

DRAFT
755th Regular Meeting Minutes of the
SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees

Thursday, May 29, 2025
Bishop Community Conference Center
640 Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804

A Regular Meeting of the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 3:30 pm. Chair A. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Other Board members present were: B. Judge, E. Fitzgerald, D. Palmer, C. McDonald, T. Collins, M. Davidson, L. Braggs and Student Trustee, T. Brown. Also in attendance were President K. Duffy, VP J. Jablonski, VP K. Kaplan, CIO M. Hand, Chief Human Resources Officer M. Wilson, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director R. Patten, Faculty Member A. Hill, Budget Analyst E. Conduzio, Executive Director of Facilities, M. Morin, Attorney L. Paltrowicz, and Recording Secretary J. Chase.

Remote attendees were: Trustee J. Nolan, Director of Marketing and Communications R. Triller, Principle Typist, R. Debnam.

101759 Presentation: Honoring 2024-2025 SUNY Adirondack Retirees - Kris Duffy, Ed.D., President.

President Duffy and Chair Gonzales recognized and honored the following faculty members for their years of service:

- Dr. Kathleen McCoy, Distinguished Professor of English
- Nancy White, Distinguished Professor of English

Each honoree received a formal resolution of appreciation. A resolution honoring Stanley Wasson, Facilities Manager for the Residence Hall, who was unable to attend, was acknowledged during the meeting and later mailed to him.

101760 Presentation: Faculty Council of Community Colleges Plenary Update - Wendy Johnston, Associate Professor of Political Science

Professor Wendy Johnston, SUNY Adirondack's delegate to the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, provided highlights from the Spring 2025 Plenary. Trustees asked some pertinent questions that were answered by Professor Johnston, President Duffy and Vice President Jablonski.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

101761 Presentation: 2025-2026 SUNY Adirondack Operating Budget - Keith Kaplan, VP for Administrative Services and Treasurer

Vice President Keith Kaplan presented the proposed 2025-2026 SUNY Adirondack Operating Budget, highlighting the College's focus on responsible financial planning during the upcoming presidential transition. He noted efforts to maintain enrollment stability through the expansion of adult learner programs and participation in the SUNY Reconnect initiative. Spending growth is limited to 2.8%, and a 4% tuition increase, equating to \$108 per semester for a full-time student, is proposed, keeping tuition approximately \$95 above the maximum TAP award. New revenue is anticipated from a BOCES agreement that aligns tuition rates, while sponsor support is projected to increase by \$294,000 as part of a five-year funding plan. State aid remains flat for the sixth consecutive year. Despite these challenges, the College continues to prioritize affordability, access, and fiscal sustainability.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file

101762 Chair's Report

Chair Gonzales reflected on several recent events, including Employee Recognition Day and President Duffy's Farewell Celebration on May 6, the Commencement Ceremony held on May 10, and the North Star Gala on May 17, which she praised as a great success. She extended her thanks to the SUNY Adirondack Foundation for their efforts in making the event possible.

Special recognition was given to Student Trustee Tyrese Brown for his exemplary service to the Board and the campus community. Chair Gonzales praised his leadership and expressed her excitement to see where his journey leads, urging him to stay in touch and share future achievements.

Chair Gonzales referenced the SUNY State of the University Address held on May 21, which she viewed online and found particularly inspiring, especially the student stories that were shared. She also noted the remarks by SUNY Chancellor Dr. John King, who reaffirmed his commitment to advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) across the SUNY system. She encouraged those interested to watch the presentation, which remains available online.

Lastly, she reminded the Board of an upcoming SUNY Adirondack Foundation Golf tournament at the Highland golf course on Friday and encouraged their attendance.

101763 Consent Agenda

Chair A. Gonzales presented the following Consent Agenda items for Board approval.

6.0 Consent Agenda

6.1 Adoption of Minutes

6.1.1 Adoption of April 24, 2025 754th Annual Meeting Minutes

6.2 Personnel Committee

6.2.1 May 2025 Committee Report

- 6.3 Audit & Finance Committee
 - 6.3.1 May 2025 Committee Report
 - 6.3.2 Schedule of Bills (2): 04/06/2025 –05/05/2025
 - 6.3.3 Statement of Net Assets May 2025
 - 6.3.4 Financial Statements May 2025
- 6.4 Academic and Student Affairs Committee
 - 6.4.1 May2025 committee report
 - 6.4.2 Program Modification Recommendations **(Action Item – 7 Total)**
- 6.5 By-Laws, Policy and ERM Committee
 - 6.5.1 May Committee Report
- 6.6 Student Trustee Report
- 6.7 Trusteeship Committee

There being no additional items requested to move to the floor, a motion was made by Trustee C. McDonald and seconded by Trustee M. Davidson to approve the consent agenda.

101764 President's Report

Community Day Recap

President Duffy reviewed a newly developed flyer titled “Top 10 Things to Know About SUNY Adirondack,” which was distributed during Community Day to highlight key messages about the College. The event itself attracted a record attendance of nearly 150 employees. The day featured a morning session focused on generative Artificial Intelligence, followed by a special afternoon session tailored for faculty on integrating AI in the classroom. In addition, seven breakout sessions were offered covering a range of topics such as implicit bias and health and wellness.

Employee and Student Recognition Events

May was a busy month for the College's recognition events, beginning with the Employee Recognition Day that drew record attendance. The President extended special thanks to the Human Resources team, J. Chase, IT support, Facilities, and Chartwells for their efforts in making the event a success. Throughout the month, the College also celebrated Student Life Awards, Academic and Phi Theta Kappa honors, Chancellor's Awards, TRIO and EOP recognitions, all culminating in a successful Commencement ceremony honoring the Class of 2025. It was truly a month of celebration, and President Duffy thanked the Board members for their active participation in many of these events. Additionally, she shared that a new Student Trustee, Matthew Gordon, has been elected. She expressed deep gratitude for outgoing Student Trustee Tyrese Brown's dedicated service, noting the high standard he set for student leadership and engagement.

Richmond Federal Reserve Pilot Project

President Duffy also noted SUNY Adirondack's participation in a SUNY pilot project, free of charge, with the Richmond Federal Reserve, aimed at redefining student success metrics, with initial results expected in the fall.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment updates revealed a 7% increase in Summer 2025 enrollment, with 42 additional students. The College is leveraging a scholarship-supported summer internship program that is supporting 27 students. Additionally, gas cards are being provided to assist with transportation needs, ensuring greater access and participation.

Fall 2025 enrollment trends indicate an increase in both new and part-time students, alongside declines in returning full-time students. To support enrollment growth, the College has hosted multiple Accepted Student Days (ASDs), with several additional ASDs planned throughout the summer. In an effort to further streamline the registration process, a new initiative offering instant, on-site registration will be launched at Hudson Falls High School this fall, with plans to expand the program to additional area high schools.

SUNY Reconnect Initiative

The SUNY Reconnect initiative is a statewide program designed to assist adult learners aged 25 to 55 who have not yet completed a college degree. Participants may enroll on a full or part-time basis and are granted up to ten semesters to complete an associate degree. SUNY Adirondack, is offering Reconnect in several high-demand academic fields, including Computer Science, Criminal Justice: Substance Abuse Services, Cybersecurity and Networking, Engineering Science, Mechatronics, and Nursing. Eligible students may also qualify for Last Dollar scholarships, which cover any remaining tuition costs after other financial aid and scholarships have been applied.

To ensure successful implementation, an enrollment team has been established to manage the program's rollout. A recent Town Hall meeting attracted over 50 employees interested in learning more about the initiative and a dedicated webpage has been launched to provide detailed program information and eligibility criteria.

Since its announcement two weeks ago, SUNY Adirondack has received 361 inquiries, not including additional interest generated via phone calls, emails, and in-person visits. Approximately half of these inquiries have come from within the College's service area. To date, about 300 applicants meet the eligibility criteria for Reconnect-supported programs, and some currently enrolled students who qualify are expected to return in the fall, positioning the initiative as a valuable retention tool. To support further outreach, four information sessions, offered both virtually and in person, are scheduled for June. President Duffy expressed optimism about the initiative's potential to positively impact enrollment. In a response to a question from Trustee McDonald, it was noted that Early Childhood Education is not currently an eligible program under Reconnect, but the College is actively exploring its inclusion.

Saratoga Campus Strategic Plan

A wrap-up event is scheduled for June 9 at Common Roots Brewing Company to thank business partners and the planning committee for their contributions. In preparation for the next phase, the Academic Affairs team recently held a retreat focused on outlining the next steps for implementing the Saratoga strategic initiatives.

State & Federal Budget

The recently enacted state budget includes \$8 million in restricted operating aid, with SUNY Adirondack expected to receive \$130,000 earmarked for high-demand academic programs. These funds may be used to support faculty positions, purchase instructional equipment, or address related needs. A detailed spending plan is currently being developed and will be submitted to SUNY in July. While the allocation is appreciated, it remains uncertain whether the funding will be recurring in future budgets.

The College will submit a plan for the use of \$177,000 in recurring funds from the previous year, which includes \$100,000 allocated for mental health and wellness programs and \$77,000 designated for healthcare initiatives. In addition, a separate plan will be developed for \$100,000 in newly allocated, restricted funds to support the SUNY Reconnect initiative, with a focus on recruitment, advising, marketing, and instruction.

On the federal level, advocacy efforts in support of TRIO programs are ongoing and include letters, posters, and buttons, with continued backing from Representative Stefanik and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. While funding for the Upward Bound program is expected to remain stable, the future of funding for Student Support Services remains uncertain.

A significant concern for the community college sector is pending federal legislation that would raise the Pell Grant eligibility threshold from 12 to 15 credits for full-time status and increase the half-time requirement from 6 to 8 credits. Such changes could pose substantial challenges for many community college students who juggle academic responsibilities with work and family obligations. SUNY Adirondack continues to actively advocate against these changes.

On a more positive note, Short term Pell Grants are identified in the proposed budget bill, as it allows the use of grant funds for short-term, non-credit programs. SUNY Adirondack has effectively utilized other grant funding to support individuals transitioning into the workforce.

Looking ahead, the June meeting will include reports from College committees, the results of the Shared Governance Assessment Survey results, and an end-of-year wrap-up.

101765 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee B. Judge and seconded by Trustee C. McDonald, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolutions to honor the 2024-2025 retirees.

101766 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee E. Fitzgerald and seconded by Trustee L. Braggs, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution to approve the tentative 2025-2026 SUNY Adirondack Operating Budget.

101767 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee M. Davidson and seconded by Trustee D. Palmer, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Saratoga Strategic Framework Plan.

101768 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee T. Brown and seconded by Trustee M. Davidson, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution to approve the New and Revised Titles and/or Positions from Human Resources.

101769 Executive Session

On a motion made by Trustee E. Fitzgerald and seconded by Trustee M. Davidson, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to move into Executive Session at 5:17 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and other items as specified under New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 105.

101770 Return to Regular Session

On a motion made by Trustee C. McDonald and seconded by Trustee E. Fitzgerald the Board of Trustees moved back into regular session at 5:20 p.m.

101771 Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee M. Davidson and seconded by Trustee T. Brown, the Board of Trustees moved to adjourn the May 29, 2025, 755th Regular Meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Chase

Jennifer Chase
Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees