

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
FISCAL AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

There were present:

**Committee Members:**

Hon. Joseph J. Lhota, Chair  
Hon. Valerie L. Beal  
Hon. Carol A. Robles-Roman  
Hon Terrence F. Martell, faculty member  
Mr. Joseph Awadje, student alternate

**Ex-officio:**

Vice Chairperson Philip Alfonso Berry

**Observers:**

Prof. Kay Conway

**Trustee Staff:**

Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the  
Board Jay Hershenson  
Ms. Towanda Lewis  
Mr. Anthony Vargas

**University Staff:**

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating  
Officer Allan H. Dobrin  
Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Fiscal Policy  
Marc V. Shaw  
Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza  
University Controller Leonard Zinnanti  
University Deputy Controller Miriam Katowitz  
University Associate Controller Thomas Z. Zhou

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**Cal. No.**

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**DISPOSITION**

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Committee Chair Joseph Lhota stated that he would like to congratulate Vice Chancellor Matthew Sapienza to his new appointment.

The agenda items were considered and acted upon in the following order:

**I. ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2014.** The minutes were approved as submitted.
- B. In-State Tuition Rates for Online Degree Programs at John Jay College. Committee Chair Lhota asked that the Committee approve this resolution to adopt in-state tuition rates for online degree programs at John Jay College.

In response to a question from Trustee Valerie Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that for the most part all of the University's online courses charge in-state tuition rates. The School of Professional Studies (SPS)—which has by and large the most online programs—charges the in-state rate for all of their online programs. SPS also has a similar \$75 online instruction fee as John Jay College's proposed online infrastructure fee of \$75. John Jay College has another online master's degree program, the MPA Inspector General Program, for which students are charged the in-state rate.

In response to a question from University Faculty Senate (UFS) Chair and Trustee Terrence Martell, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that the students of John Jay College will pay a technology fee as well.

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In response to a question from Trustee Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that throughout the country there are some public higher-ed institutions that charge in-state tuition for online courses for out-of-state students; however, research has shown that there are no SUNY online programs that do it. In order for the University to be competitive, John Jay College is charging the in-state rate for online courses to attract a wider net of students outside of New York.

Following discussion this item was approved for submission to the Board. Trustee Valerie Beal voted NO.

**II. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**A. FY 2014-2015 State Executive Budget**

\*\*\*REPORT BY VICE CHANCELLOR MATTHEW SAPIENZA\*\*\*

In response to a question from Trustee Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that enrollment has stabilized over the last couple of years and the percentage of students receiving TAP has been stable the last few years as well. Last year, 97,000 students in total received some form of TAP assistance out of the 271,000 degree seeking students.

In response to a question from UFS Chair and Trustee Martell, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that students are only eligible for eight semesters worth of TAP, for the most part.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Allan Dobrin added that the number of students who are eligible for TAP includes graduate students as well.

In response to a question from Trustee Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that the Governor set aside \$8 million for both SUNY and CUNY in total for the first year of a new program for next year, called the STEM Scholarship Initiative. Students who graduate from a public high school in New York State within the top ten percent of their class, who decide to go to a CUNY or SUNY college and major in a STEM discipline, will get to attend tuition free.

In response to another question from Trustee Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that as Senior Vice Chancellor and Board Secretary Hershenson mentioned, the proposed legislation calls for students to work in New York State for five years in the STEM discipline which they have majored in. He added that if a student does not persist throughout their degree, change their major from a STEM discipline to another type of major, or do not get a job in that discipline the tuition free aspect turns into a loan.

Trustee Beal stated that students who are majoring in a STEM discipline and are in the top ten percent of their class, will have no difficulty getting full tuition and admission to probably ninety percent of the colleges and universities in the country.

Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that another factor in this program is the fact that a lot of the students, as mentioned earlier, are eligible for financial aid and so if they are eligible for full TAP then they would not be eligible for this scholarship. The population of students that would attend tuition free would not be that significant, but hopefully if the program is successful, it will attract more students to CUNY and into the STEM disciplines.

In response to a question from Trustee Beal, Vice Chancellor Sapienza stated that in June 2011, the state announced that a five-year agreement on higher education sunsets in June 2016, so any future tuition increases or the maintenance of effort provisions are all due to

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sunset as well. He added that the preliminary budget for the city is coming out next Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The public meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.