New York Times, and at the New York State Fair. There was a discussion of another farmer's market at the Thruway Plattekill Rest Stop, but he does not know if that is going to happen.

Leg. Jennings asked if the HITS pictures would be in the next "I Love New York" brochure, and Mr. Munster said they would be submitted.

Leg. Joan Every was recognized by Chairman Dunn at this time. Leg. Every said she had taken many of Ulster County's brochures up to the Legislative Office Building in Albany for their display rack and for the Museum Gift Shop display rack. She took five different brochures and there is very little left. People are interested enough to take the literature and she thought Ulster County could use a courier to put brochures everywhere.

Mr. Munster said County booklets are drop-shipped to Stewart Airport and sent by UPS to the Thruway. Leg. Todd said there is a company that will distribute them at various locations, but he did not recall the cost. Mr. Munster said he would find out. There followed a general discussion on distributing brochures to various location, as well as the current travel habits of the people in the area, especially day trips. A general discussion was also had regarding publicity in general, Dean Gitter's Catskill Corners and the world's largest kaleidoscope. Leg. Felicello commended Mr. Munster for the quality of work produced by his office.

Ms. Reidy said one concern from people relocating into Ulster County is that of the school districts and the problems with their budgets. A major concern is the effect that is having on attracting people with families as well as businesses considering relocating. The committee discussed the current problems with school district budgets being voted down.

At this time Chairman Dunn recognized Leg. Jim Kelly Smith, who stated he was appearing before this Committee because Ulster County is supporting the proposed Triathlon scheduled for sometime in 1997 and has already committed \$4,000 in assistance. He said we should not be getting into the business of sponsoring anyone, especially an event two years away. Mr. Munster said the County also promotes other things. His business is to keep people in the County for more than one day.

Leg. Smith stated he is firmly opposed to the promoter of this event and requested the County to look into it in great depth and check all references carefully.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Leg. Naccarato and seconded by Leg. Felicello. Chairman Dunn declared the meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman  
Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee