

**SUNY BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 20, 2025@5:00 p.m.
Wales Building, Conference Room 203B**

College Vision: Transforming futures, creating opportunity: Be Your Best at Broome.

SUNY Broome Mission: As the community's college, we create an environment of inclusive excellence that aligns with each learner's educational, career, and personal goals, serving as a catalyst for local and global economic advancement.

Institutional Values: COMMUNITY, EQUITY, INTEGRITY, LEARNING

Board Members Present: Chair Barbara Fiala, Vice Chair James Testani, Jason Andrews, Joseph Chen, Margaret Coffey, Kathy Connerton, Tina Fernandez, Jim Orband, Anthony Paniccia,

Board Members Excused:

SUNY Broome Admin Present: Dr. Tony Hawkins, Laura Hodel, Dr. Penny Kelly, Barb Munger, Michael Sullivan, Dr. Carol Ross-Scott, Jesse Wells

Other Attendees: Nick Brey, Evan Bigam, Colleen Cashman, Dave Ligeikis, Dr. Scott Kane, Dr. Christine Martey-Ochola, Ken Marble, Howard Streby, Venessa Rodriguez, Joshua Terrell, Esq., Cathy Williams

Chair Barbara Fiala called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and welcomed Joe Chen, the new Student Trustee.

1.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1.1 January 16, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting
Trustee Connerton moved to approve the January 16, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting minutes.
Trustee Paniccia seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2.0 FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

- 2.1 No February meeting of the Finance & Facilities Committee

3.0 PREFERRED AGENDA ACTION ITEMS — No Preferred Items from Finance and Facilities

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1 Recommend Approval of Payroll Certification
Trustee Testani moved to approve Payroll Certification. Trustee Coffey seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 4.2 Recommend Approval of Resolution Recommending Candidates for Continuing Appointment
Trustee Coffey moved to approve the resolution for continuing appointment candidates. Trustee Connerton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 4.3 Recommend Approval of SUNY Broome Foundation Restricted Grant for Ice Center Audio System Upgrade
Trustee Connerton moved to approve the acceptance of the \$60,000 grant for the Ice Center. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 4.4 Recommend Approval of Wireless Network Replacement from the NY OGS Contract PM20820
Trustee Testani moved to approve the wireless network upgrade in an amount not to exceed \$225,000. Trustee Connerton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 4.5 Recommend Approval of Resolution for Unpaid Leave of Absence for Shannon Barnum
Trustee Coffey moved to approve the unpaid leave request. Trustee Andrews seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- 4.6 Recommend Approval for the Purchase of Furniture for the Decker Capital Renovation Project in an Amount not to Exceed \$500,000 from the NY State Contract for W.B. Mason
Trustee Connerton moved to approve the furniture purchase. Trustee Coffey seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Trustee Jim Orband arrived at 5:06 p.m.

5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

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5.1 President's Report – Dr. Tony D. Hawkins

Dr. Hawkins provided updates on federal policy developments affecting higher education, including changes to Title IX, funding freezes, and challenges to DEI initiatives. February 14th, President's Meeting with Chancellor King, SUNY focus on four areas: Federal Funding "Freeze" - A temporary restraining order has been placed on federal funding allocations, which may affect grants and financial assistance programs. Dr. Hawkins reported that the College is closely monitoring the situation and awaiting further clarification. Title IX Regulations - The U.S. Department of Education is expected to reinstate Title IX policies from the first Trump administration. This shift would increase protections for those accused of misconduct and redefine reporting and investigative procedures. Rescission of "Sensitive Areas" Prohibitions - Institutions are advised to seek local guidance regarding ICE enforcement policies on campuses. SUNY Broome is developing clear procedures and designated points of contact to ensure the safety of students and compliance with judicial requirements. Attacks on DEI Initiatives - While SUNY has not implemented any changes in response to federal DEI directives, the College remains committed to fostering an inclusive campus environment for all students and employees. Dr. Hawkins also discussed advocacy efforts in Albany for additional funding, securing \$100 million in operating aid, maintaining the funding floor, and preserving the additional \$8 million from last year. The president of the Faculty Community College Council recently visited SUNY Broome. Dr. Hawkins, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Ross-Scott, and seven other Campus professionals attended the Achieving the Dream conference in Philadelphia this week.

Trustee Tina Fernandez arrived at 5:14 p.m.

5.2 Academic Affairs Report – Dr. Penny Kelly

Dr. Kelly prepared the report, which is included in the packet. She emphasized the faculty's strong engagement in professional development and outreach efforts. Retention rates are at their highest in six years. Professor Ken Marble presented on the Engineering Technologies Department Program, highlighting the Mechatronics Certificate. He explained that Mechatronics integrates electrical, mechanical, and computer engineering. There is a strong local demand for professionals with this skill set, particularly in Battery Manufacturing and the Semiconductor Industry. SUNY Broome currently offers a one-year Mechatronics Certificate and is developing a two-year Mechatronics A.A.S. degree in partnership with BAE. Future initiatives include expanding pathways and partnerships with high schools and BOCES. A pilot program with Owego Apalachin launched in Fall 2024.

5.3 Student Assembly Update – Joseph Chen

The First General Assembly Meeting of 2025 took place. Three Senate positions and three Executive Board positions were sworn in. On February 12, 2025, four Executive Board members went to the SUNY SA Conference to meet with elected officials to address key student concerns, particularly regarding increased budget funding for SUNY and community colleges. Key legislative priorities discussed included: College Student Suicide Prevention Act, Emergency Contraception, Sustainability, Staff Legislation, and Student Journalist Free Speech Act. Advocacy efforts for keeping the cost of attendance low and investment in student resources, such as mental health services.

5.4 BCC Foundation Report – Cathy Williams

Ms. Williams provided financial updates, including endowment growth and recent fundraising efforts. Upcoming Alumni events include the Black Bears hockey game on February 28th and the Alumni Reunion April 11th- April 12th, which coincides with the Open House event on campus. The upcoming spring edition of the College magazine will focus on alumni working in addiction services, highlighting the impact of the OASAS Grant. This grant provides funding for students pursuing an A.A.S. in Chemical Dependency Counseling. Scholarship applications have increased compared to the same time last year. Changes in federal policy may impact scholarship awards; while there are currently no race-based scholarships, a gender-based scholarship is available. Donor agreements allow for scholarship modifications if necessary, ensuring continued support for students.

5.5 Facilities Update – Dave Ligeikis

Mr. Ligeikis reported progress on the Decker Nursing and Commons Building renovation projects. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the One Stop Welcome Center is being finalized, with the next step being the selection of an architect. The former game room in the Ice Center will be converted into a pro-shop. Final design work is in progress for the Applied Technology lecture hall. The College

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staff is expected to take the lead in completing the Electric Vehicle garage. Additionally, bid documentation is being prepared for audio upgrades at the Ice Center.

5.6 Budget and Finance Update – Michael Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan presented the fiscal year 2024-25 budget forecast, projecting a balanced budget. He also reviewed the multi-year financial sustainability plan, which is based on revenue and expense projections from Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, with Summer 2025 estimates included (2024-2025 budget forecast). In the current fiscal year, the College initially projected the need to use \$955,000 in unrestricted funds. However, cost savings from payroll reductions and increased revenue from enrollment could potentially eliminate the need to draw from these funds. Enrollment projections for the multi-year sustainability plan are based on SUNY enrollment data and current demographic trends, with a stable high school graduation rate expected over the next four years. From a revenue perspective, the College aims to keep tuition increases aligned with inflation. County sponsorship projections are based on historical funding patterns, and miscellaneous revenue estimates remain conservative. Personnel expenses are projecting a \$500,000 savings due to the voluntary retirement incentive. The fringe benefits expenses are estimated using current and historical county rates. Other expenses include minor capital projects. The College remains committed to financial sustainability, aiming to maintain an unrestricted fund balance currently at approximately 6.2%. The proposed 2025-2026 budget will be presented at the April board meeting.

5.7 Media Report – Jesse Wells

This report reflects standard activity for January 2025. Mr. Wells prepared the report is for information purposes and was included in the packet.

6.0 PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION, UPON APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Testani moved to go into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss for the proposed litigation and matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Trustee Coffey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Trustee Testani moved to come out of the Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. Trustee Connerton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Trustee Connerton moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Testani seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Approved:

The next Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Wales Building, Conference Room 203B.

If you need accommodations to participate in this event, please contact the Accessibility Resources Office at aro@sunybroome.edu or 607-778-5150 to discuss your needs ASAP.