



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.

TO: Members, OCC Board of Trustees

FROM: Jon H. Larson, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: Items of Interest for the **January 30, 2012, Board Meeting**

DATE: January 25, 2012

Ocean County College FY 2013 Budget Request

The Ocean County College FY 2013 Budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at Monday's meeting. The proposed budget includes a \$4 increase in tuition, from \$94 per credit to \$98, as well as small increases in college, course, and technology fees, effective with the fall 2012 semester. Tuition and fees have remained stable for several years; the last increase was in 2008.

The increased tuition is necessary to present a balanced budget given the following expectations for revenue:

- ◆ State funding is anticipated to remain at the 2011-2012 level.
- ◆ County funding is anticipated to remain at the 2011-2012 level.
- ◆ On-campus student enrollment is anticipated to decline slightly, although the number of distance learning students will most likely increase.

Following approval by the Board of Trustees, the budget will be presented to the Ocean County College Board of School Estimate at a meeting to be scheduled in March. In keeping with New Jersey Statute, the Board of School Estimate is comprised of three freeholders and two trustees. This year's Board of School Estimate members are Freeholders John C. Bartlett, Jr., James F. Lacey, and Gerry P. Little and Board Chair Van Thulin and Board Treasurer Jerry Dasti. Board Secretary Stephan Leone serves as the Secretary of the Board of School Estimate.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

On Monday, January 23, Dr. Ellie Fogarty, Middle States Commission on Higher Education's liaison to Ocean County College, visited the campus in preparation for the College's self-study process, which will result in our 2014 report to the Commission. The purpose of her visit was to reinforce the partnership between OCC and the Commission by learning more about the College, providing expertise on the Commission's expectations, and discussing the College's self-study process.

Dr. Fogarty had a full day of meetings with me, the Self-Study Steering Committee, team leaders and members, several trustees, faculty, staff, and our Self-Study Co-Chairs, Ms. Janet Hubbs and Dr. Carolyn Lafferty. Dr. Fogarty provided some valuable insight into the accreditation process, and I believe she was impressed with the College's commitment to the self-study as well as the progress already made on it.

Legislative Visits

Every February for a number of years, I have traveled to Washington, D.C., to visit with state and national legislators. Mr. David Wolfe, Special Assistant to the President and 10th District Assemblyman, has scheduled times on Monday, February 6, and Tuesday, February 7, for us to meet with Congressmen Chris Smith and Jon Runyan to discuss several important issues that affect the College and our students.

One of the issues Mr. Wolfe and I will be discussing with the legislators is the effect the mandated cuts to Federal financial aid programs will have on our students and all other community college students. Legislation signed in December negatively impacts student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as follows:

- ◆ Elimination of the Ability to Benefit options
- ◆ Reduction of the Auto-Zero income threshold from \$30,000 to \$23,000
- ◆ Reduction of student income protection allowances
- ◆ Elimination of year-round Pell grants
- ◆ Reduced lifetime Pell eligibility from 18 semesters to 12 semesters

After our visit, I will inform you of the outcome of our discussions.

Ocean County College Athletic Program

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that, after the fall semester competition, Ocean County College' athletics program is ranked #1 in the country by the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) for our success in championship competition.

The Viking Women's Program has the most points of any school (53) from the fall semester, based on team rankings at the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships.

This past fall, four OCC teams competed in their respective national championships. The teams finished as follows:

- Women's Soccer – 3rd place
- Women's Cross Country – 3rd place
- Women's Tennis – 4th place
- Men's Cross Country – 6th place

NATYCAA is the professional organization of two-year college athletic administrators, and membership is open to all two-year institutions from throughout the country. NATYCAA includes 11 professional associations and is administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

The NATYCAA Cup program began in 2004 to recognize excellence in two-year college athletics. Standings are ranked twice during the academic year; mid-year rankings occur in January and final standings are in June.

For your information, below are the top 10 non-scholarship rankings:

COLLEGE	Mens Points	Women's Points	Total Points
OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE	15.0	53.0	68.0
SUNY DELHI	19.0	32.0	51.0
HERKIMER CCC	23.0	20.5	43.5
HOWARD CC	29.5	12.0	41.5
FASHION INST. OF TECH.	0	41.0	41.0
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE	0	38.0	38.0
MOHAWK VALLEY CC	18.0	17.0	35.0
SUFFOLK CCC-SELDAN	12.0	20.0	32.0
BROOME CC	17.0	13.0	30.0
FINGER LAKES CC	13.0	16.0	29.0
ONONDAGA CC	0	29.0	29.0

Ocean County College Student Athlete Award

Ms. Elizabeth Lawler was honored as the Ocean County College “Woman Athlete of the Year” and was recognized by the Garden State Athletic Conference at the “New Jersey National Girls and Women in Sports Day” celebration at Seton Hall University on January 22.

Liz, a leader on the court for the women's basketball team, earned "National Player of the Week" honors each year she has played for the Vikings. As a freshman in the 2010-2011 basketball season, Liz was selected to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region and All-Conference teams. Not only is she a standout on the basketball court, this past fall 2011 semester she assisted the Women's Soccer team in reaching the National Championship where it finished third in the country. Liz was also selected to the Soccer Coaches Association All-American team.

In addition to her athletic accomplishments, Liz has excelled in the classroom, earning academic honors each semester as a NJ STARS student. Following graduation, Liz is looking forward to furthering her academic and athletic career at a four-year institution.

Congratulations are extended to Elizabeth for all of her outstanding success.

College Goal Sunday

Ocean County College has, for the fourth year, been selected as one of ten sites in New Jersey to host College Goal Sunday on Sunday, February 26, at 1:00 pm. This event has proven to be very successful in assisting low income and first generation students in completing the national application for college financial aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and in providing information on available financial aid resources.

College Goal Sunday is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, with a grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in United States history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. This year's theme is "African American Women and Culture."

The African American flag will be raised on Thursday, February 2, at the campus mall flagpole. Immediately following, I will provide the opening address for the month's activities in the College Center Solar Lounge. At 12:30 p.m., students, faculty, and staff will read African American poems and essays, and a soul food buffet will be available at 1:00 p.m.

The Office of Multicultural Services, the Organization of Black Unity, the English/Literature Department, and Student Life are sponsoring this event. The trustees are welcome to attend.

Board of Trustees Meetings/Retreats

Please remember that the "February" meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, March 5.

Also, the following dates have been scheduled during 2012 for Board of Trustees Retreats, which will be held in the Boardroom. All meetings will begin at 12 noon.

- ◆ Friday, March 9, 2012
- ◆ Friday, June 8, 2012
- ◆ Friday, September 14, 2012
- ◆ Friday, December 14, 2012