



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Retreat/Special Meeting

Minutes

April 16, 2021

<p>A retreat/meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order by Mr. Carl V. Thulin, Chair, at 12:34 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2021, via Webex.</p>	Call to Order
<p>The announcement of public meeting was made by Mrs. Connie Bello in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. Notice of this meeting was publicized through a resolution adopted at the November 5, 2020, reorganization meeting and distributed as required by law. Also, given the current healthcare crisis, a notice was publicized on April 13, 2021, 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 during periods of emergency.</p>	Public Meeting Announcement
<p>Those in attendance were: Mr. Thulin, Mrs. Linda Novak, Mr. Jerry Dasti, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Frank Dupignac, Mr. Charles Muller, Mr. Joseph Teichman, Mr. Stephen Zabarsky, Ms. Emily Napolitano, 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.</p>	Attendance
<p>Dr. Larson welcomed all Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Students to today's event, which gives members of the OCC community an opportunity to communicate to OCC's Trustees directly 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.</p>	Welcoming Remarks
<p>The Trustees then introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds.</p>	Board of Trustees Introduction
<p>In response to a question submitted in advance as to why OCC does not offer a civics course, Dr. Konopka shared that a traditional civics course is taught in high school and not typically offered at the collegiate level. Colleges offer a wide variety of courses in politics and social sciences, which cover civics topics in greater detail. Ms. Jennifer Fazio, Director of Student Life, shared background information on how this discussion began during a recent student programming event.</p>	

Mr. Dasti described the changes to the College facilities over the years. The campus has been updated and is very student friendly, thanks to the Buildings and Ground Committee, chaired by Mrs. Novak.

Mr. Dasti also thanked the Ocean County Board of Commissioners for its constant support, which has helped keep OCC's tuition as one of the lowest among community college's in the State.

Dr. Garcia provided an update to e-Learning and international programs, including the joint program with Ain Shams and Kean Universities, and upcoming programs with Alexandria University and Badr University in partnership with New Jersey City University.

Dr. Teresa Walsh, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences, shared Nursing students, staff, and faculty have been on campus and clinical sites for hands-on practice since August 2020 in order for the nursing students to complete clinical experience.

Ms. Winchester shared that the Return to Campus Committee is in the planning stages of a project to equip many classrooms with video and audio technology which will allow students to connect synchronously to the class lecture, while some students will be able to return to the Toms River campus this Fall. Capacity limits will be set for each classroom in accordance with State guidelines, and enhanced cleaning of classrooms will take place between classes. Dr. Konopka then explained that any student who is not able to attend a class session in person this fall will have the ability to attend class virtually. Information regarding which classes will offer this option will be communicated effectively to students.

Dr. Racioppi shared student services offices will be taking in person, by appointment only visits beginning July 7, 2021. Students must make an appointment prior to coming to campus, which can be done up to one day in advance, based on availability. Dr. Racioppi also reported that Student Affairs has been working very closely with the area high schools to assist in the enrollment of graduating seniors to OCC. Dr. Racioppi thanked Dr. Henry Jackson, Executive Director of Academic Success, and the Academic Success team, as well as the Registration and Records, Enrollment Services, and Academic Advising offices for their assistance.

Ms. Sheenah Hartigan, Executive Director, Enrollment Services, provided a description of the HUB and services provided.

Dr. Racioppi then shared OCC's HUB was recognized as a leader in the area of College Admissions following a presentation given by Dr. Racioppi and Ms. Hartigan at a national conference.

Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Executive Director of Institutional Planning, provided an update on the Middle States Self-Study process. She then discussed the approved additional location high schools, where OCC is approved to offer full degree programs.

Mrs. Novak shared that plans to renovate the Library space are underway, which is one of the building projects taking place in order to best serve students and the community. Additionally, an expansion to the cafeteria seating area will take place this summer, to be ready for the Fall semester.

Dr. Larson shared Commencement week events will be held on the Gateway Building mall as follows:

Nursing Pinning Ceremony - Tuesday, May 25 – 5:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, May 26 – 5:00 p.m.

Commencement Ceremony – Thursday, May 27

OCC's 2021 Commencement will be split into two ceremonies. Graduates with last names starting with A-L will attend a 10:00 a.m. ceremony, and graduates with last names starting with M-Z will attend a 2:00 p.m. ceremony. In order to maintain proper social distancing and to adhere to maximum event capacity based on the Governor's Executive Orders for outdoor ceremonies, only two guests may accompany each graduate. The events will be streamed live for the enjoyment of additional family and friends, as well as College staff and faculty.

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

With no further business or comments from the trustees or the public, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann
Executive Assistant to the President