

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 30, 2024

Trustees Present: Mr. Michael Francis Dupree, Chair; Mr. Frank Castella, Mr. Stephen Caswell, Ms. Darrah Cloud, Ms. Angela Flesland, Ms. Lisa Gharthey, Ms. Evelyn Panichi, Ms. Linda Pratt, Ms. Maya Chinkan and Dr. Peter Grant Jordan President

Absent: Ms. Lisa Gharthey

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Chairperson Dupree.

II. Ms. Cloud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call by Ms. Ponticello, quorum present.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

Upon motion made by Mr. Castella, seconded by Ms. Flesland, voted on and duly carried the agenda was approved as distributed.

V. Public Comment

There were no requests to address the Board.

At this time, Chairperson Dupree announced that a letter of support from Wappingers Central School District and Poughkeepsie City School District was received by the President of the College and the Board of Trustees in support of a proposed new policy on the Admissions Age Requirement as outlined in the College Catalog.

VI. Consideration of Minutes for Meeting held on March 26, 2024:

Upon motion made by Mr. Castella seconded by Ms. Cloud, voted on and duly carried, the minutes were approved as distributed.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Dupree noted for the minutes that all of the resolutions that are presented to the Board for approval are reviewed and discussed at committee meetings prior to the Board meeting.

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee (D. Cloud)

Ms. Cloud provided the Board with a summary of items discussed at the last Academic and Student Affairs Committee held on April 10, 2024.

B. Board Policy (I. Guzman, Chair)

Mr. Guzman provided the Board with a summary of items discussed at the last Board Policy Committee meeting held on April 10, 2024:

1. Approval to Open the Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Policy to Modify the College's Admission Age Requirement as Outlined in the College Catalog (Res #: 2024-36)

I. Guzman offers the following resolution and moves its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that, as recommended by the President of the College, the Board of Trustees opens a public hearing to review a proposed Admissions Age Requirement a policy.

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Seconded by **M. Dupree**

Motion Carried Unanimously

The following members of the public addressed the Board at the Public Hearing:

Brian Sondey, Associate Vice President, Enrollment & Student Success

- Stated that the lack of access at DCC pushes families into other counties in the state of New York to take college courses
- Provided the Board with proven research and statistics to back dual enrollment
- Reported that families have the responsibility to access student readiness and it is the colleges responsibility to provide the pathway

Dr. Laura Murphy, President of Dutchess United Educators (DUE), History Professor at DCC

- Stated that the proposed policy needs significant changes
- Would like more clarification on what would entail providing parents with advanced access to text materials
- Stated that the timing of the proposed policy and lack of communications to faculty on the proposed policy and Public Hearing sends a message that faculty are not important.

Melanie Klein, Professor of Humanities

- Concerned that homeschooled children have been sheltered and fears they will not be comfortable with certain subjects and materials
- Commented on the policy guidelines and is concerned that many of the texts and materials used in her class are selected near the start of classes

Michael Adams, Assistant Professor, Speech and Communications & Media Arts

- Provided the below historical context on discussions around the proposed policy with shared governance:
- After Scott Schnackenberg raised the possibility of lowering the age for registration to 14 at the March 2023 meeting, members brought this idea back to departments for discussion and a vote.
- At the April 2023 meeting, a vote was held with these results: 6 votes against, 1 for, 4 abstentions. Therefore, the idea was voted down in committee.
- At the September 2023 meeting, Scott brought the change in policy up in Open Forum, noting that NYS had recently agreed to fund the P-Tech program again, and if DCC were to participate, it would need to allow high school freshmen to enroll.
- At the October 2023 meeting, Scott argued that he felt DCC was losing out on potential enrollment opportunities, noting in particular that Genesee Community College had between 300-400 14- and 15-year old students currently enrolled. Members agreed to bring the idea back to departments.
- At the November 2023 meeting, Scott answered a few questions and there was some discussion on the topic, but no vote is recorded.
- At the January 2024 meeting, the topic is in the minutes, but there was no update reported.

2. Approval to Close the Public Hearing Discussion on a Proposed Policy to Modify the College’s Admission Age Requirement as Outlined in the College Catalog (Res #: 2024-37)

I. Guzman offers the following resolution and moves its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees closes the public hearing on the proposed Admissions Age Requirement policy.

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Seconded by **A. Flesland**

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Approval of the Board Action Plan (Res #: 2024-38)

I. Guzman offer the following resolution and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, the President has developed a Board Action Plan with significant input from various Board Committees, and

WHEREAS, all members of the Board of Trustees have reviewed the aforementioned plan, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees endorses the concepts outlined in the plan, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following Board Action Plan which shall be made part of the official minutes of this meeting, and is hereby approved.

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Seconded by **L. Pratt**

Motion Carried Unanimously

C. Finance & Facilities (S. Caswell, Chair)

Mr. Caswell provided the Board with a summary of items discussed at the last Finance & Facilities Committee meeting on April 8, 2024.

1. Approval of the Audit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Res #: 2024-39)

S. Caswell offers the following resolution and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees has a responsibility to conduct business according to prudent, professional, and accepted practices, and

WHEREAS, the Financial Statements of Dutchess Community College for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023 were reviewed by the outside auditing firm of Bonadio & Co. LLP, and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the independent auditors, the financial statements of the College conform with generally accepted accounting practices in all respects, and

WHEREAS, the Board Finance and Facilities Committee has reviewed the audit and recommends that the Board of Trustees accept the audit for fiscal year 2022-2023, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Trustees have received copies of the audit for review, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, based upon the recommendation of the Finance and Facilities Committee, the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

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Seconded by **A. Flesland**

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. Personnel & Community Relations (A. Flesland, Chair)

Ms. Flesland provided the Board with a summary of items discussed at the last Personnel & Community Relations Committee meeting held on April 11, 2024.

1. Approval of Correction to Professional Staff Title: Chief Information Security Officer

A. Flesland offers the following resolution and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, Section 35 of the Civil Service Law requires that title determination of positions in professional service be made by the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Computer Information Security Officer (CISO) title which was approved on September 19, 2023 as per Resolution # 2024-13 needs to be amended to meet the needs of the College, and

WHEREAS, the correct title for this position is Chief Information Security Officer, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is hereby given to amend the title of Computer Information Security Officer to Chief Information Security Officer

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Seconded by **F. Castella**

Motion Carried Unanimously

VIII. Report of the Student Trustee

Ms. Chinkan reported on DCC @ Nite taking place on Friday, May 3 and a Fun Night hosted by SGA held on Saturday, May 18.

Ms. Chinkan reported on communications between SGA and Chartwells.

IX. Report of the Chairperson

Chairman Dupree highlighted college-wide activities for the month of April 2024.

X. Report of the President.

President Jordan reported on his invitation and acceptance to join the Board of

Directors at the Anderson Center for Autism.

President Jordan concluded his report by inviting Scott Schnackenberg to the podium to provide an updated report on Summer and Fall Enrollment numbers.

XI. Other Business

Chairperson Dupree announced that the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual Gala event on March 16 which was a big hit!

Chairperson Dupree reported that members of DCC enjoy attending the Chambers monthly contact Breakfast and will continue to try and increase attendance at these events each month.

XII. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on May 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Cloud, seconded by Mr. Guzman, voted on, and duly carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joia Ponticello

Joia Ponticello
Executive Assistant