

Summary of Proceedings
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
5:00 p.m., In-person and via Zoom

Trustees Present: Edward DeFazio; Joseph Doria; Pamela Gardner; Frank Gargiulo; Roberta Kenny; Bakari Lee (Vice Chair); Daniel Menendez (Student Alumni Representative); William Netchert (Chair); Jeanette Peña; Christopher Reber; Silvia Rodriguez; and Harold Stahl.

Trustees Absent: None.

Comments from the Public: There were no comments from the public.

Report:

1. Student Government Association President's Report

Student Government Association President, Sally Elwir, offered the following report.

Hello, everyone. It is a pleasure to speak in front of you all today.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is focused on implementing the "government" in SGA and being the student's voice. We invited Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti to an SGA meeting to present the Academic Tower plan, followed by a Q&A session. During our most recent Town Hall meeting, students voiced many concerns, so we connected them with faculty and staff to address the issues. One concern was the lack of privacy in the prayer room, which we shared with Ilya Ashmyan, who agreed to provide a protective privacy glass coating. Another concern was the Honors Lounge. We connected with Dr. Heather Devries, who helped us improve and kept us up-to-date on developments in the room. Students also had concerns about the restrooms in Gabert Library, which the Office of Facilities fixed promptly. On behalf of the students, we thank the faculty and staff involved in quickly addressing and resolving students' concerns.

In our most recent activities, SGA Vice President of North Hudson Roberto Gomez participated at the Women's Empowerment Festival in North Hudson and took the opportunity to promote our organization. SGA Vice President of Journal Square Josefa Flores attended the Project Coordination meeting with Facilities, Security, and IT. Our Vice President of Journal Square Kira Khan connected with the Professional Association to schedule a dinner to discuss how we could collaborate. As for myself, I attended the ChatGPT meeting.

Last week we hosted the Multicultural Day Fair in collaboration with the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) and the Student Action Group. There was belly dancing, games, DIY pins, henna tattoos, face painting, food, and raffles. The event was a huge success, and we recruited five new members.

Our upcoming events include an egg hunt on both campuses, our continued Town Hall meetings with guest speakers such as Jose Lowe and Dr. Heather DeVries, Inter-Club Council meetings, training for the future Executive Board, hosting elections, participating at the Jersey City Marathon, and hopefully a sports day. On April 15, ten SGA members and two alums will attend the Student and Alumni Spring 2023 Convening: Building the Future with Student Voices in Edison, NJ, along with members of other New Jersey community colleges.

It's On Us held a workshop called "It's On Us and the Law." I managed their Instagram profile of 46,000 followers, showing people the importance of combating sexual assault in a community college. On April 12, It's On Us, the Office of Student Life, and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, will host a Title IX workshop for students, faculty, and staff to learn about sexual harassment and discrimination.

The **Student Programming Board** (SPB) hosted a variety of events, including Plant a Flower, where various plants were distributed, each attached with a fun fact; Just Dance Tournament to promote health and fitness by exercising with a bit of friendly competition; St. Patrick's Day, a table filled with cupcakes, cookies, lemonade, and fashionable hats for students. SPB has planned a few more events that will take place in the coming weeks. On March 22, the Ramadan Grab-N-Go will offer goody bags with organic milk. On March 29, during Breaking Fast Iftar, students will share a meal and learn about the Muslim culture. On March 31, they will show a movie cosponsored by the newly established Dominican Society.

Business and Accounting Club – Their business expo was a huge success and was attended by business alums and business owners as guest speakers. They held a workshop with Joseph Caniglia at the North Hudson campus. The next workshop is about resume writing in collaboration with Bank of America, and then Executive Board elections will occur.

Phi Theta Kappa – They met on March 15 and are planning their induction for April 28.

National Society of Leadership and Success – They held multiple seminars in preparation for induction on May 5.

Latin Society – On February 27, they celebrated Dominican Republic Independence Day. Their next event on March 28, in collaboration with SGA, will be a gaming day with different video games, including virtual reality.

ESL Club – Every other week, they hosted workshops. They are planning a writing and speech contest titled "What is your biggest challenge in learning English?" The winners will receive \$100.

Thank you.

Trustee Lee offered the following remarks.

Sally, once again, very well done. I was curious about what you took from the ChatGPT meeting and the nature of the presentation.

Sally Elwir responded with the following remarks.

They asked my opinion about ChatGPT. I didn't know of it until they took the time to explain in detail and elaborate thoroughly about ChatGPT. I was both fascinated and scared because of the quick results. The College needs to find a way to ethically promote this software's use and emphasize the accessibility of other free and ethical resources the College offers. For example, Dr. Christopher Cody informed me that we have free access to the New York Times, which helped me in my research papers.

Trustee Lee offered closing remarks.

Great answer. I agree that we should ensure that the software is used ethically.

As always, Sally, fantastic report. Thank you for all you do for HCCC.

Daniel Menendez offered the following remarks.

ChatGPT released a new version that now passes most standardized tests by 80% to 90%, including the SAT, LSAT, and even the bar. It became very advanced and more developed in a very short period.

2. All College Council Chair's Report

All College Council Chair, Dr. Peter Cronrath, offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees, Dr. Reber, and the HCCC community.

First, congratulations to the five faculty who will be granted tenure during this meeting.

All five have served on the All College Council (ACC) and contributed valuable work to improve the College. Fidelis, Clive, and Jihan, thank you for serving as Academic Senators. Fatma, thank you for serving as Co-Chair of the Academic Senate, and Karen, your work as ACC Secretary was phenomenal, and we would not have achieved so much this year without all of your collective efforts.

Academic Senate

At last month's meeting, three Governance Recommendations were passed—great work by the Academic Senate to make these valuable recommendations.

The Academic Senate has since finalized the Student Remote Guidelines, which will be presented as another Governance Recommendation and voted on next meeting. The Senate's subcommittees continue their work regarding the AI Assistance Tools; i.e., ChatGPT, and evaluate the various grading scales across the schools at the college.

Student Life Committee

Student Affairs and Enrollment Services will hold a spring conference on Thursday, April 6, in the Student Center. Student Affairs and Enrollment Services offices will be closed during the training.

Enrollment for summer and fall terms opens Friday, March 31, for priority registration open for the following students: Honors, Veterans, Early College, and Hudson Scholars.

The "It's On Us" event will be held on March 30 between noon and 2:00 p.m. The presentation on Title IX is open to the whole college community.

The Health and Wellness Fair will be held on March 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is being hosted by Hudson Helps Resource Center and Student Life.

Space and Facilities Committee

The North Hudson Campus Café construction project is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Furniture for both campuses' terraces has been ordered.

The prayer room was updated with a protective glass coating.

The new Honors Lounge is being updated with new furniture and paint.

The first outdoor gardening project will take place in the STEM Courtyard beginning next month.

Technology Committee

Coursedog will be the new events management system. Training on the system will start next month.

Thank you.

Trustee Lee offered the following remarks.

Dr. Cronrath, how is the prayer room updated with protective glass?

Dr. Cronrath offered the following remarks.

The room was updated with a privacy-protective coating.

3. **President's Report**

President Reber offered the following remarks.

Good evening, Trustees and colleagues. It's great to be together again!

Sally and Peter, thank you, as always, for your reports and leadership.

Sally, congratulations on having been named a semi-finalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which provides full funding for high-achieving community college students to pursue and complete baccalaureate and graduate studies.

We celebrate that Sally is one of six HCCC students to be named semi-finalists this year, which we believe is a record in the history of the College. These students have been selected from more than 1,700 student applicants at two-year colleges across the United States. Joining Sally as Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Semi-Finalists are Raida Al Hattab, Ella Mukasa, Montaha Osman, Birva Pinto, and Michael Salinas. We congratulate these outstanding students who have exceedingly bright futures. We thank HCCC Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Advisor, Professor Theodore Lai, for his mentorship of these and so many other HCCC students.

Students, we're rooting for all of you to be named 2023 Jack Kent Cooke Scholars!

And, while we are congratulating members of the HCCC Family, I am delighted to add my congratulations, on behalf of the Trustees and all members of the HCCC Family, to two dedicated colleagues who have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations since our last Board of Trustees meeting. Congratulations, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Yeurys Pujols; and Dean of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Catherine Sirangelo!

We further congratulate Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services, Patricia Clay, who has been named the recipient of an international Laserfiche Visionary Award. Laserfiche is a leading provider of content management and business process automation. In announcing the award, Karl Chan, CEO of Laserfiche, wrote, "A strategic information technology leader specializing in a holistic approach to higher education technology, Patricia Clay focuses on using technology for an inclusive environment that fosters student success. She has put her leadership, expertise and foresight at the service of Hudson County Community College and the wider education industry, leading digital transformation initiatives at the college and co-chairing EDUCAUSE's Higher Education Information Security Council Advisory Committee."

We congratulate Trisha and celebrate this significant HCCC point of pride!

But let's not stop there!

Today's Board agenda includes the approval of tenure for five outstanding and valued faculty colleagues. We congratulate Instructor of Mathematics, Fidelis Foda-Kahouo; Instructor of English,

Karen Galli; Instructor of Engineering Science, Clive Li; Instructor of Medical Assisting, Jihan Nakhla; and Instructor of Chemistry, Fatma Tat. With your approval of tenure, these colleagues will be promoted to Assistant Professor effective next fall.

I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Darryl Jones, to introduce each of our faculty colleagues and invite them to say a few words.

Dr. Jones offered the following remarks.

Thank you, Dr. Reber. Good afternoon, Trustees.

One of my favorite things this time of year is to introduce and personally congratulate all faculty members who have earned tenure. These faculty have demonstrated their excellence in teaching and learning. They have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, professional achievements, and contributions to the profession, community, and College.

Tenured faculty do make our College greater, and it is an honor for me to share their brief bios as you prepare to act upon the recommendation of President Reber.

I introduce Fidelis Foda-Kahouo. He currently serves as Instructor of Mathematics and Coordinator of the Bridges to Baccalaureate Program for the School of STEM. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Civil Engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a Phi Theta Kappa member and an active volunteer of that organization. As an adjunct, he actively tutored students in physics, chemistry, and algebra. He has collaboratively worked with faculty and his colleagues to develop courses for the advanced manufacturing program. He presently serves as the advisor for the STEM Club and is a member of the Space and Facilities Committee of ACC. He is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at Stevens Institute. Most importantly, Fidelis is a proud graduate of HCCC. Much continued success for Fidelis.

Karen Galli serves as Instructor of English and Coordinator of College Composition for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Karen holds a master's degree in Individualized Study from NYU Gallatin School, and a bachelor's in Liberal Arts from Eugene College. She was a mentor for the Goldman Sachs Local College Collaborative. In 2022, she demonstrated at my side her presentation titled "Teamwork Works in the Online Classes." Karen serves as secretary for ACC, a member of PACDEI, and Chair of the Faculty and Staff Office Space Allocation Committee of ACC. Professionally, she has participated in various fine art productions as a writer, organizer, and curator, and she is pursuing a doctoral degree at Drew University. Thank you, Karen, for all your contributions to Hudson.

Dr. Clive Li currently serves as Instructor of Engineering Science and Coordinator of Assessment for the School of STEM. Dr. Clive holds a doctorate in Material Science and Engineering from Stony Brook University. He is a recipient of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, the Philip Johnston Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Additionally, the American Association of Colleges and Universities has listed undergraduate research as a high-impact practice, a pedagogical intervention that empirical data have shown increases student retention and graduation. Dr. Li has been exceptional in conducting research with his students, whether working with STEM Club to launch a rocket, develop a temperature-sensitive mass during Covid, or even create an aquaponics garden.

Next month at the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference, Dr. Clive Li will be recognized as a Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Recognition honoree. This award honors faculty who demonstrate passion and willingness to support students inside and outside the classroom. Congratulations, Dr. Li!

Dr. Jihan Nakhla currently serves as Instructor of Medical Assisting and the Medical Assistant Clinical Coordinator for the School of Nursing and Health Professions. She obtained her degree in Medical and Surgery and holds a graduate Doctor of Medicine degree from Cairo University and a pediatric diploma from the same institution. Dr. Jihan is Co-Chair of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs for the Medical Assistance Program. She is a member of the College Life Committee, the Academic Senate, and the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. Thank you, Dr. Jihan Nakhla, for your many contributions.

Dr. Fatma Tat serves as Instructor of Chemistry and Coordinator of the Garden State S-Stem Scholarship. She received her doctorate in Organic Chemistry from Karaelmas University and her master's in Organic Chemistry from Uludag University. Dr. Fatma is a recipient of the Philip Johnston Award for Excellence in Teaching and the most recent recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award. She is active on various college committees, including the Academic Senate and PACDEI. She has published articles in several peer-reviewed journals. Thank you, Fatima, for all you do.

I will take this opportunity to thank those who made this process possible. Thank you to the faculty and staff who served. It is a particularly important assignment, and I greatly appreciate the hard work of the entire board who assisted: Dr. Heather DeVries, who chaired the Tenure Review Board; VP Anna Krupitskiy; Dr. Yeurys Pujols; Dr. Abdallah Matari; Dr. David Clark; Dr. Ara Karakashian; Kathryn Buckley; Denise Rossilli; Dr. Sirhan Abdullah; Dr. Rafaela Pernice; and Chef Gary Bensky.

We wish them all congratulations and much success as they continue their journeys here and a special thank you for their dedication to our students.

I invite each of them to offer remarks. After, I will ask Michael Ferlise, President of the Professional Association, for some concluding remarks.

Karen Galli offered remarks.

I started Hudson in 2013 as an adjunct, and today I feel so lucky to be here at my permanent home. One of the experiences I shared with my students is being a first-generation college student and a first-generation Asian American. Through our stories, we learned that we have been the voices of our immigrant parents and advocates for our education. I share this with you because I look forward to advocating for our first-generation students and continuing to build high-quality educational programs where we can make significant social progress and increase social and economic advancement for every student at Hudson. Thank you.

Dr. Fatma Tat offered remarks.

Good evening, Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, Trustees, and the college community. I am honored and happy to be part of the HCCC family. I have a sense of belonging at the college and have been teaching for six years. I look forward to continuing to serve our students and community. I thank Dean Yearwood and my colleagues at STEM for their support. I also thank you all for supporting our tenure and giving us this opportunity to continue educating our students and the community as a whole. Thank you.

Dr. Clive Li offered remarks.

Good evening. I'm Dr. Clive Li, and I have been teaching at this institution for six years. I have seen the impact of education on students' lives. As an instructor, I aim to help each of my students reach their full potential and achieve their goals. I am honored to receive tenure. It is a personal achievement for me and a reflection of the support and encouragement from my colleagues, students, and administration. I am fortunate to work with many amazing students, colleagues, and staff. I have learned so much from each of you.

I look forward to continuing to learn and grow as an educator. Thank you.

Fidelis Foda-Kahouo offered remarks.

Good evening, everyone, Trustees, Dr. Reber, and Dr. Jones.

A few years ago, when this Board held its meeting, I stood outside the lobby as a security guard. Today, I stand before you as an instructor with Dr. Reber's recommendation for tenure. I thank you, Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, and Trustees. Thank you, Trustee Lee, for being an icon since the start of my journey. I also thank all those who participated in this selection and review process. I thank those who taught me while I was a student and those who became my colleagues. In particular, I thank Dr. Mojdeh Tabatabaie for being my inspiration since I was a student and even until today. I promised her to get my doctorate and continue to work for our students. Thank you.

Dr. Jihan Nakhla offered remarks.

Good evening, Trustees, Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, administration, and colleagues.

Thank you for giving me this phenomenal opportunity to grow and develop under your leadership. It's been a pleasure to teach at HCCC since 2015. Throughout the years, I have been surrounded by everyone's support, including Dean Sirangelo, STEM faculty and staff. I share the same feeling of belonging to the college community, so I mean it whenever I say, "Hudson is Home." In addition, I want to acknowledge the unwavering support of my family, especially my husband.

As you endorse my recommendation for tenure, I will strive for continuous improvement by providing high-level instruction and learning experience and contributing to building a cohesive and comprehensively engaged workforce to make Hudson a shining light across the nation. Thank you again, and congratulations to all my colleagues.

Michael Ferlise offered his remarks.

Thank you. Chairman Netchert, Vice Chair Lee, Trustees, President Reber, and Vice President Jones, for the invitation and opportunity to speak briefly on behalf of my newly tenured faculty colleagues Fatma, Jihan, Fidelis, Clive and Karen. Congratulations to all.

I'm sure our Board members surmise the high demands and requirements our institution places upon those who hope to achieve tenure. However, behind the scenes, the arduous tasks are undertaken by the members who voluntarily serve on the Tenure Review Committee and who ultimately decide whether a candidate, in their eyes, achieves tenure.

I served on the tenure committee several times over the years, and I've always made sure to allow some time to pass since the decision to grant or deny tenure is substantial, both cognitively and emotionally. I thank our deans, administrators, and especially my faculty colleagues, who, out of their sense of professional ethics and personal responsibility, volunteered to carefully read, review, and evaluate often voluminous portfolios, took thoughtful notes, interviewed the nervous candidates, and judiciously and sometimes painstakingly discussed each individual's candidacy to make life-altering decisions for them. It is worth pointing out that members of the committee also usually provide their service and do this work over the holidays while the rest of us are unwinding before the next semester begins.

I also want to remind my newly tenured instructors that the security of a tenured position has been the cause of ensuring academic freedom for the integrity of scholarship and classroom instruction. No one, therefore, is guaranteed tenure, nor should they be. As professionals, all of us need to review and approve of the members of our profession, as were we. In short, those who have officially received tenure tonight have unquestionably earned it. You should feel incredibly proud that through your exceptional abilities and contributions over the last five or more years, your peers have voted to retain you as long-standing and serving members of our educational institution and community. We believe

we will see more of what we witnessed from you over the last five years in our mission to provide high-quality education to our students.

Congratulations, Jihan, Fatma, Fidelis, Clive and Karen.

This is undoubtedly an extremely proud day for you as it is for all of us as your colleagues. We look forward to working with you and remaining productive together through the years. Congratulations!

President Reber resumed his remarks.

Thanks so much, Darryl and Michael. Congratulations again, Professors Foda-Kahouo, Galli, Li, Nakhla, and Tat.

Trustees, this concludes my report.

Chairman Netchert offered closing remarks.

On behalf of the Board, congratulations to the newly tenured faculty.

People ask why we do this. If we submit a transcript of Item V., on tonight's meeting report, which are the reports from SGA, ACC, and Darryl's report on tenured faculty, it is the reason why we are board members.

Congratulations!

Trustee Lee offered remarks.

Chairman Netchert, I second your comments regarding the faculty members awarded tenure. Congratulations to you all!

Also, I give a special shout-out to my dear friend Fidelis for achieving this auspicious honor. I recall when I would come to participate in meetings, and Fidelis would guard the door and keep us safe and secure. While he was doing his job, he also focused on his schoolwork. We have seen his journey from being a student at Hudson, then to Stevens, and now, being tenured and pursuing his doctorate, which is amazing and similar to VP Yeurys Pujols. This is exactly what Hudson County Community College is all about.

Congratulations to you all. This is a fantastic day, and I wish I could witness it personally, but I'm there virtually in spirit.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

- 1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2023, were approved.**
- 2. Gifts, Grants, and Contracts Report – No report.**

The following actions were taken concerning **Fiscal, Administrative, Lease, and Capital Recommendations** brought forward by the Administration and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

1. Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Research-as-a-Service (RaaS) Platform, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$61,500, was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Fundraising and Engagement Platform, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$227,089, was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Portal Redesign, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$129,600, was approved.

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4. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Desktops for the Testing Center, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$91,686, was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Annual Commencement Formal Dinner for Graduates, to be funded through Student Life Fee Revenue at a cost not to exceed \$34,375, was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Turnkey Replacements for 870 Bergen Avenue HVAC Units, to be funded through Chapter 12 Funds at a cost not to exceed \$86,957, was approved.

The following actions were taken regarding **Personnel Recommendations** brought forward by the Administration and endorsed by the Personnel Committee.

1. The separation of the Director of Accessibility Services was approved.
2. Staff appointments to the following full-time positions were approved: Financial Aid Assistant; and Center for Adult Transition, Career Advisor (Grant-Funded).
3. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
5. Tenure for five full-time faculty was approved.
6. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through March 2024, as needed, were approved.
7. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
8. The following Modification to the Staffing Table was approved:

<i>Current Approved Title</i>	<i>New Title</i>	<i>Incumbent (If applicable)</i>	<i>Salary Grade and Salary Adjustment (If applicable)</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
N/A	Coordinator, Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Carmen Guerra (New Appointment)	Salary Grade 109	April 10, 2023

The following actions were taken regarding **Academic and Student Affairs** as brought forward by the Administration and endorsed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

1. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Peace Care, Inc. for Clinical Experiences in HCCC's Enhanced Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Program was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Peace Care, Inc. for Apprenticeship Experiences in HCCC's Enhanced Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Program was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Newport Swim and Fitness for Internship Experiences in HCCC's Exercise Science and Personal Fitness Training Programs was approved.

There were no comments under **New Business**:

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:53 p.m.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, upon approval, are available in the College Library, the President's Office, and on the College website.