

**The Awards Committee  
meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.  
in the Robert Michael Sdao Memorial Board Room  
at SUNY Niagara and via ZOOM**

**Awards Committee Members Present**

William Ross, Chairperson  
Gail Tylec, Vice Chair (ZOOM)  
Lee Wallace  
Gina Virtuoso (ZOOM)

**Awards Committee Members Absent**

Katherine Alexander  
Jacob Fleming, Jr.

Committee Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on March 5, 2025. A roll call of board members was taken. Trustees present were Committee Chairperson Ross, Trustees Tylec (via zoom), Virtuoso (via zoom), and Wallace.

Committee Chairperson Ross welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Awards Committee. The committee was formed to oversee the discussion and nomination of members for various awards both on an organizational and individual level.

Trustee Emeritus Criteria/Rubric & SUNY Niagara By-Laws: Committee Chairperson Ross discussed the revisions to the criteria sand rubric used for the Trustee Emeritus. It was found that the revisions to the criteria and rubric were not in alignment with the current by-laws of the board. Specific language in the current by-laws under Article 28 (Trustee Emeritus) needs to be amended. The suggested amendments to this article are as follows:

**Article 28- Trustee Emeritus (Current)**

*A Trustee of Niagara County Community College may be appointed Trustee Emeritus(a) by the Board of Trustees. A Trustee Emeritus shall not be a voting member of the Board of Trustees.*

- 28.1 A Trustee who has served for a minimum of two (2) terms may, upon recommendation of a member of the Board of Trustees, be elected by the Board of Trustees then in office as Trustee Emeritus.*
- 28.2 This position shall be reserved for those Trustees with records of distinguished service. A Trustee Emeritus shall be nominated through the Awards Committee and elected by the full Board.*
- 28.3 A Trustee Emeritus shall be entitled to received notices of all meetings of the Board, to attend and speak at all such meetings, to receive minutes of all meetings of the Board and its Committees, and to be appointed as a member of all Committees. They shall have the right to participate in meetings of any committee to which they have been appointed but shall have no voting powers.*
- 28.4 Privileges include written invitation to, acknowledgement at, and reserved seating for the annual commencement ceremony, provision of a parking pass, library privileges and the same benefits enjoyed by Trustees, including invitation to appropriate staff gatherings and inclusion on appropriate mailing lists.*

The Awards Committee requests the following amendments to Article 28 be made as follows:

*To be awarded the Trustee Emeritus status a former trustee of the SUNY Niagara College Board of Trustees must satisfy the following criteria:*

Criteria:

- 28.1 The Trustee must have been appointed a minimum of two (2) terms of service as a SUNY Niagara Trustee prior to nomination as a Trustee Emeritus.*
- 28.2 The Trustee must have served on the Board for a period of no less than ten years.*

*The recognition that shall be accorded to a Trustee Emeritus, including those Trustee Emeriti that have previously been honored prior to the approval of this policy, shall include:*

Recognition:

- 28.3 Photograph with an entitled "Trustee Emeritus" plaque displayed in the SUNY Niagara Board Room.*
- 28.4 An invitation to walk in the college commencement procession, and to be seated in a place of honor at commencement.*
- 28.5 Invitations to all major college events, including an open invitation to all Board public meetings.*
- 28.6 The Trustee Emeritus name included in publications along with the names of standing members of the Board of Trustees.*
- 28.7 Other individual privileges as deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the President.*
- 28.8 Trustee Emeritus recipients will be formally recognized at the SUNY Niagara Fall Gala.*
- 28.9 NOTE: The recipient will be deemed ineligible for re-appointment to the SUNY Niagara Board of Trustee by the appointing authorities in the future.*

Revisions to the by-laws, specifically Article 28, will be brought to the full board meeting for approval on March 11, 2025.

NYCCT Resubmission of 2024 Nomination-

Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Contribution- Dr. Virginia Taylor:

Barbara DeSimone is working to update the nomination form for NYCCT in order to resubmit Dr. Virginia Taylor for this award. Further information will be made available to the Awards Committee when the form has been revised for formal submission.

NYCCT Nominations- Individual and Organizational Awards:

A link will be provided to the committee members for the NYCCT website to review potential award and the criteria necessary to nominate individuals. NYCCT website has not been updated with current timeline for nominations and due dates for nominations for the 2025 year.

The next Awards Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Chairperson Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by trustee Virtuoso. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Kristin Leszkowicz  
Assistant to the President