

**New Jersey City University  
Board of Trustees – Special Meeting  
September 15, 2025**

**ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Raphael Salerno, Vice Chairman *(via ZOOM)*  
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Evan Weiss, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Michael Pruitlesky, Trustee *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President  
Dr. John Donnellan, Faculty Representative  
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee, Voting *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Joe Baumann, Outside Counsel *(via ZOOM)*  
Mr. Ashton Hartline, Outside Counsel *(via ZOOM)*  
Ms. Monica de los Rios, University Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Luke Visconti, Chairman  
Mr. Peter Hernandez, Trustee

**CALL TO ORDER**

University Counsel, Monica de los Rios, called the meeting to order in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202 at 11:00am. Ms. De los Rios acknowledged that the time, date, location and agenda for the meeting were publicly advertised, including on the University's website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ms. Monique K. Andrews**

Ms. Andrews, a student of NJCU and educational activist, urged members of the Board to cancel utilizing the educational platform, Pearson. Ms. Andrews stated that the online platform is poorly designed, glitchy and provides inaccurate materials amongst other complaints that students, parents and teachers have also voiced. Ms. Andrews wants the best for the next generation and finds that the online platform has been a hinderance rather than an aid; therefore, asking for Pearson to be terminated on NJCU's campus.

**Dr. Bill Calathes**

Dr. Calathes noted that a definitive agreement may be reviewed and approved with anticipated merger partner, Kean University, by October 1, 2025. Dr. Calathes asked members of the Board to advocate for job security, seniority and tenure, union recognition and contractual rights prior to signing the agreement. Dr. Calathes says these initiatives help support NJCU's commitment to equity, fairness, and respect for its employees and students.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Acebo provided overview on the state mandate's maintenance bond, in which the meeting was called to order for. The \$50 million bond would be utilized to course correct infrastructure needs on NJCU's campus and invest in the campus' beautification projects. The application deadline for the maintenance bond is September 27, 2025 at 4:00pm.

Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth motioned to adopt the resolution to complete and submit the maintenance bond application to the state. Trustee, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite seconded the motion. With unanimous approval, the motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2025 in Hepburn Hall, Room 202.

Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth motioned to hold an executive session prior to the public meeting on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 3:00pm; Trustee, Mr. Carlos Lejnieks seconded the motion. With unanimous approval, the motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth motion to adjourn the meeting; Trustee, Mr. Evan Weiss seconded the motion. With unanimous approval, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Aliyaah Lindsey

Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President