

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Joint meeting with the
COMMITTEE ON GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY
May 20, 2008—1:00 pm
MEETING MINUTES**

In Attendance:

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (GO) MEMBERS: Leg. Ken Jenkins, Chair; Leg. Gordon Burrows, Leg. William Burton, Leg. Peter Harkham, Leg. Judy Myers, Leg. Vito Pinto, Leg. Martin Rogowsky, Leg. Bernice Spreckman. Committee Coordinators: Barbara Dodds, Sally Schecter.

COMMITTEE ON GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY (GCED) MEMBERS: Leg. Bernice Spreckman, Chair, Leg. William Burton, Leg. Jundith Myers, Leg. Vito Pinto. Committee Coordinator, Rose Vinci.

Others: Roberto Nascimento, Consumer Equity Reverse Mtgs., Rosemary KacLaughlin, LWVW, Dr. Hankin and staff, WCC; Camille Murphy, Office for Women; Karin Brown, Westchester Creative Aging; Karen Brindizarro, Westchester Center for Creative Energy.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Westchester Community College—operation updates and status of projects. Guest: Dr. Joseph Hankin, President
- Office for Women—update on activities and programs. Guest: Camille Murphy, Director

ITEMS RECEIVED AND FILED: 34, 50, 53, 63, 64, 65, 70, 74, 103

With quorums present, Leg. Jenkins opened the meeting of the GO Committee at 1:18 and Leg. Spreckman opened the meeting of the GCED Committee.

Leg. Jenkins welcomed Dr. Hankin, President of Westchester Community College, to update the Committee on a number of topics:

- Gateway is on time in construction—First County building to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Minority recruitment is a constant challenge. WCC has the 5th highest number of minority teaching faculty among the 30 community colleges. Of the 165 teaching faculty, there are 17 senior faculty, 14 administrators, 8 counselors and 5 librarians. WCC is in competition with other colleges in New York City for a limited supply. We don't pay as much at the bottom end but at the high end we are tops in the state. Leg. Harkham asked what can be done to make ourselves more competitive at the junior level. Dr. Hankin responded that in the last union negotiation they lopped off the bottom two steps and now start Instructors at \$52,000. There are now 20 instructors at that range. So it's important to watch the bottom step and make sure it is competitive. The Board of Trustees has named this the Year of Diversity with a series of speakers and seminars. The college also sends hunting parties to the city universities to court interest in working at WCC part time.

- Contract negotiations are about to start up on August 31. Mike Wittenberg met with the representatives and exchanged proposals. Could go into a whole year. Leg. Harckham asked which parts of staff are negotiating? CSEA used to represent CSEA on the campus. A petition was drawn up on campus asking for a separate bargaining unit. PERB has not ruled on it officially but we do know that on three separate upstate campuses they have ruled in favor of it. Probably the majority of the bargaining unit would still choose McPhillips so that the same person will probably represent them in a different unit so If CSEA settles in the next couple of months, it will not effect the 250 WCC CSEA employees. Also UFT negotiations are in the works.
- Leg. Jenkins asked how the state budget has impacted the college budget. Dr. Hankin explained that the state budget for SUNY did not negatively affect the community colleges as much the universities. This year there will be an increase in state funds for WCC because of the big increase in student enrollment this year. The budget submitted to the County on May 10 asked for a budget increase of 9.9%. Total number of teaching positions in the college. Union asked the legislature some years ago to add two faculty positions a year so that over time we would be able to grow. About four years into the verbal agreement now and Dr. Hankin is still supportive of it. Because WCC does not have as many full time faculty or administrators, tuition costs per full-time student are kept down to \$8400 per student versus the \$8900 average cost for community colleges.
- The satellites are doing very well. This year monthly report on island accounts—revenues exceed expense in Peekskill close in Ossining have four more years to go on the lease compromise on space and build out. Classes are also held in 54 locations. \$1.7 million capital expense became maintenance of effort. Even with the extra cost per square foot, revenues are increasing. Mezzanine office space.
- Cost of Marx Center day care is competitive with other area centers. Fewer WCC students with children use it, more children of County employees and neighborhood parents. About ten spaces are available. A few years ago, area parents had complained about the high increase in tuition within one year.
- Mainstream program is in the red this year but a good service to the community. Ms. Murphy added that the Office for Women is very appreciative of the valuable experiences that Mainstream provides for older adults, especially women.

22:

Leg. Jenkins welcomed Camille Murphy, Director of the **Office for Women**. Ms. Murphy gave an update and overview of the services and programs of the Office for Women (OFW) and said how proud she was of the thirty scholarships of \$134,000 in private money raised from corporations and foundations given as part of the Women's Hall of Fame program. The scholarships were targeted to domestic violence victims returning to school and young college seniors going on with their education and veterans. She also mentioned the "Mamapalooza 2008" educational event the weekend before which drew 4000 people to workshops, health screenings and information tables.

Materials were distributed (on file) to the Committee members on the programs of OFW outlining three service divisions: public policy and advocacy, public education and research, and direct services. Under OFW, there are numerous initiatives such as the Women's Health Partnership, Hispanic Outreach, the Women's Advisory Board and the Domestic Abuse Council. Other domestic violence programs are Verizon Hopeline, Strike Out DV and DV Awareness Month. Other education and training programs

include the Women's History Month booklet, the Martha Sloan Greenawalt mentoring program, police and emergency room trainings for documenting injuries sustained by victims of domestic violence.

OFW contracts to not-for-profit groups are expected to total about \$2.5 million in the 2008 budget. Ms. Murphy noted that the OFW does not duplicate the services of not-for-profits but seeks to enhance their work and give oversight help.

Leg. Myers questioned the effectiveness of the non-residential program of My Sisters' Place which is one of the largest contracts (\$416, 415). Leg. Rogowsky expressed a concern about the relationship between OFW and DSS in contract management of direct services. There is no duplication, Ms. Murphy said, OFW creates the policy under which these agencies fill the contracts. Contracts come from DSS (residential) to OFW (non-residential) and they have an interdepartmental agreement. Also, all the staff are in the contract with state, federal and a minimum of county money. Leg. Myers related a question she had heard about finding a way to avoid duplication of services between not for profits. An umbrella organization could be a role for OFW. Ms Murphy said they already were—in the domestic violence OFW is the umbrella school based initiative except in the two shelters because some women prefer being in the north county, etc. OFW has a contract with Legal Services of Hudson Valley to work with the day laborers. There is a new initiative of the Domestic Violence Council and the Chiefs of Police Association. Children Who Abuse

Leg. Jenkins led a discussion on the **status of the apprenticeship law** in Albany. The Law Dept. suggested the Committee hold up on looking at legislation until the moratorium was lifted. We hope to have information and a discussion on the 27th.

Leg. Rogowsky brought to the Committee's attention that the administration put out an RFP for 55,000 sq. ft. and not 85,000 sq. ft. for the site of the Board of Elections building. They are due back May 23rd. Leg. Pinto noted that he had suggested the back of 375 Executive Blvd. which we already own. Leg. Jenkins called for a buildout cost for the back of 375 Executive Blvd. for the same square footage by June 3. Leg. Burton mentioned that the developer of the storage center on the Valhalla campus for a flat building for Dept. of Emerg. Services came in slightly under \$300 per sq. ft. total cost. A good basement in the bottom. Doubling up under the public safety building makes sense.

Leg. Jenkins made a motion to adjourn Government Operations, moved by Leg. Myers and seconded by Leg. Burton. All in favor.

Leg. Spreckman made a motion to adjourn Generational, Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, moved by Leg. Burton and seconded by Leg. Myers. All in favor