

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York 11530

Board of Trustees Policy & Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2020

The meeting of the Policy & Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on the eleventh floor of the Administrative Tower. The meeting was called to order by Chair Weiss at 6:22 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Kathy Weiss, Chair
Donna Tuman
Emily Rivas
Jorge Gardyn (ex-officio)

Committee Members Absent: John DeGrace

Also in Attendance: John Durso, Wanda Jackson, Ed Powers, George Siberón
President Williams, Donna Haugen,
Alla Brodsky, VP Joseph Muscarella

1. Chair Weiss requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020. Trustee Weiss moved the motion. Trustee Gardyn seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
2. Discussion of Policy 7350 Demonstrations on College Property.

Ms. Haugen noted that Associate General Counsel Brodsky, VP Muscarella, and Public Safety Chief Roddini worked on this policy, the purpose which is to establish procedures to review requests based on health and safety issues. The policy seeks not to censor, but to ensure that the College is upholding health and safety measures to protect the campus community. She added that Open Forums will be held – two for faculty and staff, and one for students – to provide feedback for potential edits for consideration at the first reading next month. She asked the committee if there were any specific questions.

Trustee Tuman recommended clarification of the language in Section C: “*The appropriate College official (i.e., Dean of Students Office or the Department of Public Safety) will make a determination as to whether the proposed Event will be approved, and any and all applicable parameters*”. She inquired what criteria, specifically, will be used? She understands that the Dean of Students or Department of Public Safety would likely make the determination based upon whether the proposal has been made by faculty or students, but still seems vague. Furthermore, how do we make this determination and what criteria will be used? Demonstrations are a contentious issue, and we do not want to be accused of setting up criteria for freedom of speech, we want to support the energy and spirit of our students, and do not want the policy to be too restrictive.

Ms. Haugen replied that the intent is not to censor: rather, it is to focus on health and safety to ensure, for instance, that if we were to receive a request for a demonstration on campus which involves a group that we could not contain at the location, we want to have guidelines on how we could either host it elsewhere or if we’re unable to accommodate that size. Precisely this type of information under discussion would be helpful for us to review beforehand, as she reiterated that we do not want to censor content.

Trustee Tuman suggested that the criteria should be listed.

Trustee Weiss inquired whether the procedures might have greater detail on the criteria.

Ms. Haugen responded that the procedures indeed would be more detailed and certainly could be reviewed for updating. She and Ms. Brodsky have been discussing how policies that they have been examining were not as specific and that they would be willing to look at other schools' policies to see if there's anything else they could do to clarify Section C.

Trustee Siberón asked whether we are we talking strictly about students and faculty who are part of our campus community and what if an outside group were to want to come onto campus for a demonstration?

Ms. Brodsky replied that historically the College has not been made available for demonstrations to people who are not members of the campus community. The College is what we would call a "limited public forum", which means that throughout its past it has not been used for demonstrations by anybody who is not a student or employee. We decided to continue this traditional practice and to make it explicit in the policy under its Scope.

Trustee Siberón followed up to ask whether a student or a student group could invite outsiders to join a demonstration?

Ms. Haugen replied that, yes, this provision is listed under Section B-6, which stipulates that the requestor is required to provide in advance a list of any external non-college organizations that will be involved in the event.

Chair Weiss asked if there were any suggestions or comments. There being none, Chair Weiss requested a motion to forward Policy 7350 to the full Board for its first reading.

RESOLVED, that the Policy & Planning Committee herewith affirmatively recommends and refers policy 7350 Demonstrations on College Property to the board for a first reading and discussion at its next scheduled board meeting, and that the same be subsequently incorporated into the policy manual of the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College after the second reading by the Board of Trustees and the passing of the policy by the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Tuman made the motion; seconded by Trustee Rivas. Motion carried 4-0.

Chair Weiss asked if there were any other items for the Committee to consider. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Haugen

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General Counsel