

**Essex County College  
Board of Trustees  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

June 22, 2021

4:30 pm

*Via Zoom Webinar*

*In Attendance: M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; L. Guyton; A. Lewis; C. Morales; B. Robinson;  
J. Wright; J. Zarra; A. Boakye, Interim President; M. Townes, Board Counsel*

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m. by the Board Chair, Trustee Bolden. Following roll call, a quorum of eight Trustees was declared for the meeting. Trustee Guyton logged in a short while later making the number of Trustees present, nine.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Grimes was called upon to read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement. She read as follows:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Essex County College was provided in the following manner:

Advance written notice of this virtual meeting was filed on January 7, 2021 and written notice for this meeting was provided to the Essex County College Community, indicating that the meeting will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975 c 231 and the Governor of New Jersey's Executive Orders 102 and 104 regarding COVID 19 Emergency Actions. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the College website at [www.essex.edu](http://www.essex.edu). According to records of Essex County College, we have not received written requests or prepayment from any parties for advance notice of meetings.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the May 18, 2021 and May 25, 2021 (Special Called) meetings were moved for approval by Trustee Grimes. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Morales and were then **unanimously approved**.

**Communications**

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Public Comments from Sharron Green, Carlos Chirino, D'Andre Gillis and Lev Zilbermints (see Appendix A) were read into the record of the meeting.

**Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Zarra reported that the Finance Committee met the prior week and reviewed all of the actions submitted by the College leadership team and were recommending approval of actions 3-1.1 through 3-1.29 as follows:

3-1.1/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Bid for Exterior Doors Replacement Northeastern Interior Services, LLC., Little Falls, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$554,000.00
3-1.2/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Two (2) Year Bid for Maintenance Agreement for Tecogen Chillers Tecogen, Inc., Waltham, MA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$100,264.87
3-1.3/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Two (2) Year Bid for Maintenance Agreement for McQuay Chillers D&B Services Group, LLC., Bloomfield, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$24,774.00
3-1.4/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Bid for Print Shop Paper Products Paper Mart, Inc., East Hanover, NJ Paterson Card & Paper Company DBA Paterson Paper, Paterson, NJ W.B. Mason Co., Inc., Secaucus, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$17,754.90 46,342.70 2,955.70 Total \$67,053.30
3-1.5/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Five (5) Year Lease for Support/Maintenance of the Print Shop Copiers Ricoh USA, Inc., Philadelphia, PA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$344,940.16
3-1.6/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of Furniture for the Information Technology Department Business Furniture, Inc. (BFI) A Herman Miller, Inc., Parsippany, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$159,889.73
3-1.7/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment Johnston GP, Inc. DBA Johnston Communications (JCT Solutions), Springfield, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$33,900.00
3-1.8/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Three-Year License of Interactive Queuing System for Students QLess, Inc., Pasadena, CA CRRSAA Grant Funds – Cares Act 2.0 Funded – Operating Expense	\$21,001.50
3-1.9/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Preventive Maintenance Mark Andy, Inc., Chesterfield, MO College Funded – Operating Expense	\$26,789.75
3-1.10/6-2021	Authorize the Additional Payment for Snow Removal Services Recchia Paving, Inc., Bridgewater, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$11,025.00

3-1.11/6-2021	Authorize the Additional Repair of HVAC to the Police Headquarters DeSesa Engineering Company, Inc., Livingston, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$1,930.87
3-1.12/6-2021	Authorize the Payment of Inspection of the Fire Suppression System Deficiency Correction at the MLK Jr. Library Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP, Rockaway, NJ GO Building Bond Funded – Capital Expense	\$1,400.00
3-1.13/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Professional Service for DegreeWorks Consulting Ellucian Company, LP, Chicago, IL Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$21,730.00
3-1.14/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Proposal for Web Redesign and Restructure Services Hubspire Corporation, Matawan, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$56,375.00
3-1.15/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Workbenches Leading Engineering Technologies, LLC., Brielle, NJ Carl D. Perkins Grant Funded – Operating Expense	\$26,368.10
3-1.16/6-2021	Authorize Payment for Workers Compensation New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool, Skillman, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$203,000.00
3-1.17/6-2021	Award of a Two-Year Renewal for Subscription Services DocuSign, Inc., San Francisco, CA CRRSAA Grant Funds – Cares Act 2.0 – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$65,000.00
3-1.18/6-2021	Authorize the Award of an Additional Payment for Auditing Services Clifton Larson Allen, LLP., Minneapolis, MN College Funded – Operating Expense (\$20,909.70) CRRSAA Grant Funds – Cares Act 2.0 – Operating Expense (\$9,591.75)	\$30,501.45
3-1.19/6-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Genova Burns Attorneys-At-Law, Newark, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$12,795.00
3-1.20/6-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services O'Toole Scrivo, LLC., Cedar Grove, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$3,660.00
3-1.21/6-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP., Teaneck, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$1,521.00

3-1.22/6-2021	Authorize the Payment for Legal Services Porzio Bromberg & Newman PC, Morristown, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	\$21,702.02
3-1.23/6-2021	Authorize Award of a Bid for West Essex Campus Demolition Two Brothers Contracting, Inc., Totowa, NJ Go Building Bond Funded – Capital Expense	\$1,122,200.00
3-1.24/6-2021	Authorize Award of a Bid for Information Technology Department Alterations & Renovations Brahma Construction Corp., Wayne, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$718,000.00
3-1.25/6-2021	Authorize Award of a Bid for Printing Services of Non-Credit Brochures Graphic Image, Inc., Milford, CT College Funded – Operating Expense	\$22,266.15
3-1.26/6-2021	Authorize Award of Repairs and Refinishing Floors in the Physical Education Building – Gymnasium Classic Floor Finishing, Inc., West Berlin, NJ County of Essex Funded – Capital Expense	\$47,938.81
3-1.27/6-2021	Authorize the Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency, LLC., Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense (\$782,966.00) Daycare Funded – Operating Expense (375.00)	Amount not to exceed \$783,341.00
3-1.28/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Millennium Maintenance Software at the MLK Jr. Library Innovative Interfaces, Inc., Emeryville, CA College Funded – Operating Expense	\$66,266.48
3-1.29/6-2021	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Subscription for West Proflex Thomson Reuters (WestLaw), Carol Stream, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$33,990.00

Trustee Cruz moved the finance actions for approval. Trustee Morales seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Personnel Committee Report**

Trustee Grimes was then invited to make the Personnel Committee report. She advised that the Committee was recommending ratification of actions 4-1S through 4-5S. The actions were approved by the Executive Committee on June 11<sup>th</sup>; however, the subject of each action, needed to be amended to “Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees” from “Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reduction for College Employees”.

Trustee Grimes made the motion to amend. Trustee Zarra seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Grimes then presented and moved the following amended actions for ratification.

- 4-1S/6-2021 Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees – MOU with Administrative Association
- 4-2S/6-2021 Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees – MOU with Faculty Association
- 4-3S/6-2021 Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees – MOU with Professional Association
- 4-4S/6-2021 Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees – MOU with Security Association
- 4-5S/6-2021 Shared Sacrifice: Furlough or Pay Reimbursement for College Employees – MOU with Support Staff Association

Trustee Zarra seconded her motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Trustee Grimes then advised that the Personnel Committee recommended approval of the following Appointments, Promotions, Retirement, Resignation and Supplements; she indicated that, the Promotions would be voted upon separately. She presented actions 4-1 through 4-13 and 4-16 through 4-18 for approval.

Appointments

- 4-1/6-2021 Christine Ann Soto  
General Counsel  
Legal Affairs  
Salary - \$145,000.00  
Effective July 6, 2021
  
- 4-2/6-2021 Dorothy Dugue  
Compliance Officer / Title IX Coordinator  
Compliance  
Salary - \$80,000.00  
Effective July 6, 2021
  
- 4-3/6-2021 Pavi Jalloh  
Special Assistant to the President  
President’s Office  
Salary \$75,000.00  
Effective July 6, 2021
  
- 4-4/6-2021 Karin Roslund  
Librarian, Instructor, Library Science  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Salary - \$54,598.00  
Effective July 6, 2021
  
- 4-5/6-2021 Ruth Ware  
Librarian, Instructor, Library Science  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Salary - \$62,716.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-6/6-2021 Laura Byrd  
Human Resources Generalist  
Human Resources  
Salary - \$55,000.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-7/6-2021 Roy Harte  
Student Support Services Representative  
Welcome Center  
Salary - \$35,900.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-8/6-2021 Madeline Mendez  
Student Support Services Representative  
Welcome Center  
Salary - \$35,900.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-9/6-2021 Samantha Nieve-Silva  
Student Support Services Representative  
Welcome Center  
Salary - \$35,900.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-10/6-2021 Andy Clitus  
Student Services Representative  
Enrollment Services  
Salary - \$35,568.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-11/6-2021 Hossam Gharib  
Technical Support Specialist  
Information Technology  
Salary - \$45,000.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-12/6-2021 Mark Hosein  
Student Support Specialist  
Men & Women of Excellence Scholars Program  
Student Affairs  
Salary \$40,000.00 (grant funded)  
Effective July 6, 2021

4-13/6-2021 Ricky Quinn  
Student Services Representative  
Enrollment Services  
Salary \$35,568.00  
Effective July 6, 2021

Retirement

4-16/6-2021 Rose Brown  
Technical Assistant  
Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
Effective August 31, 2021

Resignation

4-17/6-2021 Faith Plummer  
Teacher Assistant  
Child Development Center  
Effective June 17, 2021

Supplements

4-18/6-2021 Mary Jenkins, Course Developer  
Community Health Worker Grant  
Instructor, Social Work  
Social Sciences  
Effective October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021  
Supplement - \$4,500.00 (grant funded)

Carmen Pichardo, Online Coordinator  
Community Health Worker Grant  
Training Inc.  
Effective October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021  
Supplement - \$4,500.00 (grant funded)

Rosa Reyes, Assistant Director  
Additional Responsibilities  
Purchasing  
Effective July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021  
Supplement \$2,500.00

The Personnel actions were moved for approval by Trustee Morales, and seconded by Trustee Robinson. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The Board was then asked by Trustee Grimes to approve the following action:

Promotion

4-14/6-2021 Stacy Tolliver  
Senior Security Officer  
Public Safety  
Salary - \$37,222.96  
Effective June 23, 2021

Trustee Wright moved the action for approval. Trustee Morales seconded her motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Trustee Grimes then presented the second promotion for approval as follows:

4-15/6-2021 Treacy Watson-Rogers  
Senior Dispatcher  
Security  
Salary \$45,127.01  
Effective June 23, 2021

Trustee Morales made the motion to approve; Trustee Wright seconded the motion. The vote was eight affirmed, one abstention. **The motion carried.**

### **Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Lewis informed the Board that the Educational Programs Committee met and recommended the approval of action 7-1.1:

7-1.1/6-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literary and Civics Education Grant

Trustee Cruz moved the action for approval; the motion was seconded by Trustee Morales. The vote was seven affirmed, two abstentions. **The motion carried.**

Moving forward with his report, Trustee Lewis presented actions 7-1.2 through 7-1.5 for approval.

7-1.2/6-2021 Acceptance of Funds: New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Educational, Educational Opportunity Program (NJ OSHE/EOF)

7-1.3/6-2021 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (Perkins V)

7-1.4/6-2021 Acceptance of Funds – Scaling Apprenticeships through Sector Based Strategies Grant (NJ Health Works)

7-1.5/6-2021 Memorandum of Understanding: Urban League of Essex County

On a motion made by Trustee Cruz, seconded by Trustee Robinson, **the actions were unanimously approved.**

Trustee Lewis then announced that action 7-1.6 – Transfer Agreement: Pillar College was withdrawn. He asked Board Counsel Townes to read Goldenrod Action 7-1.7 into the record for the consideration of the Board:

Mr. Townes read the action: Memorandum of Agreement: Essex County Schools of Technology – West Caldwell High School Partnership

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College approve the agreement between Essex County College, hereinafter referred to as “the College” and the Essex County Schools of Technology, hereinafter referred to as “ECST” for the purpose of utilizing office and classroom space at ECTS from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:** The College’s West Essex Campus located in West Caldwell is undergoing construction of a new branch campus building during FY22. The College seeks to enter into partnership with ECST-West Caldwell High School, a County high school facility, to provide office and classroom space for instruction and serve as a College extension site for the duration of the construction period.



**FISCAL NOTES:** This partnership will allow the College to continue to serve the academic needs of the County's West Essex community. The College will benefit fiscally from the additional college enrollment. The usage fee is included in the College operating budget.

**RESOLUTION:** The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the Essex County Schools of Technology – West Caldwell High School partnership Essex County College and the Essex County Schools of Technology for the purpose of utilizing office and classroom space at ECTS from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Trustee Cruz moved the action for approval. Trustee Robinson provided the second. The vote was eight affirmed, one abstention. **The motion carried.**

#### **Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report**

Trustee Morales indicated that the following action was recommended for approval:

7-2.1/6-2021 Hire a Company to Perform Furniture and Equipment Auction

Trustee Lewis moved the action for approval. Trustee Wright seconded his motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy and Governance Committee Report**

Trustee Cruz indicated that the Policy and Governance Committee did not meet; nor had they anything to present for the Board's attention.

#### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright noted also that the Community Relations Committee did not meet and had no report.

#### **Alumni Association Report**

There was no report.

#### **Student Government Association (SGA) Report**

The SGA report (see Appendix B) was read into the record by Ms. Congleton.

#### **Faculty Association Report**

Highlights of Prof. Michael Frank's report to the Board of Trustees are attached at Appendix C.

#### **President's Report**

Dr. Boakye prefaced his report with thanks to the Trustees, on behalf of the College, for the hard work and support they provided over the last year. He noted that for each situation presented, the College received their full support. He also thanked administrators, members of the Cabinet, faculty, staff and students for a successful year, stating that "everybody has done something special to bring us to where we are".

He also reported, for Summer I, an 18% increase in enrollment over last year; early Summer II numbers show enrollment is ahead almost 20% over last year. Dr. Boakye announced that plans are being made to relax some of the Covid-19 restrictions and that the administration will continue to encourage every member of this College to get vaccinated.

Dr. Boakye then shared and elucidated his written report to the Board which is attached at Appendix **D**.

In closing, Dr. Boakye again extended thanks for everyone's support to move the College forward. He also expressed wishes for all to enjoy the summer and hope to bring everyone back in September.

### **New Business**

Madame Chair called for new business; there was no response.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments (see Appendix E) submitted by Lev Zilbermints, Pavi Jalloh and Christine Soto were read into the record by Ms. Congleton.

Madame Chair then welcomed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, all of the new hires and she congratulated members of the Essex County College 2021 graduating class. She thanked Dr. Boakye and the staff for a yeoman's job during a tough year; also, the trustees (who volunteer to serve this great institution) for their dedication. She stated that we are a family, we are united and she was hopeful the September meeting could be in person. Trustee Bolden expressed wishes for everyone to have a great summer.

### **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Grimes was asked to read the Notice of Executive Session which follows:

WHEREAS, The Open Public Meetings Act, 1975 (N.J. Law Chapter 231) permits a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain topics are discussed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College shall hold following this meeting and prior to its next scheduled meeting on September 21, 2021 at 4:30 PM, an Executive Session to discuss the following topics, the general nature of which is limited to Collective Bargaining Agreements, Pending and Existing Contractual Negotiations, Litigation and Personnel Matters. The discussion of these said topics shall be disclosed to the public as soon as reasonable.

### **Adjournment**

Madame Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:49 pm.

Comments on Agenda Items

Good Afternoon,

My name is Sharron M. Green. I have been employed as a Security Dispatcher with Essex County College Police Department for 16 1/2 years. I was recently informed of a vacancy for a Senior Dispatcher. It is my position that I have been unfairly overlooked for a promotion.

It is my understanding the candidate selected has worked as a Dispatcher for less then 3 years. Per Essex County College Department Rules and Regulations 1:2.13; I have more seniority then the candidate in question. I am requesting an opportunity to reviewed for this vacancy.

The Candidate selected for this position should exemplify strongly leader ship skills, be able to communicate positively with fellow co-workers. Candidate should lead by example in areas of time and attendance and possess a high skill level in the dispatching area. The Candidate selected should not have open complaints in the Administrative Office and Human Resources.

In-closing, I ask that the board members further evaluate candidates for Senior Dispatcher.

Dispatcher

Sharron Green

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Hello,

It's has been brought to my attention that Tracy Watson is up for a promotion. Before a decision is made I would like to point out that throughout my 25-year tenure with Essex I experienced many situations in which Tracy would harass me and others making us experience a very hostile work environment. I would like to suggest reaching to out the Human Resources department before making a final decision as I and a few others have submitted harassment complaints against her. It's unfortunate that she is the president of the security officers union and mistreats others because of her position causing it to be a conflict of interest. I felt the need to bring these points to your attention as I do not wish anyone to experience the hostile work environment I did, which is what drove me to retire earlier than I would have like to.

Sincerely,  
Carlos Chirino

Sent from my iPhone

Good Afternoon Board of Trustees my name is D'Andre Gillis. I have been working as a Security Officer in the public safety department for four years.

I'm writing this email to share my facts and feelings about this candidate promotion to senior dispatcher. I feel this Candidate is unfit to be promoted Senior Dispatcher because of the candidate's time/attendance is horrendous. This Candidate doesn't come in on time at all. Every Saturday that I work as Dispatcher (2300-0700) working the Dispatcher area, this candidate that relieves me, always relieves 30 minutes to an hour late. Always stating her allergies, overslept or stuck in traffic (the candidate doesn't drive). How can the candidate be promoted to senior dispatcher if the candidate can't get to work on time?

On December 6th, 2020, when working my shift from 2300-0700 as a Dispatcher, I accidentally broke the candidate's candle while cleaning the surfaces of Headquarters.

This was a mistake and was unintentional. The candidate came into relieve me at (0700 hrs) December 7th when I informed to the candidate that I mistakenly broke the candle. The candidate became very irate, angry, screaming using profanity towards me. At that same time she picked up the bucket of sanitary wipes and threw them across the room hitting the wall, after calmly telling the candidate that I accidentally broke the candle that it was a mistake. I was unable to speak to the candidate so I left. This is not professional behavior, especially in this type of setting.

Following this incident on New Year's Day January 1st 2021, the candidate demanded money from me because I mistakenly broke the candle. I told the candidate that I did not have any money on me, and the candidate said, "we just got paid, and that I can go to the ATM to retrieve the cash." Because of the Candidate's attitude and frightening tone, I retrieved \$40.00 and handed it to the candidate. I then told the candidate to never to disrespect me like that again. The Candidate began to argue with me, and I stormed outside in frustration. Sgt. Vega-Hall was outside which was unknown to me, and he saw that I was upset. I then spoke to him in his office, about the situation, and haven't heard anything since.

A week later I spoke to Acting Senior Officer Tolliver about what had occurred and he advised to write it up. The reason I did not write because I felt nothing was going to happen to The candidate Since this incident, for the last 6 months, I see the candidate at shift change. Every single day we see each other and I can feel the hostility in the room. I absolutely hate interacting with the candidate and all the candidate does is cause problems. We used to be good friends, and now I find myself looking for another job outside of the College because I do not wish to work around them anymore. I thought this would change since the incident happened such a long time ago, but it hasn't. It is not right for me to come to work like this and feel like this every day. One person on the job should not have such an effect on anyone. Working in a hostile work environment is very hard, and from the talk of the department, I am not the only one she bullies. I am writing this in hopes that something finally gets done with the candidate and that this department can come back together as a whole.

Security Officer D. Gillis #54

Hello everyone,

I would like to begin by saying that the coronavirus emergency has been lifted. We now see light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully in-person teaching will resume in September.

Now, to the point. Let me address the Agenda Items.

**(1) 3.1.1/6-2021:** Nice to see you have exterior door replacement. My question is, will these be automatic doors? Lord knows we need these for disabled students.

**(2) 3.1.23/6-2021:** West Essex Campus Demolition??? Am I hearing this right? You are ending the West Essex Campus? Or am I missing something? Could you explain? Thank you.

**(3) 4.-1/6-2021S thru 4-5/6-2021S:** Shared Sacrifice. I totally get a reduction in pay. Sadly the times are calling for such a measure. What about student government and clubs? Will the decrease in student fees affect their ability to sponsor and hold events?

**(4) 4-1/6-2021 - Appointments et al.** Nice to see we have a new Librarian, General Counsel and Compliance Officer. Student Support and Student Services being filled is good too. Congratulations on promotions to everyone. Best wishes to those retiring and resigning from ECC. God be with you.

Lev Zilbermints

Class of 1993

## Student Government Association Report

### 2020-2021 End of Year Report

Good afternoon Members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, Faculty and Staff

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

Manuel and Remane for completing their degrees at Essex County College. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish in their future endeavors and we know that they will make the SGA and the Essex community proud!

#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION:

To date we have distributed over **2410 pounds** of food to 90 members of the student community. Our most recent food distribution event was on June 11<sup>th</sup>, where we aided 32 students totaling 652. lbs. of food. In addition, 12 cases of recently expired items (cereal and Mac n cheese) were also distributed (students are always made aware of the dates and they have the option not to take. These items and dates fall within acceptable guidelines.

Water, juice, & jumbo items were distributed separately.

#### ELECTIONS

The results are in for the 2021-2022 SGA administration. Congratulations to our new team as we look forward to establishing our presence in a huge way for the upcoming academic year.

**Prez- Jessica Vega**

**VP- Nicholas Mendez**

**Secretary- Sarah Dolisca**

**Senator of Comm. Relations- Yolanda Brown**

#### NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGE SGA FORUM

We have continued to hold a presence in the NJCC SGA community where President Vega has regularly attended events hosted by the group. She has shared ways to help the Essex SGA become more involved with the community such as volunteer opportunities.

#### THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE:

- Participated in a community park clean-up as a team
- Distributed over 2400 pounds of food to students in need
- Engaged the student body in the election process by campaigning and participating in zoom panel events
- Participated in numerous NJCC SGA forums to represent Essex County College and advance its mission around the state
- Pitched ideas such as the Aunt Flow Project to ensure women have adequate access to hygiene products
- Offered assistance to students who had difficulty with the financial aid process or registering for courses

### Faculty Association Report

#### Highlights from Prof. M. Frank's verbal report

- Completion of the Summer I term also concludes the 2020/2022 fiscal year. All enrollment going forward will be part of the 2021/2022 numbers.
- Prof. Frank quoted a comment from a senior faculty member, “Dr. Boakye and Dr. Williams, I think I speak for the entire College Community when I marvel at your creativity and transformative leadership.” Prof. Frank went on to state that together, they (Drs. Boakye and Williams) are moving the college forward toward our goal of restoring the viability of our institution; he noted that a number of items on today’s agenda speak to their efforts:
  - The agenda items related to reimbursement of the shared sacrifice by all members of the College Bargaining Units which voluntarily took pay cuts when the college was in a desperate financial condition.
  - Actions 4-4 and 4-5 which announced that the College is starting to replenish depleted faculty after retirements and terminations of virtually all non-tenured faculty under the last administration. He commented that the restorations are based on savings from voluntary separations and the ongoing costs of the College are actually less than anticipated.
  - Actions which include the appointment of several student services representatives and promotions. Prof. Frank commented that those appointments represent the College’s commitment to ‘Students First’; and, that it is encouraging to see well-deserved promotions. Further that these are the first steps to plan a future of continued excellence and the extraordinary educational experience that the College has provided to students for 53 years.
- Regarding plans for Fall 2021, Prof. Frank reported that substantial in-person instruction and other modalities are in place. He commented that “our enlightened leadership team” is prepared to provide safe modes of instruction. He cautioned that an uptick of Covid-19, its variants and mutations may affect how instruction would have to be offered. Prof. Frank then shared some possible issues that might affect how instruction is provided and a lesson on virology:
  - Vaccination rates – while the data on Essex County is encouraging, it is for the entire county and may not be representative of the Eastern portion of the County and the population the College serves.
  - New variants of the virus may develop into dominant strains in the United States. The Delta variant is more contagious and has the potential to be more lethal.
  - The mutation rate of covid is exponential. The worst case is a variant that can develop something called antigenic escape or immune evasion when the host’s immune system is not able to recognize nor eliminate a pathogen thereby possibly rendering vaccines less effective or even ineffective.
  - The next challenge will be the Spring semester, during a flu season impacted by covid concerns.
  - Prof. Frank offered hope that everyone will remain healthy and stated that he is a fan of vaccinations if only for the reason that high rates of vaccination will reduce the chances that deadly variants will be able to mutate.

Prof. Frank concluded his report with two requests: 1) He asked that the Trustees rescind the fiscal exigency as it previously was an item Middle States expressed concerned about and (per him) is no longer a problem; and, 2) He also asked if the Board would consider meeting in person if all goes well in September.

## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. M. Bolden & the Board of Trustees  
**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, Interim President, Essex County College  
**Date:** June 22, 2021  
**Re:** President's Report

### General:

The College will be officially closed from Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> to Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We will relax some of the COVID-19 restrictions for all those who have fully vaccinated upon return in July.

- ❖ We continue to encourage all employees and students to participate in the free COVID-19 vaccination. ECC Gymnasium continues to be a site for COVID-19 vaccination.

### Academics:

The summer I semester will end this week; June 24, and we are aggressively promoting the summer II and the fall semesters. At this stage, our Summer II enrollment is showing an increase of about 20% higher than last year's.

This year's Virtual Graduation/Commencement event was successfully held on June 4. A total of 1070 students graduated with different degrees and certificates. Over 60 students graduated with both High School diplomas and Associate degrees. We are very proud of our students. Dr. Boakye was joined by Deans Alvin Williams and Elvy Vieira to attend the Essex County Schools of Technology, Newark High School's Graduation where 21 students earned their Associate degrees while in high school

Dr. Boakye had a successful meeting with the ENG 099/101 instructors to discuss the progress of this new path.

### Finances

The negotiations with the Collective Bargaining Units are in progress. Four Units, including the SSA, Security, Professionals and Administrative Associations have reached Tentative Agreement (TA).

Dr. Boakye and his ECC team had a successful meeting with Follet (Bookstore vendor) to renegotiate price per textbook from \$95 to \$75.

Dr. Boakye and the finance team completed a thorough end of year financial analysis and championed a discussion that resulted in a reimbursement all the employees who participated in the shared sacrifice through either a 5% pay cut or Furlough.

### Projects:

The capital projects at the College are progressing at fast pace and additional future projects are under review and discussion. The Bathrooms renovations have almost come to a completion.



Dr. Boakye had several meetings with the County Executive to discuss plans for the rebuilding of the branch campus located in West Caldwell. Demolition is expected to begin in August, 2021. With this project in mind, we are seeking to partner with the ECST, West Caldwell High School, to utilize their facility in order to keep our presence in the community.

**Community Relations:**

Dr. Boakye continues to participate in all NJ Presidents Council Meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges. The recent topic of discussion is on NJCC Funding Formula. In the past month, Dr. Boakye and his NJCC leaders met with ASW Eliana Pinto and ASW Mila Jasey to request more funds for the Community Colleges.

Dr. Boakye also participates in regular meetings with the County leaders to share key updates on the College. He represented the College at the dedication of Dr. MLK Jr. Justice Building, constructed under the leadership of the County Executive, Mr. Joe DiVincenzo.

Dr Boakye participated in Mayor Baraka's Newark transformation and recovery from COVID-19 meeting.

He also had a successful meeting with the Foundation board to discuss future plans of raising funds. The College and the Foundation Board are planning to have a Golf and Tennis event on October 18, 2021 to raise funds for student scholarships. *Please save the date.*

Dr Boakye is still networking with the High School superintendents. ECC program flyers and promotional videos were distributed to all the superintendents who in turn can share with their staff, students and parents in an effort to meet the needs of all residents of Essex County.

Dr. Boakye continued to meet with ECC alumni and is gaining their support to revitalize and rebuild the Alumni Association. General Election for leaders began on June 21 and will end June 28, 2021. We anticipate to have the Alumni Executives take over in July.

**Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.**

Public Comments

Hello,

How have you all been? Did anyone watch the annular solar eclipse earlier this month?

Let me now focus on the Public Comments.

(1) When are you going to reopen the Clara Dasher Center? All the student activities are held there. However, because of ongoing repairs, it is impossible to use the front entrance of the center.

(2) I see you have slowly filled vacant positions. Good job. What about getting more faculty? Because all the positions filled on the agenda are not faculty positions. And we do need tenured professors.

(3) You need a Marketing Department. Time was, first Marsha McCarthy, and then Yla Eason headed a department that dealt with marketing. One of its goals was attracting more students to Essex County College. Now, with the absence of a decent Marketing Department, our student numbers have decreased from 9000+ in 2013 to just under 5200 in 2021. I would advise having a Marketing Department, staffed by at least five people.

(4) You approved college funds for repairs, and that is wonderful. However, the signal reception in the Business Division is still poor. The same goes for right outside Lab 3404 on the third level. I would ask the Board to do two things. One, have Information and Technology investigate what causes poor signal connection. Two, allocate funds for fixing the problem.

That's it.

Have a nice summer vacation and keep in touch.

Lev Zilbermints  
Class of 1993

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I extend my sincere gratitude to the Board of Trustees, Interim President Dr. Boakye, the Business Division - for allowing me to work with our students since January 2015 and the entire Essex County College family. Thank you for the opportunity to transition into such a high-level role at Essex County College as we work diligently to collectively implement the mission of our college to provide the education and skills our students need to succeed.

I fully appreciate the time and effort spent by the interview committees to review my application and interview me. I expect to be engaged immediately with enrollment, retention, academic excellence and customer service that meets the needs of our students, staff and faculty.

Thank you.

Pavi Jalloh

**Dear Madame Chair, Board of Trustees, President Boakye, Faculty, Staff and members of the Essex County College community:**

First and foremost, it is with much gratitude and thanks that I accept my appointment as General Counsel of Essex County College. I am truly honored and humbled by your confidence in me to serve this long-standing institution as well as the whole ECC community.

For those who don't know me, my name is Christine Soto and I am a passionate education attorney with over 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. As a first-generation college student myself, I was taught at an early age that education and training was a pathway to success. My father, Jose Angel was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico and tried throughout his life to obtain a college education. While my father was not able to realize his dream to obtain a college degree, he was able to ensure that his 5 children all went to college – one went to a community college and the other four to different 4-year universities. My father's belief and commitment to learning impacted me greatly as it resulted in better outcomes for me, my family and our community.

With a deep-rooted appreciation for education and the possibility that it offers, I am eager to get started in my new role. I look forward to working closely and collaborating with President Boakye, his cabinet, faculty/staff and the Board in their collective mission to prepare ECC students to meet their potential by either furthering their education or beginning their careers. This is important work that I take seriously and pledge to do my best to provide the institution with the excellent legal services and guidance it deserves. I also look forward to becoming an active member of the ECC community by providing mentorship and promoting sponsorship of ECC's diverse and unique student body. My door is open so please stop by.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to serve. See everyone in July!

Christine A. Soto, Esq.