



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82218875449?pwd=eFNITIQ4Z252bWxQa29RYWtMb0hYZz09>

MEETING ID 822 1887 5449, PASSCODE 638826

AGENDA

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting Called to Order - Reading of Public Announcement

II. BUSINESS

2. ACTION: Approval of Minutes* (*pg.2*)
 - A. March 13, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
 - B. March 20, 2023 Council Meeting
 - C. April 17, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
 - D. May 8, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
3. ACTION: Acceptance of Council Financial Statements* (*pg. 13*)
 - A. March 2023
 - B. April 2023
 - C. May 2023
4. ACTION: Approval of the NJCCC FY2024 Budget* (*pg. 16*)
5. ACTION: Adoption of the NJ Community College Workforce Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development Bylaw Amendments – *Noticed to Council Membership on March 20, 2023* (pg. 22)*
6. ACTION: FY2024 Chapter 12* (*pg. 33*)

*Attachments

**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MARCH 13, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDEES: Mary Zimmermann, Union (chair); Barbara Gaba, Atlantic Cape; Jessica Stewart, Camden; Tony Iacono, Morris; Dot Hall, Salem; Michael Gorman, Salem.

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes- January 23, 2023 and February 13, 2023*

By motion of Mike Gorman, and seconded by Dot Hall, the minutes of the January 23, 2023 and February 13, 2023 Executive Committee meetings were approved without amendment.

2. Review of Council Financial Statements – February 2023*

By motion of Mike Gorman, and seconded by Jessica Stewart the February 2023 Council financials were accepted. Fichtner informed the committee that we will be coming back for a budget line transfer to the meetings/conferences line at the next Executive Committee meeting.

3. Executive Committee Action Items

- **Acceptance of NJCCC Audit FY2022**

By motion of Dot Hall, and seconded by Sheetal Ranjan, the NJCCC FY2022 Audit was accepted.

4. Workforce Consortium Bylaws*

At the request of the Executive Committee Starghill presented the amended Workforce Consortium Bylaws in their final amended format. These amendments will be transmitted to the full Council for vote at the June 12, 2023 Council meeting.

5. FY2024 State Budget Update: Update and Next Steps*

Fichtner presented an overview of the Governor's FY2024 state budget. While there is some disappointment, we need to turn our focus to strategize on our top priorities: 1.) to secure an increase of \$20 million in state operating aid for community colleges; and 2.) strengthen the position of Community Colleges by building a strong coalition that will set the groundwork for further investment in community colleges and demonstrate that community colleges are setting a direction for higher education in New Jersey.

Fichtner reviewed the following messaging, outreach efforts, and Council strategies:

- Release of Statement
- Letter to the Legislature signed by all 18 presidents
- Letter to the Governor signed by all 18 presidents
- Legislative Meetings: March and April
- Legislative Action Center – starting the week of March 13 through April
- Senate and Assembly Budget Committees – Public hearings March and April
- Forums on Vision of the Future
- Additional Actions for May and June – to be determined

6. Legislative Update*

Fichtner reviewed the legislative report with the Executive Committee members, highlighting the oversight bills. We will continue to monitor these bills. The Assembly Higher Education Committee and select members of the Senate are holding a hearing on March 16, 2023 on the fiscal health of NJ's institutions of higher education. Presidents Iacono and Gaba will represent the colleges.

7. Review of Council Meeting

Fichtner reviewed the March 20, 2023 Council agenda with the Executive Committee:

Agenda Organizational Items

- Acceptance of NJCCC Audit FY2022
- Resolution to Add Modernization of the County College Contracts Law as a Priority for the Council's State Policy Agenda
- Proposed Addition of Juneteenth as Paid Holiday for Council Staff (State Observation)

Discussion Items

- Racial and Social Justice Discussion
- Update on Council Office Relocation
- FY2024 State Budget: Update and Next Steps
- Legislative Update
- Trustee Leadership Academy Update
- Modernization of the NJ Community College Workforce Consortium for Economic and Workforce Development: Proposed Workforce Consortium Bylaw Amendments
- NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative Update
- Upcoming Council Events and Convenings:
 - Humanities Faculty Convening with the NJ Council for the Humanities March 25, 2023 – Bergen Community College
 - Student and Alumni Spring Convening April 15, 2023 – Middlesex College
 - Expanding High School Partnership Forum, April 28, 2023 - location tbd
 - Forum on Four Year College and University Partnerships, date tbd, location

tbd

- NJ Scholars Celebration April 27, 2023 - NJ State Museum, Trenton, NJ
- Council Meeting, Community College Awards Celebration and Open House, June 12, 2023 - Council Office at Mill One Hamilton, NJ
- National Pathways Convening, June date tbd, location tbd
- Promising Practices Convening on Student Success, October 2023, location tbd

*Attachments



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, 2600 WOODBRIDGE AVE., EDISON, NJ
WEST HALL, PARKVIEW ROOM

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. - Reading of Public Announcement

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, advance notice of this Public Meeting of the Council was provided on November 21, 2021 by posting written notice of this meeting on the Council website and by transmitting the meeting notice to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, and to the Secretary of State.

ATTENDEES:

Table with 4 columns: College, President, Board Chair, Board Alternate/Other Trustees. Lists attendees for various NJ colleges including Atlantic Cape, Bergen, Brookdale, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Raritan, Rowan at Burlington, Rowan at South Jersey, Salem, Sussex, Union, and Warren.

There were 23 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, constituting a majority and quorum.

Additional Attendees: Maris Lown, Union; Lori Wilkin, Union

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Catherine Starghill, Jessica Britt, Maria Heidkamp, and Lynn Nowak.

2. **Introductions and Announcements**

- ACCT National Legislative Summit Review
- Update on Council Relocation

II. **BUSINESS**

3. **ACTION: Approval of Minutes**

By motion of Margaret McMenemy, and seconded by Jon Connolly, the minutes of the November 21, 2022 Executive Committee meeting; December 5, 2022 Council meeting; December 19, 2022 Executive Committee meeting; January 12, 2023 Executive Committee meeting; January 23, 2023 Executive Committee meeting; and February 13, 2023 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

4. **Acceptance of Council Financial Statements**

By motion of Eric Freidman, and seconded by Sheetal Ranjan, the Council accepted the financial statements for November 2022, December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023.

5. **Report on Temporary Investments**

The Council currently keeps its cash reserves in an account with Spencer Savings Bank. The Council is also enrolled in the NJ Cash Management Fund. As of February 28, 2023, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$2,140,518.

6. **ACTION: Acceptance of NJCCC Audit FY2022**

By motion of Lovell Pugh-Bassett, and seconded by Tony Iacono, the Council accepted the FY2022 NJCCC Audit Report.

7. **ACTION: Resolution to Add Modernization of the County College Contracts Law as a Priority for the Council's State Policy Agenda**

By motion of Barbara Horl, and seconded by Eric Friedman, the Council adopted Resolution 3-20-23 1.

8. ACTION: Proposed Addition of Juneteenth as a Paid Holiday for Council Staff (State Observation).

By motion of Lovell Pugh-Bassett, and seconded by David Stout, the Council approved the addition of Juneteenth to the paid holidays of the Council staff. The NJCCC Personnel Policies will be updated accordingly.

III. STRATEGY

9. Racial and Social Justice Discussion

The recent murder of Tyre Nichols has highlighted again the atrocities happening every day across our nation. The colleges are working together to try to find ways to address this injustice. Everyone's heart is in the same place on these issues and we need to find a way to move forward. Everyone agrees we cannot plod along the same. The presidents recently met and came to a consensus that more difficult conversations need to be had. One tangible thing planned is bringing the Presidents together for a facilitated full day retreat. That is tentatively scheduled to take place in early June prior to the next Council meeting. We will come back with updates at that time.

10. FY2024 State Budget: Update and Next Steps

Fichtner reviewed the Governor's proposed budget with the Council membership. Fichtner reported that the Legislative Action Center has been launched. He encouraged all Council members to use the Center to email their respective legislatures to advocate for the \$20 million increase in operating aid our colleges need.

11. Legislative Update

Fichtner and Nowak reviewed the legislative report in the Council packet. The Council continues to monitor the three oversight bills. Bill A4971 requires that certain information be posted on Institution's websites, including average time to degree completion. Since this metric is not a fair assessment for community colleges the Council is proposing an amendment to bill sponsors to include the language "or other appropriate measures to be determined by the Secretary of Higher Education in consultation with the impacted colleges." This amendment will give the Council an opportunity to provide input to the Secretary in the development of other appropriate measures consistent with the mission of community colleges.

12. Trustee Leadership Academy

The Council in coordination with ACCT lead a successful trustee training academy in November 2022. The Council will be reaching out to the colleges to see if there is a need to host another training in June.

13. Modernization of the NJ Community Colleges Workforce Consortium for Economic and Workforce Development: Proposed Workforce Consortium Bylaw Amendments

Fichtner reported that the full version of proposed Consortium bylaw amendments are included in the Council packet. We ask that Council members review these amendments, which have already been approved by the Workforce Consortium's Executive Committee and Governance Board. These amendments will bring the Consortium's bylaws in line with the current mission and practices. The full Council will consider to adopt these amendments with a vote at the June 12, 2023 Council meeting. Should anyone have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Catherine Starghill.

Meeting Adjourned.

**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
APRIL 17, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDEES: Mary Zimmermann, Union (chair); Barbara Gaba, Atlantic Cape; Sheetal Ranjan, Bergen; Tony Iacono, Morris; Dot Hall, Salem; Michael Gorman, Salem.

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes- March 13, 2023*

By motion of Sheetal Ranjan, and seconded by Dot Hall, the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

2. Review of Council Financial Statements – March 2023*

By motion of Sheetal Ranjan, and seconded by Mike Gorman the March 2023 Council financials were accepted.

- **Budget Line Transfer to Meeting and Conferences**

By motion of Mike Gorman, and seconded by Barbara Gaba the budget line transfer to Meetings/Conferences was approved: \$15,000 from Consultant Services and \$5,000 from Capital and Building Maintenance is transferred to Meetings/Conferences.

3. FY2024 State Budget: Update and Discussion of Strategy

Fichtner reported that the Senate and Assembly Budget hearings are scheduled for May 2nd and 8th. We have several presidents who have committed to coming to Trenton to represent the colleges. The Legislative Action Center has been launched. A second email to the Council membership will go out to remind them to use the center to get emails to their legislators.

4. Legislative Update*

Fichtner reported that the legislature has hit a slow down due to State Budget. We have been informed that Senator Sandra Cunningham, current chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, is retiring. Senator Andrew Zwicker is set to potentially take her place. Longtime community college supported Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, current chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, is also retiring. The Summer TAG Awards grant has been signed into law allowing HESAA to award summer tuition aid grants.

5. **FY2024 Council Operating Budget Overview- Preliminary Discussion**

Fichtner reviewed an overview of the proposed FY2024 Operating Budget. The budget needs to be transmitted to the full Council by May 12, 2023 for vote at the June 12, 2023 Council meeting. A note of significance is that the TIAA Cref suspense account has been completely expended as of April 7, 2023. We have been putting funds into reserves over these last five years to account for this. Fichtner presented assessment scenarios of a 2 % increase in FY2024. Fichtner reviewed the office occupancy expenses that will be split in thirds between the Council, Workforce Consortium, and Pathways operating budgets. Fichtner reviewed the personnel who are shared amongst the three budgets as well.

By motion of Mike Gorman, and seconded by Barbara Gaba, the Executive Committee approved a 3% Assessment increase for the FY2024 Council Operating Budget.

The Executive Committee members all agreed to moving their May meeting up one week for a final review and vote on the FY2024 Council budget.

6. **Upcoming Council Events and Convenings:**

- Student and Alumni Spring Convening April 15, 2023 – Middlesex College
- NJ Scholars Celebration April 27, 2023 - NJ State Museum, Trenton, NJ
- Council Meeting, Community College Awards Celebration and Open House, June 12, 2023 - Council Office at Mill One Hamilton, NJ

*Attachments

**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MAY 8, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDEES: Mary Zimmermann, Union (chair); Barbara Gaba, Atlantic Cape; Sheetal Ranjan, Bergen; Jessica Stewart, Camden; Tony Iacono, Morris; Dot Hall, Salem; Michael Gorman, Salem.

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes- April 17, 2023*

By motion of Dot Hall, and seconded by Mike Gorman, the minutes of the April 17, 2023 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

2. Review of Council Financial Statements – April 2023*

By motion of Tony Iacono, and seconded by Mike Gorman the April 2023 Council financials were accepted.

3. FY2024 Council Operating Budget

By motion of Mike Gorman, and seconded by Sheetal Ranjan the FY2024 Council Operating Budget was approved without amendment. The proposed budget will be forwarded to the full Council for their consideration and vote at the June 12, 2023 Council meeting.

4. Update: State Budget and Legislation

Fichtner reported that the Senate and Assembly Budget hearings concluded today. The hearings were well attended by our presidents. There is still a fair amount of work to be done. The Legislative Action Center is working, 500 people have sent approximately 11,000 emails to members of the legislature. Fichtner reported that we do have sponsors in both houses introducing resolutions for the \$20 million increase in operating aid to Community Colleges, specifically Senator Andrew Zwicker and Assemblywoman Linda Carter.

5. Proposed Community College awards to be presented on June 12, 2023

Fichtner presented the following award recommendation to the Executive Committee for their consideration:

- **Ronald D. Winthers Trustee Leadership Award** – Bakari G. Lee, Hudson County

Community College

- **Partnership Award**- New Jersey Business and Industry Association
- **Visionary Leadership Award**- Senator Sandra Cunningham, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee (retiring at the end of this term)
- **Visionary Leadership Award**- Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee (retiring at the end of this term)

The Executive Committee members unanimously agreed with Fichtner' s recommendations.

Additional Community College awards will be presented at the November 20, 2023 Council meeting. These awards include: New Jersey Community College Exemplary Students, Distinguished Faculty Award, Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Community College Leadership Award, Community College Spirit Award, and Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award. Council staff will be reaching out to the colleges in September for award nominations

Meeting adjourned.

*Attachments