

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee

DATE: March 16, 1994

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College

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

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislator Naccarato

OTHERS ATTENDING: Donald C. Katt, Acting President, UCC
Gloria Bonali, Executive Director, Ulster Arts Alliance
Alice Cocalas, Executive Director, U.C. Development Corp.
Lee Reidy, Director, Cornell Cooperat Extension
Bruce Whyte, President, Ulster Arts Alliance
Joseph Munster, Ulster County Public Information Officer

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and recognized Dr. Donald Katt, Acting President of Ulster County Community College.

Dr. Katt informed the Committee that John Dunn was currently in Syracuse relative to the Business Resource Center at a meeting with the Regional Director of the Economic Development Agency regarding our preliminary proposal for federal help with renovations of the new Albany Avenue site. John Dunn is the expert on the Audit Report; and therefore, Dr. Katt said he would take questions and get back to any

member with an answer, or as an alternative go over the Audit Report more thoroughly in April when Dean Dunn is here.

Chairman Dunn said his main concern was with the Budget Report. Regarding the 1993-94 Budget Report, Dr. Katt said there is a tuition shortfall - primarily in part-time. This is happening throughout the State, especially in the Hudson Valley with the downsizing of IBM and a sluggish economy. Either discretionary money is being saved or people do not have any extra money. Full time enrollment was up at the beginning of the semester.

Dr. Katt said that this relates to revenues. At this time, projected tuition for full time is down \$9,300 and \$34,000 for part-time in the Fall, 1993 semester. Estimates now show we will be down about \$50,000 in Spring of 1994 for close to \$100,000 less in tuition aid than we had expected this year.

While part time is down significantly in the current semester, Dr. Katt continued, we are optimistic about summer and are looking for additional course offerings and will have well-publicized programs to help alleviate the shortfall somewhat, but this will not correct it entirely.

Leg. Provenzano asked what affect classes and the Incubator would have on the 1994 budget. Dr. Katt said the 1994 budget will not be affected, but the 1995 budget will be. He asked Chairman Dunn if he had any information on the progress of the building purchase and also mentioned that UCCC has told its people not to plan courses at the facility for September of this year. Dr. Katt said we are looking at January, 1995 for classes to start and for that impact to be the second half of next year and into the summer. He informed the Committee that credit-free classes are faster in offering courses once the space is available. Their turnaround time could be a matter of weeks.

Continuing with his report Dr. Katt said there is a projected change in the fund balance which started at \$172,000 in 1993. Of that sum, \$124,000 was used to balance the budget leaving an unappropriated fund balance of \$48,723. A review of shortfall being shown as of January 31st, appropriations and projected fund balance at August 31, 1994 is \$9,500. However, he said that since the January 31st meeting we have had a number of meetings. Dean Dunn has met with a number of academic and department chairs and there have been give backs from various departments, both administrative and academic. Dr. Katt said this is a tight budget. Only those purchases that are absolutely necessary are getting through and, because of that we do not anticipate a negative fund balance at the end of the year. For example, there are some vacant positions which have been frozen. One position which caused some problems is our Computer Technician position where the selection process was completed for

this Civil Service position, but we feel we cannot hire that person at this time and it is on hold. We do not like to operate that way but have no choice at this time. This technician services approximately 300 PCs on campus, which are mostly instructional and things do wear out.

Leg. Jennings questioned Item 414 regarding Prison Travel Expenses, and Dr. Katt replied that when faculty go to the facilities to teach prisoners, they are reimbursed for mileage above normal travel to work. Leg. Jennings asked if it would be cheaper to bring the inmates here and Dr. Katt said that was tried one time and did not work. Continuing, Dr. Katt said that also a big concern right now is the Senate Crime Bill, which may exclude Pell grants for inmates. We have full and part-time faculty who teach evening classes at the various prisons.

Leg. Provenzano remarked that she had read that the percentage of inmates who go into the education programs was high and she had heard that the recidivism rate was low but it appears the problems come with inmates serving life sentences and getting degrees. Dr. Katt agreed that studies have show that the recidivist rate is lower with education. Also education programs attract the "better" inmate due to the high criteria for allowing inmates to take classes including the requirement that the student have at least a GED or High School Diploma.

Leg. O'Reilly asked if there was an opportunity to charge the costs back to the County where the inmate comes from and if so do we get the full amount as if they were not a prisoner. Dr. Katt said there is a charge back involved and we do pursue that and Dean Dunn has all the specifics on what that amount totals.

Continuing on prisoner education, Dr. Katt said a recent State Senate proposal is to have inmates repay TAP awards; however, one problem is that they want them repaid in three to six months, which is rather unrealistic. A graduated payment plan is more desirable. Dr. Katt said the prison program is not a universally accepted program at the College; however, we have been involved with prisoners for a very long time.

Chairman Dunn asked about energy costs for this Winter, and Dr. Katt said they were up, as was snowplowing costs, since we have had to call in an outside contractor to move snow so that maintenance vehicles could continue plowing.

Returning to the 1994-95 prospects, Dr. Katt, with Dave Rylance, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Ann Marrott, Director of Community Relations and former student Jennifer Lehtinen met with our State representatives in Albany last week to advise them of the effects of State Aid on Ulster County Community College. They met with two Assemblymen, two Senators and with Kevin Cahill last Friday. The SUNY Board of Trustees has recommended a \$150 increase per full-

time student from the State. They are currently giving us \$1,650 per student. However, it appears that the Legislature may only go \$75 per FTE increase. The Governor did not recommend any increase for Community Colleges. He said that should be an issue left to the State Legislature.

We are not only in a tight budget this year said Dr. Katt; but with negotiated salary increases for next year (roughly \$500,000), we will need as much State Aid as possible. If the State does not come through we have to look at other resources, including tuition and our own sponsor's share. It is going to be very difficult if we do not receive the full \$150 per FTE increase from the State. As you know, he continued, Kevin Cahill serves on the Higher Education Committee and he feels there may be some movement above \$75. Anything above that \$75 is critical in terms of next year's budget. Local sponsors cannot pick up the entire burden, and any additional help will be greatly appreciated.

Dr. Katt explained part of the funding formula for the benefit of new Committee Members. In the 1950s the funding formula was one-third from tuition, one-third from the County and one-third from the State. In the 1970s Gov. Rockefeller started a Full Opportunity Plan whereby the State paid up to 40% if we agreed to take all high school graduates and returning servicemen, and, of course, we all agreed to that. In the early 1970s we approached 38% of the budget being carried by the State. Since then it has been consistently less.

In the last eight years, the percentage of budget share has changed from 22% to 29% student tuition, 29% to 32% County and from 31% to 26% from the State. If the current State budget is approved the State share will go down even further, leaving us two sources of revenue, tuition and our County share. That is the kind of bind we are in.

Leg. Contini said he was in Albany last week and the Legislature did not give any positive comment. Dr. Katt said Kevin Cahill feels there is still room for some negotiation. Leg. Provenzano asked how Senator Cooke felt about it and Dr. Katt said Sen. Cooke feels that this year is better for an increase than last year. The collective response seems to be that there would be some movement in that direction. Dr. Katt explained some of the State Aid formulas based on previous years and with 2,000 FTEs, a \$150 per FTE increase would mean \$300,000. That is what is at stake here. Again, the cost of our negotiated increases will be roughly \$500,000.

Leg. Provenzano, regarding the NYS Education Committee asked if there was any effort there to say we want more than \$75. and Dr. Katt said that Kevin Cahill, who is on the Higher Education Committee is pushing that. We were all happy to read of the budget surplus, but everyone is going to be looking for a piece of that surplus. People on campus are cooperating and working together to get through this year as best as possible.

With regard to the construction, Dr. Katt said this is primarily Dean Dunn's area; however, he knows there are still items on the punch list and we are still holding money until that work is done. It is on-going and we are staying on top of it. Our intent is to have everything in working order before payments to contractors are finalized.

On the Business Resource Center, Dr. Katt said Chairman Dunn probably knows more about it than he does. We are committed to the Business Resource Center and hopes the County feels it is a wise investment. We would like to be able to move in, even during renovations. We can help the County in manpower training needs and this is definitely a win-win situation.

Leg. Provenzano said that it is unfortunate that people still think of Social Services recipients as being less than human, and they are hard working people forced to be on that program only by necessity. Dr. Katt said proof of that is the number of people in our PACE program which benefits single mothers receiving Aid for Dependent Children, and others returning to get or complete their education.

Leg. Provenzano asked if once the matter of the building is decided, would information come from this Committee regarding such things as the Business Incubator, in order to make sure the public is aware of the federal money involved. Many people do not understand this.

Chairman Dunn replied that it is a little premature at this time but when everything is consummated the facts will be provided to the public. There is still a lot of investigation to be done.

Dr. Katt informed the Committee of the Robert Novak breakfast next Wednesday at 7:30am and to give his office a call if anyone wishes to attend. The public session will be held at 9:30am. This is the first lecture through the Jack St. John Lecture Series sponsored through Ulster Savings Bank, and is part of a series to bring one person per year to speak in the area of law, government or public service.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn, recognized Gloria Bonalli of the Ulster Arts Alliance.

Mrs. Bonalli said she would like this Committee to support a request for a Proclamation to declare July and August as "Arts and Humanities Months" in Ulster County. She said this is a National campaign to make the public aware of Arts and Humanities and how they are a part of everyday lives. She said a survey indicated that 57% of the people interviewed felt that Arts and Humanities were important but that they did not have much involvement with them. The Ulster Arts Alliance wants to make people aware that Arts and

Humanities are all around them, as well as in the history of the State and their ethnic and family backgrounds.

A motion was made to declare July and August as Arts and Humanities Months in Ulster County, motion made by Leg. Provenzano and seconded by Leg. Wadnola. Upon vote being taken, motion passed unanimously. Chairman Dunn requested that Public Information Officer Joe Munster handle all the details in this matter.

The report of Ulster Arts Alliance being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension who asked in view of the fact that she was not aware video equipment would be available, that she be allowed 15-20 minutes at the next meeting to show a video on the Arts Program held at the Rondout Neighborhood Center which turned out very well and which benefitted low income and at risk youth.

Continuing her report, Mrs. Reidy said that information on The Satellite Teleconference on Medicaid Takeover run by NYSAC had just been sent to Committee members and she apologized for the short notice, but she had only received the information yesterday. The teleconference will be held from 12:30pm to 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 23rd at the Dutchess County Extension Office on Route 44 in Millbrook. She said she also sent information to Social Services, Mental Health and the Board of Health. Dutchess County has offered the use of their facilities at no charge and Mrs. Reidy said she will also tape the program.

Mrs. Reidy said that on April 12th another satellite program on economic vitality issues will be held. She is trying to see if she can get Dutchess or Sullivan to hold it. It will be on expansion and retainage of businesses currently located in this area and is designed for government officials.

She reviewed plans to locate Cornell's satellite dish on Golden Hill using NYNEX fiber optics. NYNEX has to approve this; however, since 14,000 people are going to be laid off, things at NYNEX are somewhat up in the air at this time. Installers will be in this area next month. If possible, said Mrs. Reidy, she would also like to wire into the Ulster County Courthouse and be able to use their larger rooms.

Leg. Contini said he had spoken with an individual from Cornell last week and assured him that we really would like the satellite dish but because of the historic district we have been having problems with its proposed location.

Mrs. Reidy said there will be a Total Quality Management meeting for county government will be held at Cornell University in Ithaca on May 24th. She would like to run a program here at that time but that does not appear to be practicable. There will be five counties getting together to tape this program and put it together with indus-

trial and labor relations. They would get to use the same speakers. This would be for Legislators, government people, Department heads, etc.

She said she had just finished up a program with UCCC on Management Training for Apple Farm Employees. She would like to bring in Warren Smith to give a report. This program was funded through UCCC and they are talking about funding it next year and maybe even expanding it.

Leg. O'Reilly asked how the Economic Vitality teleconference tie in with the efforts going on in Ulster County. Mrs. Reidy said this program lets people know the kind of efforts being made in various communities. It brings together a group of people to have conversations to see if they have ideas that could be useful. Mr. O'Reilly asked how the Committee could take some initiative and Mrs. Reidy said the first thing would be to attend the teleconference. She read the Committee the Goals of Satellite Program, and said she will have the program taped for playback at her office. Leg. O'Reilly said he is sure there are a number of people and groups which would be interested in seeing it, since Cornell has such great resources.

The report of Cornell Cooperative ~~Extension~~ being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Alice Cocalas, Executive Director of the Ulster County Development Corporation, who presented a resolution for the \$250,000 funding to be paid in installments. She said the Legislative body had approved this resolution in December. The resolution presented now from this Committee will start funding the \$250,000 disbursements, in payments, included in the approved budget.

Leg. Provenzano said she wanted to know where each payment is going. Mrs. Cocalas said it is very difficult to do that and that this payment schedule was approved according to her budget. It is very difficult to break down. She said this money has already been earmarked and figures given to the Committee in December of 1993.

Leg. Provenzano asked if the money was already spent or if it was anticipated expenses and Mrs. Cocalas said it will be either or both. Leg. Provenzano said she distinctly remembers Leg. Sinagra stating that we would disburse money as it is needed and requested, but that we would know what it is going to be spent on. Chairman Dunn noted that this Resolution still had to go before the Ways and Means Committee.

Leg. O'Reilly said that realistically, \$250,000 was based on a specific marketing plan, and that this is UCDC's best projection of what the cash flow will be. Leg. Provenzano said that a decision was made to give \$250,000 to UCDC to proceed with ad program. Her only concern is where the money is going to be spent. Mrs. Cocalas said Randall Roth receives copies of all monthly expenses and Leg. Contini said that is correct and it is available for inspection at any time.

Mrs. Cocalas asked whether her group was being singled out? She wanted to know if every contract agency had to show bills for everything they buy. Leg. Provenzano said that when a Resolution is passed for any agency, they want to know what it is being spent for. This was a lump sum of \$250,000 and UCDC had shown where it was going to be spent, but it was not concrete. Things can change. Mrs. Cocalas said she could give a copy of the Plan that was voted on. For example, \$50,000 has been spent. Leg. Provenzano said that as a Legislator, when it comes time to vote, she needs information that she is going to be asked for. Mrs. Cocalas said she will sent a copy of the approved Marketing Program that she has to go on.

Chairman Dunn said that also, consultants will be paid on a per diem basis. Mrs. Cocalas said that is also included.

Returning to the Resolution, Chairman Dunn asked that a motion be made. A motion was made by Leg. Contini and seconded by Leg. Jennings to approve disbursements of Ulster County Community Development's contractual funds of \$250,000 for the calendar year 1994 from the County of Ulster in ten (10) payments, each to be drawn as set forth in the Schedule of Payments set forth in the Resolution in detail.

Upon discussion, Leg. Wadnola asked if the Ulster County Development Corporation had a Marketing Plan, and what is UCDC doing to go outside of the State, especially California as Dutchess County is doing. Mrs. Cocalas said this resolution was based on the Marketing Plan, and she will forward him a copy. She said Ulster County is constantly being compared to Dutchess County, which is unfair since we have kept up with them and have surpassed them in some areas. She then gave a detailed explanation of the Marketing Program and costs.

Leg. O'Reilly thought the Committee should understand better how we are doing with the money we are spending. He thinks perhaps a report every few months on how we stand, in some detail.

Mrs. Cocalas said at this time we have had six companies respond to our direct mailing campaign. The bingo cards have brought nine replies and are being followed up. We received four requests for more information on company letterheads. This is a total of nineteen responses and this is a much better response than some of the other counties are getting. She said they even managed to get a free ad in the Wall Street Journal.

Chairman Dunn at this time said that each Legislator is advised to and has a responsibility to acquire this information. The Marketing Plan has been available. Alice Cocalas, he said, has been more than cooperative with information. Legislators must make it a point to keep abreast of what is going on. He reminded the Committee that they are in discussion on a proposed resolution and asked if there was any further discussion.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken.

FOR THE MOTION: Legs. Dunn, Contini, Jennings, Bertone,
O'Reilly, Wadnola, Felicello.

AGAINST THE MOTION: Leg. Provenzano

Motion passed.

Continuing with her report, Mrs. Cocalas gave an up-date on TEAM Hudson Valley and on the Regional Revolving Loan Trust Fund program, and on Banker's Loan Fund, a consortium of bankers with \$5 million available for funding. Leg. Felicello asked what their interest rate was and Mrs. Cocalas thought 5%.

Regarding the Woodstock Festival, she has been having weekly meetings with Joe Munster and others and getting a lot done.

As this point, Joe Munster said that there will be no money from the promoters, but he may be able to get in touch with large corporate sponsors and is going to The Wall Street Journal. He did advise the Committee, in furtherance of UCDC's getting a free ad, that a full page ad in the Wall Street Journal costs \$140,000 for a one-shot time. He described various ideas for obtaining advertising money and repeated that the promoters say no money.

Leg. Provenzano said the since the promoter is bringing this into the County, she didn't understand why they should be expected to give us money to permit economic development advertising. Mr. Munster said he doesn't want them to do it for us, he wants them to do it with us. This is a good occasion to work with the promoters. Their own figures show that they will be taking in billions of dollars and if it is going to be a matter of major inconvenience to the residents of this County, they should be made to cooperate with us, or they should cooperate with us to the extent that everyone would wish. Mr. Munster said he is looking at it from promoting tourism and Mrs. Cocalas is looking at it from promoting economic development.

At the request of Chairman Dunn the Committee returned to Mrs. Cocalas' report. Leg. O'Reilly asked her if she had heard anything from Hitachi, as rumor has it that they have bought some houses in Kingston, but Mrs. Cocalas had heard nothing about it.

Leg. Provenzano said she had heard mentioned at one of the Board meetings that there was a team being put together, and she asked if there was any further information on that. Mrs. Cocalas said that was probably the Rapid Response Team, who are the people called on when something needs attention immediately. Team members vary, depending upon the situation.

Chairman Dunn said it was appropriate to mention the Revolving Loan Fund activities. He said emphasis has to be on the smaller

businesses. Big businesses come and go and can make or break up. We have to retain all the small businesses in the area and in the State. He said it all comes from the little people and he is very proud of the fact that UCDC places a lot of emphasis on small business.

Referring the Committee to her written report, Mrs. Cocalas said that there were forty inquiries in February and twenty-one on March. She explained how UCDC helps small businesses. Leg. Contini said that it is the small businesses that need the funding and the help the most.

The report of the Ulster County Development Corporation being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Joseph Munster, Ulster County Information Offices, who gave a run-down on the explanation and costs associated with the Milton Glazer autographed Catskills poster. He expects to sell at least 5,000 posters by mail at \$10 each plus postage. He also said we may have a free booth at the Festival to sell Ulster County Information and now New York State also wants an information booth.

Mr. Munster said Milton Glazer was paid \$5,000 for the poster and wants an additional \$3,000 if we want to use the top portion of the poster as a bumper sticker. Leg. Bertone thought it would be a very effective bumper sticker. Mr. Munster said that in view of the price, we are going to have a poster, not a bumper sticker; however, everything is still in negotiations. Leg. O'Reilly asked where the posters would be sold and Mr. Munster said at County Office Buildings, local retailers, etc.

Bruce Whyte said, regarding the Glazer poster, that the problem is that it is too commercial to be considered art. It would need some changes in order to sell as an artistic poster in the \$20-\$60 range.

Regarding the Catskill Interpretive Center, that is still viable and still being worked on. At present, said Mr. Munster, DOT wants to build a 100' diameter 50' tall salt dome in direct line with the view from the Interpretive Center. They are being advised by the same architects that are designing the Interpretive Center. Mr. Munster then showed the Committee line drawings and plans of proposed elevations, site plans and floor plans. The Interpretive Center is located at Mt. Tremper, on Route 28 in Shandaken. He expects the Committee will probably visit the Center in June and ride the train.

Continuing with his report, Mr. Munster said that as part of ISTEAs, the Department of Environmental Conservation applied for and received a grant to build a bridge across the Esopus Creek linking the Catskill Interpretive Center with the Catskill Mountain Railroad, which will go up to the Empire State Railway Museum in Phoenicia.

He also said there is a possible ISTEAs application for \$40,000-\$50,000 for a railroad crossing on Route 28.

Mr. Munster said that the Red Cross local representative had contacted him for permission to use the County logo with a Red Cross above it. He asked the Committee if anyone thought this would be a problem and no one did. Chairman Dunn said Mr. Munster could handle the details through the leadership of the Legislature. Leg. Contini suggested that a fee of \$1 be charged for the use on the logo in order to keep some control and the Committee agreed.

Mr. Munster reported that as part of the Summer Festival, the four counties received a \$25,000 grant in matching funds for advertising purposes.

Chairman Dunn said that the populace and the municipalities have to be reimbursed for any damage that may be done. If any event is successful, as this one is supposed to be, there will be a lot of money coming out of it. Leg. Provenzano agreed that any expenses Ulster County incurs as a result of these promotions should certainly be gotten back. She said she just had a little problem that promoters should be responsible for promoting economic development in Ulster County. There followed a general discussion of the proposed Woodstock Festival.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Bertone and seconded by Leg. Felicello and the meeting was officially adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman
Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee