SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AMMERMAN CAMPUS, SELDEN, NY
ALUMNI ROOM, BROOKHAVEN GYMNASIUM
AND VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 18, 2022

The meeting was held on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alumni Room of the Brookhaven Gymnasium in-person and via Zoom.

PRESENT:

E. Christopher Murray	Chair
Gordon Canary	Secretary
Theresa Sanders	Trustee
Kevin O'Connor	Trustee
Gemma deLeon-Lopresti	Trustee
Priscilla Zarate	Trustee
Dr. Edward Bonahue	President
Louis J. Petrizzo	Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Alicia O'Connor	Deputy General Counsel
Alla Brodsky	Deputy General Counsel
Dr. Mark Harris	V.P. for Business and Financial Affairs
Mary Lou Araneo	V.P. for Institutional Advancement
Shady Azzam-Gomez	V.P. for Information Technology Services
Dr. Patty Munsch	Interim Assistant V.P. for Student Affairs
Dr. Lauren Tacke-Cushing	Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs
Kaliah Greene	Interim V.P. / Executive Director, Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Angelica Rivera	A.V.P. for Employee Resources

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Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting and convene the Board of Directors meeting at 9:04 a.m. Trustee O'Connor so moved, Trustee Sanders seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Chair Murray called for a motion to approve the Association minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting. Trustee Canary so moved, Trustee O'Connor seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Chair Murray introduced Dr. Patricia Munsch, Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Association financial report as of July 31, 2022. Dr. Munsch said she was excited to share that the Student Association continues to thrive

with student success, and is currently in the process of conducting orientation programs, both in-person and online, for all of incoming students. As was anticipated the Association's budget is approximately $500,000 over budget. The Association will utilize its reserve funds to draw down the accounts. At the end of the July 31st financial report, there is approximately $3.1M remaining in the reserve account.

Chair Murray announced that there was a request from Mr. Ray Donnelly to address the Board of Directors to discuss the lacrosse program. Mr. Donnelly distributed a PowerPoint that he said he would be referring to. He thanked the Board and President Bonahue for the opportunity to come speak to them in support of the College's lacrosse program.

He said his purpose today was to clearly say why discontinuing a legacy program would be a mistake for Suffolk Community College. On March 14, 2020, the NJCAA suspended all junior college sports due to COVID. At the time, Sharks lacrosse was ranked number three in the country, with a squad of twenty-five players. He noted those twenty-five players generated $125,000 in tuition revenue for the College, and he emphasized that there is a very strong value to fielding a lacrosse team for both enrollment and tuition revenue. He cited some reasons for why the College should move forward with its lacrosse program. Lacrosse is the fastest growing team sport in the United States and the Long Island region is at the heart of that. There are over five hundred lacrosse-playing seniors graduating Suffolk high schools every year, and this is why he can't understand why the College can't field a team because it can't find players.

Admittedly, he said there was some bumps in the road in the attempt to bring the program back this year, such as the coach leaving for a better job. He felt his experience in having his own business for seven years, and having done business in twenty countries, as well as serving in the public sector as the Commissioner of the Town of Brookhaven Economic Development office allows him to understand budget constraints. However, he feels it would be a bad decision for the College not to move forward with a lacrosse program. In early June he met with the College's Athletic Director and suggested that if it was not possible to bring lacrosse back as a varsity sport, perhaps the College could fund it as a club team. It would be a way to keep the legacy program alive, while the College regroups and still offers Suffolk Community College the benefit of enrollment and revenue opportunities from the squad. Mr. Donnelly added that he would contribute towards the effort and has done fundraising for the Shootout for Soldiers annual lacrosse tournament, where they raised $200,000 this year. He pointed out that Suffolk is the only college across the region dropping lacrosse due to COVID. He felt that it was his duty, as a former letterman, and former VP of the Alumni Association, to come speak in support of the program to the Board. He said it was a short-sighted mistake to drop a program that could contribute vitally to both enrollment and revenue and has a long legacy. Lacrosse is Long Island's game; there's opportunities there.

Chair Murray thanked Mr. Donnelly for the presentation and said he gave them something to think about.

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Chair Murray called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting and reconvene the Board of Trustees meeting at 9:16 a.m. Trustee Sanders so moved, Trustee Zarate seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Canary
Secretary