

New Jersey City University

Board of Trustees

September 23, 2024

- ATTENDING:**
- Mr. Luke Visconti (*via Zoom*)
 - Ms. Natalie Brathwaite (*In Person*)
 - Mr. Carlos Lejnieks (*In Person*)
 - Ms. Jenny Davis Toth (*via Zoom*)
 - Ms. Irene Trowell-Harris (*via Zoom*)
 - Dr. Edward Whittaker (*via Zoom*)
 - Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President, Ex Officio (*In Person*)
 - Helen Dao, Alumni Representative, Ex- Officio (*via Zoom*)
 - Dr. Venessa Garcia, Faculty Representative, Ex- Officio (*In Person*)
 - Mr. Peter Hernandez, Foundation Representative, Ex Officio (*via Zoom*)
 - Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee, non-voting (*In Person*)
 - Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor, non-voting (*In Person*)
 - Mr. Joe Baumann, Outside Counsel, non-voting (*In Person*)
- ABSENT:**
- Mr. Edward Fowlkes
 - Mr. David Valica, Student Trustee, Voting
 - Mr. Ralph Salermo, Vice Chair

The meeting was called to order at 4:43 p.m. in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202, by Mr. Visconti.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken by Ms. Lee, Board Secretary. Mr. Acebo noted that there was a quorum. Trustees Edward Fowlkes, Ralph Salermo and Student Trustee (Voting) Valica were not in attendance.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Mr. Acebo noted that the time, date, location, and agenda for this meeting were mailed to the appropriate outlets. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the University's e-mail system and website.

MINUTES

Mr. Acebo noted that revisions were made on the previous Meeting minutes from June 24, 2024, and the July 15, 2024, BOT Public Sessions. Mr. Visconti made a motion on behalf of the Executive Committee to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lejniaks. The motion was passed with three abstentions (Folks, Salerno, and Valica).

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Visconti thanked the State Monitor Mr. Amoroso for his work this past year on behalf of the full Board of Trustees and the University for the strategic initiative implemented for the Institution. He further added the positive results being executed, however more will continue to be needed and will support the State Monitor's report however is necessary for success. Visconti then yielded the floor back to the State Monitor for his update.

STATE MONITOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Amoroso thanked the full Board of Trustees for the collaborative work this past year, and the opportunity to continue working together to ensure the success in meeting the goals laid out in the previously published report. Amoroso noted great strides have been taken, including the open dialogue between Board members, staff, and the Community, yet more work still needs to be done. He commended Interim President Acebo for his work and yielded the floor back to Acebo.

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Interim President Acebo gave an oral report on recent updates at the university, which were included in the board book. He yielded the floor to the following for their presentations, which the materials were included in the board book and posted on the NJCU website, to the room: Dr. Rachél Fester, VP, "Institutional effectiveness on Institutional KPIs and Dashboard;" from Dr. Donna Breault, Interim Provost, and Senior VP for Academic Affairs, "Enrollment Update;" and from Ms. Erin McCann, VP for Student Development and Community Engagement, "Student Development and Community Engagement Strategic Plan Update." Acebo concluded his report stating as NJCU approaches its Centennial, the time is even more urgent for all involved with the Institution to ensure that the next generation of incoming students receive the best quality education and experiences their predecessors received. Acebo highlighted examples of the progress made exhibiting the positive relationships between NJCU and the community that is

building a bridge for the future of NJCU for the 21st century. The floor was opened for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Visconti asked Ms. Lee if there were any public comments. Ms. Lee called up Dr. Willian Calathes, acknowledging his time limit of three minutes.

Dr. Calathes read his prepared statement as the Union Representative for NJCU and shared his experience as a member of AFT Local 1839. He commended Mr. Acebo for his stabilization efforts at the University, and thanked the State Monitor, the Board of Trustees, and the NJCU staff and Faculty for their hard work and valued the way the information was articulated and presented. As the Labor Representative for NJCU, he voiced the grievances from his constituents regarding the budget for the fiscal year. Mr. Calathes offered to have the union collaborate with the Board of Trustees, based on the impressive work already completed through the State Monitor's guidance, and work together to ensure all voices are heard, thus fostering a positive relationship and unite to continue to build a stronger Institution.

Mr. Visconti thanked Mr. Calathes.

There were no more questions, and the Board Secretary yielded the floor back to Interim President Acebo.

REAL ESTATE, INFRASTRUCTURE, and CAPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Interim President Acebo provided the report for the Real Estate, Infrastructure, and Capital Committee on behalf of Committee Chair Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Salerno's absenteeism. Mr. Acebo provided examples of progression of upgrades to the University campus including the refurbished dorms, parking facilities, and the elimination of the Chiller boiler, thus providing overall savings to the operating budget.

FINANCE and AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick, Vice President, Administration and Finance, presented the FY25 Budget Amendments as included in the board book and on the NJCU website for informational purposes only. Mr. Kirkpatrick described the process of adjusting the budget and why the numbers will continue to be adjusted each semester if required, based upon spring enrollment. Mr. Amoroso commented that he was satisfied with the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Visconti called a motion to pull the bid waivers and address at a later date. Ms. Brathwaite seconded the motion and was passed with three abstentions (Fowlkes, Salerno, Valica).

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on December 9, 2024. Mr. Visconti requested a motion for the board to move into executive session prior to the public session to discuss confidential personnel matters and contractual matters. The minutes of the executive session will become available to the public when there is no longer a need for confidentiality regarding these matters and was seconded by Ms. Brathwaite. The motion passed with three abstentions (Fowlkes, Salerno, Valica).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Acebo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Visconti and seconded by Mr. Lejniaks. The motion passed with three abstentions (Fowlkes, Salerno, Valica). The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Lee

Board of Trustees Secretary