

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 12, 2010

The Education, Culture and Recreation Committee of the Broome County Legislature met on Monday, July 12, 2010 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: S. Buchta (Chair), W. Howard, B. Klipsch, R. Materese, S. Messina

Members Absent: None

Others Present: P. Brennan (Executive); M. Kalka (Budget/Finance); M. Gerchman (Budget); L. Wise (Library); B. Hoffman (Arena/Forum); K. Drumm, G. Newton, R. Losinger (BCC); David Jensen (Public); M. Diffendorf, J. Hutchings, J. Marinich, C. Marion, J. Royer (Legislature)

The Committee meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:30 P.M. A motion was made to move the agenda by Ms. Messina, seconded by Mr. Materese.

Before considering the matters before the Committee, Dr. Kevin Drumm of Broome Community College (BCC) spoke to the committee about the 2010-2011 BCC Budget. He stated that the key issues on which they are focusing are keeping the quality of BCC high, increasing student graduation and improving the infrastructure.

Regarding the quality of BCC, compared to both the state and the national level BCC students are very successful. BCC's graduation rates are 50% higher than neighboring community colleges and 25% higher than the national average. When BCC students transfer to SUNY schools, they do extremely well. BCC is growing at a great rate, but that is very difficult to keep pace with growing enrollment when you cannot hire more staff due to the current economy.

The National Governors Association's number one focus is higher education and increasing the number of students which complete higher education. In order to meet some of the goals outlined by the Federal and State governments, BCC is using the model of continuous improvement since there are always ways to do better.

Another focus has been upgrading the infrastructure since many of the buildings at BCC are aging and in poor condition. In spite of the state of the buildings, the students and faculty are doing spectacular. There are some smaller improvement projects that are being worked on, however they would like the opportunity to do some larger projects. BCC is very excited about the new Science and Technology Building and the upcoming upgrades to the Wales Building. BCC truly appreciates Broome County's support of these projects.

Ms. Buchta stated that BCC is doing a great job and that they are aware of the economic and

infrastructure problems and thanked Dr. Drumm for coming to speak to the committee. Ms. Messina stated that as a teacher at BOCES, she had seen that BCC is in the top 7th percentile of local community colleges and that her former students had relayed to her the exceptional care and concern the faculty at the college show them.

Mr. Materese asked about the enrollment for Fall 2010 at BCC. Dr. Drumm stated that admissions are up but registrations are down. This is most likely due to the upgrade to the new Banner computer system which is an adjustment for faculty, staff and students alike. He believes that once students learn the new system that registrations will pick up, however if they don't BCC still has created a conservative flat budget and should be ok.

Mr. Materese asked about the percentage of campus which is utilized during the summer. Mr. Newton stated that at least 60% of the campus is being used this summer and that there was a 15% increase in summer enrollments. Mr. Materese asked if enrollments can be increased in the summer and Dr. Drumm stated that this summer the college offered 30% more classes. Online classes have had the biggest growth, but to provide more of those there would have to be an increase in technical infrastructure due to bandwidth usage.

Mr. Klipsch asked about the formula for charge backs to other counties. Ms. Losinger stated that charge backs are derived from a state formula and can go up or down depending on several factors such as revenues and enrollments. Mr. Klipsch also asked about contractual expenses and Ms. Losinger stated that BCC's largest expense in the category is utilities which accounts for about \$1.5 million. Other contractual expenses are Information Technology supplies (like the Banner system), lab supplies and Professional Development and Travel expenses. Professional Development and Travel expenses have been significantly reduced due to the current economic situation.

Dr. Drumm stated that there are 400 full-time faculty and about as many adjuncts. There is not a very high turnover in adjunct faculty; some have been there for over twenty years. Adjuncts teach 50-55% of BCC classes. The problem with increasing the student population is that academic advising falls on full-time faculty and without increasing that number each faculty member gets a larger workload. Mr. Klipsch asked about the hiring freeze and Dr. Drumm stated that the current freeze has been going on for several weeks. BCC had hired three full-time faculty members prior to the freeze, promoting one adjunct professor to full-time faculty. The college just had a full-time Biology Professor move to another school which was not expected and was a big hit to the college. If financial fortunes improve they hope to fill that position.

The committee thanked Dr. Drumm for his time and willingness to answer their questions about the upcoming BCC budget.

The Committee took the following action with regard to the matters before it:

#1 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR 2010-2011

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#2 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#3 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE BROOME COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE BOOKS WITH SENATOR LIBOUS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MORRISVILLE STATE COLLEGE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ADOPTING A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2010-2011

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

#28 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BROOME COUNTY VETERANS DISPLAY CASE FUND

Mr. Hoffman provided an update regarding donations to the fund. He stated that VFWs have begun to make donations, hence why the Veterans Display Case Fund is necessary. The Veteran's Committee from the Board of Directors has been working diligently on this new addition to the Arena. Mr. Hoffman reminded the committee that there is no cost to the county for this case or fund.

Carried. Ayes-5, Nays-0

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Messina, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.