

**MEETING OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 13, 2026**

TUSTEES PRESENT: E. Galligan, Committee Chair (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: C. Massey, D. Potash, S. Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 8:34am.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Committee Charge

The committee discussed how best to identify college priorities and importance of the committee in college operations. Establishing a charge will be part of operationalizing the committee and in guiding the institution towards effective reporting, using data for planning around resources, monitoring programs and program health.

The VP added focusing on program health, new program development, curricular and co-curricular activities aligned with the college's mission and vision was common for this kind of the committee.

The committee will work on drafting a formal charge for review.

b. Academic Momentum

VP Massey provided an overview of SUNY's academic momentum campaign (attached below). The campaign looks at persistence; focusing attention on removing barriers and aligning data and resources. Key targets include graduation rates, FAFSA completion, Math and English completion requirements.

The college is already implementing changes such as:

- reimplementation of a freshman seminar with changes to ensure increased student success (5-week, intensive, high-impact course),
- redesigned block schedule
- committee looking at intentional use of summer schedule to offer opportunity for students to get ahead
- bringing back the writer's lounge
- administered an advising survey to all advisors to understand where they see barriers, results are still being evaluated.

Post completion outcome tracking is important to the community

The college needs to review programs more regularly, including attention to Department of Labor and County needs. The college has data on healthcare post completion outcomes, but lacks reliable data on transfer. While articulation agreements will be receiving attention, the college - like much of SUNY - has much to do across the institution (faculty, advisors, the registrar and others) to improve transfer.

c. Strategic Planning

Prioritization within the Strategic Plan remains to be developed. In addition, the college needs to do more to make student success visible. There is no structure or process by which we emphasize, publicize our students. Suggestions include working with the Sullivan County Democrat and Spectrum.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:32am.

Submitted by E. Galligan, Committee Chair

Recorded by K. Gibson

Academic Momentum Report

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Board of Trustees

February 13, 2026

Overview

Academic Momentum is SUNY's new systemwide framework for increasing student persistence, credit accumulation, and degree completion. Similar efforts have been undertaken at many state systems, demonstrating a large-scale commitment to improving student outcomes. At SUNY Sullivan, Academic Momentum will serve as the coordinating structure that aligns academic programs, advising, financial aid, scheduling, and student support around measurable student success outcomes. This work directly supports the College's strategic priorities: fiscal health and long-term stability, enrollment growth and student success, and articulation of SUNY Sullivan's distinctive value proposition.

Purpose

Research indicates that colleges improve student success by improving student persistence semester to semester, completing 15 credits in their first term and 30 credits in their first year, passing gateway English and Math courses in their first year, and maintaining financial aid eligibility. Accomplish this and graduate rates will increase.

Strategic Approach

- Structured Academic Pathways: Revised degree maps with express, summer, and winter options.
- Proactive Advising Redesign: Formal advising structure, early alert monitoring, first-year seminar cohorts.
- Gateway Course Reform: Writer's Lounge, tutoring expansion, English and Math sequencing review.
- Financial Aid & FAFSA Alignment: Embedded FAFSA tracking and coordinated outreach.
- Equity-Focused Supports: Adult Learner Navigator, EOP expansion, disaggregated outcome tracking.

Timeline & Milestones

- Fall 2025: Plan discussed, proposed and took shape; suggested targets from SUNY; college evaluated and approved goals.
- Spring 2026: Action Plan finalization, Early Alert redesign, advising training, baseline metrics.
- Fall 2026: Launch Freshman Seminar, schedule redesign, Writer's Lounge activation.
- Spring 2027: Demonstrable improvements in retention, credit momentum, gateway completion, and FAFSA filing.

Resource Implications

Academic Momentum leverages existing personnel with targeted investments in advising, faculty-staff collaboration stipends, Writer's Lounge development, completion-focused programming, and data tracking enhancements to support long-term fiscal sustainability. SUNY Sullivan will receive \$20,000 to support development and launch of the initiative. Funds to be released to the college in spring 2026.

Table 1. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Strategic Area	KPI	Target Direction
Retention	Fall-to-Spring Persistence	Increase annually
Credit Momentum	% completing 15 credits in first semester	Increase
Credit Momentum	% completing 30 credits in first year	Increase
Gateway Success	Year 1 English completion rate	Increase
Gateway Success	Year 1 Math completion rate	Increase
Financial Aid	FAFSA filing rate	Increase
Financial Aid	Pell persistence rate	Increase
Completion	100% graduation rate	Increase
Completion	150% graduation rate	Increase
Equity	Outcome gaps by Pell/age/race	Narrow

Table 2. SUNY System Targets and SUNY Sullivan Data

	Target	5 Year Average	5 Year Average Change	Most Recent	% Change to Meet Target (Based on Prior Year)
100% Graduation Rate	30%	19%	10%	20%	10%
150% Graduation Rate	38%	27%	11%	35%	3%
Fall-to-Fall Retention Rate	58%	50%	8%	45%	14%
30+ Credit Hours in First Year	28%	17%	11%	13%	14%
Gateway Course Completion - English	80%	63%	17%	63%	17%
Gateway Course Completion - Math	80%	51%	29%	48%	33%

Table 3. SUNY Sullivan Data: 5 Year Average, Most Recent Year, and Academic Momentum Targets

5 Year Average, Most Recent and Target

