



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Public Retreat/Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

**March 9, 2023**

A retreat/meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023, by Mr. Jerry Dasti, Chair, in the Student Center and via Webex. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Call to Order

The announcement of public meeting was made by Mrs. Connie Bello in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. A notice of this meeting was publicized on March 2, 2023, indicating this meeting would be held via Webex, as provided for by New Jersey Public Law 2020, Chapter 11, approved on March 20, 2020, for public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means.

Public Meeting  
Announcement

Those in attendance were: Mr. Dasti, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Robert Fall, Mrs. Joanne Pehlivanian, Mr. Joseph Teichman, Mr. Carl V. Thulin, Mr. Raymond Joseph Latshaw, III, Dr. Jon Larson, and Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Sara Winchester. Also in attendance were Vice President Joseph Konopka, Vice President Gerald Racioppi, and Mrs. Connie Bello.

Attendance

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Dasti introduced Ms. Winchester, who summarized four major projects consisting of college-wide infrastructure upgrades that will benefit students, explaining these projects will be financed primarily with grant funding through the State of New Jersey as well as the College's contribution. The following items were then unanimously approved by roll call vote:

➤ The Board adopted resolutions as follows:

Resolutions  
Adopted

- a. Approving and authorizing the implementation of the following projects consisting of college-wide infrastructure upgrades at Ocean County College:
  - 1) The upgrade and modernization of the Ocean County College Library
  - 2) The upgrade of the IT Network Infrastructure with Cisco Catalyst Wireless Network

- b. Authorizing the financing of the projects through funding available by the State of New Jersey through the Higher Education Fund Capital Improvement Fund Act (CIF); the Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund Act (HEFT), the Higher Education Technology Infrastructure Trust Fund Act (HETI); and the Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund Act (ELF)
- c. Approving the application to the Secretary of Higher Education for the various projects
- d. Authorizing the President and Executive Vice President of Administration and Finance to take the necessary actions to execute the projects
- e. Approving as an attachment to the resolution the Ocean County College Facilities Master Plan

Upon unanimous roll call vote, a resolution was adopted to provide for a closed meeting to be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel action, collective bargaining, and pending and anticipated litigation. Resolution Adopted for Closed Meeting March 16, 2023

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for:

Meeting Scheduled

<b>Thursday, March 16, 2023</b>	9:30 a.m.	International Programs Committee (As Needed)
	10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee
	10:00 a.m.	Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee (As Needed)
	10:30 a.m.	Buildings and Grounds Committee
	11:00 a.m.	Personnel Committee
	11:30 a.m.	Closed Session
	12:30 p.m.	Regular Public Monthly Meeting

Miscellaneous

Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Director of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education, discussed programs offered by the center for the Spring semester, including the Holocaust Remembrance Week Program. All activities are open to the public.

With no further comments from the Board members or the public, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m. and continued with the Conversation with the Trustees. Adjournment

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. Welcoming Remarks

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

Students shared the following concerns:

- The lack of breakfast options available in the Student Center. An increase in offerings will be made available to students for those who arrive prior to 8:00 a.m.
- The use of Honor Lock in e-Learning courses. Students have privacy concerns as they need to scan their identification. The perception is that the information is saved electronically. Dr. Larson discussed the importance of verifying the identity of the student as a means to prevent academic and financial aid fraud.

Dr. Larson and the trustees shared responses to questions and comments that were submitted in advance of this meeting:

- The Trustees shared Dr. Larson will remain in a part-time advisory role for two years to assist Dr. Monaco with the transition, introducing her to four-year university partners and community leaders, in addition to OCC's programs in Egypt.
- Dr. Larson described the administrative responsibilities contained in the Lecturer II position and how it differs from a traditional faculty member. The position will be reviewed by Dr. Larson, Dr. Konopka, and Dr. Monaco, in response to a request to changing the usage of vacation time that is earned.
- Ms. Vivian Lynn, Dean of e-Learning, discussed the faculty/lecturer professional development series on Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT, held via Webex. The session explored ChatGPT and how it relates to higher education and discussed how this artificial intelligence development can aid the student as an assistant, sparking new thinking and ideas. The Trustees stressed there is no substitute for personal contact and learning, and AI should not affect the education of a student.
- The Trustees encourage students, faculty, and staff to contact the Board with any concerns regarding social issues.
- The Trustees discussed the guidelines for Community College Trustee appointments, term limits, and qualifications. Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity, serve as an advocate for the college, ensuring that the mission of the institution is kept current and aligned with community needs.

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

As no further discussion ensued, this informal meeting ended at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone  
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann

Executive Assistant to the President