



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)**

**September 29, 2025  
 5:00PM**

**AGENDA**

- I. Executive Session (3:00 p.m., Hepburn Hall 317)
- II. Public Session Call to Order (5:00 p.m., Hepburn Hall 202)
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Public Meeting Minutes (July 23, 2025 & September 15, 2025)
- V. Board Reorganization
- VI. Board Chair's Report
- VII. President's Report
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Consent Agenda
  - a. Resolution Ratifying Personnel Actions (as of 6/23/2025)
  - b. Resolution Conferring Professor Emeritus Designations to Dr. Adesanya, Dr. Bailey, and Dr. Lamar
  - c. Resolution Ratifying Annual Bid Waivers
    - i. JCMU – Not to exceed \$650,000
    - j. PSE&G - Not to exceed \$1,400,000
    - k. Bank of America/Merrill Lynch – Not to exceed \$1,500,000
    - l. CBord, Inc. – Not to exceed \$250,000
    - m. Oracle America, Inc. – Not to exceed \$250,000
  - d. Resolution Authorizing Bid Waiver for Grossnickle Fire Sprinkler System
- X. **RESERVED** - Executive Session Action (NJCU x Kean Merger Agreement)
- XI. Next Scheduled Public Meeting – December 8, 2025 (meeting to Convene in Executive Session at 3PM)
- XII. Adjournment



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### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

Individuals that wish to address the New Jersey City University Board of Trustees must submit a speaker request 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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July 23, 2025 & September 15, 2025

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# Meeting Minutes

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

**ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Luke Visconti, Chairman  
Mr. Raphael Salermo, Vice Chairman (via ZOOM)  
Ms. Natalie Brathwaite, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Trustee (*via ZOOM*)  
Mr. Evan Weiss, Trustee (via ZOOM)  
Mr. Michael Prilutsky, Trustee  
Mr. Andrés Acebo, Interim President  
Dr. John Donnellan, Faculty Representative  
Ms. Branda Logan, Student Trustee, Voting (via ZOOM)  
Mr. Henry Amoroso, State Monitor  
Mr. Joe Baumann, Outside Counsel  
Ms. Monica de los Rios, University Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Carlos Lejnieks, Trustee  
Ms. Jenny Davis Toth, Trustee  
Mr. Peter Hernandez, Foundation Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

University Counsel, Monica de los Rios, called the meeting to order in Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202 at 3:07pm. 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 Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti moved to approve meeting minutes from the June 23, 2025 Board Meeting; Trustee, Mr. Ralph Salermo motioned to approve the prior meeting minutes, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite 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.

**STATE MONITOR'S REPORT**

State Monitor, Mr. Henry Amoroso acknowledged that the University is meeting objectives, has reconciled 30 million in debt and the transition deadlines are being met.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There is no public comment to report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Interim President, Mr. Andrés Acebo, shared that Vice President of Administration and Finance, Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick, will report on the proposed FY26 Budget Plan which includes a tuition increase, capital fee implementation and the scope of a \$150 million operating budget.

Vice President of Administration and Finance, Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick presented the proposed FY26 Budget Plan, detailing the University's anticipated revenue and expenses; noting that property sale revenues are not included.

Mr. Brian Kirkpatrick detailed that the University has seen a modest increase in enrollment of 2%. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that the proposed budget includes a 5.5% tuition increase that aligns with the tuition of anticipated merger partner, Kean University. The budget plan also includes the initiation of a \$350 capital fee and a wage increase of 3% for employees due to cost-of-living.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salerno motioned to approve the consent agenda; Trustee, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite seconded the motion. With unanimous agreement, the motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There is no Old Business to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Outside Counsel, Mr. Joe Baumann, introduced a new resolution, as a matter discussed in executive session, that names Interim President Andrés Acebo the 13<sup>th</sup> President of New Jersey City University; the resolution amends the interim title before President Acebo and amends terms including an extension through at least June 30, 2027.

With unanimous agreement, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution with the symbolic change of title and employment terms to be implemented immediately.

Board Chairman, Mr. Luke Visconti, provided congratulatory remarks to President Acebo that acknowledged the leadership and work ethic of Mr. Andrés Acebo.

President Acebo shared sentimental thank yous to the Board of Trustees, the NJCU community and his family.

### **NEXT MEETING**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairman, Mr. Ralph Salermo motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Natalie Brathwaite seconded the motion. With unanimous agreement the meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aliyaah Lindsey  
Administrative Assistant to the Office of the President

**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

# **Consent Agenda**

# **Personnel Actions**

**Board of Trustees  
Public Session**

**PCNG Committee  
Agenda**

**1. Personnel | Compensation Topics**

- **Faculty and Staff Personnel Actions**
  - NTTP Appointments
  - Managerial Temporary Appointment
  - Professional Staff Regular Appointment
- **New Hires**
  - Faculty Temporary Appointment
  - Managerial Staff Regular Appointment
  - Professional Staff Temporary Appointment
  - Professional Staff Regular Appointment
- **Faculty Emeriti**

**Board of Trustees  
Public Session**

**NTP Appointment**

1. Ellyn Gannon Liebowitz, Lecturer, 12-month  
Counselor Education  
Salary: \$90,492.43  
Effective: 9/1/2025 – 6/30/2027
2. Adrian Benjumea, Clinical Coordinator, 12-month  
Nursing  
Salary: \$87,140.30  
Effective: 7/28/2025 – 6/30/2027

**Managerial Temporary Appointments**

1. Mary McGriff, Interim Dean  
College of Education  
Salary: \$182,108.25  
Effective: 7/1/2025

**Professional Staff Regular Appointment**

1. Sarah Marsiglia, Assistant Director 2  
Career Planning and Placement  
Salary: \$88,673.69  
Effective: 9/4/2025
2. Enid Vazquez, Mentoring & Field Based Coordinator, PSS4  
Professional Education and Lifelong Learning  
Salary: \$79,976.68  
Effective: 8/25/2025 – Grant Funded

**New Hires**

**Faculty Temporary Appointments**

1. Katherine Anina Denney, Assistant Professor  
Biology  
Salary: \$84,193.52  
Effective: 9/1/2025 – 9/1/2026

**Managerial Staff Regular Appointment**

1. Jason Jusino, Principal  
A. Harry Moore School  
Salary: \$190,000.00  
Effective: 7/1/2025

**Board of Trustees  
Public Session**

**Professional Staff Temporary Appointment**

1. Marques J. Bragg, Assistant to the Athletic Director, PSS4  
Athletics  
Salary: \$74,434.57  
Effective: 8/11/2025
2. Britni Jaskot, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, PSS3  
Athletics  
Salary: \$76,610.24  
Effective: 7/14/2025
3. Sophia Zaragoza, Assistant Athletic Trainer, PSS3  
Athletics  
Salary: \$63,833.23  
Effective: 8/25/2025

**Professional Staff Regular Appointment**

1. Alejandra Gabriela Martinez, Counselor, PSS4  
Pre- College Programs  
Salary: \$58,603.18  
Effective: 6/30/2025
2. Merie McCown, Technical Director, PSS4  
Margaret Williams Theatre to Center of Arts  
Salary: \$74,434.57  
Effective: 7/14/2025

**Faculty Emeriti**

1. Dr. Regina Adesanya (Early Childhood Education)
2. Dr. Joan Bailey (Psychology)
3. Dr. Ansley Lamar (Psychology)

***Note:***

1. *As of the last Board meeting held on June 23, 2025*

**RESOLUTION GRANTING PROFESSOR EMERITUS STATUS TO  
DR. REGINA ADESANYA, DR. JOAN BAILEY AND DR. ANSLEY LAMAR**

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to New Jersey City University (“University” or “NJCU”) personnel policies, board bylaws, and prevailing statutory authority, the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the Faculty and Professional Staff Affairs Committee of the University Senate, the Senior Vice President and Provost, and President of the University may provide emeritus/emerita status to a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance; and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees has endorsed the recommendation of the following three (3) faculty for their exceptional scholarship and service to NJCU and the professions of Early Childhood Education and Psychology:

- Dr. Regina Adesanya (Early Childhood Education)
- Dr. Joan Bailey (Psychology)
- Dr. Ansley Lamar (Psychology)

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025, does hereby designate Dr. Regina Adesanya (Early Childhood Education); Dr. Joan Bailey (Psychology) and Dr. Ansley Lamar (Psychology) as Professor Emeritus of New Jersey City University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BID ADVERTISING ANNUAL WAIVERS FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2026**

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64-52 et seq., New Jersey City University (the “University” or “NJCU”) must advertise for bids on all contracts for goods and services which exceed \$119,800, except under circumstances specified in the statute where bids may be waived; and

**WHEREAS:** As permitted by the statute, the University seeks authorization from the Board of Trustees to contract without bidding with vendors that the University expects to do business with in Fiscal Year 2026 because there are no alternatives and/or the State allows for waivers; and

**WHEREAS:** Whenever and wherever possible, the University intends to test the appropriateness of dealing with any given contract vendor by seeking alternate bids for the goods and services with other vendors, if available, and

**WHEREAS:** The University is requesting a bid advertising waiver for the attached list of such vendors and estimated expenditure amounts for Fiscal Year 2026 - which will help ensure the continued efficient operation of the University; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University, on this 29th day of September 2025, does hereby approve the attached list of bid advertising waivers for Fiscal Year 2026.

## New Jersey City University Annual Waiver Requests for Fiscal Year 2026

	NJ Statute	Vendor	Waiver Description	FY25 Request	FY25 Paid	FY26 Request	Department	Justification	Years Active
1	18A:64-56b	Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority	Supply of water and sewage service.	\$620,000	\$630,000	\$650,000	Facilities & Construction	Bid not necessary - contract/agreement is made with the State of New Jersey, a county or municipality or any board, body, or officer, agency or authority or any other state or subdivision.	10+
2	18A:64-56a(8)	PSE&G	Supply of electricity and transmission of natural gas and electricity. Pricing/rates are regulated by the Board of Public Utilities.	\$1,200,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,400,000	Facilities & Construction	Bid not necessary - Board of Public Utilities regulates pricing/rates.	10+
3	18A:64-56a(28)	Bank of America Merrill Lynch	Banking services and credit card program.			\$1,500,000	Administration & Finance	Bid not necessary - Banking and credit card services previously on State contract.	10+
4	18A:64-56a(19)	CBord, Inc.	Software maintenance fees, database management fees, entitlement credits, help desk fees and access hardware needs and replacements.	\$200,000	\$233,000	\$250,000	Campus Card	Information Technology - Proprietary - Sole Source: Software licensing and maintenance for card access, campus card program. Mobile apps: GetFoods, MobileID and GetFunds. Software CSGOLD upgrade to Version 8. Access hardware.	10+
5	18A:64-56a(19)	Oracle America, Inc.	Software maintenance and support fees for applications that power the University's information systems: Oracle PeopleSoft Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) system including Campus Solutions (Student Administration), Human Capital Management, Financial Management, eProcurement and Enterprise Campus Portal, Oracle's Taleo Talent Acquisition System	\$510,000	\$489,700	\$510,000	Information Technology	Information Technology - Proprietary - Sole Source - Enterprise information systems are critical to University administrative functions. These integrated systems manage the information between all business functions.	10+

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF BID ADVERTISING FOR  
THE INSTALLATION OF A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM AT  
GROSSNICKLE HALL**

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to the State College Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:64-52 et seq., New Jersey City University (the “University”) must advertise for bids on all contracts for goods and services which exceed \$119,800, except under circumstances specified in the statute where bids may be waived; and

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64-57, the University may enter a contract without advertising when there is an emergency affecting the health, safety or welfare of occupants of college property requiring the immediate delivery of the materials or supplies or the performance of the work; and

**WHEREAS:** In April 2025, after being mandated by the Jersey City Fire Marshall, Newark Fire Sprinkler Corp. was hired to furnish and install a fire suppression system (i.e. fire sprinklers) in Grossnickle Hall, a three (3) story building located on the University’s main campus; and

**WHEREAS:** Grossnickle Hall is presently undergoing renovations. Upon completion, the first and second floors will be occupied by the Jersey City Board of Education as additional space for an extended program for students of the A. Harry Moore School; and

**WHEREAS:** As part of the renovation work, the Jersey City Fire Marshall required that the University install a fire suppression system in the building. A sprinkler system is critical for ensuring the safety and protection of students and staff; and

**WHEREAS:** It is necessary to ensure compliance with all safety regulations and mandates; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of New Jersey City University, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025, does hereby approve of a bid advertising waiver for the installation of a fire suppression system at Grossnickle Hall in the amount of \$305,000.