



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 MEETING AGENDA
 Hepburn Hall, Room 202 (Gothic Lounge)**

**March 26, 2026
 5:00 PM**

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 (December 8, 2025)
- V. Board Chair's Report
- VI. State Monitor's Update
- VII. President's Report
 - a. University Senate Update
 - b. Student Update
 - c. FY26 Budget Update
 - d. Academic Affairs Update
 - e. Student Affairs Update
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Consent Agenda
 - 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
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Next Scheduled Public Meeting – TBD
- 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>.

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MEETING MINUTES

**New Jersey City University
Board of Trustees – Public Session
December 8, 2025**

ATTENDEES:

Mr. Raphael Salerno, Vice Chairman
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Evan Weiss, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Michael Prilutsky (*via ZOOM*)
Mr. Andrés Acebo, University President
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee (*via ZOOM*)
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. Luke Visconti, Trustee
Ms. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee
Mr. Peter Hernandez, Trustee (Non-Voting)

CALL TO ORDER

University Counsel, Monica de los Rios, called the meeting to order in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202 at 5:00pm. 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

Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, motioned to approve meeting minutes from the September 29, 2025 Board Meeting; Trustee, Mr. Michael Prilutsky seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

STATE MONITOR

Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor, noted that according to OSHE updates the University is on target for the transition plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Andrés Acebo yielded his time to Faculty Senate Representative, Dr. John Donnellan, Student Trustee, Ms. Branda Logan, and Vice President of Administration, Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick.

Dr. John Donnellan

Senate Representative, Dr. John Donnellan provided updates regarding the Faculty Senate and acknowledged the Senate for their professionalism during this time. Dr. John Donnellan noted that Dr. Chris Shamburg has been named Sargent at Arms for the Faculty Senate.

Ms. Branda Logan

Student Trustee, Ms. Branda Logan, as the voice of the students on campus expressed that the student body is advocating to keep NJCU's mission alive and that during this transition period the students want transparency and respect from decision-makers.

Ms. Logan also expressed concern Biology students of the SI program held – including maintaining the program and its faculty in the merger.

Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick

Assistant Vice President of Finance and Administration, Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick, noted that the University opened the start of the fiscal new year with a modest operating budget surplus and remains on track, therefore no budget adjustments are needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT**Dr. Joseph Moskowitz**

Dr. Joseph Moskowitz, Chief Negotiator of AFT Local 1839, raised the question of how the success of the anticipated merger will be measured, with his own answer he stated – through the student’s success. However, Mr. Moskowitz provided a prerequisite of what is needed to measure noted success including – familiarity, by sustaining faculty and professional staff.

Dr. Moskowitz concluded his time by raising an alternative motto for both New Jersey City University and anticipated merging institution, Kean University that combines each respective campus’ motto – “always learning to serve.”

Dr. Jacqueline Ellis

Dr. Jacqueline Ellis of the History, Philosophy and Religion Department at NJCU asked the Board to consider students’ success and faculty livelihoods when determining budget cuts, emphasizing the built connections between students, faculty and the neighboring community.

Dr. John Laski

Dr. John Laski, Vice President of AFT Local 1839, reminded members of the Board that the cost of the anticipated merger is more than job loss – but it is the livelihood of faculty and staff whom invested their entire lives to serving the NJCU community. Dr. Laski advocated for faculty that moved across nations to educate NJCU students, and faculty that have no say in the decision-making processes.

Mr. Cory Frost

Mr. Cory Frost, Associate Professor, asked the Board to think back three years ago when the University down-sized, or “right-sized” as the term used, to accommodate financial woes; within the three years, NJCU accomplished financial gains and recognition. Mr. Frost states that currently, the University is moving forth to downsize once again, therefore requesting transparency and collaboration in the reorganization and academic restructuring of New Jersey City University.

Dr. William Calathes

Dr. William Calathes, President of AFT Local 1839, submitted to members of the Board a petition with over 150 names signed by union members asking for any cuts to be made start at the non-union managerial and administrative positions, review all administrative roles for consolidation or elimination, apply savings from administrative reductions directly to protecting union positions, and commit to transparency and full communication with AFT Local 1839 as decisions are made.

Dr. Barbara Hildner

Dr. Barbara Hildner, NJCU Faculty, shared with the Board that the current crisis is not due to academics and that to sustain a partnered relationship with anticipated merger institution, Kean University, faculty from both University's need to collaborate to ensure proper academic programming.

Dr. Jennifer Musial

Dr. Jennifer Musial, Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies, provided history on the program stating its start was due to lack of representation, the program is to "affirm students' right to feel seen and study their own histories." Dr. Musial advocated for the viability of the program, as the program is labeled 'non-viable' in current restructuring conversation through the legacy of student graduates who have gone off to serve their communities.

Dr. Max Herman

Dr. Max Herman shared concern with members of the Board about the reorganization and consolidation of programs of studies. Dr. Herman asked for transparency within the decision-making process of the anticipated merger, as faculty are unaware of what programs are being considered for consolidation. He noted that faculty are left with unanswered questions ultimately leading to stress and anxiety. Dr. Herman asked the Board to table their votes on programs until details have been released.

Ms. Ashley Troche

Ms. Ashley Trosche, NJCU student, expressed to members of the Board that during this transition period and anticipated merger with Kean University she wants stakeholders to see and feel students, as the key component to the campus, students make NJCU what it is. Students are looking for transparency, something that has not been communicated effectively.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Andrés Acebo, in effort to respond to Public Comment, clarified that the resolution on today's board agenda is to enter an agreement to discuss and review program survival; this resolution is not approving the discontinuance of any programs.

President Acebo also responded to the rhetoric of the major achievements NJCU has made over the last few years in its financial standing. He noted that NJCU made great strides financially; however, the State of New Jersey made a strategic policy decision about the longevity of the University and called for consolidation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee, Mr. Evan Weiss motioned to approve items on the consent agenda including:

- Resolution Authorizing CIF/HEFT Supplemental Submission
- Resolution Affirming Long-Range Facilities Plan
- Resolution Authorizing Bid Waiver (Loeb & Loeb)
- Resolution Authorizing Academic Catalog/Portfolio Update
- Resolution Direction Institutional Reorganization and Restructuring

Trustee, Mr. Carlos Lejniaks, seconded the motion. Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno, took roll to note each vote. With a unanimous vote and abstention by Student Trustee, Ms. Branda Logan, on items D and E, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

President Andrés Acebo raised the significance of this year's commencement; it is the final commencement NJCU will hold as an independent institution.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, in Hepburn Hall, Room 202.

Trustee, Mr. Carlos Lejniaks motioned to hold an executive session prior to the public meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:00pm; Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, seconded the motion.

With unanimous approval, the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee, Mr. Michael Prilutsky motioned to adjourn the meeting; Student Trustee, Ms. Branda Logan seconded the motion. With unanimous approval, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aliyaah Lindsey

Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President

CONSENT AGENDA

**Board of Trustees
Public Session**

**PCNG Committee
Agenda**

1. Personnel | Compensation Topics

- **Faculty and Staff Personnel Actions**
 - Faculty Reappointments

- **New Hires**
 - New Hires: Professional Staff Temporary Appointments

Board of Trustees
Public Session

Faculty Candidates for Reappointment
Distribution Date: January 23, 2026

Faculty to the 7th Year and Tenure (Effective: September 1, 2026)

1. Dr. Moitrayee Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Faculty to the 6th Year (Effective: September 1, 2026)

1. Dr. Jonathan Rosen, Assistant Professor, Professional Security Studies

Faculty to the 5th Year (Effective: September 1, 2026)

1. Professor Martha Mooke, Associate Professor, Music, Dance, Theatre

Faculty to the 4th Year (Effective: September 1, 2026)

1. Dr. Joseph Brickley, Assistant Professor, Professional Security Studies

Faculty to the 3rd Year (Effective: September 1, 2026)

1. Dr. Dana Smerda- Mason, Assistant Professor, Educational Technology Department

New Hires

Professional Staff Temporary Appointment

1. Ashley Guadalupe Juarez Reyes – Professional Services Specialist 4 (Part-Time)
EOF/OSP
Salary: \$30,281.75
Effective: 3/3/2026
2. Nevin Perkins – Professional Services Specialist 4 (Part-Time)
EOF/OSP
Salary: \$30,281.75
Effective: 3/3/2026

Note:

1. As of the last Board meeting held on December 9, 2025



New Jersey City University
 Board of Trustees
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**NEWJERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 RESOLUTION
 March 26, 2026**

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR BLOCK 6 (NJCU WEST SIDE CAMPUS) WITH CRT HOLDINGS, LLC

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University (“**NJCU**”) is the owner of certain real property located on Block 21902.01, Lot 1 on the tax maps of the City of Jersey City (the "**Property**" or "**Block 6**") which is a vacant piece of land on NJCU’s West Campus; and

WHEREAS, NJCU and CRT Holdings, LLC (the "**CRT**") are parties to (i) that certain Ground Lease dated September 21, 2015, as amended (the "**Ground Lease**"), and (ii) that certain Development Agreement dated September 21, 2015, as amended (the "**Development Agreement**"), both of which contemplate CRT’s development of the Property as grocery store (the "**Project**") whereby NJCU would retain a leasehold interest in the Property as a ground lessor after construction; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Project has not commenced as of the date of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, CRT has expressed interest in acquiring the Property prior to commencement of construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, both parties have engaged in ongoing negotiations for the transfer of the Property and have prepared a draft Purchase and Sale Agreement (the "**Agreement**") setting forth the terms for the transaction; and

WHEREAS, the proposed terms of the Agreement include a purchase price of Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00), for the fee simple interest in the Property, together with all appurtenances and improvements thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement will also result in the termination of the Ground Lease and the Development Agreement such that NJCU will have no interest in the Property upon closing which is expected to occur eighteen (18) months after the Agreement becomes effective; and

WHEREAS, in light of the pending merger with Kean University (“**Kean**”), the President, through NJCU’s special counsel, has advised Kean of the principal terms of the transaction to which Kean is in agreement; and

WHEREAS, NJCU, through its officers, has determined that the sale of the Property under the terms set forth in the Agreement is in the best interest of NJCU and is necessary to further its financial and institutional objectives;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University (the “**Board**”) recognizes the importance of ensuring that all terms and conditions of the transaction comply with applicable laws and regulations, and that NJCU’s legal interests are fully protected through the review and approval of all agreements by NJCU’s outside counsel as to form and legality; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to provide the President of NJCU with the authority necessary to finalize and execute the Agreement, while ensuring appropriate oversight by the Executive Committee of the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and approves the terms of the Agreement as presented, subject to further revisions approved by counsel.
2. The President, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Agreement and to take all necessary and appropriate actions to finalize the negotiation and execution of the Agreement.
3. The Board of Trustees further authorizes the President, or his designee, to execute terminations of the Ground Lease and Development Agreement and any other documents incident to the execution of the Agreement.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Adopted this 26th day of March 2026, by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University.

Dated:

Monica de los Rios, Esq.
University Counsel



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 Board of Trustees
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**NEWJERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 RESOLUTION
 March 26, 2026**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY’S COMPLEX
 SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE APPLICATION WITH MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION
 ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, New Jersey City University (“**NJCU**”) is in the process of a strategic partnership with Kean University (“**Kean**”) whereby Kean will acquire NJCU and NJCU will become an additional location of Kean to be known as “Kean Jersey City” (the “**Transaction**”); and

WHEREAS, both NJCU and Kean are parties to that certain Definitive Partnership Agreement made effective October 1, 2025 which, among other things, provides the conditions precedent necessary for consummation of the Transaction (the “**Definitive Agreement**”); and

WHEREAS, the Definitive Agreement outlines certain regulatory approvals required before the Transaction can occur; and

WHEREAS, NJCU, as a member institution, is required to obtain approval from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“**MSCHE**”), a global institutional accreditor recognized by the United States Secretary of Education which assures students and the public of educational quality for its institutions; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with federal regulations, member institutions of MSCHE must submit a substantive change request for approval prior to implementation of certain types of changes; and

WHEREAS, the Transaction falls within the criteria of MSCHE’s substantive change policy, procedures, and guidelines; and

WHEREAS, NJCU submitted a complex substantive change application to MSCHE on November 25, 2025 (the “**Application**”); and

WHEREAS, MSCHE peer evaluators reviewed the Application, requested follow up information, and issued their complex substantive change review report on February 17, 2026 (the “**Report**”); and

WHEREAS, the Report seeks further clarification from NJCU on certain items addressed in the Application; and

WHEREAS, NJCU is continuing, in conjunction with Kean, to achieve MSCHE approval with a goal of final approval at the April 23, 2026 MSCHE Executive Committee meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to affirm the Application and efforts made by the President and NJCU’s administration to obtain MSCHE approval of the Transaction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees hereby affirms the Application to MSCHE and recognizes the continuing efforts of the President and NJCU’s administration to obtain MSCHE approval.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Adopted this 26th day of March 2026, by the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University.

Dated:

Monica de los Rios, Esq.
University Counsel

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 to grant diplomas, certificates and degrees; and

WHEREAS: The faculty and administration of the University will review the credentials of candidates for professional diplomas, baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees and doctoral degrees to be awarded at the 2026 commencement exercises and will certify that the candidates have met the requirements for diplomas and degrees; and therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees on this 26th day of March 2026, does hereby authorize President Andres Acebo to confer professional diplomas, baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees and doctoral degrees at the May 19, 2026, New Jersey City University Commencement Ceremony at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED: That authorization is hereby given to President Acebo to award degrees *honoris causa*, in keeping with past practice, at the commencement exercises on May 19, 2026.

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AWARD OF AN HONORARY DEGREE TO
JORGE A. PLASENCIA**

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 individual has displayed the level of exemplary achievement deemed worthy of the singular recognition conveyed by the conferral of an honorary degree by the University, namely:

JORGE A. PLASENCIA is a Cuban-American entrepreneur and civic leader. He is chairman and CEO of Republica Havas, a creative media, and communications agency, that he co-founded in 2006 as a small start-up. Plasencia is the co-founder and chairman emeritus of Amigos for Kids, a Miami-based nonprofit started in 1991 to serve underprivileged children and families. He is also the former board chair of UnidosUS, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.

Plasencia is also a co-founder of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) and the former chairman of the board of the Cuban American National Council (CNC). He has served on the advisory board of the Culture Marketing Council, is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the Florida Council of 100. In 2004, Plasencia was nominated by then President George W. Bush - and confirmed by the U.S. Senate - to serve on the advisory board of the Broadcasting Board of Governors' Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB).

Plasencia is a trustee of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami and serves as chair of the Miami Dade College Foundation. He is also a former trustee of his alma mater, Barry University.

; and therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize President Andres Acebo to confer upon Jorge A. Plasencia the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Letters, at the May 19, 2026, New Jersey City University Commencement Ceremony at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.