

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic  
Affairs Committee

DATE: February 18, 1993

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dunn and Legislators Every,  
Felicello, Sfregola, Irwin, Contini,  
Schneller and Bertone

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislator O'Reilly

OTHERS ATTENDING: Robert T. Brown, President, UCCC;  
W. John Dunn, Dean of Administration  
Charles Schenk, Dean of Inst. Planni  
and Development, UCCC;  
Lee Reidy, Director, Cornell Coopera  
Extension;  
Alice Cocalas, Executive Director, U  
Joseph Munster, Ulster County Inform  
al Director

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Chairman Dunn recognized Robert Brown and John Dunn. Pres. Brown presented the necessary form requesting a resolution to move contingency funds among contractors.

John Dunn then explained that the renovation project was nearing completion, and the contractors are just about phased out and wrap up sessions have been held to go over all items. Dean Dunn explained that when the contracts were awarded, the contingency funds were split up among the contractors by the percentage of the total contract they had. It was not used that way so the contingency had to be amended, taking away from the general contractor and moving it to the electrical contractor. There are several reasons why the electrical contractor was over budget. Dean Dunn gave a list of items added during the process, including extending telephone lines, constructing a new 15 KV

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switchroom, providing power to elevators, providing oil switches for the transformers, providing exhaust fans in the cafeteria where it is a designated smoking area which wasn't in the original plans, wiring fire alarm system and wiring fume hoods in the labs. The increase from the contingency for the electrical contractor was for extras added to the contract. Dean Dunn said that attached to the resolution was an analysis of the project to date as the 1st of February.

The left hand part strictly deals with the original contracts and where there is an overage. The first one is for reimbursables for the architect. They weren't properly budgeted for. Other items were for the survey, the structural engineer who analyzed the wall that was falling down, and the kitchen consultant to lay out the kitchen properly. It cost the college \$15,000 to run the blueprints that were used, so we had to put money into reimbursement.

Dean Dunn directed the committee's attention to the right hand side where the contingencies, as originally budgeted, added up to \$329,500; being \$200,000 for Marx, \$45,000 for electrical, \$70,000 for HVAC and \$13,000 for the plumber. At the end of the project, Marx will have \$112,000 left in their contingency, the electrical will be over-spent by \$54,000, Pittsfield Pipers will have \$300,000 remaining and the plumber will have \$16,000. The college wants to move some of that money around to cover the electrical contractor.

President Brown remarked that for a \$9.8 million project that is not too bad. There were not many change orders. Dominick Sfregola asked, for clarification, if the college wanted to take \$20,000 out of Pittsfield and \$65,000 out of Marx. John Dunn said that a little extra will be put into electrical since there has been no final wrap-up meeting as yet. Dominick Sfregola said that if there is money left over, the college just wouldn't use it at all. John Dunn said we would use all of the allocation and if funds were left over, items on the add/alternate list would be completed.

Mr. Sfregola said that a \$330,000 contingency on a \$10 million factor is not a very high amount. Pres. Brown reminded the Committee that O'Brien-Kreitzberg was absorbed by the college budget and this has helped to have the project proceed so well. Mr. Sfregola asked if the college felt safe in moving \$20,000 out of the contingency for Pittsfield Pipers and John Dunn said yes. Legislator Contini asked if the contingencies are not utilized, does the college intend to utilize them in other places or are they going to be applied towards the bond taken out for furnishings. President Brown advised that it couldn't be applied to the bond.

The President said that when the college bid the project it was done in a way that allowed for add/alternates so that we could maximize the project. A few other add/alternates we still have are a covered walkway from the Student Life Center to Burroughs. John Dunn added that we also had an estimate about cutting out the wall in the old cafeteria to provide more visibility and there are some improvements to entranceways that have to be done. Rick Schneller asked if these are on a list as part of this project. President Brown said it was

originally part of the design, but the college could not do them because we did not have enough money. We went as far as we could, and so we might get one or two of those items. We're not going to get much for \$29,000. In answer to the question, the college would like to use the maximum but if we didn't, it would just be split: \$14,500 State and \$45,500 County. Dominick Sfregola said that basically, if the college needs the contingency for the project they should use it. If they don't need it for any additional electrical work or something else, they might opt to use it for one of these add/alternates if the dollars are there. John Dunn said that the college would have to come back to the Committee because its already been awarded and it would have to be amended again.

Chairman Dunn asked for any further discussion of the motion to transfer contingency money. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken:

Those in Favor - 6

Those Opposed - 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Returning to the agenda, President Brown said that the 1993-1994 Executive Budget did also include two of our capital projects that had been submitted this year and approved by Committee. They are in the Legislature's Capital Budget. Plans for this year are replacing the roofs of Burroughs, the Library and Clinton. There is \$50,000 in state aid so each one would be \$100,00 with a total project cost of \$200,000. We have not started the project. It still has to make it through the State Legislature in order to be approved. We will start, however, to begin planning the replacements but it cannot go forward until it is approved by the State Legislature and finalized by the County Legislature. We will start planning but not bring it to any resolution. The President said he wanted to inform the Committee that the projects were approved last year and are just starting to begin.

Ron Irwin asked if the Library was leaking again, and President Brown replied no. Vincent Dunn asked about a membrane roof. John Dunn said that referred to Vanderlyn Hall and the Senate Gym. The Library does not have a membrane roof. The Gym hasn't been fully repaired since 1979. President Brown said the roof had been replaced at that time. The only major work done on the Library recently has been the Learning Resource addition, but not on the Library roof itself. The President said that when he first became President, a consultant was called in and he was told that the entire Library should move out because it was in danger of collapse. Everyone and everything was moved out of there because the whole building had to be restructured. That was in 1974. Flat roofs are tough, as you know, in the Northeast. John Dunn added that the roof of the new addition was not up at that level, but was on the level of the Burroughs Building, and the college had no reason to include it as a part of the renovations. In response to a question by Joan Every, John Dunn said it was going to be a rubber membrane roof. A general discussion of the merits of membrane roofs followed. Dominick Sfregola said it was interesting to see that the

State office indicated that the college should get moving and do it this year because the money might not be there next year. John Dunn said it was a Spring-Summer. Mr. Sfregola also asked if the estimate was \$100,000 per roof and if the State share was \$50,000 on each roof and John Dunn replied in the affirmative.

President Brown then reported on enrollment, which was very strong for the Spring semester; a much larger full-time enrollment than had been anticipated and much larger than last Spring. Part-time enrollment is down, as it is in both Dutchess and Orange. He said he was not sure if it was a coincidence, but it is about 75 FTEs down. He said several things have happened. The economy is bad and many people look at part-time tuition as a luxury, since many of those people are not eligible for financial aid. One of the things IBM has done has been to eliminate their tuition payments formerly made to those employees ready to retire. Also, in July, any tuition reimbursement plan will be taxable; before it was not. To some people that is added to their income and they are consequently taxed on it. We are not sure if any of those reasons apply to the drop in part-time enrollment. It is possible that some of the part-timers went full time so they would be eligible for financial aid; also, they many not be able to get a job. A lot of people come in and check with the Registrar because they are sent by Unemployment. People can collect unemployment and go to college for retraining as long as there is verification.

Chairman Dunn said he finds it unique in Chancellor Johnston's testimony that billions of dollars come to New York State rather than to other states and explained why. This adds a high degree of credibility for our education system in New York, particularly above high school level. We have people coming in here and we have to give them the basics all over again, which, in Chairman Dunn's opinion, creates a hardship. They should have had that in the first twelve grades rather when the somehow graduate and come to a junior college and then have to enlightened as to what the basics of education are all about. President Brown said our schools reflect our society and unfortunately we have a lot of problems in our society.

President Brown said a lot of the material for this meeting had been sent out in advance to try and facilitate the meetings. Dominick Sfregola said that if material was going to be sent out so far in advance it should go directly to the Legislature's Chambers prior to its regular session, which is one week before this Committee meets. This would afford ample time for review before the Committee meeting.

President Brown also advised the Committee of the fact that the County bus service closes on county holidays, which is a problem for many of our students. The college does not always close then the county closes and vice-versa. College is in session on some holidays when the County is closed and students utilizing the bus have a very difficult time getting here.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Chairman Dunn also congratulated the staff of Cornell Cooperative on their placemats which he thought quite innovative.

Lee Reidy reported that she had just learned that the source reduction grant she had been talking about since January of 1992 involving Wakefern Foods, Shoprite, UC Resource Recovery, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University is beginning. The project involves getting people to reduce waste at the source. The grant is from NYS Research and Development Authority which has just signed the contract. Chairman Dunn asked if it was related to packaging and Mrs. Reidy said Cornell is going to be evaluating about twenty products on a recyclable-cost basis. When Chairman Dunn asked who was going to working on the project she said she would be doing the monitoring along with Linda Herzog, and continued to explain how the project was going to work, including educational strategies. No names of people or of families will be used. Cornell Cooperative usually takes information and presents it; however, this time they will be part of the project. She will be hiring a part-time program assistant to train volunteers.

Mrs. Reidy than stated the goals of the Board of Directors as formulated as being the following:

- 1) To develop a strategy to implement organizational restructuring in keeping with contemporary needs of the community and the organization. Things, including agriculture, have changed but Cooperative Extension has not. It is time to review the Constitution and By-Laws. Cornell is going to be giving more flexibility in programming.
- 2) Develop a marketing strategy for the organization that includes educating policy makers, clientele and the general public about mission and programs. Ms. Reidy said she is not sure that the general public has an understanding of what Cooperative Extension does and its value to the community, especially around budget time.
- 3) Recognize the accomplishments of staff that enhance the visibility of the organization in the community through innovative programming efforts.
- 4) Enhance the financial health of the organization by improving revenues through grants and fee-based programs and to reduce expenditures by continuing to improve operational efficiency.
- 5) To strengthen the organizational structure by enhancing methods of communication that reinforce the structures and values of the organization.

Chairman Dunn remarked that Cooperative Extension's original goal was to relate to the agricultural areas of the State, County of District. Now, with agriculture diminishing Cooperative Extension is getting youngsters in 4-H who no longer live on farms but live where they can't even have pets and believes the organization will have to make adjustments for that. Ms. Reidy said that the first 4-H Club in

New York State was started in the inner city in Elmira for boys where woodworking and electricity was taught. That was in 1917.

As far as the farmers of today, she sees a problem when they are ready to retire. There are not enough young people currently on farms and those that are leave as soon as they can. 4-H helps somewhat with this problem. Dominick Sfregola said that the public perception of Cooperative Extension has always been agriculture based and Mrs. Reidy said that they do not want to lose that image, that Cornell Cooperative is community based. Chairman Dunn said that if the agricultural aspect of this nation is diminished or taken away you will also see the elimination of State and County Fairs since the backbone of these Fairs is rural in nature.

Mrs. Reidy informed the Committee that she had been elected Chair of the Ulster County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and as such will be reporting to the Legislature's Environmental Committee. A new committee has been appointed by State mandate to expand the old Ag. District committees and will include farmland enhancement and protection. There is a pilot project with Whole Farm Planning with New York City Watershed. They are working with Sullivan County for pilot farms in Ulster County and a dairy farm in Hardenburgh has been chosen. A plan will be worked out with the farmer to increase his efficiency as far as water run-off, economics, and non-point pollution. New York City has agreed to fund the recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Dunn, Chairman  
Education, Culture and Economic Affairs  
Committee