

**752nd Regular Meeting Minutes of the
SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees**

Thursday, February 27, 2025
Bishop Community Conference Center
640 Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804

A Regular Meeting of the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 3:30 pm. Chair A. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Other Board members present were: B. Judge, J. Nolan, E. Fitzgerald, D. Palmer, T. Collins, M. Davidson, L. Braggs and Student Trustee, T. Brown. Also, in attendance were President K. Duffy, VP J. Jablonski, VP J. Delate, VP K. Kaplan, CIO M. Hand, Chief Human Resources Officer M. Wilson, Executive Director R. Patten, Budget Analyst E. Conduzio, Associate VP Diane Wildey, Faculty Member, A. Hill, Director of Compliance and Risk Management, L. Jameson, Executive Director of Facilities, M. Morin, Director of Business and Financial Affairs, L. Dester, Attorney, L. Paltrowicz, and Recording Secretary J. Chase.

Remote attendees were: Trustee C. McDonald, Director of Marketing and Communications, R. Triller and Principle Typist. R. Edwards.

101728 Sarah M. Hopkins, CPA Partner-Lumsden & McCormick, LLP – Annual Audit

Sarah M. Hopkins, CPA, Partner at Lumsden & McCormick, LLP, reviewed the annual college audit. She presented the audit scope, results, required communications, and a summary of the 2024 audit. There were no difficulties, disagreements, findings, or issues. Sarah invited questions, but none were raised. She expressed appreciation for the efforts of L. Dester and her team, and R. Patten in completing the audit. Trustee A. Gonzales also recognized Sarah and her team for their work.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

101729 CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) Report Summary, J. Delate, VP for Enrollment and Student Affairs

J. Delate shared the results of the CAEL report and discussed the opportunity to expand access for adult learners aged 25-55 in response to shifting student demographics, ongoing financial challenges, and competition from four-year institutions. Governor Hochul's proposal includes free tuition for students in this age group, focusing on high-demand fields such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and green jobs. The college recently received a \$50,000 grant to support a summer adult learning initiative, a *Try Before You Buy* pilot program in Saratoga. The initiative will be available to students enrolled in at least six credits.

John also emphasized the importance of increasing credit for prior learning (CPL) opportunities and enhancing student support services. Currently, the college serves over 700 adult learners in various courses and programs.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

101730 DEC SEQR Environmental Review High Voltage Project – M. Morin, Directory of Facilities and L. Paltrowicz, College Attorney

M. Morin provided an overview of the High Voltage Project which includes infrastructure upgrades and site improvements. L. Paltrowicz presented the SEQRA Resolution for the High Voltage Electrical Project. The project is supported by approximately \$4 million in funding from Warren and Washington Counties. As it primarily involves the replacement of existing infrastructure, it qualifies for an exemption from SEQRA.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

101731 Chair's Report

A. Gonzales provided an update on the National ACCT Legislative Summit, held February 9–12, which was attended by D. Palmer, A. Gonzales, and K. Duffy. The event was an exciting opportunity to engage with representatives from other community colleges. There was significant discussion around recent federal initiatives. While there was nothing requiring immediate action, Amie stressed the importance of being proactive and not reactive. With budget reconciliation underway, there was focus on advocating for community college programs. Overall, the summit highlighted the importance of staying engaged with legislators during this critical time.

A. Gonzales provided an update on the presidential search. The Chancellor has reviewed the candidates and provided feedback to the Board. During the executive session, the Board will review the candidates and select a finalist. A resolution for the appointment of the new president will then be submitted to the SUNY Chancellor for approval before advancing to the SUNY Board of Trustees for final confirmation. The selection will remain confidential until the SUNY Board's anticipated approval as soon as possible.

101732 Consent Agenda

Chair A. Gonzales presented the following Consent Agenda items for Board approval.

5.0 Consent Agenda

6.1 Adoption of Minutes

6.1.1 Adoption of October 24, 2024 750th Regular Meeting Minutes

6.2 Personnel Committee

6.2.1 December 2024 Committee Report

- 6.3 Audit & Finance Committee
 - 6.3.1 November and December 2024 Committee Report
 - 6.3.2 Schedule of Bills (2): 10/09/2024 – 12/08/2024
 - 6.3.3 Statement of Net Assets September, October and November 2024
 - 6.3.4 Financial Statements October and November 2024
- 6.4 Academic and Student Affairs Committee
 - 6.4.1 November and December Committee Report
 - 6.5.1 Program Modification Recommendations **(Action - 4 Total)**
- 6.5 By-Laws, Policy and ERM Committee
 - 6.5.1 December 2024 Committee Report
 - 6.5.2 Section 8 Board of Trustees Policy Manual **(Action)**
- 6.6 SUNY Adirondack Foundation Liaison Report
- 6.7 Student Trustee Report
- 6.8 Trusteeship Committee Report

A. Gonzales reminded the group about the action item for Emeriti Nominations and Recommendations.

There being no additional items requested to move to the floor, a motion was made by Trustee R. Judge and seconded by Trustee M. Davidson to approve the consent agenda.

101733 President's Report

FutureWorks Presentation

K. Duffy presented the JMZ Architects plan for upgrades to Dearlove Hall and the renovation of the Humanities Building to support advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity and networking labs. The plan includes a flexible lab floor plan and manufacturing space in the Humanities Building to accommodate ECCA, BOCES and mechatronics programs, with the potential for HVAC training as well.

In Dearlove Hall, the cybersecurity networking classrooms and labs would be relocated from the top floor to the lower level to allow for future expansion and enrollment growth. The main floor will feature an art gallery, storage areas, a black box theater with a movable stage, art studios, and a classroom. The theater will be a versatile space that can also be used for other campus events. The top floor will house faculty offices with ample natural light and a few classrooms.

The FutureWorks project is designed to meet future workforce needs and is estimated to cost approximately \$33 million. It will be completed in phases, most likely starting with the Humanities Building. The deferred maintenance in Dearlove Hall is estimated at \$9 million.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

Spring Enrollment

Spring enrollment came in slightly ahead of expectations, primarily driven by continued increase in College Academy, with room for growth in full-time and part-time students.

Washington Update

DEI

K. Duffy emphasized that no legal directives have been issued regarding DEI. While there has been language threatening to withdraw funding for DEI activities, no immediate action is required. The Chancellor has stated that SUNY will “not engage in anticipatory overcompliance.” The college remains committed to its values and mission of supporting diverse learners, creating an environment of inclusion and belonging, and welcoming all students. The guidance at this time is to review and examine all the ways the college supports DEI on campus. K. Duffy assured the Board that the college is in compliance with all legal requirements and that nothing being done is unlawful or contrary to DEI principles.

TRIO Grants

The TRIO Student Support Services and Upward Bound programs are currently under review, raising concerns as TRIO SSS has been serving 140 low-income, first generation or students with disabilities since 2021. Typically, these programs are renewed by now, but there has been no communication, leading to worries about the future of the program. The current program is set to end on August 31, 2025. In response, the college has partnered with Capital Region Community College presidents to write an op-ed advocating for the TRIO program, which will be sent to news outlets and legislators.

TRIO, along with Pell and other smaller programs, makes up a substantial part of the college’s budget (\$6.2M). C. McDonald inquired about the potential impact on student enrollment if there is no update on the TRIO renewal by September. This could affect wraparound services support for both current and incoming students.

The Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) is a program with similarities to TRIO, offering wraparound student services. There’s potential to receive funding from SUNY to hire a director, an advisor and enroll 150 students at Saratoga. However, should TRIO not be funded after August, 2025, there is potential for ASAP to support students currently served by TRIO, helping to transition them into this new program.

101734 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee E. Fitzgerald and seconded by Trustee J. Nolan, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Resolution to Approve the High Voltage Electrical Upgrade Project.

101735 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee T. Collins and seconded by Trustee L. Braggs, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Annual College Audit.

101736 Executive Session

On a motion made by Trustee D. Palmer and seconded by Trustee J. Nolan, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to move into Executive Session at 5:03 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and other items as specified under New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105.

The Board voted on the employment of a particular individual.

It was moved by Trustee J. Nolan that a particular individual be appointed as president of Adirondack Community College. The motion was seconded by Trustee C. McDonald. The vote was passed by the Board of Trustees as follows, L. Braggs-Abstain, R. Judge-Yes, T. Collins-Yes, E. Fitzgerald-Yes, D. Palmer-Yes, M. Davidson-Yes, J. Nolan-Yes, C. McDonald-Yes, A. Gonzales-Yes, Student Trustee, T. Brown -Yes.

Pursuant to the SUNY Chancellor's search requirements, the identity of the candidate remains confidential until the SUNY Board of Trustees takes action.

101737 Return to Regular Session

On a motion made by Trustee R. Judge and seconded by Trustee T. Collins, the Board of Trustees moved back into regular session at 6:25 p.m.

101738 Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee M. Davidson and seconded by Trustee E. Fitzgerald, the Board of Trustees moved to adjourn the February 27, 2025, 752nd Regular Meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Chase

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Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees