



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Retreat/Meeting

Minutes

August 17, 2023

A retreat/meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:04 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2023, by Mr. Jerry Dasti, Chair, in the Conference Center and via Webex.

Call to Order

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 2022 reorganization meeting and distributed as required by law. In addition, a notice was publicized on August 5, 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Those in attendance were: Mr. Dasti, Mrs. Linda Novak, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Robert Fall, Mr. Charles Muller, Mrs. Joanne Pehlivanian, Mr. Carl V. Thulin, Mr. Steven Zabarsky, Mr. Casey Conner, Mr. Jack Sahradi, Dr. Pamela Monaco, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Sara Winchester, and Mrs. Connie Bello. Also attending were Dr. Gerald Racioppi, Vice President of Student Affairs; and the co-chairs of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dr. Eileen Garcia, Vice President of e-Learning and Learning Enterprises, and Mr. Kenneth Malagiere, Executive Director, OCC Foundation.

Attendance

Personnel Committee

Mr. Leone presented the Personnel Report, which was unanimously approved as presented upon roll call vote.

Personnel Report
Approved

Discussion Item

Discussion Item

Dr. Monaco introduced Dr. Eileen Garcia and Mr. Kenneth Malagiere, who provided an overview of OCC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee from its inception in December 2021 through today. Dr. Garcia and Mr. Malagiere shared a breakdown of committee membership, development of the OCC DEI statement and goals, and formation of working groups. Consultants from Ellucian were engaged for a two-day immersive experience to formulate a DEI statement and establish first-step action items for the institution to consider moving forward. Staff and student campus climate surveys were deployed in Spring 2023, and the response rates for both groups were quite encouraging, 36% and 24% respectively. Survey

responses and data trends were evaluated to determine where we are as a College on diversity, equity, and inclusion and what needs to be addressed to ensure barriers are removed, understanding is promoted, safe spaces are created, and a culture of belonging is established. Dr. Garcia and Mr. Malagiere then shared goals established by the DEI Committee, which will be presented in more detail by the members of the committee at the September 28, 2023, Board meeting.

Dr. Monaco and the trustees thanked Dr. Garcia and Mr. Malagiere for their comprehensive report as well as acknowledged the overwhelming amount of work that has been done by the committee. Dr. Monaco shared her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion on the OCC campus. A discussion ensued about all that diversity, equity, and inclusion encompass and the need for a better understanding of these issues within the college and the community. Many questions were asked during the discussion, which, hopefully, will be answered by the committee members during their presentation in September when they share their recommendations to begin identifying and addressing these issues.

The next meetings of the Board are scheduled for:

Thursday, August 24, 2023

9:00 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

Meetings
Scheduled

With no further comments from the Board members or the public, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann
Special Assistant to the President