

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2021

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Clary, Campbell, Shaw
COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Skellie, Griffith
SUPERVISORS: Hall, Henke, Hicks, O'Brien, Hogan
Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Melissa Fitch, County Administrator
Roger Wickes, County Attorney
Al Nolette, County Treasurer
SUNY Adirondack President Duffy
Ann Marie Scheidegger, Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer
John Jablonski, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Rob Palmieri, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Present Draft Strategic Plan
3. Update on the College/COVID/Fall Plans
4. Propose Ways to Enhance the College's Information on the County's Website
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

Chairwoman Clary called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. via teleconference.

President Duffy presented slides highlighting the draft Strategic Plan:

- Coming into their 60th Year
- Accomplishment since the last strategic plan in 2018
 - Secured many major grants to support student success
 - Opened Adirondack Hall – Nursing program and science classrooms/lab enhancements. 18% year over year and 12% five year increase for nursing enrollment. Increased attention to workforce development and small business support.
 - Technology Investments
- New programs (Mechatronics, Journey worker Technical Trades Management, Agricultural Business, Physical Education, Fine Arts). Making progress in two-year graduation rate - ahead of national and peer averages.
- Early College/College in the high school programs – Washington County schools participating: Argyle, Fort Ann, Fort Edward, Granville, Hartford, Hudson Falls, Whitehall.
- Fiscal Stability – Managing benefits, faculty, and staff reductions/consolidations, sharing services, classroom utilization and course schedule alignments, program reductions, and expand enrollment to new populations.
- Adirondack 2025 – Building a strong tomorrow is their working title for the strategic plan.
- College Values – Lifelong learning, thriving communities and open access. Higher education opportunities for all, inclusive of diverse backgrounds, ages, goals and learning styles.
- Goals - Four high level institutional goals to focus on:
 - Develop innovate programs and services – Enhance program offerings and services to support diverse learners through innovative strategies, use of technology, and flexible scheduling and delivery methods.
 - Expand enrollment – Seek new student populations to expand credit and non-credit enrollment and invest in completion strategies that create equitable outcomes.
 - Champion student success – Create and promote deeper partnerships that lead students to transfer and employment success.

- Strengthen organizational capacity – Increase the diversity of employees, improve investments in employee development, and continue to streamline administrative work.

Updates:

- COVID Response – Conducted over 10,000 test on campus and only 35 – 38 cases. Very successful semester.
- Commencement – May 15th in person and virtual
- Fall 2021 – Return primarily in person preserving mixed options in high demand classes and protocols are expected to change.
- State budget update: Community college funding – Legislature did acknowledge the floor – a funding formula from the state that took into account the enrollment fluctuations and particularly at community colleges and at least determine that each year they can count on a floor some dollar amount that they could count on from year to year. It is in the budget that they would get 98% of the floor which is 98% of the enacted amount from this past year and that is good progress. It still means a reduction in aid but a much smaller reduction in aid than what they were anticipating a month ago. They also included in the funding formula a \$50 increase per FTE so for those colleges where enrollment might be better than the floor it would be the greater of the two that a college could account for in their budget. Working toward 100% in the future and potentially getting that written into legislation so that they are not so subject to this volume based funding formula which no one else has. The maximum tap award was increased \$500 which is the first increase in a decade. Getting their budget recalibrated based on this information.
- Stimulus Funds – There have been three rounds of stimulus funds: CARES Act - \$2.7M with half to students as direct aid and half to the college – allocate funds to expenses related to COVID and all funds expended, in December another round of funding to higher education with one portion of the funding going directly to students and the rest to the college and they have only received kind of the green light and guidance on how to spend the student money and only received that a couple of weeks ago but no guidance yet on how they can spend the institutional portion of the funding and the third round of funding, the American Rescue Plan which is another very substantial amount of money coming to the college and have not receive guidance on how it is to be spent yet. The State Division of Budget has the authority to determine how they can spend the money. Any allocation of these funds needs to be approved by their external independent auditors.
- College Information on the County's Website - Request to bolster where appropriate on the County's website a direct link to the College's website to promote the college. The County Attorney stated this is not a conflict to allow the link/information because of the special relationship as the County is a sponsor.
- Open zoom room – Provides flexibility to meet with students through the internet kind of like open office hours. They have also done virtual tours which have been popular.
- Summer enrollment is looking good and fall enrollment is slow. Students from low-income backgrounds are the students typically hit the hardest by these types of crises and that is where they saw the biggest drop from Washington County. They are hoping to use some of the stimulus funding to try to help more students re-engage with college. Broadband remains a problem in some communities.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Washington County Board of Supervisors