Minutes of the Community Colleges Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York May 6, 2014

Pursuant to a notice of a meeting duly given on April 22, 2014, the Community Colleges Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York held a meeting on May 6, 2014, at the State University at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York.

Committee Members Present:
Trustee Tina Good, Acting Chair
Trustee Peter L.K. Knuepfer
Trustee John L. Murad, Jr. (via video, Syracuse)
Trustee Tremayne Price
Trustee Carl Spielvogel

Other Trustees Present:
Chairman H. Carl McCall
Trustee Eunice A. Lewin
Trustee Cary F. Staller

Others Present:
Senior Vice Chancellor Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Committee Liaison
Dona Bulluck, Associate Counsel (via video, Albany)
George Anker (via video, Albany), Jeffrey Boyce, Elizabeth Bringsjord, Wendy Gilman, Robert Haelen, Paula Hayes (via video, Albany), Bill Howard, Tim Killeen, Jill Lansing, Lori Mould, Joel Pierre-Louis, Jay Quaintance, Josh Sager – System Administration; R. David Bynum, Jose Deniz, Lauren Herrera, Carol Londoiro, President Sam Stanley – Stony Brook; Alexandria DellaPenna, Sylvia Diaz, Heather Edwards, Candace Foley, Richard Guarino, Nina Leonhardt, Cassandra Nyati, President Shaun McKay, Renee Ortiz – Suffolk County Community College; Erich Horeth – Jefferson Community College; Arthur Anthonesin and Cynthia Demarest – New York Community College Trustees (via video, Albany).

Committee Acting Chair Good convened the Community Colleges Committee meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Committee Acting Chair Good called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2014, Committee meeting.

• Upon motion of Trustee Spielvogel and second by Trustee Price, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 18, 2014, Committee Minutes.
Remarks of the Acting Chair

Representing the Chair of the Committee, Trustee Tina Good served as Acting Chair for this meeting. Acting Chair Good welcomed everyone in attendance and thoughts were extended to Committee Chair Dullea and his family. Trustee Good mentioned the significance that she is an English professor at Suffolk County Community College and alumni of the State University at Stony Brook and that the presenters have special significance for her and her colleagues.

Report of the Senior Vice Chancellor

As part of her report, Senior Vice Chancellor Johanna Duncan-Poitier provided a brief update on a few Executive budget items as it applies to the 30 community colleges. This discussion included the restoration of money for daycare, the Job Linkage, GAP report and the $75 per FTE which the community colleges will be receiving. She also highlighted the resolution that was going before the Board to support new legislation that would allow retired veterans, who are honorably discharged, to be given the in-state resident rate of tuition regardless where they live. It was also noted that additional discussion on SUNY’s services to military veterans will be continued at the Board meeting in June 2014.

Senior Vice Chancellor also commented on a number of national activities in which some of SUNY’s innovative work was recently highlighted. This included the partnership with the Carnegie Foundation for Teaching to implement and scale-up of Quantway Statway (an innovative accelerated math strategy, for students in need of remediation) and the consortium of our 30 community colleges and 150 business partners around workforce development. Such work was featured at a number of events including the American Association of Community Colleges with Presidents Quinn, Kress, Wood, business partners and Senior Vice Chancellor Duncan-Poitier.

For the majority of the meeting, the Committee and its participants focused and discussed the progress with Science, Technology, Engineering and math (STEM) focused community college student activities with SUNY Long Island colleges. To frame the discussion, the Senior Vice Chancellor recalled a presentation a few years ago in which there was an announcement that there was a new program funded by the Howard Hughes Foundation to be offered for the first time to provide summer fellowships for aspiring scholars from our community colleges in the STEM field. The purpose of the Committee discussion involved what happened since that time, what students participated in and results of their participation, what difference the program make for their future and what was the data to support its success.

This discussion on the Chancellor’s Education Pipeline Biomedical Research Award, is a partnership between the Chancellor’s Office, Stony Brook University and SUNY’s Community Colleges, brings community college students into a 10-week summer research programs at Stony Brook University to attract and retain these students who are encouraged to pursue STEM careers.

Three faculty members from both Suffolk Community College and Stony Brook University (Dr. Candice Foley, Nina Leonhardt and Dr. David Bynum) students spoke about their experiences and evidence based outcomes related to the STEM summer fellowship program. The diverse pool of
these students who presented consisted of five young men and women (Alexandria Dellapenna, Jose Deniz, Lauren Herrera, Erich Horeth and Cassandra Nyati), who were, to quote President Stanley, “inspirational and gave us hope for the future.” The most articulate, talented and yes, inspiring students are all succeeding in college, continuing their education, giving presentations at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Smithsonian Institute and are planning future careers in STEM as researchers as well as other STEM professionals. The students expressed the importance of the program and felt that it gave them an essential foundation in pursuing their careers in STEM related fields.

President Stanley from Stony Brook and President Shaun McKay from Suffolk Community College spoke to the value of systemness that made this partnership between SUNY’s Long Island community colleges and Stony Brook work. This partnership is a program which in the first two years of the program includes participation of 22 students with 15 participating in the summer of 2014. All 22 students of the first two years completed their research projects and are still in school, 7 are still at community colleges, 7 have transferred to Stony Brook University and 8 are matriculating at other universities.

The presenters noted that the impact of the STEM pipeline student research at Suffolk County Community College has been successful in placing students in internships. A few indicators of NSF S-STEM Scholar Success via networks and partnerships are that these scholars graduate 3x the rate of their STEM peers who were not in the NSF S-STEM program; over 90% transferred to a 4-year institution, semester-to-semester retention rate is significantly higher; almost 100 scholars have been researchers; in the 7 years of funding, 6 NSF S-STEM scholars have received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Academic Excellence; and 31.4% of scholars have transferred to Stony Brook University.

President McKay and Dr. Sam Stanley stressed that the success of the STEM programs really start with the faculty and that they are working together with all systems and are instrumental in getting this work done. The partnerships between the presidents and their campuses embody “systemness” and how they work together should serve as a role model for other parts of New York. Dr. Stanley also mentioned that transfer students do really well at Stony Brook.

The Senior Vice Chancellor pointed out that these are important examples of student achievements that are possible when campuses collaborate and there are many more students and the possibilities are endless; however, this is a good start from which we can learn and scale-up successes.

Lastly the conversation focused on scale up and how, beyond grant dollars, we could work on ways in which a state supported item could be sought to support the work in a more systemic way to duplicate the evidence-based model shared. Trustees noted that overall; the meeting was very productive and meaningful, especially listening to the success stories from the students and partnerships among the two campuses.
Executive Session

Committee Acting Chair Good called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Upon motion of Chairman McCall and second by Trustee Price, the Committee entered into Executive Session at 11:23am.

No votes or action were taken in Executive Session. Committee Acting Chair Good recessed this session at 11:29am and returned to Open Session of the Committee Meeting.

Adjournment

Committee Acting Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion of Chairman McCall and second by Trustee Price, the Committee adjourned at 11:29am.