

**New Jersey City University
Board of Trustees
April 24, 2023**

Public Session Minutes

ATTENDING:

Mr. Joseph Scott, Chair (Zoom)
Mr. Luke Visconti, Vice Chair
Dr. Steven Chang (Zoom)
Mr. Edward Fowlkes (Zoom)
Mr. James Jacobson
Mr. Carlos Lejniaks
Ms. Alejandra Martinez, *student trustee voting*
Ms. Ashley Pottinger, *student trustee non-voting*
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris (Zoom)
Dr. Edward Whittaker
Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President *ex officio*
Ms. Rose Mary Reilly, *Secretary to the Board of Trustees*

Absent – Mr. Rafael Perez

Ms. Reilly welcomed the public who joined at the NJCU Main Campus – Gothic Lounge.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Ms. Reilly.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Ms. Reilly noted that the time, date, location and agenda for this meeting were mailed to the Jersey Journal, the Star-Ledger, Office of the Secretary of State, Senate Majority Office, Council of New Jersey State College Locals and the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities on April 19, 2023. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the University's email system and website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Reilly requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Visconti and seconded by Mr. Jacobson. (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejniaks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-Mr. Fowlkes). The motion passed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Scott thanked the members of the Board for their dedicated support of the University's mission, and thanked Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President and for his dedication and leadership of the University. Mr. Visconti agreed with Mr. Scott and shared his support for the University and the students.

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

2

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STUDENT UPDATE

Ms. Martinez shared the exciting news of the NJCU Student Government Association (SGA) announcement of its Executive Board leadership for the 2023-24 academic year. The election results are historic in nature as all five board winners are women. Ruth Diegue '24, President, Crystal Genthe '25, Executive Vice President, Alejandra Martinez '24, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Valerie Egharevba '24 will be the Vice President of Finance & Administration, and Breanna Felix '24 was the choice for Vice President of Public Relations & Marketing. She thanked the Faculty, Staff and Students for their support.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Interim President Acebo thanked the Board of Trustees for their dedication and support to the students and shared his commitment to the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, union advocates, and student leaders, to continue to work in partnership every day to ensure that NJCU is on the way to recovery, and for the State to be part it. Recent meetings with the Black Caucus and Latino Caucus have reinforced their commitment to NJCU and the students the institution serves and champions. Interim President Acebo additionally reported on the growing partnerships with academic institutions and industry business leaders to enhance opportunities for the NJCU students.

FY23 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Ben Durant, Interim Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, provided an update on the FY23 Budget and FY24 planning, noting the University is currently projected to end the year with a deficit of approximately \$10.76 million, compared to the \$12.67 million deficit initially projected in the approved modified cash-based budget. The University is conservatively projecting to close the current fiscal year with \$8.2 million in total cash and short-term investments, or 21.67 days cash on hand. This amount reflects a starting cash position that is reduced by an estimated \$10.76 million operating deficit, as well as the release of the remaining HEERF funds that will have been disbursed to students by year end. Mr. Jacobson, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, thanked Mr. Durant for his dedication and hard work.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

The following individual requested to speak at the public session of the board and were called forward by Ms. Reilly:

Dr. William Calathes, Professor of Criminal Justice and AFT Local 1839 Chief Negotiator and Grievance Chair, addressed the challenges the university is facing and stressed his personal confidence in leadership and urged administration to continue unprecedented collaboration.

AFT Local President Barbara Hildner addressed the Board stressing the continued need to work collaboratively, and acknowledged Mr. Acebo's efforts to bring campus constituencies together.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Reilly put forward the request to approve the action items, which included Faculty and Professional Staff Reappointments, Managerial and Professional Staff New Hires, as of April 2024. The motion was moved by Mr. Visconti and seconded by Mr. Jacobson . (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejnieks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed.

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

3

**Faculty Candidates for Reappointment
Group 1 – Distribution Date: October 19, 2022**

Faculty to the 5th Year (Effective: September 1, 2023)

1. Dr. Marcelo Fuentes, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

**Faculty Candidates for Reappointment
Group 2 – Distribution Date: October 19, 2022**

Faculty to the 4th Year (Effective: September 1, 2023)

1. Dr. Jinrui Cao, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
2. Dr. Moitrayee Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
3. Dr. Ahmad Rabaa'i, Assistant Professor, School of Business

Faculty to the 3rd Year (Effective: September 1, 2023)

1. Dr. Lauren Johnson, Assistant Professor, School of Business
2. Dr. Johnathan Rosen, Assistant Professor, College of Professional Studies

Faculty to the 2nd Year (Effective: September 1, 2023)

1. Ms. Martha Mooke, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences

Professional Staff Candidates for Reappointment for July 1, 2024

**Professional Staff for Reappointment Consideration (Currently on 3 Year)
(Eligible for a Multiyear Reappointment up to 3 Years: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2027)**

Ms. Venida Rodman-Jenkins, Professional Service Specialist 1, Women's Center

**Professional Staff for Reappointment Consideration (Eligible for First Multiyear)
(Eligible for a Multiyear Reappointment up to 3 Years (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026)**

Mr. Syed Haider, Professional Services Specialist 3, Professional Security Studies

Professional Staff for Annual Reappointment Consideration (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

Mr. Lawrence Ladutke, Director of Advancement Services

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

4

Managerial Regular Appointments

1. Aponte, Ana-Assistant Dean, Students
Dean of Students
Effective: 3/27/2023
Salary: \$90,000
2. Arroyo, Jennifer - Director, Childrens Learning Center
Childcare Center
Effective : 3/27/2023
Salary: \$ 80,000
3. Balda, Jose- Asst Vice President Enrollment Mgmt
Admissions
Effective: 2/27/2023
Salary: \$148,000
4. Hoyt, Jennifer - Director, Graduate & Transfer Admissions
Admissions
Effective : 3/27/2023
Salary: \$ 105,000
5. Valdez, Elizabeth, Director Student Accounts
Controllers Office- Bursar
Effective 4/5/2023
Salary: \$132,500

Professional Staff Regular Appointments

1. Jornales, Evana Lyka - PSS 3
Financial Aid
Effective: 3/27/2023
Salary: \$ 60,454.95
2. Kanga, Stacey- Director, First Year Admissions
Admissions
Effective 3/27/2023
Salary: \$115,759.11
3. Stewart, James- PSS3
Financial Aid
Effective: 2/21/2023
Separated: 3/11/2023
Salary: \$57,593.92
4. Williams, Leonard- PSS1
Admissions
Effective: 3/27/2023
Salary: \$96,460.57

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

5

Managerial Temporary Appointments

1. Dong, Huijian- Acting Dean
Dean, School of Business
Effective 1/1/2023
Salary \$175,000
2. Mittman, Scott- Acting Dean
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Effective 1/1/2023
Salary: \$175,000
3. de los Rios, Monica-Interim University Counsel
President's Office
Effective 4/3/2023
Salary: \$175,000

Professional Staff Temporary Appointments

1. Cruz, Alan, PSSIV
Pre-College Programs
Effective: 3/13/2023
Salary: \$54,706.59
2. Diggs, Charles, PSSIV
Youth Corp- Academic Affairs
Effective 2/28/2023
Salary: \$57,192.50
3. Espin, Carolina Counselor- PSS1
Counseling Center
Effective 4/3/2023
Salary \$77,161.97
4. Sanders, Joeline- PSS4
Dean, College of Education
Effective 4/10/2023
Salary: \$62,164.11
5. Valentin, Alessandra, PSS4
Women & Gender Studies
Effective: April 1, 2023
Salary: \$ 62,164.11

Professional Staff Temporary to Permanent

1. Mateo, Chrystal, Director NPTNJ
Literacy Education
Effective: April 3, 2023
Salary: \$ 66,501.82

Note: As of the last Board meeting held on February 21, 2023. List is sorted alphabetically by last name.

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

6

NOMINATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (FYI)

Mr. Lejnieks Chair of the Nomination and Governance Committee reported that the Committee will put forward amendments to the Board of Trustees Bylaws at the June meeting to include ex-officio Faculty, Alumni and Foundation representation.

MISSION COMMITTEE (ACTION)

Ms. Reilly put forward the request to approve the NJCU Resolution to Approve Additional Academic Rightsizing Recommendations. The motion was moved by Mr. Whittaker and seconded by Mr. Jacobson. (Yes- Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejnieks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed.

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC RIGHTSIZING

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University (Board of Trustees) has general supervision over New Jersey City University (University) and has authority in matters involving the programs and degree levels to be offered by the University consistent with its programmatic mission and institutional plan, N.J.S.A. 18A:64-1 and -6; and

WHEREAS: In response to the declaration of a financial emergency in June of 2022, the University has reassessed its strategic priorities, which has included adjusting the University’s academic portfolio; and

WHEREAS: As part of the restructuring efforts, the University’s Division of Academic Affairs is engaging in a comprehensive reorganizational plan to reduce the University’s academic portfolio; and

WHEREAS: The Division of Academic Affairs has evaluated the University’s academic programs and their relationships to the University’s mission as a Minority and Hispanic-Serving Institution, the extent to which the academic programs under review were consistent with market trends and needs, and the return on investment for each academic program; and

WHEREAS: Upon thorough evaluation and review of the University’s academic portfolio, the Division of Academic Affairs recommended a reduction to the academic portfolio; and

WHEREAS: The Division of Academic Affairs and the University Senate facilitated an appeal process for the programs identified for sunseting; and

WHEREAS: 70 out of 111 academic programs initially identified for sunseting by the Division of Academic Affairs were **not** appealed; and

WHEREAS: The reduction of the University’s academic portfolio will ensure that the portfolio is tenable for the future sustainability of the University, and ensures that resources are focused on mission, market, and margins, and being used to support the University’s students effectively and efficiently; and

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

7

WHEREAS: On February 21, 2023 the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University approved the sunsetting of 97 academic programs upon recommendation from the Interim University President; and

WHEREAS: The Interim University President has reconnected three (3) additional programs for sunsetting as follows:

- Non-Accelerated Nursing Program;
- B.S. Geographic Information Science; and
- M.S. Criminal Justice (Subject to Program being Redesigned to Community Needs)

; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University on April 24, 2023 hereby approved the sunsetting of the following three (3) academic programs (subject to the noted condition):

- Non-Accelerated Nursing Program;
- B.S. Geographic Information Science; and
- M.S. Criminal Justice (Subject to Program being Redesigned to Community Needs).



Secretary to the Board of Trustees
April 24, 2023

Ms. Reilly put forward the request to approve the NJCU Resolution Authorizing the Conferral of Degrees. The motion was moved by Mr. Jacobson and seconded by Mr. Lejnieks. (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejnieks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed.

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees (Board of Trustees) of New Jersey City University (University) is authorized by law to grant diplomas, certificates and degrees; and

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

8

WHEREAS: The faculty and administration of the University will review the credentials of candidates for the professional diploma, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees to be awarded at the 2023 commencement exercises and will certify that the candidates have met the requirements for diplomas and degrees; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees on this 24th day of April 2023, does hereby authorize Interim President Andres Acebo to confer baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees, doctoral degrees and professional diplomas at the May 30, 2023 commencement exercises; and; be it further

RESOLVED: That authorization is hereby given to Interim President Acebo to award degrees *honoris causa* in keeping with past practice at the commencement exercises on May 30, 2023.



Secretary to the Board of Trustees
April 24, 2023

Ms. Reilly put forward the request to approve the NJCU Resolution Approving the Award of Honorary Degrees to Ryan Haygood and Tania Leon. The motion was moved by Mr. Jacobson and seconded by Mr. Visconti. (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejniaks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed.

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES TO
RYAN HAYGOOD AND TANIA LEON**

WHEREAS: By awarding honorary degrees, New Jersey City University (University) recognizes outstanding individuals whose accomplishments are of such excellence that they provide inspiration to our graduates; and

WHEREAS: The following individuals have displayed the level of exemplary achievement deemed worthy of the singular recognition conveyed by the conferral of an honorary degree by the University, namely:

RYAN HAYGOOD is presently the President and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice where he leads a team of advocates who harness community engagement, research, writing, public education, policy and litigation to build reparative systems that create wealth, justice and power for Black, Brown and other people of color. Notably, he led a team that restored the right to vote to 83,000 people on probation

and parole. Under Ryan’s leadership, the Institute has also become a leader on New Jersey’s racial wealth gap, publishing original racial wealth data and championing policies to close the state’s vast wealth disparities, including the \$15 minimum wage. He also advocates to expand homeownership opportunities, establish fair appraisal policies and cancel student loan debt – and campaigns for a state reparations task force. Ryan speaks and writes regularly on issues concerning race, law, social justice, democracy and power.

TANIA LEON is a Cuban-born American composer of both large scale and chamber works. She is also renowned as a conductor, educator, and advisor to arts organizations. She has taught at Brooklyn College, one of the senior colleges of the City University of New York (CUNY) for almost 40 years, and is also on the faculty of the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan. León’s awards and recognitions are numerous. She has received the New York Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Endowment for the Arts, Chamber Music America, NYSCA, the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund, ASCAP, the Koussevitzky Music Foundation, and Meet the Composer (among others). Leon has received honorary doctorates from Colgate University and Oberlin College, and has been a resident at Yaddo and at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center. She has also been a Visiting Lecturer at Harvard University, Visiting Professor at Yale University and the Musikschule in Hamburg. She has been a guest conductor with the Beethovenhalle Orchestra, Bonn; Gewandhausorchester, Leipzig; the Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Rome; the National Symphony Orchestra of South Africa, Johannesburg; and the New York Philharmonic (among others). She has been nominated twice for a Latin Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition - and is the only Cuban and Cuban-American musician ever to be nominated for this award. She won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Music and in 2022 she was awarded a Kennedy Center Honor.

; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize Interim President Andres Acebo to confer upon Ryan Haygood the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Laws, and upon Tania Leon the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Letters, at the May 30, 2023, New Jersey City University Commencement Ceremony at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.



Secretary to the Board of Trustees

BOT Public Session, April 24, 2023

10

April 24, 2023

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on June 26, 2023. Ms. Reilly requested a motion for the board to move into executive session prior to the public session in order to discuss confidential personnel matters and contractual matters. The motion was moved by Mr. Visconti and seconded by Mr. Lejnieks (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejnieks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed.

The minutes of the executive session will become available to the public when there is no longer a need for confidentiality regarding these matters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Reilly requested a motion for the board to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Visconti and seconded by Mr. Jacobson. (Yes-Mr. Scott, Mr. Chang, Mr. Fowlkes, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Lejnieks, Ms. Martinez, Dr. Trowell-Harris, Mr. Visconti, Dr. Whittaker; No-None; Abstention-None). The motion passed. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary to the Board of Trustees
April 24, 2023