



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Retreat/Special Meeting

Minutes

October 27, 2022

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., a retreat/meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was held in the Conference Center and via Webex.

Those in attendance were: Mr. Jerry Dasti, Chair, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Robert Fall, Mr. Stephen Zabarsky, Mr. Raymond Joseph Latshaw, III, Dr. Jon Larson, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Sara Winchester, Vice President Eileen Garcia, Vice President Joseph Konopka, and Vice President Gerald Racioppi. Attendance

Because a majority of the trustees were not present, a formal meeting could not take place. The Trustees, Dr. Larson, and other OCC staff in attendance then informally held a conversation with those in attendance. Lack of a Quorum

Mr. Dasti welcomed all Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Students to today's event, which gives members of the OCC community an opportunity to communicate directly with OCC's Trustees in an informal setting. Dr. Larson thanked all in attendance and invited questions and comments to share with the Trustees, who are happy to discuss College issues. Mr. Fall explained that this meeting is a chance for students, faculty, and staff to share with Trustees a report on how the Board is doing and offer ideas on how to make the College better. Welcoming Remarks

The Trustees then introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds. Board of Trustees Introduction

A question was submitted in advance of this meeting asking if the administration foresees a reduction in force in FY 2023-24 if enrollment doesn't improve. Dr. Larson shared there are currently several vacant positions which will not be filled as well as several employee retirements whose positions can be filled with part-time or adjunct employees, which will result in a savings to the budget. Dr. Racioppi shared an update on enrollment, and reported that there has been improvement in new student enrollment and continued improvement on retention. The continued enrollment issues are a result of stop-out students who do not return to OCC.

Dr. Konopka provided an overview on 3+1 programs. Current programs are available with New Jersey City University and Southern New Hampshire University, with discussions underway with Rutgers Camden and Montclair State University. Dr. Konopka explained these programs offer students the ability to take the third year of a four-year program at OCC, saving thousands of dollars on the cost of a bachelor's degree. Ms. Eileen Schilling, Senior Liaison to the President, noted that the 3+1 degree is a new entity in the State, and more is learned about these programs as additional partnerships are formed with senior institutions.

Dr. Larson shared the State Budget includes \$4 million to start a new pilot program to provide tuition-free education to adult postsecondary students enrolled in certain career and technical education programs at county vocational schools and county colleges.

Mr. Leone then asked what can be done to improve student attendance at these trustee meetings. Eric Bras, Student Government President, learned about today's meeting from Ms. Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life. He believes the time of the meeting is convenient for students and suggested broadcasting in different ways to students. Eric then shared a concern on behalf of students regarding Honor Lock. The perception is that the program remains on a student's personal device. Dr. Larson explained the need to have some sort of "honor" system in place to prevent the loss of accreditation. Dr. Garcia explained that the program modifies the Chrome web browser and not a student's computer. The extension can be removed as soon as the exam has been submitted. Mr. Dasti suggested providing a statement so that the program can be better understood.

Mr. Leone inquired as to what form of learning is more popular with students--traditional, distance learning, or HyFlex courses. Eric Bras and Mr. Latshaw both prefer in-person classes. Dr. Konopka explained that distance learning courses are convenient for people who work and need flexibility. Mr. Leone feels that in-person learning should be heavily promoted.

Dr. Sheenah Hartigan, Executive Director of Enrollment Services, reported the first in-person breakfast for public high school guidance counselors was held on campus since the pandemic. A panel consisting of 22 OCC students was available for the counselors to ask questions about their experiences attending OCC. The student comments were well received. It was suggested that panels of OCC students visit high schools in order to share their positive experiences directly with the students, which would be helpful to promote OCC and overcome the stigma of attending a county college.

In response to a question regarding the creation of new and the termination of old programs, Dr. Konopka shared research on labor statistics, as well as taking into consideration student transfer data, is helpful when looking into new programs. Terminated programs are those with low or no enrollment.

Dr. Larson thanked the Trustees for taking the time to participate today and commended them for their continued support.

As no further discussion ensued, this informal meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann
Executive Assistant to the President