

**New Jersey City University
Board of Trustees – Public Session
June 23, 2025**

ATTENDEES:

Mr. Luke Visconti, Chairman (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Raphael Salerno, Vice Chairman
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Dr. Edward Whittaker, Trustee
Mr. Evan Weiss, Trustee
Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President
Dr. John Donnellan, Faculty Representative
Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor
Mr. Joe Baumann, Outside Counsel
Ms. Monica de los Rios, University Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer

ABSENT:

Mr. Peter Hernandez, Foundation Representative
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee

CALL TO ORDER

University Counsel, Monica de los Rios, called the meeting to order in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202 at 5:04pm. Ms. De los Rios acknowledged that the time, date, location and agenda for the meeting were publicly advertised, including on the University's website.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Board Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno, moved to approve meeting minutes from the February 23, 2025 and March 5, 2025 Board Meetings; Trustee, Mr. Edward Whittaker seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

CHAIR REPORT

Board Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti, praised the efforts of NJCU's administration for improving the University's financial ratings, reducing debt levels and sustaining the University's mission.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite reported that the new fiscal budget will be reset in July. Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick, Vice President of Finance and Operations, reported on the University's debt defeasance, a resolution for \$2.6 million dollars of debts which is equivalent to \$650,000 in savings annually.

Mr. Kirkpatrick also reported that the University is actively working to close real-estate deals, along with the renewing of the A. Harry Moore partnership contract.

REAL ESTATE, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CAPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Board Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno, reported that Block 7 – Honeywell has closed for \$5.7 million and that the University Charter location is anticipated to close by June 30, 2025. Mr. Salerno also reported on the Fort Monmouth negotiations, in which the target date of completion is June 30, 2025.

Mr. Salerno provided details of on-campus renovations including GSUB Parking Deck, Grossnickle Hall, Vodra Hall and Rossey Hall; all projects committed to support student success and institutional sustainability.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth praised the work of the University's Marketing team as there has been a rise in viewership of the NJCU virtual tour program. Ms. Toth also reported that NJCU has entered a partnership with Caucasus University in the country of Georgia, it offers students the opportunity to attend Caucasus University for 2 years, followed by attending NJCU for the following 2 years.

STATE MONITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor, reported that NJCU has completed all recommendations set by the Monitor to fulfill the OSHE Transition Report. Mr. Amoroso praised the hard work of the University administration and managerial teams as there has been positive changes in the debt defeasance and Moody's Review.

Mr. Amoroso acknowledged that the state legislative higher education committee has been reviewing processes for mergers and sees NJCU as a positive example for its operational strategies in maneuvering during transition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jeff Jordan and Mr. Marc Brown

Mr. Jeff Jordan and Mr. Marc Brown of NJCU athletics recognized NJCU's leadership in moving NJCU athletics from the NJI conference to the CUNY conference which helped strengthen the athletics department and recruitment.

Mr. Jordan spoke on NJCU athletics regarding the anticipated merger with Kean University. Mr. Jordan urged for NJCU athletics to remain operative as they've earned many achievements including ranking top 5 in the nation for community hours served by student athletes.

Before concluding their sentiments, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Brown presented a personalized NJCU sports jersey to Board Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti for his leadership and support.

Dr. William Calathes

Dr. William Calathes, AFT 1839 President, urged for union collaboration during the processes of the merger. Dr. Calathes spoke on the impact the merger can have on 250 members of faculty-and-staff including job security and faculty benefits.

Dr. Joseph Moskowitz

Dr. Joseph Moskowitz notified Board Members of his research for the Middle States Governance Assessment, he let members know that he will be reaching out as requirement for Middle States criteria and that the correspondence is not in relation to union matters.

Dr. Joseph Moskowitz requested that union representation to be included during the process of the merger with Kean University. Dr. Moskowitz noted that in a previous encounter with Kean President, Mr. Lamont Repollet acknowledged including Union members in planning committees as the merger progresses, Dr. Moskowitz is looking forward to the creation and inclusion of those committees.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Interim President Andrés Acebo introduced newly confirmed Board Member, Mr. Evan Weiss, and newly elected Faculty Representative, Dr. John Donnellan.

President Acebo shared a presentation highlighting NJCU's 2024-25 Institutional Achievements including: community engagements, local partnerships, Moody's rating and a federal grant award.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Acebo summarized and presented on the resolutions for Board Approval including:

1. Personnel Actions
2. Resolution Approving Master of Social Work Program
3. Resolution Approving Minor in Finance
4. Resolution Approving Name Change of Master of Science and Accounting to Master of Science in Accounting and Analytics
5. Resolution Ratifying FY25 Bond Debt Defeasance
6. Resolution Authorizing FY26 Bond Debt Defeasance
7. Resolution Authorizing Extension of Jersey City Public Schools Articulation Agreement for A. Harry Moore
8. Resolution Affirming MSCHE Self-Study Design for Reaccreditation
9. Resolution Setting Board of Trustees Schedule for 2025-2026 Calendar

Trustee, Mr. Carlos Lejneiks motioned to approve the consent agenda; Trustee, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, seconded the motion. In unanimous agreement, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business reported.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business reported.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025 in Hepburn Hall, Room 202.

Board Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti moved the motion for an Executive Session to convene prior to the Public Session on July 10, 2025, at 3pm; Trustee, Ms. Jenny Toth Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salermo motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Jenny Toth Davis seconded the motion. With unanimous agreement the meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aliyaah Lindsey
Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President