



Essex County College
Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2023 – 4:30 PM

Essex County College – Main Campus - Smith Hall

In Attendance

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

Excused:

C. Morales; J. Zarra

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by the Chair, Trustee Bolden. Seven trustees responded to roll call which constituted a quorum for the meeting.

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 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

Trustee Bolden asked for a motion to approve minutes of the September 19, 2023 meetings. Trustee Grimes provided the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Robinson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Communications

Trustee Grimes advised that there were no communications.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Lev Zilbermints, Class of 1993, came forward and made comments regarding agenda items:

3-1.2/10 through 3-1.16/10 – 2023: Thank you for buying supplies and relevant necessities for the West Essex Campus. West Essex Campus, being new, needs all the supplies and renovations it can get.

4-1/10 – 2023 through 4-11/10-2023: I would like to wish the best of luck to those who have been appointed to their positions. Those who are retiring and resigning, I wish you the best in your future. You will be remembered by the ECC community for the good work you did here.

4-16/9-2023: Really, I am not sure what the situation is between Dr. Gage and the Board. Generally speaking, if Dr. Gage is doing a good job in her present post, why the return to academic rank? Some of the department chairs in this school have been hired from elsewhere because no one wanted the job. We all know this happened in the recent post.

Who is going to do what Dr. Gage is doing if she returns to academic rank? Just asking. That is me being objective. Oh yeah, for the 55th anniversary you want everything to be picture-perfect, right?

Finance Committee Report

Trustee Lewis reported that the Finance Committee met on Monday (October 16th) and wished to move the following board actions, 3-1.1 through 3-1.16/10-2023, for approval:

3-1.1/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Furniture Business Furniture, Inc., Elizabeth, NJ Minor Capital Funded – Capital Expense	\$47,231.10
3-1.2/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Furniture at the West Essex Campus MityLite, Inc., Dallas, TX Minor Capital Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.3/10-2023	Authorize the Award of Additional Terminals for Educational License Subscriptions Bloomberg Finance L.P., New York, NY Perkins Grant Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$300,000.00
3-1.4/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Nursing Program and License Assessment Technology Institute, LLC, Leawood, KS Perkins Grant Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$231,071.25
3-1.5/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Consulting Services Susan K. Perkins, Skillman, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$20,000.00
3-1.6/10-2023	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for License and Service Agreements for Remote Banner Services and ERP Professional Services OculusIT, LLC, Miami, FL New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority and College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to Exceed \$120,000.00
3-1.7/10-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Change Order for the Installation of a Fence at the West Essex Campus Solanos Fence, Nutley, NJ Minor Capital – State of New Jersey Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00

3-1.8/10-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Service for a Digital Sign at the WEC Campus American Woodcarving, LLC., Wayne, NJ County of Essex Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.9/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Two-Year Blanket Order for Books for College Students NCS Pearson, Inc., Chicago, IL College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00 per year
3-1.10/10-2023	Authorize the Award of an Additional Two-Year Blanket Order for Miscellaneous Items for the College Grainger, Inc., Palatine, IL College Funded – Operating Expenses	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year
3-1.11/10-2023	Authorize the Award of Additional 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 \$200,000.00 per year
3-1.12/10-2023	Authorize the Award of Additional Two-Year Blanket Orders for Computer Supplies Dell CDW-G Staples College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 per year
3-1.13/10-2023	Authorize the Award of Two-Year Blanket Orders for Bio-Chem Lab Supplies/Equipment Carolina Biological School Specialty, LLC College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 per year
3-1.14/10-2023	Authorize an Additional Increase for Legal Services Carmagnola & Ritardi, LLC., Morristown, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$75,000.00
3-1.15/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Purchase for Waste Receptacles for the West Essex Campus Foremost Enterprises, Inc., Bloomfield, NJ State of New Jersey Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00
3-1.16/10-2023	Authorize the Award of a Contract for Floor Maintenance Cleaning Service at the West Essex Campus Crystal Clear Cleaning, Hillside, NJ College Funded – Operating Expense	Amount not to exceed \$41,600.00

The Finance actions were moved for approval by Trustee Wright. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Cruz.
The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Trustee Robinson presented the appointments, retirement, resignations and termination and the Faculty Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement, as listed below, for the Board's approval:

Appointments

4-1/10-2023	Michael Cresci, Associate Director Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Effective October 25, 2023 Salary \$75,000.00
4-2/10-2023	Victor Eromosele, Lecturer B – Radiography Nursing and Health Sciences Effective October 25, 2023 Salary \$58,728.00
4-3/10-2023	Angela Akwaah, Educational Opportunity Fund Advisor Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Effective October 25, 2023 Salary \$54,000.00
4-4/10-2023	Alexa Kirkpatrick, Research Coordinator Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Assessment Effective October 30, 2023 Salary \$50,000.00
4-5/10-2023	Julissa Bravo, Student Services Specialist Financial Aid Effective October 30, 2023 Salary \$35,900.00
4-6/10-2023	Fatoumata Diallo, Student Services Specialist Financial Aid Effective October 30, 2023 Salary \$35,900.00
4-7/10-2023	Al-Quiteer Richards, EOF Student Support Assistant Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Effective October 25, 2023 Salary \$35,900.00 (Grant funded)
4-8/10-2023	Marilyn Tello, Administrative Assistant Facilities Management Effective October 25, 2023 Salary \$54,762.98
4-9/10-2023	Imani Causey, Security Officer Public Safety Effective October 29, 2023 Salary \$31,200.00

Retirement

4-10/10-2023 Lewis Crawford, Student Center Attendant
Student Activities
Effective November 30, 2023

Resignations

4-11/10-2023 Stephanie St. Clair, EOF Advisor
Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)
Effective October 20, 2023

Venus Savery, Human Resources Generalist
Human Resources
Effective October 11, 2023

Katherine Cando, Testing Center Representative
Testing Center
Effective October 6, 2023

Termination

4-12/10-2023 Pierre Azolin, Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective August 26, 2023

Collective Bargaining Agreement

4-13/10-2023 Faculty Association

Trustee Wright presented the motion to approve the aforementioned personnel actions. Trustee Grimes seconded the motion. ***The motion was unanimously approved.***

Referencing board action 4-16/9-2023 which was tabled in September, Trustee Robinson asked for a motion to lift the action from the table. Trustee Guyton made the motion. Trustee Lewis provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Trustee Robinson then asked for a motion to adopt the following motion:

Return to Academic Rank (Tabled – September 19, 2023)

4-16/9-2023 Gale Gage, Professor – Nursing
Nursing and Health Sciences Division
Effective September 1, 2023
Salary \$118,998.54

The action was moved for adoption by Trustee Cruz and seconded by Trustee Lewis. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Educational Programs Committee Report

Trustee Lewis advised that the Educational Programs Committee met the previous week and wished to present the following four actions for approval:

- 7-1.1/10-2023 Acceptance of Funds: New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Award (Year 2)
- 7-1.2/10-2023 Membership: Cisco Academy
- 7-1.3/10-2023 Approval of Agreement and Acceptance of Funds – Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey
- 7-1.4/10-1023 Memorandum of Agreement: New Jersey Department of Education – GED Testing

Trustee Wright moved the actions for approval. Trustee Robinson seconded the motion. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Site Facilities and Equipment Committee Report

Trustee Guyton announced that no action items were presented for this committee’s attention, therefore the committee did not meet.

Policy and Governance Committee Report

Trustee Cruz stated that this Committee had no items to move forward, did not meet, and had no report.

Community Relations Committee Report

Trustee Wright advised that the Committee met and talked about or discussed the following matters: 1) The opening of the West Essex Campus – a wonderful event; 2) the Golf and Tennis Scholarship Tournament – she commended Drs. Bello, Kirkland and team on the fundraiser; 3) the Hall of Fame – looking to install the inaugural class in June 2024. The bylaws and nomination process are in place; 4) Essex County College at 55 – she shared excitement about celebrating this milestone; 5) Foundation Board – Trustee Wright expressed thanks for the contributions of Dr. Leila Sadeghi, Chair of the Foundation Board and her team for the contributions they made to the golf tournament.

In her closing statement, Trustee Wright thanked everyone for their participation in the golf and tennis fundraiser.

Alumni Association Report

Mr. Lev Zilbermintz, Treasurer of the Essex County College Alumni Association, presented the report which is attached at Appendix A.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report

Mark Anifowose, Vice President, and Calvin Harris, Acting Secretary of the SGA came forward and introduced themselves to the Board. Mr. Anifowose read the report (see Appendix B) submitted by the SGA Executive Board.

Faculty Association Report

Prof. Alexandre began his report with thanks to two committees: the Golf and Tennis Committee for the great work they do and Dean Vieira and her team for the great job they did on the West Essex Campus ribbon cutting. He commented that the events were well executed and well planned. Thanks were also expressed to

the Board of Trustees for their approval of the consolidated Faculty Association Collective Bargaining agreement. Prof. Alexandre also offered thanks to Dr. Boakye for being accessible and listening to faculty members. As a result of a faculty concern, the pathway from the faculty parking lot, which was dangerous, has been addressed. He continued with his report and lifted the following items:

- Prof. Alexandre offered thanks to the Nursing Program and Dr. Gage on the pass rate of the RN students, at 83%, and of the LPN students, at 100%. Dr. Gage spoke up to advise that the RN pass rate is, in fact, higher than 83%. He commended the Nursing staff of the job they do to prepare students for the exams.
- Prof. Alexandre commended the administration for meeting with professors to advise expectations and requirements with regard to promotions.
- Faculty have engaged in recruiting students for the West Caldwell campus.
- Dr. Sujatha Ramakrishnam participated in the STEM Summit held at the Raritan Valley Community College.
- Faculty supported the Breast Cancer Month campaign and also marched, along with students, at various awareness events.
- Faculty participated in the Golf and Tennis Scholarship Tournament fundraiser.
- The Nursing department, with the leadership of Prof. Natalie, had a fundraiser to offset the cost of their pinning ceremony.
- Dr. Khalfani continues to make the College proud by hosting nice events on campus such as the 11th Annual State of Black Writer's Symposium held on October 17th.
- Prof. Alexandre represented the Faculty Association at County and State meetings, i.e., State of the Legislative Action Team, where he met candidates running for office. He stated that the Faculty Association only supports candidates who support education.
- Prof. Alexandre announced that he attended the Jim George Collective Bargaining Summit – a two-day conference to prepare for upcoming negotiations. He said he hopes the Faculty Association contract will be finalized by August 2024 when the current contract expires.

Trustee Bolden expressed appreciation for all of the reports; she said they give trustees a picture of what's going on at the College. Prof. Alexandre later submitted his written report which is attached at Appendix C

President's Report

Dr. Boakye began his report with thanks to the Board and college community for their support. He noted that the West Essex Campus is open and classes are being held there. He also advised that the soccer field and other areas of the campus are open for community use.

The President provided information and or updates on the following:

- Fall Enrollment – Credit hours are up by .7% and headcount by 3.7%, compared to last year. Additionally, the number of new students received this semester is similar to the number received in 2019, pre-Covid.
- Dr. Boakye and Dr. Williams met with faculty members interested in putting in applications for promotion to discuss what it takes to apply for a promotion and what is required.
- The Foundation Board is doing an excellent job. The President met with them for their quarterly meeting.
- Trustees Grimes, Robinson, Wright and the President represented the College at the ACCT Leadership Congress held in Las Vegas.
- The President attended the inauguration of Dr. Pamela Monaco, the fifth and first female President of Ocean County College.
- Dr. Boakye continues to meet with student groups. Last week (October 17th) he met with the PTK Executive Board.

- Another successful College Council townhall was held (October 19th) to share the current state of the College and to announce preparation to build the 2024-2029 strategic plan. Following the meeting, Dr. Yamba, our President Emeritus, addressed the college community with reflections about the history of the College and some things we should do to preserve the legacy of this institution.
- The College's FY23 financial audit is underway. Dr. Boakye expressed hope that we will be able to complete the audit by the end of December and submit the necessary reports.
- Work on infrastructure projects in the cafeteria and the physical education building continue and should be complete within the next few weeks.
- Trustee Bolden was honored by the Newark Chapter of the NAACP with the Education Award on September 30th.
- The College was represented at the Annual Caldwell Fair by Dean Vieira and team. Participation in the fair helps to promote the College.
- ECC hosted six county colleges to launch the Tepper Foundation Grant initiative, "Community to Opportunity". The College will receive \$80,000 from the grant to provide student care.
- The President offered thanks to everyone who supported the Golf and Tennis Scholarship Fundraiser, especially to the new Foundation Board leadership for their efforts to support our students.
- Dr. Boakye and Mr. Bundy met with the mayor of East Orange, Ted Green. Mayor Green expressed thanks to the College for opening its doors to accommodate youth in the City's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) last July. The President noted that many students said they were so happy to be on ECC's campus and indicated that they like the College. Mayor Green and the City stand ready to partner with the College in our Dual Enrollment Program.
- Preparations are being made to enter into negotiations with the Collective Bargaining Units to ensure there is no lapse in the contracts.

The President announced that input will be sought for the Strategic Plan. He concluded his report with that and thanks to the Board of Trustees.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Dr. Gale Gage came forward and stated that she was gravely disappointed in the Board decision on her action to return to faculty and salary reduction; but, thanked the Board for their kind consideration of the matter.

Mr. Lev D. Zilbermints then came forward to make the public comments which follow:

- 1) Good to see that you are starting off the 55th anniversary celebration. I would propose you get everyone involved in this. Make the biggest hoopla, one that will attract attention from all over the world. This, of course, means more students for Essex County College.
- 2) The events in the Middle East have everyone paying attention. I myself have distant relatives in Israel. They are descendants of my great-great-grandfather's youngest brother. Our common ancestors, 3x – great – grandparents, had three sons. I am descended from the oldest, while the Israelis are descended from the youngest. Point is, we need to keep in mind how the ECC community could be affected by what is happening in the Middle East. Back during Desert Storm, in 1990-91, we had meetings between clubs, administration, in the President's office with Dr. Yamba. I was there, in January 1991. Question is, should we have a discussion or a symposium about the Middle East?
- 3) I had a fun time attending the Golf and Tennis Scholarship Tournament. Thank you very much everyone.

- 4) Bathrooms in the Nursing building do not have automatic door openers. So, if someone is disabled or on crutches, or uses a wheelchair, they are at a great disadvantage. So, I would submit that the physically challenged coordinator, Maria Mercado, and whoever's in charge of that, make sure that the rest rooms in the Nursing building on the first and second floors have automatic door openers – because right now, you come in, you have to use the knob. If you're in a wheelchair or on crutches, you're at a great disadvantage and that's the point I'm making.

Mr. Zilbermints closed his comments with a thank you to Dr. Gage for her service to Essex County College and a note that he was sorry the Board did not take her side.

Dr. Boakye responded to Mr. Zilbermints concern about the events in the Middle East, stating that it was discussed during the College Council townhall; also, that there are wars and conflicts in other parts of the world as well. He acknowledged that many people, here at the College, know individuals or have family or friends affected by these events; therefore, the President sent an email communication to the College Community advising that students needing support should reach out to the Office of Student Development and Counselling, and employees to Human Resources for assistance. He stated that we are here to support one another and we all pray for peace.

Notice of Executive Session

Trustee Grimes was asked to read the Notice of Executive Session 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 November 21, 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 hold the Executive Session. Trustee Wright made the motion. Trustee Robinson provided the second. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

Trustee Bolden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cruz moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned, by acclamation, at 5:20 pm.

**Essex County College Alumni Association
Board of Trustees Report
October 2023**

- ❖ Good evening board members & fellow ECC Alumni,
- ❖ My name is Lev D. Zilbermints, Class of 1993. and I am the ECCAA Treasurer. It is my pleasure to be here this evening and provide an update on behalf of the Executive Alumni Association.
- ❖ On Tuesday, September 12th and Wednesday, September 13th, the Alumni Association was present at the Fall 2023 Club Fair on campus. Berth, Lev, Shania, Daniel, Judith, and Yulanda worked together to set up the Alumni table to encourage current students to consider joining the Alumni Association once they graduate.
- ❖ Daniel Kuraguntla, our Corresponding Secretary was present at the ribbon cutting at the new West Essex Campus on Friday, September 29th.
- ❖ Yulanda Spencer, our President was interviewed by Wayne Yourstore on Wednesday, October 11th via phone. She discussed her plans and goals for the ECCAA 2023- 2025 term year.
- ❖ The Alumni Association purchased three dinner tickets for the “Golf and Tennis Scholarship Tournament” on Monday, October 16th. Berth and Lev attended.
- ❖ Lev:

We have serious problems with vending machines. Bertheleau Ngakam and I were witnesses to an incident two weeks ago. It was the vending machine in the Blue Area, by the Women's restroom. A student put in two dollars to purchase a drink. The machine took the money and did not dispense the drink. Since the school does not give out refunds, we told the student to call the number of the company which was posted on the vending machine.

In the Cafeteria, the spring in the vending machine sometimes does not work properly. This results in the purchased product being pushed, but not fully coming out. The only solution is to do what we often did at Rutgers-Newark in my days there: shake the machine. Then the purchased product comes out.

Consider the fact that we have thousands of people in this college using these vending machines. I submit, that these vending machines need to be serviced better. You know what I hear? Take it to the Student Government. Well, this is a college-wide problem, not just students alone. Professors, students, alumni, staff, all use these vending machines. I believe that when college-wide problems arise, alumni should meet with the Student Government and other relevant parties to jointly figure out ways to fix these problems.
- ❖ Currently, the Alumni Executive Board/ Association is working to achieve the following:

- A list of five donors each for “Giving Tuesdays” in November.
 - Filling the “Alumni Liaison” position.
 - Contacting inactive board members who have not been present at any of the meetings.
- ❖ To conclude, the new board members are excited to serve but we must first continue to familiarize ourselves with the bylaws, the committees, and our position’s responsibilities.
- ❖ Thank you.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FALL 2023 (OCTOBER) REPORT

Good afternoon to the Board of Trustee Members, Dr. Boakye, Faculty, and Administration.

My name is Mark Anifowose. I am the current Vice President of the Student Government Association. I will be reading the October BOT report for SGA this evening.

STUDENT FORUM

Our monthly student forum was conducted on September 26, 2023 at 1:00pm in the Cafeteria Pit. Dean Kirkland, Dean Bello, and executive board members of SGA attended the forum. The Forum gives our students an opportunity to voice their concerns and make suggestions to improve our campus experience. Our plans to have a hygiene drive, mental health awareness, and clothing drive were announced during our student forum.

E-BOARD / GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

The Executive board meeting for last month was held on September 28, 2023. All executive members and senators were present at the meeting. Discussions were held about improving overall communication with SGA members and forming a group calendar to keep track of attendance for upcoming events. New members were introduced to the responsibilities of being an SGA member, Students were engaged and asking questions of the clubs and enjoying the day. As a result, each club had new members sign up to be a part of the Student Club community.

ICC MEETING WITH OTHER CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

We conducted an ICC meeting with the other clubs on the 13th of October 2023. A total of 15 clubs attended the meeting. All clubs that attended requested an official club email to keep track of requests, events, and other festivities. Taekwondo has made plans to host a potential book sale. Vice President, Mark Anifowose, informed the clubs on ways to improve turnout in bake sales. Game/Anime club proposed to support the Hygiene Drive by donating hygiene products and handing out the products to those in need; along with hosting a Halloween Festival on the 31st of this month.

ASGA DC CONFERENCE

The ASGA conference was held in Washington, DC this year and discussed the importance of being aware of your school constitution, as it helps determine what goals are achievable and what goals will require more work among other important topics. They gave insight about the idea of comradery among your peers, being a team player, and ability to make sacrifices for the current goal. Conversing with members of SGA from other colleges, gave us ideas on how to reach our students in a professional, more informative manner. Trying to have a more direct approach to students about surveys and that they should at least last 10 minutes doing so. Utilizing social media to better inform students about upcoming events, event highlights, and more detailed descriptions of important locations on campus. Lastly, ideas on getting acquainted with students by having a sit-down breakfast. We would like to thank Mr. Ott as the Advisor of SGA for everything he did on the trip to build the team. We would also like to thank Student Affairs and the college's administration for the opportunity to attend the ASGA National Leadership Summit.

MEETING WITH OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Associate Dean, Dr. Leigh Bello, called a meeting with all members of the SGA on October 11, 2023. The goal of this meeting was to review past events, our performance in those events and how we could improve upon working as a team. It was also a reminder to stay business oriented and respectful without making the matter personal. The latter half of the meeting focused on creating an agenda to have a more efficient work ethic.

INITIATIVES FOR THE REST OF OCTOBER AND ONWARD

- Student forums: October 24th, and November 28th
- SGA meetings with President Boakye
- Clothing Drive
- General Hygiene Drive
- Increased civic engagement of General Members

Together, we have been able to build a schedule of events for the betterment of the student body. In summary, our initiatives are multifaceted and geared towards enriching the college experience. We advocate for student interests, promote community building, support student welfare, and contribute to a more sustainable campus environment, all of which enhance the overall quality of student life.

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

Respectfully submitted,

SGA Executive Board
Essex County College
Student Government Association

Good evening members of the board of Trustees

Thanks, and Acknowledgement

1. First on behalf of the ECCFA, I would like to thank the members of ECC Board of Trustees for the approval of our consolidated bargaining agreements. It is a great step towards the negotiation of a new contract
2. ECCFA would like to congratulate the committee that was in charge of the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Essex County College's West Essex Campus on Friday, September 29, 2023. It was well planned and executed
3. ECCFA would like to thank Dr. Augustine A. Boakye for attending to some of faculty members request who were worried about the path from the parking to the campus that was quite hazardous for faculty members with minor physical challenges. We appreciate that we have an administration that we have access and that is listening.

Faculty Activities

4. The NCLEX Taskforce excitedly reported, at the Nursing Department Meeting on 09/26/2023, that we have been able to maintain contact with many of our recent RN 2023 graduating class. We are very excited for our graduates who are doing phenomenal in so many nursing specialty areas (ER, OR, NICU, L&D). Thirty of 36 RN Spring 2023 graduates have already passed their NCLEX-RN and 100 percent of our 11 LPN 2022 graduating class have also passed their NCLEX-PN on the first attempt as of 09/26/2023.

The ECC NCLEX Taskforce is committed to ensuring our graduates receive the support they need to ensure that they are successful as first-time candidates for the National Licensure Examinations as evidenced by end-of-year NCLEX pass rate measured by cohort at or above national average.

5. Thursday, September 21st at 2:30 PM in the President's Conference Room on the 6th floor for an informative conversation. President Boakye and I would like to meet with any faculty members that intend to apply for promotion application, answer any questions you may have about the process, and provide guidance about ways to make your application strong, which will help distinguish you among promotion candidates.
6. On October 1st, 2023, faculty members manned a tent at the Caldwell Street Fair to help recruit for the West Essex Campus.
7. Dr. Su (Sujatha) Ramakrishnan, Assistant Professor, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Department attended the STEM Summit at Raritan Valley Community College on September 29, 2023. This was for the pedagogical improvement in STEM courses. Various professors presented their laboratory courses and the resources they use for teaching. Many of them were using the Open Educational Resources (OER) in their courses.
8. ECCFA organized a meeting to explain the faculty retention and promotion process Jeff and Tim Stafford held a meeting to outline the College's expectations regarding what you are responsible for regarding retention packets, tenure packets and applications for promotion packets. To this end we will meet next Thursday, Oct 12th in room 2113 at 2:30 PM.

9. On October 15, 2023, several faculty members, along with Nursing students, Cheerleaders, and Students club members walked in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer this month.
10. On October 16, 2023, 8 faculty members took part on faculty also participated in the Golf and Tennis Events. ECCFA Continues to support all the activities on campus that can lead to student success
11. ECCFA executive committee signed the consolidated contract that will be submitted to the board of trustees for final approval
12. Natalee White-Smith, MSN, RN, CEN, Nursing Instructor, organized a popcorn fundraising event. All proceeds will go towards the upcoming 2024 nursing graduates' Pinning Ceremony expenses (uniforms, pins, lamps, etc.). Please share the flyer with your students.
13. Africana Institute, under the leadership of Dr Akil Khalfani continues to be one of our greatest honor in this college. This month he organized the 11th State of Black Writer Conference on October 11th 2023

Representing ECCFA

14. September 14, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre has attended the Legislative Action Team interest group meeting of the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) to discuss the endorsement of education friendly political candidates and the potential actions that can be taken to support their reelection.
15. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre attended the Academic Standard Committee meeting that was held on October 12, 2023 at 2 30PM.
16. On September 20, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre has attended the Essex County Education Association (ECEA) Representative Council meeting in which the annual activities plan of ECEA and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) where discussed and the different committees reported on their activities.
17. On Friday, September 22, 2023, Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre took the first course in the Labor and Employment Law Certificate Program offered by Rutgers University. The Overview of Employment Law course is the first in a series of 6 out of 7 courses that must be taken to earn the certificate addresses.
18. I officially represented ECCFA at the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Essex County College's West Essex Campus on Friday, September 29, 2023
19. Professor Jean-Wilner Alexandre has attended the NJEA 2023 Jim George Collective Bargaining Summit to prepare for the next round of negotiation for the new contract 2024. It is quite a worry that many colleges and universities as of now do not have a contract. We rest assured that we will be able to negotiate our contract on time before the expiration.

Thank for your attention

End of the report