

**New Jersey City University  
Board of Trustees – Public Session  
September 29, 2025**

**ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Luke Visconti, Chairman  
Mr. Raphael Salerno, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee  
Mr. Peter Hernandez, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Mr. Evan Weiss, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Mr. Micheal Prilutsky, Trustee  
Mr. Andrés Acebo, President  
Dr. John Donnellan, Faculty Representative  
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee, Voting (*via ZOOM*)  
Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor (*via Zoom*)  
Mr. Ashton Hartline, Outside Counsel  
Ms. Monica de los Rios, University Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer

**ABSENT:**

Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee

**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**

Board Vice Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno motioned to approve meeting minutes from the July 25, 2025 Board Meeting and the September 15, 2025 Special Board Meeting. Trustee, Mr. Michael Prilutsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Trustees, Ms. Jenny Davis Toth and Mr. Carlos Lejniek were excused from voting on the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting due to their absence. Board Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti was excused in the vote for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting due to his absence.

## **BOARD REORGANIZATION**

The role of Board Chairman serves two years in the leadership position; Mr. Luke Visconti has completed his tenure as Board Chairman.

Vice Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno has agreed to lead the Board as Board Chairman in this next tenure, with Ms. Natalie Brathwaite as Vice Chairman. Trustee, Mr. Luke Visconti, motioned to accept the reorganization changes; Trustee, Mr. Michael Prulitsky, seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Dr. Hanae Haouri**

NJCU Faculty Senate Representative, Ms. Hanae Haouri, asked for clarification on the University's subcommittees designated to the transition with the anticipated merger partner, Kean University.

University President, Mr. Andrés Acebo ensured that the University has only engaged in managerial meetings thus far, where senior leadership from NJCU have met with their counterparts at Kean to provide insight on the initiatives of both campuses. President Acebo also urged the NJCU community to attend the scheduled Town Hall with both President Acebo and President Repollet of Kean University on October 8, 2025 at 2pm in the Margeret Williams Theatre for more enlightenment on merger details.

Ms. Hanae Haouri urged President Acebo and Board Members to include Faculty Senate representatives in the designated integration subcommittees.

### **Dr. Chris Shamburg**

Dr. Chris Shamburg, Vice President of the AFT Union, spoke on his own behalf in highlighting all the success NJCU has accomplished since the "financial crisis" in 2022. Dr. Shamburg highlighted the expansion of NJCU's graduate program and the increase in student engagement; he wants to remind the community that NJCU brings success to Kean University in the anticipated merger.

## **Dr. William Calathes**

Dr. William Calathes noted that the AFT Local 1839 union has filed a grievance against the current NJCU administration regarding the union's contractual rights to have representation in subcommittees designated to the anticipated merger with Kean University; Dr. Calathes states that the union has yet to be represented.

Furthermore, Dr. Calathes urged members of the Board to advocate for job security, seniority and tenure, union recognition, campus and program protection, student and community commitments and governance representation prior to signing the definitive agreement with Kean University, slated to be signed in early October 2025. Dr. Calathes says these initiatives help support NJCU's commitment to equity, fairness, and respect for its employees and students.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Prior to President Acebo's remarks, State Monitor, Mr. Henry Amoroso praised Trustee Visconti on completing his tenure as Board Chairman and provided a congratulatory welcome to newly seated Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno and Vice Chairwoman, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite.

Mr. Amoroso reiterated the "powerful commitment" the state has invested into the NJCU community and the anticipated merger with Kean University. The state has invested tens of millions of dollars in the merger initiative and the continuity of higher education in Hudson County.

President Acebo reported on the increase in graduate and undergraduate enrollment at the University this fall. President Acebo gave praises to Vice President of Student Development and Community Engagement, Ms. Pia Stevens Haynes, for the increase of student engagement across campus.

President Acebo also highlighted the University's achievements including: a MOODY's rating upgrade, \$20 million in infrastructure repair, and overall, a reduced spending of the fiscal budget. Mr. Acebo gave praise to Vice President of Administration and Finance, Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick for the efforts he and his team has made to progress the University's finances.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee, Mr. Luke Visconti motioned to approve items on the consent agenda including:

- Resolution Ratifying Personnel Actions (as of 6/23/2025)

- Resolution Conferring Professor Emeritus Designations to Dr. Adesanya, Dr. Bailey, and Dr. Lamar
- Resolution Ratifying Annual Bid Waivers
  - RJCMU – Not to exceed \$650,000
  - PSE&G - Not to exceed \$1,400,000
  - Bank of America/Merrill Lynch – Not to exceed \$1,500,000
  - CBord, Inc. – Not to exceed \$250,000
  - Oracle America, Inc. – Not to exceed \$250,000
- Resolution Authorizing Bid Waiver for Grossnickle Fire Sprinkler System

Trustee, Mr. Michael Prilutsky, seconded the motion. Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salermo, took roll to note each vote and with a unanimous decision the motion passed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION**

Outside Counsel, Mr. Ashton Hartline, introduced a definitive partnership agreement between New Jersey City University and anticipated Kean University and asked the Board of Trustees for approval. Trustee, Mr. Luke Visconti motioned to approve the definitive partnership agreement and Trustee, Mr. Michael Prilutsky seconded the motion.

Board Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salermo took roll from the Board of Trustees to vote on the motion; with a unanimous vote the motion passed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee, Mr. Evan Weiss motioned to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Luke Visconti seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aliyaah Lindsey

Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President