

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee

DATE: March 15, 1995

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dunn and Legislators Jennings, Contini, Wadnola, Provenzano, O'Reilly and Bertone

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislators Felicello and Naccarato

OTHERS ATTENDING: Robert T. Brown, President, UCCC; Charles Schenck, Dean of Admin., UCCC; Richard Mathews, U.C. Development Corp Jolie Ander Millstein, Executive Director, U.C.D.C.; Bruce Whyte, Executive Director, Ulster Arts Alliance; James Shaughnessy, Entrepreneurial Catalyst Forum; Katherine Pugliese, President, Volunteer Board, Cornell Cooperative; Lee Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Joseph Munster, Ulster County Public Information Officer

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and requested that reports be brief due to time constraints for several Committee members. He then recognized Richard Mathews of the Ulster County Development Corporation who introduced Jolie Ander Millstein, who, effective February 13, 1995 is the new Executive Director of UCDC.

Ms. Millstein gave a review of her background. She informed the Committee that she had been a licensed architect in California, returned to school for a degree in Finance, and had been an investment banker with First Boston for six or seven years. Her last position was with the Chamber of Commerce/New York City Partnership

which was concerned with the impact of the falling economy. She said she recently married a local resident and was looking for something constructive to do in Ulster County and the timing for this position was great. At the present, Ms. Millstein said she is primarily concerned with working closely with IBM and the State to encourage workers to move into the County when their jobs are shifted into the IBM site. Her mandates coming into this job are threefold, i.e., to attract new business, retain old businesses, and to work at the County level to help develop infrastructure for the County. She told the Committee that her door is always open for any questions.

Mr. Mathews said they had an excellent dialogue going with the Legislature and with businesses, and will continue to move along. He said the day after the State deal was announced, he had been asked what UCDC was going to do now. He said they will continue with what they have been doing and, in particular, he said we all must continue to push for the health care facility.

Leg. Provenzano asked if UCDC had been in communication with the Governor's office, as nothing has been heard as yet, and people are asking if this is really a firm deal.

Ms. Millstein said she is meeting tomorrow with Chairman Alfonso to discuss how the County can go up to Albany and court the workers, to try and get them to move to Ulster County, as would be done in any corporate move. She said she also plans to contact the State later this week with proposals. Mr. Mathews, in reply to another question by Leg. Provenzano, said there might be some political posturing, but that IBM is continuing to meet with people from the State, and the plan is to move people into that facility by the end of 1995. There is no reason to believe it is not going to happen.

Chairman Dunn welcomed Ms. Millstein on behalf of the entire Committee and asked if there were any further questions. Leg. Provenzano asked if there were any other inquiries or projects and Ms. Millstein said they have an extensive marketing plan, including brochures, which the Committee will see shortly, and are very actively pursuing a number of leads. She said that it is a lot easier to market now that the State has become the anchor. There has also been a big attitude change and things are looking very positive.

Mr. Munster said he wanted Ms. Millstein to know that this Committee is very flexible, travels, and has gone to various sites to see first hand the changes in the economy.

The report of the Ulster County Development Corporation being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Jim Shaughnessy, President of Entrepreneurial Catalyst Forum, which is a new business working on the development of a concept entitled Multimedia Access & Study Center (MASC) to interact, using both technical and artistic talent, with World Wide Web (WWW) a part of Internet. Internet is a network of thousands of computers around the world which provide graphic interface to information. There are thirty million people world-wide who have access to Internet. There followed a general discussion of multimedia, MASC and WWW. Mr. Saughnessey said they would like to have some kind of underwriting to put Home Page on experimentally through the end of 1995, and asked that MASC be designated as the creators and maintainers of the Ulster County Home Page.

Ms. Millstein said she was very interested in putting Home Page for the County on the WWW, and would be willing to work with MASC, not just for entertainment but for business purposes. She said it is not paper intensive, it is immediate and it is interactive. Ms. Millstein also said she would like to have the best business opportunities available on Home Page and she believes it is an excellent idea. She also said a lot of other locations are using Internet to market economic development to attract companies into their States and Counties.

The general discussion and questions continued, with Mr. Shaughnessy demonstrating the system. Mr. Munster said he liked it and Ms. Millstein said that the Ulster County Development Corporation will make a commitment to support and bring to the Legislature a proposal for a Home Page, through MASC.

Chairman Dunn said that since both Mr. Munster and Ms. Millstein had their own budgets, they could work together and see that their budgets will bear and he will leave it to them to collaborate on this. President Brown also noted his interest into a Home Page for the Community College and Business Resource Center.

Mr. Saughnessey said he would like to locate MASK in the Incubator space. Ms. Millstein said the key is the infrastructure and the Incubator site has fiber optics.

This presentation being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Robert Brown, President of Ulster County Community College who stated that there was not much different from what was already contained in the UCCC Impact Statement of March, 1995, copies of which he delivered to each Committee member.

President Brown said the major part of the \$2 million problem, the Prison Ed Program, is gone. He said Sen. Larkin was on campus Friday and there is little hope that Prison Ed will return. There will be an extensive impact on this institution, he said, but our

goals will remain the same. He said we will protect our instructional program, support to instruction, and student services. He guaranteed the Committee that those will be met.

The President said he was talking about ten to twenty-eight positions which we probably will not have next year if the college is to meet its budget gap. The State contribution for State Aid has gone down as a percentage of the budget from 32% to 26%. He said it has actually gone down in dollars up to the fiscal year we are in right now. He cannot even tell what next year is going to be with a constant decline in State Aid, but County funding has remained level. He will have to wait until the State budget is officially approved on April 1st. President Brown said we will probably need a tuition increase and he will probably have to ask for more County support, but as yet doesn't know how much. There are seven full time and forty-five part-time positions in Prison Ed alone, which will be affected right away.

President Brown said he cannot answer a lot of questions because he doesn't have the answers at this time. He said we are going to be here and offer programs as always. The President said that Community Colleges will eventually probably have more enrollment than they ever had. He said we are also going to be charging more for the use of our facilities, but that is another sign of the times.

Leg. Provenzano asked if the President anticipated that with the movement of the State into the area, whether local enrollment will go up. President Brown said that the Business Resource Center is in a strategic location. He has already made contact with the State and told them we want to be involved. He said he has also made the same offer to the trauma center. The President said that in three or four years enrollment could be very high, and that is what our State aid is based on. What the State has done is try and not fund certain of our programs, such as economic development.

In conclusion, President Brown said that the Business Resource Center will be opening by June 1st, and he will have more to report on that item at a later date.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension, who introduced Katharine Pugliese, President of Cornell Cooperative's Volunteer Board.

Ms. Reidy said her organization is also concerned with the same things, on both Federal and State levels. Right now, she said, it does look like the Governor's funding formula is in for level funding for Cornell Cooperative. Hopefully, it will remain that way.

On March 21st, the Farm Bureau is sponsoring a City-Farm Day, including lunch at Benson's in Ireland Corners. Ms. Reidy said she wants people to understand the importance of agriculture to the economy of Ulster County.

Ms. Reidy said there were a lot of things going on with the reorganization of Cornell Cooperative. They are currently working on the Constitution and By-Laws to look at alternate structures, and the flexibility of the organization to address the needs of the community.

In the area of economic development, Ms. Reidy advised that a Business Management Horticultural position will be advertised very soon. Orange and Ulster Counties are going to cooperate on this position, using resources available in both counties. They are trying to increase business capabilities, especially in the field of horticulture, such as fruits and vegetables, as well as commercial horticulture. This is being done she said in order to get the necessary expertise in this field, and it looks like there will be more of these cooperative ventures in the future.

Leg. Provenzano asked what the outcome of the farmer's market was, and Ms. Reidy said that the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets is following it closely. She said it looks like it will be a wholesale market, and they are still doing feasibility studies to determine what and if it is going to be. She will keep this Committee advised of any progress.

The report of Cornell Cooperative being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Joseph Munster, Ulster County Public Information Officer, who presented the Committee with copies of his department's Five-Year Master Plan. He said in connection with this Master Plan, he has been working with Jolie Millstein of UCDC on the economic development aspects.

Mr. Munster advised the Committee that, at present, the Catskill Mountain Interpretive Center is on hold pending passage of the Governor's Budget, for reasons previously discussed.

He said Ulster County has received an ISTEAs grant which is being managed by the NYS Department of Transportation in Poughkeepsie. Mr. Munster said that while Ulster County received \$161,000, Dutchess County received more than \$2 million. Leg. Provenzano asked if this was Federal money and if Mr. Munster had contacted our representatives regarding the large difference in funding. Mr. Munster said ISTEAs has agreed to go back into Committee and refigure the percentages of dollars given to Ulster and Dutchess.

Mr. Munster also passed out copies of the 1995 Goals of his office, and said that an agreement had been reached not to print the four-color brochures, as they were too expensive.

The report of the Ulster County Information Office being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Bruce Whyte of the Ulster Arts Alliance, who advised the Committee that the Arts is an asset of the County, and is directly linked to activity in tourism, health care, economic development, etc. He said he is currently sitting on the Task Force of the Tourism Councils of both the County of Ulster and the City of Kingston, which is currently working on a Master Plan for the City of Kingston. The basic concept is not to come out with one big splashy ad, but to come out with frequency.

Mr. Whyte said he would report in more detail at the next session; however, he said it is a good opportunity for the City of Kingston and the County of Ulster to work together.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Jennings and seconded by Leg. Wadnola, and Chairman Dunn declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman