

Board of Trustees Meeting of December 9, 2013 - Public Comments

Ken Saunders: Good evening. I would like to start my comments by asking that we just take a moment of silence in remembrance of John Patrick Mulrooney who passed away this week. He was a long-standing trusted member of the NCC Foundation.

Thank you very much.

I would like to just formally announce that Inna Reznick, former comptroller for Nassau Community College was selected as a final candidate of choice for the Vice President for Finance. And her selection was the result of a national search to identify and to fill that position. So would you please join me in giving her a round of applause?

Ken Saunders: In the current contract negotiated with the college, it included two new components. One of them was requiring the English Department full-time faculty to devote 45 hours per semester to working with NCC students who are not on the faculty's member roster of current courses.

These hours may be spent in any combination of the

Thank you.

than our committee. We're looking for access for students. We're looking for opportunity for students and we're looking for students to be able to thrive at college. The last thing we want is for students to, quote, languish in remediation. By the way, I don't think any of my students have asbestos on them that I've never noticed. I think we have students who study in developmental education, but they're not remedial. They don't need to be remediated.

We're doing our best. We're working with students that come to us with a variety of concerns and issues and we're trying our best to come up with creative solutions to help them thrive in the courses that they take initially and thrive in their matriculation at the college.

Thank you.

Trustee Cornachio: I have a question.

Christine Berg: Sure.

Trustee Cornachio: Why do I not have power when I talk?

Male Voice #3: [OFF MIC] - -

Trustee Cornachio: You'll have to - -, you're one of them. This is something I would assume that your committee keeps updating yourself on right? Because the student body its characteristics change.

Christine Berg: Um hum, definitely. We talk about this all the time, like that's what we do.

Trustee Cornachio: Don't you have files with data when you meet and talk and you either keep requirements the same or you change requirements? Aren't you asking on the--

Christine Berg: Trustee Cornachio, we haven't met since the last time you--

Trustee Cornachio: no, no, no. I'm talking about six months ago or--

Christine Berg: --we have, yes we have monthly minutes and year end reports--

Trustee Cornachio: --process right?

Christine Berg: Yes it's a continuous process and it's a recursive process. It's never done. It's constantly going on.

Trustee Cornachio: I understand. So when you look at a set of requirements that you have.

Christine Berg: Um hum.

Trustee Cornachio: Okay. You, you look at these things constantly.

Christine Berg: Um hum.

Trustee Cornachio: Do you have any new data to keep the requirements in place?

Christine Berg: Well the last set of data that we had, with respect to the SAT cut off scores. Remember, not SAT cut off scores for student placement into non-credit course work. Student, the cut off SAT scores below wha ru steVyuhHqENAO5yshHq5NOOOANAq5AybhHE5N5z4VyhHEONVVOqylhHqRuAO5Ey hHqy'hHqzNV

Tustee Cornachio: Do mea ?RVyohHE5N?ARAY:hHEu suOg: dq pl

Trustee Cornachio: Okay, all right.

Christine Berg: Okay? So there is a big difference there.

Trustee Cornachio: I understand.

Dr. Gardyn: Christine what is that number for the SAT to place out?

Christine Berg: In algebra, the algebra class it's 550. In reading it's 550. In the arithmetic it's 510

Trustee Cornachio: But before you go--

CROSSTALK

Trustee Cornachio: Before you go I have one question. Has your committee compared those SAT scores, at which exams are required, to the practices and the standards at other colleges, neighborhood colleges? What Hofstra requires, what Adelphi requires?

Christine Berg: We are aware of what cut off scores are, but what is in my view much more compelling is that our Accuplacer cut off scores, we've done extensive. I've done from my department and I

Christine Berg: What do they know?

Trustee Cornachio: -- this point, the cheap seats, you want to talk, get your name on the list.

Carmine DeSanto: No I mean we don't have access to that type of information.

FEMALE VOICE #2: - - right now they're talking in general.

Trustee Cornachio: Well you know what? I think that's a good question for a different day, but Carmine, thank you very much for coming up and trying to answer. Let's go to the next person who is Tom Bruckner.

Thomas Bruckner: How are you doing? My name is Tom Bruckner. I'm from the Department of Physical Sciences. I want to thank everybody for listening to me.

I was going to come up here and I was going to say, oh thank you for mentioning me on your resolution when you were talking about people responding on the floor to the current ~~segment~~ ~~transfer~~ ~~my~~.

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faculty and senate and the developmental committees.

We are not here to do your jobs. We are not here as overlords. We are here because we are trying to push the college forward together with the faculty for the benefit of the students. And I welcome your statements. I look forward to seeing you being able to work with the appropriate groups that are out there to be able to give us cogent arguments that are data driven and can work with our faculty and administration to present to the Board. And that is something that I do applaud you on. Thank you.

Thomas Bruckner: Okay can I just ask one question before I go?

Trustee Cornachio: The only one applauding.

Thomas Bruckner: Nobody like me. So--

Trustee Cornachio: you emptied the--

Thomas Bruckner: --no I'm sorry. I'll step out. I just really want, I have faith, I understand where you're going with this, but we have processes, we have people that believe. We have people that have this and--

Dr. Gardyn: measures.

Thomas Bruckner: But there was a criticism about the time. We had Thanksgiving and that stopped a lot of the developmental committees. And I just kept saying, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving.

I know you want a report and I'm sure they'll give you a report. I wish I was on the committee, I really wish I was. But I know they're working hard and I know they're buzzing around. Dave Stern is next to me in my offices. So I see them constantly buzzing around and I know a lot of these people, but you have to give them credit. But please, talk to the students. Look at them. They're here. They're staying here. They probably have finals to study for, papers to do. Talk to them afterwards, please. I know you probably want to go home but there's plenty of people that you got to get their opinions from.

So thank you for--

Trustee Cornachio: Frankly it's very disingenuous to say, the Committee wasn't scheduled to meet until a certain date that's why the report is not here.

It would seem to me that on something that's so important to this faculty and to the academic senate and the students, that there would have been a meeting beforehand. And we weren't asking for final answers. We were asking for a progress report.

Thomas Bruckner: All right I can't speak on that.

Trustee Cornachio: All they had to do was say, we met and we asked for some stuff from the administration. It didn't come yet and we really need to that to proceed. We'll beat up the people in the administration who are responsible. But we got nothing, nada, nothing.

Dr. Gardyn: All right let's--

Thomas Bruckner: I'm not on that committee. Thank you.

Dr. Gardyn: Thank you. That has nothing to do with

Dr. Gardyn: Frank, you guys established, somebody established that 550 as the standard.

Mr. Frisenda: Right.

Dr. Gardyn: So there is data to support that, correct?

MR. Frisenda: Data Christine said is from 2010.

Dr. Gardyn: The data--no, no, no. The standard for the 550 on the SAT and I'll just use that number, was come together, I guess in the Continuing Develo

Dr. Gardyn: I hate to tell you but in medicine and in mathematics and everything, you're an anecdote.

Delores Edward Sullivan: I don't think so. I don't think so.

Dr. Gardyn: You are a very good story, but you are a story. I am a very good story, but I am a story. While we're looking at larger volumes of qualitative data.

Delores Edward Sullivan: My next play is going to be about that. Okay.

Dr. Gardyn: I'd love to see it. Thank you.

All right. I am going to close the discussions at