



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

June 20, 2023 – 4:30 PM

A Hybrid Meeting – In Person (Smith Hall, 303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ) & via Zoom

In Attendance

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

Excused

J. Grimes; C. Morales

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by the Chair, Trustee Bolden. Seven Trustees were in attendance which constituted a quorum for the meeting.

Open Public Meetings Act Announcement

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

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 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. 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 23, 2023 meetings were moved for approval by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Guyton. ***The motion carried.***

Communications

Trustee Cruz announced that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre, professor of Economics and Finance in the Business Division, inquired as to whether the salary listed on Board Action 4-8 was \$54,000 or \$45,000 as both were listed within the resolution. Ms. Conleton explained that the typographical error was identified after the distribution of the Board’s meeting materials. The error had been reported to Human Resources; the correct amount, \$54,000, was verified by the department and appeared correctly in two out of three references to salary within the Board action. Further, the salary was correctly listed on the meeting agenda and the error will be rectified on the approved Board Action.

He then shared the following with regard to other Board Actions on the agenda slated for approval by the Board of Trustees:

Comments related to 4-3/6-2023, 4-4/6-2023 appointments

I would like to welcome the following new professor below:

Pablo Ramos Silva, Assistant Professor – Chemistry Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and
Renita Mangru, Instructor – Vision Care Technology Nursing & Health Sciences

4-14/6-2023

I would like to congratulate Professor Michael Frank for achieving Professor Emeritus, Biology. I would like to thank him for his decades of service to the college and the faculty association.

Retirements

4-18/6-2023

On behalf of the ECCFA I would like to congratulate and thank:

First, Professor Martin Weissman, Associate Professor – Mathematics from Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences (METCS)

Second, Paul Tandoh, Assistant Professor – Paralegal Studies from social sciences

Third Lecturer Ike Azubuike from Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF)

The ECCFA wishes them a great transition to another stage of life.

Resignation (4-19/6-2023) and Supplements 4-15/6-2023

I have two questions regarding resignations and supplements

It is well known that we live in the time of the great resignation. My question is, does the college or Human Resources conduct an exit interview and analyze the results. Are we losing star employees because of better opportunities or lack of enthusiasm?

Also, I understand that people have to be paid. Is there a report mechanism in place that keeps track of the performance for those receiving the supplement, surplus?

Lev D. Zilbermintz, '93 came to the microphone to read the following agenda comments:

Hello Everyone,

Here are my Agenda Comments as usual.

- 1) I see various purchases for maintaining Essex County College and West Essex campus. Good job. Thank you for that.
- 2) Congratulations to the newly appointed personnel. I am sure that you will make ECC proud. Best of luck in your new careers at this school.
- 3) Congratulations to the newly promoted. Congratulations to Dr. Michael Frank, who is now Professor Emeritus. I have known Dr. Frank since 1991, when he and I spoke on behalf of Clara Dasher at the January 1991 Board of Trustees meeting. The result was that Clara Dasher was reinstated as chairwoman of the BOT, and Joseph Montuoro, who took over in November 1990, resigned.
- 4) Congratulations again to those who received Merit Awards and Supplements. Good job, everyone.
- 5) Those who are retiring, we wish you the best. You have served ECC loyally all these years. Thank you so much for everything you have done for ECC.

- 6) I see Michael Doughtie, Director of Athletics, Physical Education Building has resigned. Sad. Who will be the new Director? How about bringing back Gerald Holloway?

Madam Chair, this concludes my Agenda Comments. Thank you very much.

Trustee Bolden thanked Mr. Zilbermints for his comments. In response to the comment raised by Prof. Alexandre about resignations, she advised that the Trustees have expressed concern as well about the number of resignations; why individuals are leaving and ways to retain personnel.

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Zarra advised that the Finance Committee met, reviewed all twenty-three actions items, any questions were addressed by the administration or leadership team. The Committee's recommendation is that all twenty-three actions be considered for approval by the Board:

3-1.1/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Oracle Support Services Oracle America, Inc., Dallas, TX College Funded – Operating Expense	\$570,930.38
3-1.2/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Maintenance Support Ellucian Support, Inc., Chicago, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	\$292,011.00
3-1.3/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for License & Service Agreements for ERP Professional Services OculusIT LLC, Miami, FL NJ Educational Facilities Authority (NJEFA) Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$98,500.00
3-1.4/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Maintenance Services TouchNet Information Systems, Lenexa, KS College Funded – Operating Expense	\$25,945.00
3-1.5/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Renewal for Maintenance Services Evisions, Houston, TX College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$20,290.00
3-1.6/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Service for a Digital Sign at the West Essex Campus American Woodcarving, LLC, Wayne, NJ Minor Capital: Essex County Funded – Capital Expense	\$37,000.00
3-1.7/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Service for New Concrete Sidewalk at the West Essex Campus Russo Contracting, Inc., Oakland, NJ Minor Capital: Essex County Funded – Capital Expense	\$36,000.00
3-1.8/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Construction Service for New Pedestrian Sidewalks on Parking Lot B Nehme Brothers, Inc., Edgewater, NJ Chapter XII Funded – Capital Expense	\$13,500.00

3-1.9/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance and Repair Services for HVAC Equipment, Lighting Control, Siemens DDC Control Equipment Siemens Industry, Inc., Florham Park, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$216,080.00</p>
3-1.10/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Maintenance and Repair Services for Tecogen Chillers Tecogen, Inc., Waltham, MA College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$167,566.28</p>
3-1.11/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Sewer Line Preventive Maintenance Services A Speedy Sewer & Drain Service Corp, Bloomfield, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$74,800.00</p>
3-1.12/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Service Repairs of the Cooling Tower located at the Newark Campus Universal Electric Motor Service, Hackensack, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$9,732.00</p>
3-1.13/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of Three (3) Contracts for Science Lab Equipment for the West Essex Campus Carolina Biological, Burlington, NC School Specialty LLC, Greenville, WI VWR International, LLC, Rochester, NY Minor Capital – County of Essex – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$200,000.00</p>
3-1.14/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Contract for Bio-Chem Lab Supplies & Equipment Pasco Scientific, Roseville, CA Products Unlimited, Plano, TX Q Magnetics, LLC, Broomfield, CO VWR International, LLC, Rochester, NY Minor Capital – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$97,003.79</p>
3-1.15/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Three-Year Contract for Electronic Course Evaluation Software Platform SmartEvals, LLC, Cheektowaga, NY College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$34,460.00</p>
3-1.16/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Payment of Worker’s Compensation New Jersey Community College Insurance Pool, Skillman, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>\$215,000.00</p>
3-1.17/6-2023	<p>Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Renewal for Subscription Services DocuSign, San Francisco, CA College Funded – Operating Expense</p>	<p>Amount not to exceed \$65,000.00</p>

3-1.18/6-2023	Authorize the Payment for Insurance Policy Renewal IMAC Insurance Agency, LLC, Belleville, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00
3-1.19/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Subscription for West Proflex Thomson Reuters (West Law), Carol Stream, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	\$40,213.20
3-1.20/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a One-Year NJ State Contract to Nine (9) Vendors under the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Ironbound Supply, Inc., Newark, NJ Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co., Paterson, NJ GMH Associates of America, Trenton, NJ Longo Electrical Mechanical, Inc., Wharton, NJ RAM Industrial Services, LLC, Camp Hill, PA A&M Industrial Supply, Inc., Rahway, NJ Turtle & Hughes, Inc., Linden, NJ Frontline Industries, Inc., Irvington, NJ Universal Electric Motor, Hackensack, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$200,000.00
3-1.21/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Purchase of Copier and Printer Equipment for the West Essex Campus Kyocera Document Solutions, Fairfield, NJ Minor Capital: Essex County Funded – Capital Expense	\$49,879.90
3-1.22/6-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Delivery & Installation of an Infant Playground Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC NJ Stabilization Grant Funded – Capital Expense	\$24,532.95
3-2.1/6-2023	Member Participation: Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission	

Trustee Guyton moved the Finance items for approval. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson indicated that the following appointments, promotion, professor emeritus status, merit awards, supplements, retirements, and resignations were recommended for approval by the Personnel Committee:

Appointments

4-1/6-2023 Shunda Williams, Executive Director – Human Resources
 Human Resources
 Effective July 3, 2023
 Salary \$126,000

4-2/6-2023	Noushig Ohanian, Associate Director – Institutional Research Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Assessment Effective September 1, 2023 Salary \$68,000
4-3/6-2023	Pablo Ramos Silva, Assistant Professor – Chemistry Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Effective September 1, 2023 Salary \$64,841
4-4/6-2023	Renita Mangru, Instructor – Vision Care Technology Nursing & Health Sciences Effective August 30, 2023 Salary \$70,186
4-5/6-2023	Hossam Gharib, Manager – Learning Management System Online Learning Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$55,000
4-6/6-2023	Anne Pumfery, Laboratory Specialist Biology, Chemistry, & Physics Effective September 1, 2023 Salary \$45,000
4-7/6-2023	Shirley Rojas, Coordinator – Admissions and Call Center Enrollment Services Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$45,000
4-8/6-2023	Dallie Shell, EOF Advisor Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$54,000
4-9/6-2023	Wilkens Jean, Human Resources Representative Human Resources Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$45,000
4-10/6-2023	Carmen Crespo, Program Assistant- Dual Enrollment/Early College Readiness Pre-College Readiness Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$42,000
4-11/6-2023	Serrietta Johnson, Administrative Assistant Student Life and Activities Effective July 3, 2023 Salary \$39,500

4-12/6-2023 LeeAndrea Tello, Print Shop Operator
Print Shop
Effective July 3, 2023
Salary \$32,500

Promotion

4-13/6-2023 Khadija Boumehdi, Dispatcher
Public Safety
Effective July 3, 2023
Salary \$35,668

Professor Emeritus Status

4-14/6-2023 Faculty Emeritus
Michael Frank
Professor Emeritus, Biology
Effective June 1, 2023

Merit Awards

4-15/6-2023 Jamil Graham, Director
Student Life and Activities
Effective September 1, 2023
\$5,000 added to base salary

Ledawn Hall, Director
Learning Center
Effective September 1, 2023
\$5,000 added to base salary

4-16/6-2023 Blanca Filian, Administrative Assistant
Learning Center
Effective July 1, 2023
\$3,500 added to base salary

Robbyn Graham, Administrative Assistant
Nursing and Health Sciences
Effective July 1, 2023
\$3,500 added to base salary

Shanerah Green, Administrative Assistant
Student Affairs
Effective July 1, 2023
\$3,500 added to base salary

Stephan Kamenski, Supervisor
Print Shop
Effective July 1, 2023
\$3,500 added to base salary

Kenya Wilson, Assistant Director
Enrollment Services
Effective July 1, 2023
\$3,500 added to base salary

Supplements

4-17/6-2023

Karen Bridgett, Title IX Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Amount - \$5,000

Phyllis Walker, 504 Coordinator
Compliance
Effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Amount - \$5,000

Karen Bridgett, Acting Human Resources Director
Human Resources
Effective February 2023 – June 2023
Amount - \$3,000

Retirements

4-18/6-2023

Martin Weissman, Associate Professor – Mathematics
Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences (METCS)
Effective August 31, 2023

Paul Tandoh, Assistant Professor – Paralegal Studies
Social Sciences
Effective August 31, 2023

Ike Azubuike, Lecturer
Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF)
Effective August 31, 2023

Constance Smith, Dispatcher
Public Safety
Effective June 30, 2023

Resignations

4-19/6-2023

Michael Doughtie, Director – Athletics/Physical Education Building
Athletics – Student Activities
Effective June 9, 2023

Arios Jules, Network Engineer
Information Technology
Effective June 2, 2023

Yesenia Perez
Administrative Assistant, Registrar's Office
Effective June 23, 2023

Trustee Cruz moved the Personnel actions for approval. Trustee Wright provided the second. ***The motion carried.***

Trustee Robinson was then asked to present action 4-20 which was overlooked. She did so and asked for a motion to approve the action:

Consolidation of Collective Bargaining Agreement
4-20/6-2023 Administrative Association

Personnel action 4-20 was moved for approval by Trustee Cruz and seconded by Trustee Lewis. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis advised that the Committee met on the 12th of June and was prepared to recommend approval of the following seven items:

- 7-1.1/6-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Consolidated Adult Basic Skills and Integrated English Literary and Civics Education Grant
- 7-1.2/6-2023 Acceptance of Funds: EOF Grant
- 7-1.3/6-2023 Acceptance of Funds: Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)
- 7-1.4/6-2023 Academic Services Agreement: Rolai
- 7-1.5/6-2023 Dual Enrollment Program: Great Oaks Legacy Charter School Board of Trustees
- 7-1.6/6-2023 Partner Agreement: George Brown College Distant Education Agreement
- 7-1.7/6-2023 Memorandum of Agreement: CPS Training

Trustee Guyton moved the actions for approval. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Guyton announced that the Committee met and were apprised of the progress of the various ongoing projects. He commented that the committee had no action items to present.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz advised that the Committee met and recommended the approval of action 7-3.1:

- 7-3.1/6-2023 Revised Board Bylaws

The motion to approve was offered by Trustee Lewis. His motion was seconded by Trustee Wright and was ***approved unanimously.***

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright asked that Trustee Cruz make the report for the Committee. She reported that the committee met, had several discussions and had one item to bring to the Board for approval:

- 7-4.1/6-2023 Naming the Department of Public Safety

Trustee Wright moved the action for approval. Trustee Robinson provided the second. ***The action was unanimously approved.***

Alumni Association Report

Mr. Lev Zilbermints, Alumni Association Member at Large, read the report which is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Zach Miller presented the Student Government Association (SGA) Report which is attached at Appendix B. Madame Chair thanked Mr. Miller for a comprehensive report and commented that the SGA had a full agenda and delivered. She also wished Mr. Miller well as he moves on to a four-year institution.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. Alexandre read and elucidated the information provided in the Faculty Association Report which is attached at Appendix C. Madame Chair responded to the report by stating that it ,also, was comprehensive, and good to hear that faculty members are being recognized for the work they are doing.

President's Report

The President first addressed the comments made regarding resignations. He said that they are something we've all been concerned about. Meetings have been held with the Human Resources team to learn reasons for leaving as indicated in exit interviews. The two most prevalent reasons for resigning are salary and promotion, i.e., better positions. He shared that reviewing and assessing individuals work and offering stipends and supplements (when needed) are means by which we are attempting to retain employees. Dr. Boakye noted that the retention of employees is an ongoing discussion and an open conversation. He invited any suggestions and pointed to the promotion, supplements and merit awards included in the June personnel actions.

The President then shared some of the information contained in his written report (see Appendix D):

- The Summer I, 2023 semester is ending. Credit hours for the semester were 13,077 which is 3.0% higher than Summer I, 2022.
- The 54th commencement ceremony was held at the Prudential Center on June 2nd. There were 1,090 graduates which included 107 participants in the High School/Early College School Dual Enrollment program. NJ Senate Majority Leader, Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, served as the keynote speaker and received an honorary ECC degree recipient. Mayor Ras J. Baraka, our special guest speaker. The President offered special congratulations to Zachary Miller, a '23 graduate who will attend Cornell University in the Fall.
- The President thank Dr. Akil Khalfani for leading the Juneteenth events – a panel discussion led by Mr. Lawrence Hamm and Dr. Angela Garretson from NJIT on June 15th; and the annual Pan African DrumFest on June 17th.
- Dr. Boakye advised that he represents the College at all NJ Presidents Council meetings as well as all New Jersey Council of County Colleges meetings to advocate for the College.
- The President announced his attendance at Essex County's Memorial Day event; that the College hosted the Essex County Job Fair in the gymnasium of the Cleo Hill Jr., Physical Education Building; and that he met with Mayor Mike Venezia and leaders of Bloomfield High School to discuss the dual enrollment program and other partnerships.
- Regarding finances, Dr. Boakye reported that the College has successfully operated within its budget for the last two years. Credit Hours have increased from 142K in FY21 to 152K this year. Fall to fall retention is 10% higher – from 50% to 60%.
- The President stated that there has been great progress at the West Essex Campus. He offered thanks to Gov. Phil Murphy and Mr. Joseph DiVincenzo for their support. He acknowledged that Dean Seddiki goes to the site on a daily basis – sometimes three times to oversee the construction project.

- Regarding other infrastructure projects, the President noted that: 1) the third phase of the physical education building renovation is going well; 2) the cafeteria renovation and bookstore projects should be completed by the end of Summer; and, 3) work will begin in the near future on the Center for Technology renovations. Dr. Boakye commented that the College received \$4M from the Governor for the CFT renovation.
- The President advised that focus will be put on Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging this coming year. The initiative will seek to utilize resources to promote DEI&B and to involve everyone at every level.
- Dr. Boakye talked about his engagement with national level senators and congressional representatives, state, county and municipal officials as well as stakeholders to let them know about ECC. He commented that we are receiving good feedback as a result. He asked that everyone share the great news about ECC where ever they go.
- With regard to the College's reaccreditation, Dr. Boakye remarked that there has been no word yet, but the site visiting team gave the College a good report and he believes the Commission will make its decision based on that report; thereby the College would receive accreditation for the next eight years.
- Dr. Boakye then advised that the College would be closed 'next week' for the summer break and would observe summer hours in July and August.

The President thanked the retirees for their hard work, congratulated Prof. Frank on being granted the status of Professor Emeritus, and extended a warm welcome to new employees. He also expressed thanks to the students, faculty, staff, and alumni for a great year. The President then offered special thanks to members of the Board of Trustees for their work to keep us strong and moving forward. He concluded his report by wishing everyone an enjoyable summer.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Dr. Akil Khalfani, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Africa Institute spoke to the powerful, transformational, morale boosting events held to expose students mentally and physically to educational experiences on and off campus. Dr. Khalfani invited Trustees to visit the Africana Institute between June 21st and July 7th, 2023 to experience **Bound No More** - an Art Installation at the Africana Institute. The exhibit curated by Dr. Khalfani thanked Linda McDonald Carter for loaning a Sculpture and Shackles featured in the exhibit he described as an immersive and transformative experience.

Dr. Khalfani also informed Trustees that the Haitian Students Association students performed at the Pan African Drumfest held on June 17th and did a wonderful job. He noted that the Counsel General from Senegal and his wife came from New York to attend the event.

Ms. Linda McDonald Carter, Esq., Retired Professor – Paralegal Studies, informed Trustees of a few concerns related to the need to keep the library updated in case of a disaster or the grid going down. She emphasized that the library would be a source of vital information that would not be available electronically. Attached at Appendix E is an overview of the concerns expressed.

Mr. Lev D. Zilbermints, '93, shared concerns about the recent wildfires from Canada, the proposed changes to the Open Public records Act which would make it difficult to obtain information, etc. See his submitted comments at Appendix F.

Ms. Shunda Williams thanked the members of the Board for her appointment to the position of Executive Director of Human Resources. She expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve such a top-notch organization.

Ms. Noushig Ohanian from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Assessment expressed thanks to members of the Board, the President and her colleagues for this opportunity to serve as Associate Director. She said, "I look forward to continue doing my best at Essex County College".

In response to Dr. Khalfani's comments, Madame Chair advised that she has artifacts she can lend to the Africa Institute. She also offered congratulations to the new hires and noted that it was good to see Ms. Carter again.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Cruz was asked to read the Notice of Executive Session. She read as 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 19, 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 Cruz asked for a motion to open the Executive Session. Trustee Guyton provided the motion, Trustee Lewis, the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

Trustee Bolden offered, on behalf of the Board, congratulations to graduates and retirees and hope that everyone would have a wonderful summer break. She asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Cruz provided the motion. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:45 pm.

**Essex County College Alumni Association
Report to the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

Good Evening Madam Chair, Board Members and fellow ECC Community. My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, Alumni Association Member-at-Large. I am making this month's Alumni Report. Here is the update on behalf of the Executive Alumni Association Board.

- The Alumni Association attended the 54th ECC graduation on Friday June 2nd. We took part in the ceremony and carried the Alumni Association banner. Graduation is always an enjoyable event, and we always look forward to celebrating the current class's wonderful accomplishments.
- The 2021-2023 Executive Board held its last meeting on June 11. We discussed a few agenda items, addressed previously tabled topics and spoke about our upcoming general meeting. It was decided that the Constitutional Amendments, Student Handbook Amendments, Alumni Membership cards will be handed and handled by the next elected, 2023-2025 Executive Board members. The current Executive Board did unanimously agree and voted that the Student Handbook should have a more detailed mention about the Alumni Association.
- Alumni Association elections are underway. The election process officially opened on June 1st thru June 13th. An email was officially sent out to announce that elections were open to all alumni acknowledging that all positions were open and could be contested for. Shawn Yearwood currently serves as the Election Committee Chairperson.
- The Alumni general meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties on June 15th via Zoom. We have rescheduled the new General Meeting for June 29th at 6:30 pm. Please be on the lookout as we will be sending out an email shortly.
- The outgoing 2021-2023 Executive Board did a fine job of serving the Alumni Association. It brought the ECCAA back, organized visible events, and contacted students, faculty, administrators, and other alumni. The current board is made up of a dedicated group of alumni who proudly served the Essex County College Alumni Association and its alma mater.
- On behalf of the Board for 2021 - 2023 term, we have enjoyed our time serving the Alumni Association and hope that our reports during the Board of Trustees meetings

have been informative and helpful throughout our time in office, we want to thank the Board of Trustees for their support throughout our time in office. Lastly, we would like to wish the future elected executive members all the best.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 REPORT

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

It is with great pleasure that we share some of the significant achievements that we accomplished for this school year. A total of 5 events were sponsored by the SGA from July 2022 to June 2023. These events included Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, Thanksgiving Food Pantry Drive, SGA Holiday Show, Women History Month Event, and Headshot Session with SGA. We also gave out Nicki Minaj Concert Tickets to 2 Essex College students during the Fall 2022 semester.

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE MEETINGS

In September 2022, the Executive Board consistently met with Dr. Boakye, Dean Bello, Dean Kirkland, Mr. Graham as well as Mr. Ott to discuss funding for all active clubs to be able to conduct fundraisers and acquire supplies needed for their clubs in addition to addressing the student concerns. The SGA conducted a research and study of surrounding cafeterias to compare several aspects including quality, quantity and price of food. 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.

ASGA CONFERENCE OCT 7-9 2022

In October 2022, the Executive Board of the SGA, was escorted to Washington D.C. by Dean Bello to partake in the American Student Government Association Leadership Conference. During the conference, we all learned great skills to elevate our leadership skills to be more productive as an executive board. We are grateful for the experience and look forward to implementing what we learned during the conference.

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

In November 2022, the SGA, along with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Alumni Association, hosted a table in the second-floor forum where pamphlets containing information of the food pantry and available resources were provided. Over four boxes of dry goods were collected and set aside for the can drive.

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE FOR THANKSGIVING

We handed out meals for the Thanksgiving Food Pantry Drive in November 2022. Fifty bags of dry goods as well as twenty-four turkey meals were distributed to students. IMAC was generous in donating 8 complete baskets with turkeys and all of the essentials included. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Gaming and Anime Club, and the Alumni Association assisted SGA in distributing food to students.

FALL UPDATE / SPRING UPDATE

Zachary Miller, Laela Lawal, and Kate Bontia met with Mr. Ott and Dr. Leigh Bello in November 2022 to discuss future events and club goals such as the focus on enhancing the school's cafeteria. Zachary Miller, Oluwadamilola Ige, Laela Lawal recorded a Spring Update with Mr. Ott in April, 2023 where they discussed future events and club goals.

MEETING WITH SGA EXECUTIVE BOARD & SENATORS

SGA officers consistently held meetings to address new goals for the academic committee, including plans to streamline the process of class sections being canceled abruptly. We then discussed plans for the disbursement of the \$6,000 given to us as club money and reached a fair conclusion. We also met with the Inter Club Council (ICC) and discussed the concerns of the student body all through the school year.

SGA HOLIDAY SHOW

At the end of the Fall semester we hosted a holiday show for the school. We invited 7 clubs (Music, Cheer, Step and Dance, Essex TaeKwonDo, Gaming & Anime, Phi Theta Kappa, and African/Black Student Association) to participate with around 60 club members from all clubs together. It was a massive success with around 100 people attending. SGA additionally handed out several raffle prizes and prizes for answering holiday trivia.

VALENTINE'S BAKE SALE & PLANT SALE

The Student Government Association had a Valentine's fundraiser where we sold empanadas, pies and more in February, 2023. In April 2023, the SGA held a plant sale for Earth Day where plants and plant-based cookies were sold. The money earned from these fundraisers will be used to fund SGA events in the future.

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

In 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 & NEW LEADERSHIP

In April, 2023, a virtual meeting was held with current SGA executives and candidates that actively ran for positions. We have almost all 11 of the positions filled, except for 1 senator. The election results are as follows:

President: Yadhira Rosales

Vice President: Mark Anifowose

Secretary (Write-ins): Calvin Harris

Treasurer: Kamilly Berrospi

Senators:

Laela Lawal

Kaitochi Egeonu-Okoro

Rayauanna Benjamin

Ethan Erfe

Valentina Godoy

Elijah Whitaker

Congratulations to all new officers! You worked hard to be the next student leaders, and we thank you for caring about the student body of Essex.

NJCCC EVENT

In 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

- We established the Finance committee that consists of the treasurer and a senator. The Finance Committee is in charge of reviewing the club proposals with the help of club audits conducted by the senator of Non-Academic Affairs.
- SGA participated in the Middle States Town Hall for December and January. We represented the student body during the Middle States site visit.
- 8 clubs reached out to us for funds to improve and meet their needs. We approved a total of 14 club proposals this school year. We hope to approve more proposals to satisfy the needs of clubs in the future. We now have 28 active clubs on campus.
- SGA assisted The Offices of Student Affairs and Student Care Services with various food pantry distributions held in the Dasher Student Center. These events include: Tasty Tuesday, We Care Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and the Student Affairs Farmer's Market events. We helped distribute over 2 tons of food to Essex students at the Farmer's Market events.

POTENTIAL INITIATIVES FOR THE NEW BOARD

- E-Board Transition with Mr Ott
- Increased action of the Senate
- Civic engagement and duties for general members
- Establishment and addition of more committees in the SGA

SGA OUTGOING OFFICERS

SGA would like to thank & congratulate our outgoing officers, Kierra Williams, Dami Ige & Zachary Miller, on completing their Associate's degrees at Essex. Zachary will be attending Cornell University, Kierra will be attending Pillar College, and Dami will be attending Rutgers: New Brunswick University.

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
Faculty Association Report
June 20th Report

Dear members of Essex County College Board of Trustees

My Name is Jean-Wilner Alexandre economics and Finance Professor and Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.

- For the record, ECFFA would like to thank to the graduation committee for the excellent job done to make the 54th Annual Commencement Ceremony a great success. We commend you for the excellent work on the day.
- The majority of the faculty members participated in the 54th graduation exercise not only to fulfill their contract requirement but also to celebrate our students' most important day in their life.
- At the end of the graduation ceremony, the executive board of the Faculty Association invited the new faculty for lunch at the Don Pepe's restaurant. There were approximately 11 faculty members in attendance. The purpose of this luncheon was to welcome them, to share with them the benefits of joining the association and to listen to their expectation.
- On May 25th there was the "NJEA Grievance Training for Faculty" organized by ECCFA, Moderated by Professor Sean O'Connell to help faculty understand the difference between gripes and grievance.
- On June 1st ECCFA held its May meeting to discuss important issues related to the faculty members. We were updated on the progress related to contract consolidation.
- On Monday, June 5th, 2023, the Essex County College Faculty promotion committee held the interview for those faculty members that applied for promotion. The Faculty Association is very delighted there still be possibility for promotion.
- The College Curriculum Committee (CCC) reviewed approximately 200 proposals in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- The Society for Women Engineers (SWE) Club was reinstated in the spring 2023 semester with faculty advisors Ines Figueiras and Joseph Nitti.

Summer Activities

- There is a belief that faculty members have four months off if they do not teach summer courses. The truth is many of our faculty members stay very active during the summer month. For example:
- Prof. Nash attended a community meeting on June 3, 2023, at the Newark Public Library, sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) in preparation for the upcoming Black Heritage Trail and Revolution New Jersey Commemorative Activities, slated to be officially launched in 2026.
- Jean-Wilner Alexandre has attended FEMA Higher Ed Symposium that was held in Maryland on Monday June 5th and Tuesday June 6th 2023. There were close to 200 colleges and universities represented.
- Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the training on expanded Incident management that was held the Union County EMS and Fire Academy from Wednesday June 7th to Tuesday, June 13th 2023.
- Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre and Victor Stolberg are attending the School safety Seminar at the Essex County Complex that is taking place from Monday, June 19, 2023 to Friday June 23, 2023. The seminar is held in partnership between Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Union County Prosecutor's office.
- Professor Alexandre attended the Emergency Management Symposium held by the New Jersey Emergency Management Association at Monmouth University on June 14th 2023.

Victor Stolberg

- Professor Victor Stolberg has Completed "Comprehensive E-learning Course" for the U.N. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.
- He published a short piece this month titled "HIV/AIDS: Alarming numbers for New Jersey and Essex County." It appeared in the June 1, 2023 edition of Public Square Amplified (www.publicsq.org)
- He updated the Substance Abuse Bulletin Board, which is the last vestige, other myself perhaps, of our former Office of Substance Abuse Services.
- Dr. Akil Khalfani from the African Institute continues to provide great values to the college by holding excellent events to highlight the importance of historical events such Juneteenth, 8th Annual Pan African Drumfest, Fullbright Scholar program and the like.

- **Honors**

- The research paper written by Dr. Ahmed Farag Ali, PhD Assistant Professor of Physics on the cosmological constant problem has been recognized with an honorable mention in May 2023 by the Gravity Research Foundation. This esteemed organization, whose awards attract the interest of respected physicists worldwide, has kindly considered my proposal on resolving the cosmological constant problem.
- Dr. Chengwen Wang from Division of Mathematics, Engineering, Technology and Computer Science is being inducted as a member of SIGMA XI - The Scientific Research Honor Society which is the oldest and largest international association for multidisciplinary researchers in June 2023. A Virtual Induction Ceremony will be hosted in the association's International Headquarters in June 2023.
- On behalf of the ECCFA I would like thank you all for serving during the academic year 2023 and 2024. We wish you all to have a great summer
- End of Report

Memorandum

To: Dr. M. Bolden & Trustees

From: Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President, Essex County College

Date: June 20, 2023

Re: President's Monthly Report

General:

The mission and vision of ECC continue to guide our actions.

The implementation of our *Students First* strategic plan goals yielded positive results in FY23. Our Finances, Enrollment, Retention to Graduation and Infrastructural Development are all moving in the right direction.

While we wait for the final MSCHE report on our self-study, we are pleased with the exit report from the site visit team, which indicates that ECC appears to comply with all the Commission's 7 Standards.

Academics/Enrollment/Student Support:

- ❖ Summer I 2023 ends on Monday. Our students registered for 13,077 credit hours, which is 3.0% higher than Summer I, 2022.
- ❖ On June 2nd, we celebrated our 54th commencement ceremony at Prudential Center. Our 1,090 graduate and certificate recipients included 107 High School/Early College Scholars (Dual Enrollment). NJ Senate Majority Leader, Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, an ECC honorary degree recipient, served as our keynote speaker. The Honorable Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of the city of Newark, was our special guest.

The President's May/June Engagements have included:

- ❖ Meeting with the Foundation Board on Tuesday, June 6th.
- ❖ Meeting with key stakeholders to discuss Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) on Thursday, June 15th.
- ❖ Chairing our Juneteenth celebrations/reflections on June 15th with a panel discussion led by Mr. Lawrence Hamm and Dr. Angela Garrestson and on June 17th with Pan African DrumFest.

Finances:

The College continues to work on initiatives to bring funds through grants and auxiliary services while exploring ways to reduce expenses. Currently, we are working on our Title IV recertification application.

Projects:

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

We continue to make progress on the West Essex project. We are anticipating a ribbon cutting in August 2023. A special meeting with the General Contractor, DMD, was conducted on June 13th to discuss the final stages of the project.

The renovation of the cafeteria at the Newark campus is underway. The third phase of the Cleo Hill Jr., Physical Education Building in Newark is progressing well. Both projects are slated for completion this summer.

Community Relations:

I continue to participate in all NJ Presidents Council (NJPC) and NJ Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC) meetings to advocate for funds and contribute to the success of our state colleges/universities.

Council meetings in June have included:

- NJ President's Council Meeting at Rutgers University in New Brunswick on June 5th.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belongingness (DEIB) with NJCC President at ETS Chauncey - Princeton on June 9th.
- NJCCC meeting in Trenton with Trustee A. Lewis and Dean E. Vieira on June 12th.

On May 25, 2023, I attended Essex County's Memorial Day event.

On June 1, 2023, ECC hosted the Essex County Job Fair in the Cleo Hill Jr., Physical Education Building gymnasium.

On June 8, 2023, I had a meeting with Mayor Mike Venezia and leaders of Bloomfield High School to discuss dual enrollment programs and other partnerships.

Acknowledgments:

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

I also thank the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and wish everyone a peaceful Summer break.

Madam Chair, this ends my report. Thank you.



ECC's 54th Commencement – June 2, 2023 Photographed L-R Trustee Robinson; Trustee Cruz; Yulanda Spencer, Salutatorian; Dr. Boakye; Zachary Miller, Valedictorian; Trustee Bolden and Trustee Lewis.



Dr. Khalfani and Dr. Boakye at Essex County College's 8th Annual Pan African Drumfest and Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17, 2023

Linda's comments and presentation to the ECC Board of Trustees (last meeting)

Good Evening Everyone

I am here to express my concern about ECC's administration direction and efforts in converting the Library Commons to primarily online. While I understand the institutions concern with lower cost. This especially because the College no longer serves the 20,000 students that it did previously. This primarily over the last about 7-10 years due to the following: a.) in house political turmoil at the top administrative level and subsequent threat to the college's accreditation made known to the public; b.) Rutgers, Seton Hall, Berkley's and Elizabeth College - among other colleges and universities - have engaged in a purposeful effort to intercept and recruit students at the high school level who would normally enroll in ECC then perhaps transfer to one of these colleges. That has had a major impact on enrollment even before the impact of CO-Vid-19.

My concern with converting the ECC Library Commons is not only because ECC is a public college located in proximity to several housing units – 800 alone located directly across the street in located in Society Hill. I have heard military survivor specialist in the areas of catastrophes, crisis, disaster, and emergency state that in the event of these types of challenge, say for instance in the event of the collapse of the electric grid (which is quite possible due to the condition of this country's infrastructure) or perhaps a major tornado that results in community panic will probably make it difficult to navigate or negotiate through an urban city. Hence, they recommend that people make their way to the closest public library. In our case ECC. Then use the Dewey Decimal system to locate the Blueprint for Sewer System, as a way to get around and maneuver through the city. Consequently, should the electric grid become inoperable there must be backup hard copies of certain parts of the collection available to the public. Google and other social media platforms will not be available and cannot always be relied upon.

Further, I would add and recommend that ECC, due to its central location in the city of Newark engage in some level of leadership for the staff and surrounding communities in the area of emergency preparedness. This with the focus on the 9 pillars of Emergency Preparedness should know to reduce and/or avoid community panic in the event of a major catastrophe, crisis, disaster, and emergency – environmental or manmade that will supplement the gameplan of the different levels of government and the Red Cross and help the individuals and families thrive in the mist:

- Water/Food
- Communications
- Defense (Women, Children & Elders)
- Medical & Hygiene Supplies
- Shelter
- Liquid Assets/Dollars
- Energy/Power
- Books & Education for Adolescents & Children
- Transportation

Lastly, in light of the staff, employee/ management challenges that the President has raised, in my capacity as ECC's first attorney and now certified mediator I would strongly recommend and suggest that ECC retain a mediator to encourage all the parties at all levels to engage in creating solutions to address any employee/ management conflicts and challenges rather than engaging in the adversarial systems and high cost of arbitration and litigation. These two methods in effect are of major cost and expense that will be borne by students in their tuition, city and county taxpayers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hello, everyone,

Recently we had some bad air because of wildfires from Canada. That passed on June 7-8, and everyone is okay. I think we need to be diligent here and keep our eyes open.

The New Jersey legislature has come up with bills that would gut the Open Public Records Act as we know it. It would make it harder to obtain necessary information. This was reported yesterday on NJ Spotlight.com . The report was over 7 minutes long, which is unusual by media standards. I urge everyone here to contact their elected legislators and demand that the bills targeting OPRA not be passed. Let me put it this way. Suppose ECC needs to get information under OPRA. In this scenario, ECC does not get the information because OPRA is not what it was.

Someone put up a sign saying ECC is the only PBI and Hispanic college in New Jersey. Well, that is not good research. I know for a fact that Bloomfield College, of which I am an alumnus, has the same designation. How many other schools have such a designation? All I am saying is that when claiming that ECC is the only one with such designation, due diligence should be done. Only after research has validated such an assertion, can the claim be made.

One more thing. Whatever happened to the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees?

Have a happy summer, everyone.

See you in September.

Lev D. Zilbermints, '93