

COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee

DATE: October 21, 1993

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Ulster County Community College

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Dunn and Legislators Sfregola, Every, Contini, O'Reilly and Schneller

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Irwin, Felicello and Bertone

OTHERS ATTENDING: Robert T. Brown, President, Ulster County Community College;
 Anne Donovan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, UCCC;
 David Rylance, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, UCCC;
 Charles Schenck, Dean of Inst. Planning & Info. Services, UCCC;
 Lee Reidy, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Center;
 Gloria Bonali, Executive Director, Ulster Arts Alliance;
 Peter Gallagher, Ulster County Development Corporation;
 Alice Cocalas, Executive Director, UCD
 Joseph Munster, Ulster County Public Information Officer

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:05pm, at which time he recognized Robert T. Brown, the President of Ulster County Community College.

President Brown began his report by advising the Committee that he was, with the approval and encouragement of the Board of Trustees going to be taking a three-month study leave - February, March and April of 1994. The purposes of this study leave, said President Brown, is to: 1) ascertain the careers of the future; 2) become knowledgeable about Total Quality Management; and 3) study and investigate the technical revolution occurring on campuses around the state and around the country.

President Brown advised the Committee that he had been at the College for 29 years, 20 of them as President. During that amount of time there is a tendency to get some tunnel vision when doing the same thing, day after day. There will be an Acting President

appointed as required by SUNY; however that is not yet decided by the Board. Chairman Dunn asked the President if he would be available during this time, and President Brown said that he is going to try and not do that. He is currently putting together an interim organization chart for the Board. Having never done this before there are no guidelines whatsoever; however, the timing is right. He will be back in April before the budget goes to the County Legislature.

The President said that we are in a workforce crisis not only in this County but in the entire country, and Community Colleges are going to play a significant role in turning things around. Leg. Contini asked if this was a type of think tank activity, to which President Brown replied in the affirmatives; that he was going to read, write, study and do research. He said he would be based at home, but planned to visit colleges our size around various areas of the country. In Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for example, there was a similar corporate down-sizing and higher education was involved in turning around the economics of the area by training and re-training people to meet new needs. That is what the Board would like him to do. He will be back with this Committee at the April meeting.

Leg. Sfregola asked if the Board of Trustees was going to issue a press release on the President's study leave and President Brown replied that nothing official was being sent out. Miss Donovan said the Board of Trustees is very concerned about the future and services to the community and are going to be holding their own workshops on planning.

President Brown said this is a different aspect of his job. Basically, he will not even be here. He said he can go and meet people, do research, and come back and propose changes. He wants to make the next four years highly effective years for both the College and the County.

Chairman Dunn asked about the latest news on the College Foundation, and President Broad said there were pros and cons about the press release - people read that and may think the college doesn't need any additional funds. The Foundation has no administrative overhead whatsoever, everything is volunteer. The money raised goes to special needs and to scholarships - primarily scholarships. Funds are raised through private citizens in large and small amounts. We were getting matching funds on a three-to-one basis from IBM, which contributed to the high figures. This is now one-for-one. President Brown said he is also President of the College Foundation, which is an unpaid job.

Chairman Dunn asked where that placed UCCC in the standings, and President Brown said twentieth in the nation and statewide, either first or second. Chairman Dunn noted that it was an accomplishment to be quite proud of. At this point, Miss Donovan said the Foundation Auction was scheduled for November 7, 1993 at Williams Lake Hotel.

Returning to his report, Pres. Brown said that the 1992-93 budget was being closed. We now have the final audit figures showing \$162,000 in fund balance of which \$124,000 is already appropriated. The President said that in 1993-94 the fall was a very good semester for full time students, as was the case in the whole State University system. However, he reported that part-time enrollment is down here as well as in SUNY, and which leaves us with a shortfall in tuition of \$60-70,000. FTEs are a little ahead of the projections. There have been no unforeseen problems with the budget.

Regarding construction, there is still money in retainage for three contractors. The general contractor is finally making some progress with the floor. We have \$90,000 in retainage and are not asking that it be reduced until additional work is completed. There is \$88,000 in HVAC, but we still don't have all the balancing reports and are not releasing any funds. \$10,000 in plumbing for a few items; that will probably be one of the first released.

President Brown said he did receive a letter about the low bidder for the up-grade of retrofit lighting. We had to go to an out-of-state contractor who was the low bidder, through Wilson Controls of Albany. The product is coming out of Pennsylvania. This is being funded mostly by a grant and by Central Hudson's rebate program; however, we did delay awarding the bid until we got more information from a Highland contractor, but he never showed up.

Regarding the Incubator program, President Brown said we were not involved in the program just opened by SUNY New Paltz. We are still in negotiations and have made an offer to a group of partners on the old Wallace building on Albany Avenue. The purpose is to get business to come in at a price they can afford. Renovation money is available through State and Federal grants, but no money is available for rent. The partners were going to come back with a counter-offer and with Woolworth's closing announcement, perhaps they may enhance the offer. If we took IBM 941 the President said, we would be rent poor forever. It is a good building, but the rent is just too high.

Leg. Schneller asked what the charge for rent was going to be and President Brown said they are looking to charge Incubator people \$2-3.50 per square foot for a stay of one or two years. So far, there are approximately twelve people waiting for the Incubator to start.

The area we're looking at has a high visibility. We also want to have an extension center. The risk, however, would be ours and we have to be careful. Leg. Sfregola asked about the quantity of space, and President Brown said there was 55,000 square feet. One of the good things is that it is accessible to the physically challenged.

Returning to his report, President Brown reported that the campus had recently experienced a water problem. The holding tank went from 20 feet to 12-1/2 feet and could not recover over a week-end. The two wells were only producing five gallons per minute. We

hooked up another well we had drilled and water also had to be trucked in from Turco at a cost of about \$2,800. Well #3 pump has been fixed and Well #2, which had adjustment problems, is now getting 15 gallons per minute. Water is going back to the recovery level we previously had. We are conservative with use; however we are a large campus and we don't have a lot of water available.

Continuing, President Brown said that we are now, more than every, attracting students in need. UCCC is taking in adult clothing and will either sell or give them to students at a "Clothes Closet" being opened by Student Support Services. Donors have been asked to contribute unneeded, clean clothing, for which they will get a receipt. Pricing is a judgment call. Miss Donovan said that a lot of students are not prepared to dress for interviews and we hope to be able to help them in this way. Leg. Sfregola noted that a price ticket, even for a minimal amount, still makes people feel better. Dean Schenck said we are asking for either cash values or time exchanged working at the Clothes Closet in lieu of cash. If neither is possible, there would be no charge. President Brown remarked that many students are employed on campus. We don't pay a lot, but each year student aide and work study programs grow.

The President said he would be here until January and will come before this Committee again. He also informed the Committee that the Chancellor of the State University of New York, had a second operation, but that he was doing well and was expected to be out of the hospital by next week.

Leg. Sfregola referring to local newspapers, said that all are talking about Dutchess County and little said about Ulster County's efforts, including participation of the College and Herb Heckler's participation. President Brown said we have to be patient, and he agreed that Herb Heckler had done a magnificent job. The Incubator is very important. We also have our Small Business Development Center, which now has a Satellite Extension Center in Fishkill, opened through a grant obtained by Senator Saland. He said that it may be there is more we can do to turn things around. Leg. Contini remarked that he was talking with a former IBM employee who told him everyone in his former basic skill area at IBM must report to Poughkeepsie Unemployment. Dutchess County gets the credit for the unemployment statistics of the people who live in Ulster County.

President Brown said we need to make a concerted effort to get grant when we do open the Incubator, for manpower development. People in this community are very angry. Leg. Sfregola said we appear to be the unwanted stepchild. President Brown invited Alice Cocalas and UCDC to join in the Incubator building along with SBDC, SCORE and others which would mean lower rent and more space. It will also be more convenient for people from Phoenicia, Woodstock and Saugerties.

Mr. Rylance, with reference to Mr. Contini's report about unemployment, said that there are some good things going on in Ulster County. The Grange, a quality oriented craft shop featuring locally

manufactured crafts, had recently opened in Kingston. It employs the two owners and three other women. It is also a source of fresh money coming into the County. President Brown said those are the types of people who are interested in the Incubator. Leg. Sfregola said that small business has always been the backbone of the County. Mr. Rylance said the community and the County have to support these businesses. He felt it was a renewal of faith. Even though things are bad, he said, we know we are going to do it. President Brown said that we have control over our own community.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Joseph Munster of the Ulster County Public Information Office, who reported on the status of The Catskill Interpretive Center. Site preparation should take about two months. The contractor does not have an apprenticeship program as stated in the specs, so that is being done on a crash basis and should be in place before November 1st when a ground-breaking will be scheduled.

Regarding the New York City Water hearing scheduled for tonight in the County Office Building, he is going to be there. He is going as the Director of Tourism for Ulster County, as well as the Vice-President of the Catskill Association for Tourism Services. New York City wants to buy land in Greene, Ulster and Sullivan Counties. Mr. Munster said this is a land grab they want to do to put people out of their homes. Their permit from DEC to buy land said they reserve the right to condemnation. Chairman Dunn said he attended he public hearing last night in Grahamsville and there was well over 700 people in attendance.

Mr. Munster said he also wanted to go to the hearing as a homeowner, as his house will be taken if they are allowed to go through with this. Supposedly, they are looking for open land over five acres, but what they really want is a mile on each side of the creek, which would include Boiceville, Phoenicia, The Interpretive Center, schools and homes.

Leg. Schneller said that the goals they are trying to reach are unreachable. There is no such thing as completely safe water. That doesn't mean, he continued, that you don't do everything you can, but you still can't make it perfect. Mr. Munster said that sea gulls had polluted a reservoir near New York City and DEC plans on covering it with a 90-acre concrete cover at a cost of \$45 per square foot. He also distributed articles from the Staten Island Press and the New York Times concerning carcinogens in the water supply.

Turning to the Jazz Festival, Mr. Munster said plans are still alive and well. Funding is about 60% accomplished. Some venues in Dutchess County have been dropped, and most of the activity will take place in Ulster County.

Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative said she had been working with Whole Farm Plan and dealing with regulations and had made some great strides and it is going along well. However, they were starting to make headway in the Whole Community Plans, but this land acquisition

proposal has blown things out of the water. DEP in New York does not want to lose its ability to condemn land. At the same time, others in that organization do not want to get into the land buying/land owning business. There is a great deal of controversy within DEC over this particular issue. There followed a general discussion of land acquisition by DEC, including condemnation and the New York City Water Shed.

The report of the Ulster County Public Information Officer being concluded, Chairman Dunn stated that he had received resolutions from both Leg. O'Reilly and Leg. Baumgarten to be sent to the State regarding the bidding process on the \$85 million Worker's Compensation hardware and software bid, which was awarded to UNYSIS, a Pennsylvania firm, instead of IBM. Leg. O'Reilly said the intent behind both resolutions was basically the same, that is, to see if we can do something about this award being granted to UNYSIS versus IBM. The State said IBM's bid was more expensive, technologically inferior and had less job content than UNYSIS. IBM says their proposal was \$1 million cheaper, had a job content of 169 jobs as opposed to 80 for UNYSIS. Leg. O'Reilly said IBM is claiming that Worker's Compensation evaluation of bids was grossly flawed and biased in favor of UNYSIS.

IBM people, he continued, are outraged by what is happening, and so are others. The important thing now is to reverse what has happened. It was Leg. O'Reilly's feeling that Leg. Baumgarten's resolution had more political content than it should. He said he wants to keep political content as neutral and as low as possible.

Chairman Dunn said he had a conversation with Sen. Cooke who was in agreement that this should be done, and the Senator lead him to believe that time was of the essence. At that time he had not seen either resolution. Chairman Dunn said he had also called Assemblyman Cahill to see what his attitude was, and he was told that the Assemblyman had also worded a letter supporting IBM's position to the Governor and to request reconsideration. Chairman Dunn also stated he believes it important to get one of the documents off to Albany as soon as possible.

There followed a general discussion and various suggestions as to the proper wording and form of the resolution, after which Leg. Sfregola suggested that Chairman Dunn put together a letter to all Legislators to be signed and forwarded by each of them to Albany supporting the resolution as amended. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Leg. Every and seconded by Leg. Schneller, and after discussion, an amended resolution entitled "Resolution Urging the Governor to Award the NYS Worker's Compensation Board Bid to IBM" was put to a vote and unanimously carried.

This matter being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension who had an up-date on last Saturday's Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan and Ulster tour for Congressman Hinchey and Assemblyman Cahill. The focus was on Cornell's Integrated Pest Management Program on local farms in Ulster

County. They also went to the New York City Watershed in Hardenburgh and Whole Farm Planning and Whole Community Planning. Ms. Reidy said they also went to Gill Farms, which is one of the largest sweet corn producing farms east of the Mississippi. She explained that what they are trying to do is to let our State and Federal partners know of the beauty and the problems of Ulster County Agriculture. She is following up with additional work.

Leg. Sfregola said that one of the biggest difficulties for the small farmer is that he has to do everything, including comply with rules and regulations. Ms. Reidy said that farming is a complex business today. Incidentally, she said that the D.E.C. tests on land and water all came up with positive results, so the spraying techniques are putting a lot less out into the community than they used to. The geese are probably a bigger source of pollution than the pesticides.

Ms. Reidy also said that Cornell Cooperative Extension had been awarded an Arts grant from New York 4-H Foundation to expose culturally diverse groups and minorities to the Arts. There will be afterschool programs, an Art show, and opportunities for trips to various museums. She has been getting a large number of volunteers working with youth at risk. They currently average 12-15 children at workshops.

Ms. Reidy reported the Sea Grant person has been hired and Cornell will be having an Open House funded by Sea Grant. She was able to create an additional support staff position. The Sea Grant person has just bought a house in Rochester so he will be staying a while. The Open House will be on November 4th from 2pm-4pm.

Continuing with her report, Ms. Reidy said she had brought her budget and copies had been sent to all members of the Committee. There were no questions. The budget lists amounts of grants and contracts coming in at \$53,519. Those are outside dollars based on the strength of core programs, and she expects that figure to be somewhat higher. She is also looking for a 5% increase in her budget.

Cornell has a location for the satellite dish, which is and will remain outside of the Historical District and is waiting for final details. Cornell Cooperative will be running a satellite program on local government geared for new people coming into the area. January 1st is the target date.

The report of Cornell Cooperative being concluded, Chairman Dun recognized Gloria Bonalli, Executive Director of the Ulster Arts Alliance who made a brief presentation concerning the art exhibition in Congressman Hinchey's office and the press release on the new Board of Directors of the Arts Alliance. She also had a New York Times article on the value of culture to New York City, and the billions of dollars brought into New York City and New Jersey, and she provided each member of the Committee with the latest issue of the Ulster Arts Newsletter.

The report of The Ulster Arts Alliance being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Alice Cocalas of the Ulster County Development Corporation, who advised the Committee that she is in the midst of a fundraising campaign. Of the \$80,000 pledged, about \$53,000 has been collected. She said it was the first time she had ever had so many contributions. It is a sign from the people that they are behind what UCDC is doing. The money is needed to continue with the marketing campaign.

With regard to marketing, UCDC has chosen the marketing firm of Sagem Group, Inc. of Eastchester, NY. Mrs. Cocalas said there was a list of criteria to be met before the selection process began listing those points absolutely necessary, and RFPs were sent out. Sagem was the only one which met all the criteria. None of the agencies within the County could meet all the criteria.

Leg. Every asked if there was any truth to the rumor that the local agencies did not receive proposals at the same time, and Mrs. Cocalas said that some received theirs in early summer and others in late August or early September. However, said Mrs. Cocalas, the selection was not made until all of the proposals were in. It did "appear" that selection was made; however, final selection was not made until all of the proposals were in, in spite of all that was said. As to the marketing campaign itself, there is a direct mailing planned beginning by the end of next week at the latest.

Contracts have been signed for UCDC to administer a Kingston Community Development revolving loan fund. The fund currently has \$240,000 available for qualified City of Kingston businesses.

Mrs. Cocalas said UCDC and the County have discussed economic development zones planned for two different areas of the County, and UCDC will render whatever assistance it can to work with the County and manufacturers. This area is in direct competition with the rest of the State.

Regarding TEAM Hudson Valley, Mrs. Cocalas said its trade mission to Toronto will be early in 1994. The first trade mission was more a look around. This will be much more intense. Invitations will be sent out to businesses located there to meet with the trade delegation and invited to move to the Hudson Valley.

Regarding the Town of Lloyd water and sewer line project. Mrs. Cocalas said that if things go well they may be able to get partial funding from monies which may be forthcoming from the SSED application.

Mrs. Cocalas did not have a budget as yet. It will be reviewed and approved by her Board of Directors at their next meeting and copies will be sent to the Committee.

being able to lend more. Leg. Sfregola asked if the \$750,000 for the matching funds could come from funds on hand and Mrs. Cocalas replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Dunn stated that there was a resolution a few months ago recommending the Legislature give UCDC more operating funds. In reply Mrs. Cocalas said that their 1994 budget will be requesting \$130,000 from the Legislature, and it is critical that that amount be approved. These are new times. She said we have never faced an economic climate such as today. There are people unemployed and more who will be unemployed. We have not yet seen the final results of down-sizing and lay-offs.

The report of Ulster County Development Corporation being concluded, and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Sfregola and seconded by Leg. Schneller and upon vote unanimously carried, and Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vincent Dunn, Chairman
Education, Culture and Economic Affairs Committee

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