



Faculty Association Suffolk Community College Executive Council **AGENDA**

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Time: 3:45 pm

Location: Zoom

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2023, EC Meeting
2. Financial Audit
3. New Deal for Students Update
4. Nonmember Outreach Project
5. Spring Fling, April 18, 6 pm, Port Jefferson Country Club
6. FA Leadership Appreciation, May 7, 5:30 pm
7. EC Rep Issues
8. Officers Reports
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

UPCOMING DATES TO KNOW

- Executive Council meetings — April 11, May 9, and May 30 (at 1 pm)
- Adjunct NORA forms — March 18 available, April 5 due
- FA/Guild Spring Fling — April 18, 5 pm, Port Jeff Country Club



Faculty Association Suffolk Community College Executive Council APPROVED MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024
Time: 3:45 pm
Location: via Zoom

1. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2024, EC Meeting

- **D. Morelli:** Meeting called to order at 3:48 pm. Corrections to February minutes? Three edits: In EC rep issues, it is noted that library supervisor did immediately alternative workspace, edit to say “run, hide, fight” in proper order, and minor clarifications in financial report.
 - ➔ **Motion to approve February minutes as amended above made by C. Brewer, seconded by M. Sierra. Motion is approved 18/0/2.**

Secretary's note: One EC rep entered meeting after this vote.

D. Morelli introduces Mary Griffin, incoming EC rep upon EC certification, as a guest today.

2. Financial Audit

- **P. DiGregorio:** The audit is completely confidential to the EC. Buchbinder is now Weaver; we have the same reps just different company name. On page 3, statement of financial position, you see they had no corrections and no recommendations. Our VOTE COPE fund is down slightly, a bit of a concern; we need to boost those numbers because important for contract and political action. Page 4 shows net assets for general fund. We are very stable financially, with a 14.8 month reserve. We haven't had to tap into reserves built up during pandemic. The head auditor indicated that we should continue doing what we are doing.
 - ➔ **Motion to accept this year's forensic audit into the record made by R. Lauria, seconded by L. Behnke. Motion is approved 21/0/0.**

3. New Deal for Students Campaign

- **D. Morelli:** This is a campaign to get funding for additional full-time faculty lines in strategic areas such as nursing, automotive, and cybersecurity. During a legislative meeting, they were speaking on our behalf so that's good. Join the ND4S campaign before June when the budget ask happens: Go to newdealforstudents.org and sign up at bottom of home page. I've also sent it to local K-12 union leaders. Thanks to Joan Cook and Cynthia Eaton for their work on this and setting up this website.

4. Nonmember Outreach Project

- **C. Brewer:** In February I emailed about new hires not signing up right away so we are doing a stronger push to the nonmembers who are working alongside us. All full-time faculty are members, so focusing on adjunct nonmembers. I'll be sending information so when you come back from break, you'll have a packet with membership enrollment forms, brochures, and talking points. Please touch base with nonmember colleagues to try to bring them in. Fabio and I appreciate your help with this important project.

5. Spring Fling April 18, 6 pm, Port Jeff Country Club

- **D. Morelli:** Please sign up! This is both the FA and Guild; upper administrators attend as well as local elected officials, Board of Trustees members, etc. This year it'll be held at the [Port Jefferson Country Club](#) at 6 pm on April 18. \$40 covers dinner, dessert, dancing, and open bar! We will celebrate our new hires and retirees too.

N. Pestieau: Nominations are in and our awards committee will be meeting on Friday, March 22, to deliberate and we will notify you so the recipients can be announced in early April. I want to thank my committee members for their time, plus Cynthia Eaton for helping.

6. FA Leadership Appreciation Event, May 7, 5:30 pm

- **L. Behnke:** We have several new members and all have been assigned mentors. Donna Krompinger has been very helpful in this process and she is a great mentor too; reach out to me, Donna Krompinger, or Matt Pappas if you'd like to learn about the program. We would love to see you there as FA leaders and activists to meet our newest hires.

7. EC Rep Issues

- There are concerns about cancelation of classes that may cause faculty to not make full load?
D. Morelli: This is our number 1 concern. Have faculty notify us immediately so we can work with chairs and deans to ensure they can make full load.

8. Officers Reports

President Dante Morelli reports the following:

Local issues —

- Courtney Brewer and I are meeting with members individually as we work to advocate for each person. We also meet with Ed and Angelica regularly on daily concerns.

State issues —

- It is budget season for the state and the county. As you know, the college's funding formula is state, county, and students—with students paying the bulk of it. I've been meeting with elected reps in Albany and in their local offices. The Suffolk County

Legislature also understand our needs. I still do not believe layoffs are on the table but if they are, they are a very last resort and we are okay for this year.

- Regarding community college funding and the Fix Tier 6 emails: Because it's state budget season, I'm asking you to send out the [NYSUT Member Action Center emails](#). It takes less than five seconds to do—especially if you download the MAC app—but it really does make an impact with our elected officials.

Executive Vice President Courtney Brewer reports the following:

- Promotion letters are going out and members are getting those; we will be congratulating those members in the next issue of *The WORD*. It is a significant achievement for members.
- The cycle is starting again, so I am answering a lot of questions from members. Full-time faculty hand in their cover sheet in May and the full packet in June.
- Associate VP Lauren Tacke-Cushing has been attending governance meetings about Middle States accreditation and will need faculty involved. This counts as excellent collegewide community service.
- As Dante noted, we're attending meetings with administration on day-to-day issues, and we sent up three reclassification applications and await administration's decision.

Secretary Cynthia Eaton reports the following:

- [Faculty development & retraining committee](#)—Applications are due April 15, and I am receiving and responding to drafts.
- Elections committee—The committee will be asking you to certify the election results at our April 11 meeting. All of the races were uncontested, so we hope to welcome five new EC reps for the upcoming term.
- Distance education—The FA and Guild hosting a professional development workshop on distance ed on Friday, March 8. It went well, with about 40 attendees collaborating on ideas and issues relating to DE. We will also be sharing resources on the FA website.
- [JEDI Institute](#): All meetings will be on June 5, June 10, and June 12. AFT President Randi Weingarten will be attending on June 10, so we can planning a major event to bring people together to focus on education.
- For Google Groups: I think we'll have your new listervs ready soon! Will be sharing those as soon as possible.
- For the [New Deal for Students](#) website, we are still looking for more colleagues and students to share comments, quotes, and headshots with me.

Treasurer Pete DiGregorio reports the following:

- On treasurer report: On the February report, page 1, there's a negative amount which represents a Local Action Project reimbursement. Page 2 shows the totals in our accounts. For the spring 2024 semester, we have 393 FT members, with two on unpaid leave (so 391), 846 adjunct members, and 129 adjunct nonmembers. Our VOTE COPE expenditures are there too. I'm working on constant dues adjustments based on adjunct assignment changes.

- Last year, interest rates spiking, so we needed to better invest our money. Our reserves were essentially in a money market account because we are not allowed to “gamble” with members’ money, but we can invest in CD where we can earn money. Our six-month CD matures in a week, so will withdraw the interest and then re-invest that again.

President Dante Morelli reports the following on behalf of Grievance Officer Kevin McCoy:

- Kevin McCoy is at a conference so reporting on his behalf.
- We worked with several faculty members on issues involving accumulated hours, substitutions, assignments, pay, and accommodations.
- We successfully got super-seniority for adjunct, but they still may not get an assignment; we are working with administration to rectify the situation.
- We are dealing with faculty member who is not getting full load in their primary discipline so working to get them assignments in a secondary discipline.
- A temp faculty member was not placed on the seniority list, so we reached out to the area administrator, and they were added to the list.
- We are working with administration to get an employee placed at the proper step and might have to file a grievance on behalf of the employee.
- We received a question about Commencement. Faculty can attend an alternative ceremony like ESL or Honors or nursing as long as they have approval from the executive dean or area VP.
- An adjunct nonmember reached out to get a peer for an observation, but the FA does not provide a peer for nonmembers. The member will need to arrange for their own peer.
- I am currently representing a faculty member in a Title IX case.

Adjunct Coordinator Kim Ng Southard reports the following:

- We held the adjunct meet and greet with the officers. We shared introductions, listened to our members’ stories, and fielded questions. It was very friendly, and we plan to schedule more informal meetings like this next semester.
- An adjunct member who gave up their assignment due to serious medical issues will be compensated for the semester under the new compassionate leave benefit that was negotiated in our last contract.
- Kevin and I met with our NYSUT LRS Damon Levenstien to discuss strategies to help a member who received super seniority but still may not receive an assignment.
- I advised an adjunct colleague on recent observation evaluations where they had needed some improvement. The member worked hard to create a revised syllabus and has just heard there will be no need for a follow-up observation.
- We are working with an adjunct member who has concerns regarding a recent full-time search.

9. Unfinished Business

- None at this time.

10. New Business

- A rep raised a question about proportionate adjunct representation on our Executive Council, which is something we will be examining during our week at the Local Action Project this summer. Membership has contracted and changed in multiple ways since the pandemic.

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by N. Edwards, seconded by A. Darini. All in favor 21/0/0. Meeting adjourned 5:18 pm.

Attendance: Members present on February 8, 2024

Officers

- [Dante Morelli](#), President
- [Courtney Brewer](#), Exec VP
- [Cynthia Eaton](#), Secretary
- [Pete DiGregorio](#), Treasurer
- [Kevin McCoy](#), Grievance Officer
- [Kim Ng Southard](#), Adjunct Coordinator

EC Reps: Ammerman Full Time

- [John Capurso](#): Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Legal Studies
- [Matt Pappas](#): Biology, Physical Sciences
- [Rich Lauria](#): Communication, Languages, Reading, TV/Radio/Film
- [Ben Laudicina](#): Counseling, Cooperative Ed
- [vacant](#): Engineering, Computer Science/Industrial Technology
- [David Clark](#): English
- [Deb Provenzano](#): Library, Central
- [Alexander Atwood](#): Math
- [Alex Nohai-Seaman](#): Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Philosophy, Women's Studies
- [Marlene Kellner](#): Nursing, Health and Human Services, Physical Education
- [Christina Bosco](#): Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences

EC Reps: Eastern Full Time

- [Mary Sierra](#): Library, Humanities, Counseling
- [Nic Pestieau](#): Science, Math, Social Science, Business, Nursing, Culinary, Physical Education

EC Reps: Grant Full Time

- [Eric Weinstein](#) — Business, HVAC, CIS, Technology, ETU Coordinator
- [Naomi Edwards](#) — Humanities
- [Tara Fagan](#) — Library, Counseling, Media
- [Anabel Darini](#) — Natural Sciences, Math
- [Josh Wolfson](#) — Nursing, Health Science, Physical Education, Vet Sci
- [vacant](#) — Social Sciences

EC Reps: PAs & Specialists Full Time

- [Lisa Behnke](#): Programmatic
- [Madeeha Rahat](#): Instructional Labs
- [Kevin Wirth](#): Technical Areas/Instructional Centers

EC Reps: Collegewide Adjuncts

- [Christopher Pascale](#): Business, Accounting, Communications, Telecom
- [Debra Handel](#): Counseling, Education, Freshman/College Seminar
- [Patricia Bergel](#): Culinary, Fire Protection Technology, Library, Electrical Tech, Drafting, Interior Design
- [Robert Schmidt](#): English
- [Sallie Bruno](#): Foreign Languages, ESL, ASL, Reading
- [Steve Clark](#): Guild, Retiree, PAs/Specialists in Programmatic Areas
- [Dean Karahalıs](#): Humanities, Arts, Music, Philosophy
- [vacant](#): Math
- [Jennifer Champagne](#): Nursing, Physical Education, Health Sciences
- [Kailyn Giaccone](#): PAs/ Specialists in Academic Skills Centers
- [Laura Stone](#): PAs/Specialists in Instructional Labs
- [vacant](#): Science, Engineering, Auto
- [Jim Rooney](#): Social Sciences