

**NCC Board of Trustees**  
**Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12, 2016**

The meeting convened at 5:46 p.m.

Attendees: Committee Member Trustees:      Weiss (appointed ad hoc as Chair)  
   Tuman  
   Gardyn (ex-officio)

Also in Attendance: Trustees:                      Cornachio  
   Jackson  
   Borzym  
   Green

Arrived Late:    DeGrace  
   Drucker

Chair Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016. Trustee Tuman moved the motion. Trustee Gardyn seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Gardyn made a motion to untable the resolution relating to Degree Revision during the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of February 9, 2016. Trustee Tuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2 (Gardyn, Tuman) -1 (Weiss)

Chair Weiss strongly recommended that the resolution should remain on the table in order to provide the opportunity for further consideration by the professional staff to finish its review, since the work by the CWCC had been put on hold during the Middle States visit, and to present its recommendation to Interim President Dolan for his decision.

Chair Gardyn asked Dr. Dolan to comment and he reported this timeline: The resolution was first introduced on December 9, 2014 with a deadline of May 12, 2015. Dr. Dolan mentioned that he arrived in September 2015, and, therefore, does not know why this target was not met. On October 5, 2015 he asked the ASEC for their input and noted the work and research done by the CWCC and its discussion of the degree. He welcomed Deans Kornbluth, Fernandez and Follick to offer their professional advice. He placed the resolution on the agenda tonight for these reasons.

Dr. Dolan explained that there is a proposed change to the resolution that appeared on the agenda. The change to the resolution is on page 4, item #3: the excess credits derived from these reductions would be distributed to general electives of the AA and AS degrees to maintain the 64 credit limit and general education requirements of the SUNY Seamless Transfer programs, rather than ask the CWCC to do so.

Trustee Cornachio recalls from November 2014, the administration was trying to get ASEC to approve the 64 credit limit for seamless transfer and had asked for Board resolution. Trustee Cornachio states that for months the CWCC did not act on the request for periodic reports to justify their standards. The administration recommended 1 Math, 1 Science and no Phys Ed to the ASEC, who rejected this proposal. Dr. Saunders vetoed the rejection and on June 9, 2015 the Board unanimously supported the veto with the exception of the multiple measures item. Trustee Cornachio is certain that a decision was made at the June 9<sup>th</sup> BOT meeting for 1 Math, 1 Science and 0 Phys Ed and that is what we should go forward with for the future of the College and the best interests of both staff and students.

Dr. Dolan confirmed that when he arrived in September 2015 the proposal drafted by John Gross included 1 Phys Ed. Dr. Dolan also stated that if there were a 0 Phys Ed included in the resolution at that time he would not have been able to support it and feels this is a good compromise.

Chair Gardyn clarified that what he deems the appropriate compromise of the inclusion of 1 Phys Ed emerged from the process when Dr. Dolan arrived and worked with the CWCC.

Trustee Weiss reported she re-read all passed resolutions and they did not reflect these changes. She asked Dr. Saunders of his understanding of the degree revisions process from the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dr. Saunders explained that at the Board's June 9, 2015 meeting its decision to sustain his veto of the April 13, 2015 Academic Senate resolution only resulted in the Academic Senate being responsible for complying with the revised Board resolution of January 13, 2015 regarding Degree Revisions.

Trustee Cornachio argued that in his re-read of the minutes, there was a decisive resolution on both class size and curriculum revision but not on multiple measures.

Dr. Saunders counteracted that a careful re-reading of the minutes would reveal language in the resolution re-written by the Board that differed from the original intent of the proposal and required administration to review components of class size with ASEC as well.

Trustee Weiss stated that the minutes reflect the Board sustaining Dr. Saunders veto of the ASEC's override and that the discussion was left unfinished with agreement to disagree on the Phys Ed requirement.

Trustee Cornachio counteracted by saying that the Board members left the June 9, 2015 meeting with the understanding that all matters but multiple measures had been resolved. It was a done deal.

Trustee Weiss noted that Dr. Deluty, as Chair of the ASEC, had distributed to all Board members a written argument outlining the reasons why the Board should not make a decision on the degree revisions at the meeting tonight. Dr. Deluty had asked Trustee Drucker, as Chair of the BoT Academic Affairs committee on degree revisions to address this appeal.

Dr. Dolan suggested that the Board discuss the proposals before deciding whether or not to reject the revisions. At Dr. Gardyn's request, he reiterated that the new iteration subsequent to the June 9, 2015 meeting recommends reducing the AA degree requirements to 1 Math 1 Science plus 1 Math or 1 Science or 1 Computer Science or 1 Computer Programming and 1 Phys Ed credit. The AS degree would remain the same with the exception of reducing Phys Ed to 1 credit.

Trustee Weiss asked Dave Follick to address whether students with an AA degree who wish to transfer to LIU, for example, might encounter any difficulty absent 2 Math 2 Science 2 Phys Ed. Dean Follick presented a spreadsheet with a listing of responses from directors' of admissions from SUNY and local four year colleges to LAAA Math, Science Phys Ed Reduction. (See attachment A). All college's concurred that these changes would pose no negative effect on students transferring from NCC to a 4 year institution. All would be able to support our liberal arts transfer students for acceptance into programs of their choice. The transfer school might require the student to fulfill additional course requirements as might be the case for any student from any school, particularly when a student wants to change programs. Dean Follick noted that LIU is looking to reduce its credit requirements from 129 to 120.

Dr. Deluty, Chair of ASEC, was recognized to speak. She addressed the impact on the College community from the Middle States review and the unprecedented failure in compliance with half of the 14 standards. Her concern is that any action upon this recommendation in degree revisions might jeopardize compliance with two more standards, Number 10, faculty input on curriculum and number 12 General Education. (See Attachment B). She advises that the CWCC worked prodigiously but was thwarted by circumstance. She further reported that the ASEC charged the CWCC to conduct an analysis of transferability to peer schools with regard to degree requirements but the CWCC did not receive the data until December. The compromise degree revision was only first presented to CWCC on March 31 and any prospect of moving through the shared governance was undermined by the Middle States Review two weeks later. Another concern is the addition of six computer programming courses, none of which have general education credits neither for NCC or SUNY. She concluded that the Middle States Review represents an existential threat that places the College at risk. The faculty therefore requests postponement of any consideration of degree revision until accreditation has been secured for our students.

Trustee Cornachio remarked that while some members of the CWCC and the ASEC, including Dr. Deluty, are acting in good faith, others are just engaging in pretense in order to delay confronting this issue.

Dr. Deluty replied that while the Board has a responsibility to guide the College, as the ASEC Chair since May 12, 2015, she asserts that the CWCC has likewise acted appropriately and has not failed to uphold its charge through any lack of diligence. The CWCC might not have been aware of the latest degree revision had Dr. Dolan not intervened to share it. She pledges to revisit the degree revision after accreditation has been secured.

Trustee Weiss reiterated her rationale for wanting to postpone a vote on the resolution in order to allow further consideration by the faculty in an effort to demonstrate to Middle States that the College supports the shared governance process. Shared governance should not require an unreasonable amount of time, but she does not perceive any urgency at this time.

Trustee Cornachio endorsed the merits of Dr. Deluty's statements.

The Committee then turned to the motion of un-tabling the resolution relating to Degree Revisions that was on the Committee agenda for consideration.

**WHEREAS, AT ITS JANUARY 14, 2015 MEETING, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPTED AN AMENDED RESOLUTION, CLARIFYING ITS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION OF DECEMBER 09, 2014 CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES, AS FOLLOWS:**

**“BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEREBY DIRECTS THE ACADEMIC SENATE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONSISTENT WITH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS OF A MINIMUM OF 60 AND A MAXIMUM OF 64 CREDITS FOR A REDESIGN OF THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA DEGREE TO INCLUDE OPTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR GRADUATION WITH THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA DEGREE WITH LESS THAN TWO COURSES OF MATH, TWO COURSES OF SCIENCE AND TWO CREDITS OF PHYS ED AND SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE DATA,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT FOR PURPOSES OF CONSISTENCY THAT BOTH THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES HAVE IDENTICAL PHYS ED REQUIREMENTS, AND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT THE ACADEMIC SENATE SHALL MAKE MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS TO THE STATUS OF THE WORK IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT IF SAID RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BY MAY 12, 2015, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS APPROPRIATE RELATING TO THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES.”

AND

**WHEREAS**, AT ITS MEETING ON APRIL 14, 2015, THE ACADEMIC SENATE RESPONDED TO THE BOARD’S RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 14, 2015 BY ENACTING A RESOLUTION THAT CALLED UPON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO RESCIND ITS DEGREE REVISION RESOLUTIONS, AND

**WHEREAS**, ON MAY 1, 2015, ACTING PRESIDENT KENNETH SAUNDERS DID EXERCISE A PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE’S APRIL 13, 2015 RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED AT THE ACADEMIC SENATE’S MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015, WHICH CALLED UPON THE BOARD TO RESCIND ITS DEGREE REVISION RESOLUTIONS, AND

**WHEREAS**, AT ITS MEETING OF JUNE 09, 2015, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOTED TO SUSTAIN ACTING PRESIDENT SAUNDERS’ VETO OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE’S APRIL 13, 2015 RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED UPON THE BOARD TO RESCIND ITS DEGREE REVISION RESOLUTIONS, THEREBY REITERATING THE BOARD'S INTENT TO PURSUE FURTHER ACTION ON THE MATTER OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO ITS RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 14, 2015, AND

**WHEREAS**, AS OF THE JANUARY 12, 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, WELL PAST THE MAY 12, 2015 DEADLINE REFERENCED IN THE BOARD’S JANUARY 14, 2015 RESOLUTION CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES, THE ACADEMIC SENATE HAS NOT AVAILED ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD REGARDING SAID DEGREE REQUIREMENTS, AND

**WHEREAS**, ON OCTOBER 5, 2015, THE INTERIM PRESIDENT FURTHER EXTENDED THE TIME FOR THE ACADEMIC SENATE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE RECITED JANUARY 14, 2015 RESOLUTION ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 12, 2015, AND

**WHEREAS**, THEREAFTER THE COLLEGE INTERIM PRESIDENT, DR. THOMAS DOLAN, DIRECTED THE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AFORESAID JANUARY 14, 2015 RESOLUTION, AND

**WHEREAS**, THE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION HAS, PURSUANT TO THE INTERIM PRESIDENT’S DIRECTION, MADE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN THE AFORESAID JANUARY 14, 2015 RESOLUTION,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEREBY ADOPTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF INTERIM PRESIDENT THOMAS DOLAN RESPECTING THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS AA AND AS DEGREES, AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) That the core requirements of the AA degree program in General Liberal Arts and Sciences - (Arts & Humanities emphasis) be reduced as follows:

**Natural & Physical Sciences** **Credits**

From: 1 course in Laboratory Science and 1 course in lab or non-Laboratory Science	7-8
To: 1 course in Laboratory Science	4

**Mathematics**

From: 1 course in Mathematics and 1 course in Mathematics or Computer Science	6-8
To: 1 course in Mathematics	3-4

**Phys Ed**

From: 2 credits in Phys Ed	2
To: 1 credit in Phys Ed	1; AND

**Other**

\* Require one additional course to be chosen from either Mathematics, Natural and Physical Sciences, Computer Science or Computer Processing.

- (2) That the Math/Science requirements of the AS degree in General Liberal Arts and Sciences (Mathematics & Science emphasis) remain unchanged, and the Phys Ed requirement be modified, as for the AA degree:

**Natural & Physical Sciences** **Credits**

No Change: 2 lab course sequence	8
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**Mathematics**

No Change: 2 course sequence	8
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**Phys Ed**

From: 2 credits in Phys Ed	2
To: 1 credit in Phys Ed, as for AA degree	1; AND

- (3) That the excess credits derived from these reductions be distributed to General Elective areas of the AA and AS degree programs to maintain the 64 credit limit and General Education requirements of the SUNY Seamless Transfer mandate; AND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT THE AFORESAID RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVE FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE COLLEGE AFTER APRIL 15, 2016.

Chair Gardyn made a motion to move on the following resolution relating to Degree Revisions. Trustee Tuman seconded the motion. Motion defeated 2 (Gardyn, Tuman) - 2 (Drucker, Weiss)

Chair Weiss requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Gardyn seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



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Kenneth K. Saunders  
Executive Vice President