



New Jersey City University
Board of Trustees
2039 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07305-1597
njcu.edu

**New Jersey City University Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEEING AGENDA
Hepburn Hall, Room 202 (Gothic Lounge)**

**June 15, 2026
5:00PM**

AGENDA

- I. Executive Session (3:00 PM)
- II. Public Session Call to Order (5:00 PM, Hepburn Hall 202)
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Public Meeting Minutes (March 26, 2026)
- V. Board Chair's Report
- VI. State Monitor's Update
- VII. President's Report
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Consent Agenda
 - a. Resolution ratifying and effectuating the merger of NJCU with Kean University, the execution of necessary agreements and documents, the transition of governance authority, and related matters.
 - b. Resolution Authorizing Engagement of Financial Audit Services for FY26 Audit
 - c. Resolution acknowledging and ratifying operational and workforce restructuring in advance of Kean University merger.
 - d. Resolution Affirming Degree Conferral Authority
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XIII. Adjournment



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SPECIAL NOTICE

Individuals that wish to address the New Jersey City University Board of Trustees must submit to speak form accessible from the following university webpage in accordance with Board Policy:

<https://www.njcu.edu/about/administration-governance/board-trustees/speaker-request-form>

A copy of the terms for addressing New Jersey City University's Board of Trustees may be obtained at the following

link: <https://www.njcu.edu/about/administration-governance/board-trustees/terms-addressing-new-jersey-city-universitys-board-trustees>.

Meeting Minutes

**New Jersey City University
Board of Trustees – Public Session
March 26, 2026**

ATTENDEES:

Mr. Raphael Salermo, Chairman
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Vice Chairman
Mr. Luke Visconti, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee (*via ZOOM; 5:08p*)
Mr. Michael Pruitlesky, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Andrés Acebo, President
Dr. John Donnellan, Faculty Representative
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee, Voting
Mr. Ashton Hartline, Outside Counsel (*via ZOOM*)
Ms. Monica de los Rios, University Counsel
Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor

ABSENT:

Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee
Mr. Peter Hernandez, Ex Officio, Non-Voting

CALL TO ORDER

University Counsel, Monica de los Rios, called the meeting to order in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202 at 5:01pm. 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, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, motioned to approve prior minutes from the December 8, 2025, public session; Student Trustee, Ms. Branda Logan, seconded the motion. Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salermo took roll and with unanimous approval the motion passed.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There are no updates to report.

STATE MONITOR'S REPORT

State Monitor, Mr. Henry Amoroso, noted that the University is on target for its anticipated merger with Kean University and continues to meet all of the OSHE Transition Plan milestones and objectives.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Andrés Acebo asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Passaic County Community College President, Dr. Steven M. Rose. Dr. Rose led the PCCC community for over three decades and the NJCU community sends its deepest condolences.

President Acebo provided updates from the Finance and Audit Committee. He noted that the University underwent a fiscal audit by PKF O'Connor Davies. PKF O'Connor reported a clean and unmodified audit.

President Acebo also delivered updates on topics including: (1) Voluntary Separation Program (2) MSCHE updates (3) Academic Integration (4) NJCU Musical and (5) NJCU Commencement.

(1) Voluntary Separation Program

President Acebo noted that the University has undergone negotiations with campus Unions and have received high participation for the University's Voluntary Separation Program.

(2) MSCHE Update

The University has submitted all submissions to the regional accreditors including the Teach Out Plan and is on pace to complete its integration with Kean University by July 2026.

(3) Academic Integration

With the anticipated merger, the number of academic programs offered will increase from 150 to 350 programs.

(4) NJCU Musical

NJCU's final musical, Jagged Little Hill, is now in production.

(5) NJCU Commencement

NJCU's last Commencement as an independent institution will be held at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ on May 19th.

PUBLIC COMMENT**Ms. Hillary Diaz**

Ms. Hillary Diaz, a current Art Therapy major at NJCU, asked the Board how will programs of studies merge with Kean University, along with credits earned. Ms. Diaz also asked the Board what clubs and on-campus activities, specifically the dance club, would like on Jersey City's campus.

President Acebo responded to Ms. Diaz informing her that communications about advisement will be distributed in the following weeks; therefore, students will know what and how to register for their next courses. Also, he shared that there will be an open student forum held on April 13th where students can ask questions to administration and receive answers.

Mr. Edward Mobley

Mr. Edward Mobley, a current NJCU student, inquired about the intentionality behind the anticipated merger with Kean University.

Mr. Mobley shared his concern that the merger is not of the NJCU community as professors are losing their positions and the transition is feeling as NJCU is being acquired rather than merged.

Dr. Donna Farina

Dr. Farina, who is retiring in June, reflected on the year 2022 when the University was facing a major financial crisis. She spoke on the effects of the crisis including faculty and staff layoffs. However, she notes in 2023 President Acebo stepped up to lead the campus; Dr. Farina thanks President Acebo for his leadership and guidance during this difficult time.

Mr. Ian Astacio

Mr. Ian Astacio, a current NJCU student, presented a list of questions to the Board including the future of on-campus clubs and activities, advocacy of students on Jersey City's campus upon anticipated merger and the retention of current professors.

CONSENT AGENDA

**Note: Item B has been removed from the Consent Agenda*

Trustee, Mr. Luke Visconti, motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, excluding item B;

- a. Personnel Actions (Reappointments, Tenure, etc.)
- b. ~~Resolution Authorizing Purchasing Sale Agreement of Block 6~~
- c. Resolution Affirming MSCHE Complex Substantive Change Submissions
- d. Resolution Authorizing Conferral of Degrees AY 25-26
- e. Resolution Ratifying Conferral of Honorary Degree

Vice Chairwoman, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite seconded the motion.

Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno, took roll for votes; with a unanimous vote the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee, Mr. Luke Visconti motioned to adjourn; Vice Chairwoman, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite seconded the motion. With a unanimous decision, the meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.

Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

RATIFYING AND EFFECTUATING THE MERGER OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY, THE EXECUTION OF NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS, THE TRANSITION OF GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY, AND RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University (“NJCU” or the “University”) was established to provide accessible, transformative, and high-quality public higher education to the residents of the State of New Jersey and has faithfully fulfilled that mission for nearly a century; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of NJCU (the “Board”) has undertaken extensive strategic, operational, and financial review concerning the long-term sustainability of the institution and the continued advancement of its public mission; and

WHEREAS, after significant study, evaluation, consultation, and engagement with institutional, governmental, accrediting, and community stakeholders, the Board determined that a strategic merger with Kean University represents the most prudent and mission-centered pathway to ensure the enduring continuation and expansion of higher educational opportunity on the Jersey City campus for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, effective October 1, 2025, with the approval of the Board, NJCU entered into an Agreement with Kean University (and as the same may be amended from time to time, the “Agreement”) to effectuate the strategic merger; and

WHEREAS, legislation authorizing and enabling the merger and integration of NJCU and Kean University was enacted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey and signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy in January 2026; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“MSCHE”) took formal Commission action advancing and approving substantive elements necessary to effectuate the institutional merger, transition, teach-out, and integration process; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the merger will preserve and strengthen the historic public mission of NJCU through the establishment and continued operation of the Jersey City campus under the leadership and governance structure of Kean University; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes the necessity of coordinating all financial, legal, operational, governance, regulatory, and accreditation-related matters necessary to consummate the merger and transition; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize Kean University to undertake any and all actions necessary with respect to NJCU’s outstanding Educational Facilities Authority revenue bond obligations and related indebtedness, obligations, agreements, covenants, and financial instruments; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds it necessary and appropriate to establish an orderly governance transition in furtherance of the merger and integration process pending final regulatory approvals and the cessation of NJCU's independent accreditation and degree-conferring authority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University hereby approves, authorizes and ratifies the execution, delivery and performance of the Agreement and the merger and integration of NJCU with Kean University in accordance with applicable law, regulatory approvals, and the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement and all related agreements and governing documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Agreement is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Andrés Acebo, the President of NJCU, and Monica de los Rios, in her capacity acting as the Secretary of the NJCU Board, and their authorized designees, in conjunction with advice from, and in consultation with, NJCU's legal counsel and advisors, are authorized and directed, on behalf of NJCU, to sign and deliver such documents, agreements and certificates that are necessary or desirable to effectuate the transactions contemplated by the Agreement and to perform all such obligations thereunder and related thereto, as well as to negotiate, execute, deliver, amend, and implement any and all agreements, certifications, instruments, filings, notices, consents, disclosures, applications, and other documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the merger and transition with Kean University, including but not limited to those related to governance, operations, academics, personnel, assets, liabilities, finance, accreditation, state regulatory approvals, and bond obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes and empowers Kean University to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate concerning NJCU's outstanding Educational Facilities Authority revenue bond obligations, related indebtedness, financing arrangements, covenants, disclosures, agreements, and associated financial obligations in connection with the merger and institutional transition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a condition precedent to the effectiveness and consummation of the merger, each voting and non-voting member of the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University hereby voluntarily tenders and submits his or her resignation from service on the Board effective June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, effective upon June 30, 2026, and pending the completion of all remaining regulatory approvals and the formal cessation of NJCU's independent accreditation and degree-conferring authority, the Board hereby designates the Board of Trustees of Kean University to serve as the de facto governing board of New Jersey City University and its successor Jersey City campus operations for all purposes necessary to effectuate and administer the merger, transition, integration, and continuing operations of the institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions previously taken by the officers, trustees, employees, agents, and representatives of NJCU in furtherance of the merger and institutional transition are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University this 15th day of June, 2026.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
AUTHORIZING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF PKF O'CONNOR DAVIES, LLP
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AUDIT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University ("NJCU" or the "University") is required to complete and issue audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2026 in accordance with applicable accounting standards, State requirements, bond covenants, regulatory obligations, and higher education reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of NJCU (the "Board") recognizes that the completion of the Fiscal Year 2026 audit shall occur subsequent to and in connection with the merger and transition of NJCU with Kean University; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the retention of qualified professional auditing and accounting services is necessary to ensure the timely and proper completion of the Fiscal Year 2026 audit and all related financial reporting obligations; and

WHEREAS, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP possesses the requisite qualifications, expertise, and institutional knowledge necessary to perform such services; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that such services constitute professional services within the meaning of applicable New Jersey public contracting and procurement laws and may be procured in accordance with the professional services exception and all applicable State contracting requirements and University procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University hereby authorizes the retention of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP to perform professional auditing, accounting, and related services necessary to complete the Fiscal Year 2026 audit of New Jersey City University and all associated financial reporting requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such engagement shall be undertaken in accordance with all applicable State contracting laws, public procurement procedures, and University policies governing professional services contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of New Jersey City University and/or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate, execute, amend, and deliver all agreements, engagement letters, certifications, and related documents necessary to effectuate the engagement of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP for such purposes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University this 15th day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOARD'S DIRECTIVE REGARDING OPERATIONAL AND WORKFORCE RESTRUCTURING IN ADVANCE OF THE MERGER WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY.

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University ("NJCU" or the "University") has undertaken significant operational, financial, and organizational restructuring measures in furtherance of the long-term sustainability of the institution and the advancement of its merger and integration with Kean University; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2025, the Board of Trustees of NJCU (the "Board") directed the administration to undertake a comprehensive operational and workforce restructuring process designed to stabilize institutional operations, reduce structural expenditures, align staffing and organizational functions with enrollment and operational realities, and prepare the University for successful merger implementation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that directive, the administration implemented a managerial restructuring and voluntary separation program in January 2026 affecting managerial and administrative operations of the University; and

WHEREAS, the University further implemented faculty and professional staff restructuring measures, including retrenchments, non-reappointments, operational realignment, and negotiated voluntary separation programs in coordination with AFT Local 1839 and the Council of New Jersey State College Locals; and

WHEREAS, the University additionally negotiated and implemented a pre-layoff voluntary separation program with CWA Local 1031 and thereafter secured approval from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission in April 2026 for a civil service layoff plan necessary to complete the operational restructuring process; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that such restructuring measures required substantial coordination with labor representatives, State agencies, regulatory authorities, and institutional stakeholders and were undertaken to preserve the long-term continuation of the University's public mission and educational operations through the merger process; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the administration has substantially and fully implemented the directives authorized by the Board on December 8, 2025 and has completed the operational and workforce restructuring necessary to facilitate institutional transition and merger integration; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes the necessity of terminating, winding down, concluding, assigning, or otherwise resolving contractual relationships, agreements, and vendor arrangements that will not be assumed, continued, amended, or integrated by Kean University as part of the merger and transition process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University hereby acknowledges and affirms the full implementation of the Board's December 8, 2025 operational and workforce restructuring directive and recognizes the actions undertaken by the administration in furtherance thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and confirms all managerial restructuring actions, voluntary separation programs, faculty and professional staff restructuring measures, retrenchments, non-reappointments, civil service restructuring actions, and associated operational realignments undertaken by the administration in furtherance of the restructuring initiative and merger transition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the President of New Jersey City University and/or his designee to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to terminate, conclude, assign, amend, settle, wind down, or otherwise resolve contractual relationships, agreements, procurements, leases, service arrangements, and vendor obligations that will not be assumed or otherwise continued by Kean University in connection with the merger and institutional transition process, and the Board hereby ratifies all such actions already taken by the President of New Jersey City University and/or his designees in furtherance of such matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and/or his designee is further authorized to execute any and all notices, agreements, certifications, settlement documents, amendments, releases, and related instruments necessary to effectuate such actions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University this 15th day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
**REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY'S
DEGREE CONFERRAL AUTHORITY PENDING FINAL REGULATORY APPROVALS
AND ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University (“NJCU” or the “University”) and Kean University are undertaking an authorized institutional merger and transition process pursuant to applicable State law, regulatory approvals, and accrediting actions; and

WHEREAS, enabling legislation authorizing the merger of NJCU and Kean University was enacted and signed into law in January 2026; and

WHEREAS, effective October 1, 2025, with the approval of the Board of Trustees of NJCU (the “Board”), NJCU entered into an Agreement with Kean University (and as the same may be amended from time to time, the “Agreement”) to effectuate the strategic merger; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“MSCHE”) took Commission action advancing and approving substantive elements necessary to effectuate the merger, transition, and institutional integration process; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding such approvals and actions, additional federal regulatory approvals remain pending before the United States Department of Education concerning the suspension and cessation of NJCU’s independent accreditation-related operations and degree-conferring authority; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it necessary and appropriate to ensure continuity of academic operations, student protections, degree certification, academic records administration, and all related institutional functions pending final regulatory approvals; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that students enrolled at NJCU must continue to receive uninterrupted academic and administrative support, including the lawful conferral of degrees and academic credentials during the transition period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University hereby affirms and authorizes the continuation of NJCU’s independent degree-conferring authority and associated academic operations through August 2026, or until such later or earlier date as all requisite approvals, determinations, acknowledgments, and actions of the United States Department of Education and other applicable regulatory authorities are fully obtained and effectuated concerning the suspension or cessation of NJCU’s independent degree-conferring authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during such interim period NJCU shall continue to exercise all authority necessary and appropriate to administer academic programs, certify academic

completion, confer degrees and academic credentials, maintain academic records, and fulfill all obligations owed to enrolled students and graduates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of New Jersey City University and/or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to undertake all actions necessary or appropriate to coordinate with Kean University, MSCHE, the United States Department of Education, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and all other applicable governmental or accrediting authorities in furtherance of the orderly continuation and eventual transition of such authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and/or his designee is authorized to execute any and all certifications, filings, notifications, agreements, acknowledgments, or related documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University this 15th day of June, 2026.