



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

April 18, 2023 – 4:30 PM

*A Hybrid Meeting*

*In Person (Smith Hall, 303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ) & via Zoom*

**In Attendance**

M. Bolden; I. Cruz; J. Grimes; L. Guyton (remote); B. Robinson (remote); J. Wright; J. Zarra (remote); A. Boakye, President; M. Townes, Board Counsel

**Excused**

A. Lewis; C. Morales

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Trustee Bolden, Chair of the Board of Trustees. A quorum of six Trustees present was announced. Trustee Guyton joined the meeting shortly after roll call.

**Open Public Meetings Act Announcement**

Trustee Grimes was called upon to read the Open Public Meetings Act. She read the following:

Advance written notice of this meeting was filed on January 6, 2023, 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. 2020 c. 11) and Board Policy 1-1. 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 March 21, 2023 meetings were moved for approval by Trustee Grimes and ***unanimously approved by acclamation.***

**Communications**

Trustee Grimes announced that there were no communications.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Ms. Congleton read the following comments on agenda items:

Good Afternoon Everyone:

I see in the April BOT packet item 3-1.20, which is a contract for a group to perform an "Independent Perkins Program Liquidation Audit". What is the purpose of the audit, how will it be carried out, and will it affect instructional delivery?

Best,

Jeff Lee  
Jeffrey N. Lee, Ph.D. (he/his/Mr.)  
Division of Biology, Chemistry, & Physics  
Essex County College

303 University Avenue  
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Good Afternoon, Board of Trustees, everyone,

Spring is here, and the end of the semester as well. It is already hot outside, with 60+ to 82 degrees Fahrenheit on some days. One can only imagine how hot this summer will be! Anyhow, here are my comments.

**(1) 3-1.11/4-2023:** Dining Partnership Group? This is the same group that last operated our Cafeteria. My question is, will students and faculty, administrators be allowed to get catering from outside if they do not like DPG prices? Point is, in capitalism you compare prices to get the best deal. And the student organizations get only so much money for their events. Hence, if DPG has high prices, the student organizations may not afford them. I would like to see DPG meet once a month with the Student Government to address Cafeteria-related concerns.

**(2) 3-1.26/4-2023:** Over a million dollars for change order for proposed parking structure at West Essex Campus? That's a pretty big amount to pay. But when you have more than \$50,000,000 to spend, a million is not that much. Still, a very big amount.

**(3) Retirements:** I am sad to see Ladylease White leave the school. She was a great asset to the students during the decades that she worked here. Sonia Rios Cardoso helped the students a lot as Assistant Director of the Registrar's Office. I would like to thank all of the retiring personnel for their dedicated work to the students and the community of Essex County College. Those resigning from ECC should also be thanked for their dedication and work at ECC.

Madam Chair, this concludes my Agenda Comments.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

### Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra advised that the Finance Committee met, reviewed all twenty-eight items presented; any questions concerning items were addressed by the administration. The Committee's recommendation is that the following items be approved by the Board:

3-1.1/4-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Service of the Gates in Parking Lots A & B at the Newark Campus Wanderlogic, Inc., Whippany, NJ Funded by Chapter XII Funds - Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$12,000.00
3-1.2/4-2023	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment Dell Insight Public Sector Johnston GP, Inc. College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 per year New Era Tech SHI Int'l CDW-G, Inc.

3-1.3/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Maintenance Renewal for Network Infrastructure Equipment</p> <p>Citrix Systems, Inc. EDUCAUSE  Regroup Mass Notification BMC Software, Inc.  Malwarebytes Corp. 1<sup>st</sup> Run Computer Serv.  F5 Networks, Inc. Helix Technology  ePlus Technology PTS Data Center  Apple Informatics dba: Wasp  Digicert Data443 Risk Mitigation  American Registry Internet- Numbers Sinewave, Inc.  (A.R.I.N) Square 9 SoftWorks  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 per year</p>
3-1.4/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for 93 Octane Unleaded Gasoline &amp; Diesel Fuel</p> <p>Allied Oil Company, Manville, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 per year</p>
3-1.5/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Miscellaneous Items for the Physical Plant</p> <p>Grainger, Inc., Palatine, IL  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$70,000.00 per year</p>
3-1.6/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for the Physical Education Building Locker Room Renovation</p> <p>Molba Construction, Little Ferry, NJ  Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$1,311,928.00</p>
3-1.7/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Electrical Supplies and Services</p> <p>Jewel Electric, LLC.  Keer Electrical Supply Co., Inc.  Pemberton Electrical Supply Co., LLC.  Franklin-Griffith, LLC  Greenbrook Electronics  Sal Electric Co., Inc,  NK Electrical LLC  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$37,000.00 per year</p>
3-1.8/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three (3) Year Contract for Industrial Uniforms Rental and Laundering Services</p> <p>American Wear, East Orange, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$23,376.60</p>
3-1.9/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Renewal Subscription for the MLK Jr. Library, and Membership Dues for FY 2023</p> <p>NJ Edge.Net, Inc., Newark, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Total amount not to exceed \$56,600.47</p>
3-1.10/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Renewal for Turnitin Software Products and Services</p> <p>Turnitin, LLC, Oakland, CA  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$52,307.99</p>

3-1.11/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Blanket Order for Dining Services for Three-Years  Dining Partnership Group (DPG), Verona, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$300,000.00  per year</p>
3-1.12/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Blanket Order for Bookstore Supplies  Follett Higher Education Corporation, Westchester, IL  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$37,000.00  per year</p>
3-1.13/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of an Additional Contract for Travel Agency Services  Gateway Travel, West Caldwell, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$60,000.00</p>
3-1.14/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Travel Agency Services  Gateway Travel, West Caldwell, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$120,000.00</p>
3-1.15/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Bus/Train Tickets  New Jersey Transit, Newark, NJ  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$37,000.00  per year</p>
3-1.16/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Institutional Supplies  Amazon.com LLC, New York, NY  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$37,000.00  per year</p>
3-1.17/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Phlebotomy Supplies  Pocket Nurse Enterprise, Inc., Monaca, PA  College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$37,000.00  per year</p>
3-1.18/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of an Additional Purchase for Testing Materials  Assessment Technology, Inc., Leawood, KS  College funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$9,750.00</p>
3-1.19/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Testing Materials  National Healthcareer Association  Assessment Technology Inc.  College Board / Accuplacer  College Funded – Operating Expense  Newark One Stop and PACE Grant (NJDOE) Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed  \$111,000.00  per year</p>

3-1.20/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for the Independent Perkins Program Liquidation Audit          PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Woodcliff Lake, NJ          College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed          \$17,000.00</p>
3-1.21/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for Removal, Installation, and Fabrication of College Signs          American Woodcarving, LLC, Wayne, NJ          Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$87,880.00</p>
3-1.22/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Translation &amp; Interpretation Services          Human Touch Translations, Manhasset, NY          Cal Interpreting &amp; Translations (CIT), Burbank, CA          College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed          \$100,000.00</p>
3-1.23/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Qualification for Architectural Services          Netta Architects, Mountainside, NJ          Arcari + Iovino, Little Ferry, NJ          H2M Architects &amp; Engineers Inc, Parsippany, NJ          DMR Architects, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ          Paulus, Sokolowski and Sartor Engineering, Warren, NJ          RSC Architects, Hackensack, NJ          Securing Our Children's Future Bond Grant Funded – Capital Expense</p>	
3-1.24/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for Professional Services          Netta Architects, Mountainside, NJ          Securing Our Children's Future Bond Grant Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$152,500.00</p>
3-1.25/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of an Additional Purchase of Furniture at the West Essex Campus          Business Furniture, Inc., Parsippany, NJ          Minor Capital Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$6,344.50</p>
3-1.26/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Change Order for Proposed Parking Structure at West Essex Campus          Dobco, Inc., Wayne, NJ          County of Essex Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$1,100,000.00</p>
3-1.27/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Additional Service of Water Lines at the West Essex Campus          Russo Contracting, Oakland, NJ          County of Essex Funded – Capital Expense</p>	<p>\$15,841.00</p>
3-1.28/4-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Five-Year Contract for Software Subscription of the Application Subscription Program (ASP)          Touchnet Information Systems, Lenexa, KS          College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed          \$65,123.00</p>

Trustee Wright moved the Finance items for approval. Trustee Grimes seconded her motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Personnel Committee Report**

Trustee Robinson indicated that the Personnel Committee met and recommended the approval of the following appointment, reappointments, retirements and resignations:

#### **Appointment**

4-1/4-2023 Pierre Azolin  
Security Officer, Public Safety  
Effective: April 23, 2023  
Salary \$31,200

#### **Reappointment Listing**

4-2/4-2023	Administrative:	27
	Administrative Confidential:	19
	Tenure Track Faculty:	19
	Non-Tenure Track Faculty:	8
	Professional:	114
	<u>Professional Confidential:</u>	<u>21</u>
	Total Employees:	208

#### **Retirements**

4-3/4-2023 Ladylease White  
Professor, Business  
Effective: August 31, 2023

Cynthia Lewis-Parson  
Benefits Manager, Human Resources  
Effective: June 30, 2023

Sonia Rios Cardoso  
Assistant Director, Registrar's Office  
Effective: June 30, 2023

Vincent Vega-Hall  
Police Officer, Public Safety  
Effective: June 30, 2023

Robert Broadnax  
Security Officer, Public Safety  
Effective: May 31, 2023

#### **Resignations**

4-4/4-2023 Jashawn Cherry  
Maintenance Technician, Facilities Management  
Effective: April 6, 2023

Jazlyn Johnson  
Office Assistant, Nursing and Health Sciences  
Effective: April 18, 2023

Trustee Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee Zarra provided the second. ***The actions were unanimously approved.***

### **Educational Programs Committee Report**

Trustee Robinson advised that the Committee met and recommends the approval of ten items. She asked first for approval on actions 7-1.1 through 7-1.3 and 7-1.5 through 7-1.10 as listed below:

7-1.1/4-2023	Approval of Agreement and Acceptance of Funds: Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey
7-1.2/4-2023	Acceptance of Additional Funds: New Jersey State Match Dollars
7-1.3/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Belleville Board of Education
7-1.5/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Irvington Public Schools Board of Education
7-1.6/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Newark Public Schools Board of Education
7-1.7/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Essex County Schools of Technology – Newark Technology, Donald Payne, and West Caldwell High Schools
7-1.8/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Orange Public Schools Board of Education
7-1.9/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: Peoples Preparatory Charter School District Board of Education
7-1.10/4-2023	Memorandum of Agreement: Essex County Department of Corrections Partnership

Trustee Zarra moved the actions for approval. Trustee Grimes seconded his motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Trustee Robinson, then asked for the approval of action 7-1.4:

7-1.4/4-2023	Dual Enrollment Program: East Orange Board of Education
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The action was moved by Trustee Zarra and seconded by Trustee Grimes. With a vote of six affirmed and one abstention, ***the motion carried.***

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

Trustee Guyton announced that the Committee had no action items to address and therefore did not meet. He stated that updates on various projects that are underway are forthcoming.

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

Trustee Cruz advised that there is no report as the Committee did not meet.

### **Community Relations Committee Report**

Trustee Wright reported that the Committee met, received information and engaged in discussion regarding the following items:

- The Foundation Board now has new leadership: Dr. Leila Sadeghi, Chair; Mr. Thomas McDermott (a former Trustee), Vice Chair; Mr. Patrick St. Fort, Treasurer. The Secretary position is vacant.
- The Hall of Fame for which planning will soon begin
- West Essex Campus: no opening date has been communicated

- Post Middle States Visit: the Committee heard from Dr. Boakye that the visiting team recommends the College's reaccreditation. Trustee Wright thanked everyone for the team effort which led to the team's determination that the College complies with all seven standards.
- The Committee talked about ECC @ 55, Juneteenth and a commemoration to Senator Rice.

### **Alumni Association Report**

Ms. Congleton announced that a report from the Alumni Association had not been submitted.

### **Student Government Association Report**

Mr. Zach Miller presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report which is attached at Appendix A.

### **Faculty Association Report**

Prof. J. Alexandre submitted the Faculty Association's extensive report which was read into the record of the meeting. The report is attached at Appendix B.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Boakye asked permission for a moment of silence in remembrance of Prof. Jim Johnson who worked for the College for fifty-four years as a counselor.

The President then shared information contained in his report (attached at Appendix C):

- He extended condolences, again, to the families of Senator Rice and to Prof. John Scott Drakulich, as well as to the family of Prof. Johnson.
- He expressed thanks to faculty members for the work they are doing as we near the end of the Spring semester.
- Registration is open for Summer I, Summer II and the Fall semesters
- Congratulations to the SGA President, Yadira Rosales, who was recognized at the Essex County Women's History Month Program by the County Executive.
- Students held their first "Students First Fest" which was well attended. The event was organized by Student Life and Activities.
- His meetings with the Student Government Association. He noted students concerns regarding the food in the cafeteria; the administration will work with them to address their concerns about pricing and quality. He expressed hope that cafeteria renovations will be completed soon.
- The President provided a synopsis of his meetings with alumni leadership, tenure track faculty and the events he attended, i.e., the Business Division's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Plan Competition and 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Literacy Conference.
- In reference to Dr. Lee's agenda comments on the Perkins Loan Liquidation issue, the President explained that it is a specific audit of students' Perkins loans from decades ago. The College is working with the Department of Education on this matter.
- Progress is moving forward at the West Essex Campus as are projects at the Newark Campus, such as Phase III of the gymnasium renovations.
- As listed in his report, the President shared his community engagements.
- The President announced that His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyenhene from Ghana would visit the College on Friday, April 21 and other upcoming events.

Dr. Boakye concluded his report with notice the the Middle States Visiting Team cleared the college with no follow-up. He stated that the college very proud and thankful for the team effort which demonstrated compliance with all seven standards.

Trustee Bolden thanked the President for his report.



## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Public Comments**

Ms. Congleton read public comments submitted by Lev Zilbermints:

Hello, everyone,

Here are my Public Comments.

**(1) Dr. Scott Drakulich and Dr. James Johnson** passed away recently. I knew them both. Fine men, very good at helping students. Dr. Johnson was my adviser at one time, back in the early 1990s. My question is, how are you going to honor them? I would propose setting up a Dr. James Johnson Memorial Scholarship and a Dr. Scott Drakulich Memorial Scholarship. This would be a good way to honor two very fine, outstanding members of the ECC community. What do you think?

**(2) I bring to your attention complaints about Cafeteria prices.** As you know, I have my sources. They say that the prices in the Cafeteria are higher than elsewhere. Students are not millionaires. They have only so much money to spend. For example, a bar of chocolate is \$2.50 in the Cafeteria, while elsewhere it is \$1.50. And that is just one example.

I would suggest having some sort of discount. Also, when Fall 2023 starts, make sure the Cafeteria is open for evening students.

**(3)** Given that Ladylease White has been working at ECC for 54 years, I would propose that you make her Professor Emeritus. That was what both Ned Wilson and Michael Frank were given, right? This would be similar.

Madam Chair, this completes my public comments.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93

Trustee Bolden thanked Mr. Zilbermints for his participation in meetings. She then commended the ECC Family for the great work on the Middle States Self Report. She stated that as professional in education, she was very proud of the document. She also reported that the Middle States team was so impressed with the College's Self Study that they recommended it be given to new trustees as a part of their onboarding process. She noted that the College is positioned to continue to move forward and become the best community college in the nation. Madame Chair also thanked the Trustees for their contributions and participation in the Middle States process.

Madame Chair expressed congratulations to the retirees; regarding Mr. Zilbermints comments to honor them, she stated that she was sure the College would do what is appropriate. She also expressed condolences to the family of Prof. James Johnson

## **Notice of Executive Session**

Trustee Grimes was called upon to read the Notice of Executive Session. She read as follows:

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 May 23, 2023 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.

Trustee Grimes asked for a motion to approve the notice. Trustee Cruz provided the motion, Trustee Robinson, the second. ***The motion carried.***

**Adjournment**

Trustee Bolden adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SPRING 2023 (APRIL) REPORT**

**Good afternoon to all Board of Trustees, Dr. Boakye, Faculty, and Administration.**

### **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT**

On the 29th of March, the SGA government president, Yadhira Rosales, held a panel discussion with Mamie Bridgeforth, Lily Carte, Kierra Williams and Leigh Bello. They all shared their experiences and struggles as women from different backgrounds.

### **HEADSHOT SESSION WITH SGA**

On the 30th of March, 2023 SGA officers hosted a free professional headshot session for students in conjunction with the career fair. Senator Kierra Williams and member Ethan Erfe took the photos while Zachary, Dami, and Rayaunna managed the attendees. Working with the MPT department and Professor Shawn Smith, we took photos of 27 students.

### **SGA CANDIDATE FORUM**

On the 4th of April, 2023, a virtual meeting was held with current SGA executives and candidates that are running for positions. We have a total of 10 candidates including those currently holding a position in the office. Almost all 11 of the positions have applicants, except for secretary and senators.

### **SGA MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, DR. BOAKYE**

On the 6th of April, 2023, we had a meeting with the President, Dean Kirkland and Mr Graham, where we discussed the further research on the topic of the cafeteria. The SGA conducted a research and study of surrounding cafeterias to compare several aspects including quality, quantity and price of food. During the meeting, we compared bagels from the college's cafeteria and the Court House (same vendor as the college's). It was concluded that a meeting with DPG will be scheduled to negotiate the prices, quantity, and quality prices that are provided to students at ECC.

### **ICC MEETING WITH OTHER CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS**

On the 13th of April, 2023, an ICC meeting was held with other clubs' representatives. A total of 12 clubs were present at this meeting. We discussed the Student First Fest that will be taking place on April 14th, 2023 and the preparation for this event. We also discussed ideas that will increase the visibility of the SGA around the school.

### **NJCCC MEETING**

On the 15th of April, 2023, SGA officers Zachary, Dami, Yadira, along with the Alumni attended the New Jersey County College Council meeting at Middlesex college. The conference was

about finding ways to make community college better. SGA networked with other county college representatives and attended leadership seminars.

### **SGA ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

We attended the student's first fest on April 14th and helped run several of the tables. We have planned an event for Sexual Assault Awareness Month of April, 2023 where people will be voicing out their experiences. We have approved 2 more club proposals. We hope to approve more proposals to satisfy the needs of clubs before the end of the Spring semester. Candidates partaking in the elections have been encouraged to make their campaign flyers.

### **INITIATIVES FOR THE REST OF APRIL AND ONWARD**

- Spring Update: April 18th
- Plant Sale: April 20th
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event: April 21st
- SGA Elections

We look forward to enacting our initiative and appreciate any support the board may give us.

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board  
Essex County College  
Student Government Association

## Essex County College

## ECCFA Report

April 18, 2023

Good evening members of Essex County College Board of Trustees (ECCBOT) and the college community!!

I am so sorry that I am not able to attend the ECCBOT meeting today. I must attend a training off-campus where the location is approximately 45 minutes away from the college. Rest assured that I am very committed to represent my peers, highlight their work with our students, their accomplishment, their devotion to the college and their worries.

- To begin the report, I would like to highlight that our faculty members continue to show dedication to students' success, love for the college and commitment to their personal, intellectual and academic growth by actively undertaken many activities such as field trips with students, seminars, workshops, conferences and the like.
- Before getting to the details of our esteem faculty members activities for this period, I would like to take the time to mention again that we are very sad by the passing of our beloved colleague Dr. Jim Johnson. Dr. Johnson had served the college for over five decades. We will miss him very dearly. A significant number of faculty members have attended the viewing or the funeral service to show our support to the family.
- Also, we are grieving with our colleague, Professor Tim Stafford who lost his son. ECCFA is strongly supporting him in this difficult time.
- ECCFA would like to thank Dr. Ladylease White for her service to the college for over 5 decades among others as an accounting professor, academic dean, director and founder of the Essex County College prestigious Honor's Program etc. etc. etc. Dr. White was an example for all of us. As she is moving to another phase of her life, we want her to know that she will always be part of this great ECC family and she will always be in our hearts.
- On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Dr. Nessie Hill has attended the 67th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) Conference at the UN in New York City. The event was to celebrate Women's History Month. The theme was, "Partnership in equipping women and girls with technological resilience, discernment, and protection from digital dangers."



- The ECC Faculty Association met on March 23, 2023 to discuss issues that are dear to the membership. All members had the opportunity to voice their concerns about working conditions, pay and the ECCFA Executive team and the like. As a result of this meeting, among other important actions, it was decided to hold new elections for the interim executives and the creation of a committee that will work on the consolidation of the past memorandum of understanding (MOUs) or memorandum of agreements (MOAs).
- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan participated in the EdgeCon 2023 Conference at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Many tech companies were present, and they discussed the evolution of digital learning and what is to come next. Online Program Management (OPM) was discussed in addition to how to ignite the classroom with lightning talks.



- Dr. Ladylease White has been a Board member on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) National Council of Black American Affairs, Northeast Region (NCBAA-NE) for over 19 years. She participated in the Annual Spring Conference on March 16-17, 2023 hosted by Capital Community College in Hartford CT. NCBAA -NE is a Council of American Association of Community Colleges and she represented NJ and our Essex County College which has hosted these conferences in past years.
- The Division of Nursing and Health Sciences organized the 2023 RN Program seniors had their Evidence-Based Poster presentation Monday, April 3 on the 2nd floor of Mega Bldg. from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This is the first poster presentation since the pandemic. This was a well-organized and well attended poster session



- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnan have attended the winter leadership conference in East Brunswick on the 31st of March and on the 1st of April. In the conference, it was discussed salary guides and what all members should know, although it was more tailored for K-12 educators. But the presenters explained that an NJEA member who does the county college salary guides can come and help us out with our contract if needed.
- The Business Division held the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Literacy Conference on April 12, 2023 from 10 AM to 5PM with the participation of 8 speakers, approximately 25 exhibitors, and the support of the college in general. The conference was a great success like the past years.
- ECCFA is very delighted to notice that the College Promotion Committee will start the interview process for those faculty members who have applied for promotion. It is our sincere hope that many of them will receive the well-deserved recognition for their hard work.
- Our faculty members are enthusiastically helping students finishing the semester and the academic year very strongly. They are helping students catching up with work and registering for their summer course.
- Many of the ECCFA members and executive officers have attended NJEA Higher Education Conference from Friday, April 14 to Sunday, April 16, 2023. Among other topics, it was discussed bargaining, contract enforcement and grievance Process, from griping to organizing, organizing for Local Power
- Lastly since the next Board of Trustees meeting will be after Mother's Day, ECCFA would like to wish all the mothers on the ECC Board of Trustees and all the mothers that part of the college family to have an amazing Mother's Day.
- Thank you kindly! End of Report

## Memorandum

**To:** Ms. Marion Bolden & Trustees  
**From:** Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College  
**Date:** April 18, 2023  
**Re:** President's Monthly Report

### General:

The College is thriving and keeping its mission alive.

The Middle States Accreditation full-team site visit was completed on Wednesday, March 22, 2023; and the preliminary team report confirmed ECC's historic victory of academic and operational excellence. The report indicated compliance with all 7 Middle States standards. We truly appreciate everyone for their endless support of this process.

### Academics/Enrollment/Student Support:

- ❖ The Spring 2023 semester is coming to an end. Faculty and students are working together in preparation for the final exams. Registration is now open for Summer I, Summer II and Fall 2023. Our staff and faculty are helping students register for these terms.
- ❖ Congratulations to Ms. Yadira Rosales, SGA President, who was recognized as Woman of the Year by the County Executive during Women's History Month on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
- ❖ The Office of Student Life and Activities organized a "*Student First Fest*" which brought all the student clubs together to network, share best practices, and have fun with games, food and music.

### **The President's March/April Engagements have included:**

- Meeting with the SGA and Student Life leaders to discuss important topics concerning students' support and future opportunities. A key topic was Cafeteria services and pricing.
- Meeting with the Alumni leadership to discuss their current activities and future initiatives.
- Meeting with tenure track faculty to learn about their ECC experiences and discuss best practices. I used the occasion to inspire the faculty to stay strong in their career at ECC and champion students' "retention to graduation" initiatives.
- Participating and supporting the Business Division's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Plan Competition.
- Leading Cabinet members to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Literacy Conference organized by the Business Division and attended by both the college family and the local community. Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries served as the keynote speaker.



### Finances:

The College continues to work on initiatives to bring funds to the College through grants and scholarships. The Finance Council met on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to discuss the Student Perkins Load Liquidation and plans for the next financial audit.

### Projects:

Capital projects at the College are progressing well and future projects are under review and discussion.

The renovation of the Newark campus cafeteria is ongoing and expected to be completed this summer. The West Essex campus construction project is on schedule to be completed in June 2023. Both the construction of the classroom block and the parking deck are progressing well. At the moment, the Parking Deck is over 90% complete. The soccer field construction will begin later in the summer. I have created a committee that includes Academic Affairs, Students Affairs, CCE & Workforce Development, Operations, and Institutional Advancement to oversee the reopening of the West Essex campus.

### Community Relations:

I continue to participate in all NJ Presidents Council Meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges/universities.

On March 24, 2023, I attended the Inauguration of President Deborah Preston of Mercer County Community College.

On March 28, 2023, the Foundation Board had its annual reorganization meeting and new executives were subsequently elected. Dr. Leila Sadeghi is now the *Chair*; Mr. Tom McDermott, the *Vice Chair* and Mr. Saint Patrick, the *Treasurer*. Congratulations to our new executives.

On March 29, 2023, I attended the Irish Heritage, which was organized by the County of Essex.

On March 30, 2023, Mr. A. Bundy and I had a meeting with Mayor D. Warren and Superintendent Gerald Fitzhugh II, from Orange township, to discuss ECC's academic and financial opportunities that the community can benefit from.

On April 4, 2023, I had a meeting with Dr. Bolden and Mr. Miguel Rodriguez to discuss Hispanic Americans and ECC partnership.

On March 25, 2023, ECC leadership including Trustee J. Grimes, Trustee C. Morales, some ECC administrators and I participated in the funeral of *Senator Ron Rice* which was held at the College's Cleo Hill, Sr. Physical Education building. On the same day, I joined the ECC faculty and staff to say *Goodbye* to *Professor Scott John Drakulich*, who passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Sadly, the College community attended another funeral in memory of *Dr. Jim Johnson* on April 3, 2023. Dr. Johnson passed away on April 1, 2023, after serving the College for 54 years.

**May their beloved souls rest in peace.**

### Acknowledgments:

The College Community thanks all its retirees for their many years of dedicated service. We wish them well.

[Save the dates - Upcoming Events.](#)

Special visit to ECC by His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyenhene of Ghana, at 11:30 am on April 21, 2023

ECC 2023 Scholarship Award Night on May 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

2023 Nursing (RN) Pinning on May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

BOT Retreat on May XX, 2023 at 9:00 am.

The 2023 Commencement is scheduled for **Friday, June 2, 2023** at the Prudential Center.

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