

**Summary of Proceedings  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

**Trustees Present:** Lisa Camacho (Student Alumni Representative); Edward DeFazio (Secretary/Treasurer); Pamela Gardner (Vice Chair); Frank Gargiulo; Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; and Harold Stahl.

**Trustees Absent:** Joseph Doria, Vincent Lombardo, and Silvia Rodriguez.

**Comments from the Public:**

*Michael Ferlise offered the following remarks.*

Greetings Chair Peña, Vice Chair Gardner, Trustees, President Reber, and guests. It's my pleasure to be here with you today. I'm Michael Ferlise, Assistant Professor of Sociology and president of the Professional Association, which is the union of all full-time faculty.

I'd like to share a few brief union announcements. I have submitted electronically to you our December newsletter called "The Union Forward" for you to peruse. It contains articles about our faculty members' ongoing commitment to their and our students' education, and their recent work and contributions to the college.

The Professional Association now has a matching fund providing student awards up to a total of \$6,000. The purpose is to provide incentives for the proliferation of various financial student awards and prizes initiated by faculty groups that independently raise funds through payroll deductions. We are currently working on a student award for female students in STEM and anticipate more to follow.

We have begun our contract negotiations with the college's administrative team and look forward to productive collaborations. We have had a uniquely collaborative relationship with President Reber and his administration, resulting in better proposals and contracts that have resolved many problems.

Finally, I would like to invite you to our upcoming event called "Beyond the Lectern," where several HCCC faculty will share their insights, teaching philosophies, and issues they've encountered in the classroom and beyond. This is a college-wide event, and we would love to have our trustees there with us.

I'd also like to introduce Dr. Benedetto Youssef (Benny), a fellow faculty member and the chairperson of our planning committee, to provide more information on this event. Benny is in his second year as a tenure-track Instructor of English at our college. He is a passionate educator and an exceptional colleague. Benny and his wife are expecting an addition to their family in March.

*Benny Youssef offered the following remarks.*

Hello, everyone. This is my second year at Hudson. I have been thinking of an event to engage our students with the faculty, to offer more transparency into what it is like to be an educator. Many students ask me about becoming a professor and what it entails. I remember feeling that professors were unreachable when I was an undergrad student.

There is a shortage of educators in this country. We have a robust education program at HCCC. The idea for this event is to have a panel of esteemed professors from different schools and offer a Q&A opportunity for students to engage with them. This will strengthen the learning community and build trust in the classroom.

Please mark your calendars for February 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be lunch, and we hope to see you there. Our moderator will be the student government president, Nina Maria Resurreccion, which will further strengthen the relationship between students and faculty.

*Chair Peña thanked Michael Ferlise and Benny Youssef for their remarks.*

## **Report:**

### **1. Student Government Association President's Report**

*Student Government Association President, Nina Maria Resurreccion, offered the following report.*

Good evening, Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and guests. It is great to see you again and Happy New Year!

My name is Nina Resurreccion, and I am honored to speak on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA) as its President. The closing weeks of the previous semester were truly eventful, and I am excited to share some updates from SGA.

- On December 9, we hosted a small karaoke event to celebrate student leaders. It was heartwarming to see a great turnout and be able to give back to those who dedicate their time and effort to making HCCC a vibrant and supportive community. SGA plans to host more of these events as a token of appreciation for our hardworking student leaders.
- On December 13, SGA collaborated with Student Life and Leadership, the Starry Eye Dance Team, and the HCCC Film Club to bring "The Snowball" to life. This event provided students with a much-needed break during finals and a festive way to kick off the winter break. Students enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies, participated in fun activities like a gingerbread house competition, posed for photos at the booth, and joined a raffle.
- We are preparing to hold elections next month to fill vacant positions, recruit new senators, and begin e-board shadowing shortly afterward. More details about these plans will be provided soon.

This concludes my updates for the SGA. Now, I will move on to updates from our clubs and organizations.

With the start of a new semester, I am pleased to announce the formation of a new organization, the Human Services Club. Their first event will be a collaborative effort with the nonprofit organization *Be The Light*, focusing on spreading positivity within the community.

### **Health and Medical Sciences Club and STEM Club**

- Protect Yourself: Tips to Stay Healthy and Safe

**Student Programming Board**

- Cozy Cafe Hangout

**LGBTQ+ Club**

- LGBTQ+ Summit

**Men of Hudson**

- The Brotherhood

**CAREERS IN STEM** (together with Student Life and Leadership)

- American Chemical Honor Society
- Cybersecurity Club
- Health and Medical Science Club
- STEM Club
- Girls Who Code

**STUDENT PARENT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** (together with Student Life and Leadership)

- Teacher Education Club
- National Society of Leadership and Success
- Student Parent Alliance

**Teacher Education Club**

- HCCC's Little Library Ceremony

**La Hermanidad**

- Fall 2024 Dialogue Series
- Life Transitions, but Staying Grounded: A Dialogue on Transitions We Encounter Throughout our Lives.

**Active Minds**

- Holiday Movie Night

That concludes all of December's updates and I look forward to what awaits us this semester. Thank you and have an amazing evening!

**2. All College Council Chair's Report**

*All College Council Chair, Dr. Chris Cody, offered the following report.*

Good evening, Trustees.

It's nice to see you all, and I hope you had a restful holiday and a happy new year. The new semester is upon us, and we would be remiss to not highlight a few important events.

Tomorrow, College Service Day begins at 9:00 a.m. The theme is *Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility*. We look forward to a day of learning and thoughtful engagement with our colleagues. The all-college adjunct faculty orientation will be held the following day, on Thursday, January 23, at 5:00 p.m. And then the first day of classes will be this upcoming Friday, January 24.

Of the many events scheduled in the early weeks and months of the semester, there are two we'd like to highlight. First, there is the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration event on Tuesday, January 28. The guest speaker is Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of civil rights leader Malcolm X and an adjunct professor of criminal justice at John Jay College. The second event to highlight is the "Beyond the Lectern" hosted by the Professional Association that will feature five HCCC professors discussing their triumphs, failures, and perspectives on the future of higher education. That event takes place on Wednesday, February 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Scott Ring Room. We look forward to seeing you at these and other important functions this semester.

I'll now proceed with the committee reports:

- The Academic Senate this semester continues their analysis and assessment of the incomplete policy and the college-wide grade scale policy. Both projects are near completion, and the Academic Senate leadership foresees that one or both may result in a governance recommendation (GR) this semester.
- The Student Affairs Committee continues its work to engage and educate Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) students on the in-house services they are eligible for. The committee will work to provide that information to this student population and plans to draft a GR that will clearly state the services available to CEWD students.
- The College Life Committee hosted a successful holiday party. Attendees were treated to delicious food, festive music, and the fun of the annual ugly sweater contest. The committee will plan an end of the semester summer barbeque. And the committee's "Hudson Huddles" speaker series has begun the process of reaching out to potential future speakers.
- The Technology Committee is happy to report on the successful creation of a new webpage that lists and links to all mobile apps currently being used by the college. The webpage is now live and can be found under the ITS option on the college's website.
- The Development and Planning Committee is planning another semester of initiatives aimed at raising awareness around creating a culture of giving. To that end, the committee is planning to work with the Poetry and Language Collective this semester to host scholarship essay writing events for HCCC students.
- The Space and Facilities Committee continues to assist in a variety of ways to ensure a seamless transition to our campus of the future. The committee will also be working this semester to locate a permanent zen space/prayer room at the North Hudson Campus.

With that, we conclude our report and would like to wish our students a successful start to the semester! I'd like to thank everyone who made this report possible, including All College Council (ACC) Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian, ACC Secretary Sarah Teichman, all the ACC committee chairs, committee members, Dr. Reber, Cabinet, Trustees, and the entire college community.

### **3. *President's Report***

*President Reber offered the following report.*

Good evening, Trustees.

Before I begin, I ask you to join me in a moment of silence for victims of the devastating fires in California; and all victims of war in the Middle East, Russia, Ukraine, and victims of war and violence worldwide.

*Moment of Silence*

Thank you.

We condemn violence of all kinds, including antisemitism and Islamophobia. We support one another in times of difficulty and strive to be a community that is respectful of – and safe for – everyone.

Trustees, colleagues, and friends, Happy New Year!

It is wonderful to be back together as we begin 2025 at this inspirational and transformational College.

Chris and Nina, thank you for your reports and your leadership!

This evening, we celebrate the College's new five-year strategic plan.

Entitled "The Community's College: Embracing Our History, Shaping Our Future," the detailed plan builds upon the College's remarkable success and charts specific strategic directions, goals and action steps that will guide HCCC's continued upward trajectory of excellence in service to our students, our community, and the College's mission.

The plan was developed through a collaborative, months-long process in which hundreds of college and surrounding community members were engaged.

Trustees, we thank you and all members of the HCCC family for your guidance, engagement, and support. And we thank Associate Vice President Dr. Heather DeVries for her stellar leadership of the planning process.

Thank you, Heather!

This evening, we have invited Dean of Libraries John Hernandez to discuss new initiatives in the libraries that are supporting student success. I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Darryl Jones, to introduce John and his report this evening, after which I'll offer a few concluding remarks.

*Dr. Darryl Jones offered the following remarks.*

Thank you, President Reber. Good evening, Trustees.

Academic librarians are increasingly participating in a national dialogue about higher education effectiveness and quality. They are more than keepers of valuable collections and the monitors of quiet study spaces on campus. Our librarians are campus leaders in adapting to changes, like adopting a student-centered mindset, catalyzing active learning, and championing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Librarians are contributing to higher education assessment work by creating approaches, strategies, and practices that document the value of academic libraries in advancing the goals and mission of our institution. Under Dean Hernandez's leadership, our library staff are doing an amazing job combining library instruction and high-impact educational practices that are aimed at fostering a sense of student belongingness here on campus. I now invite John Hernandez to come forth and share specific details about how our libraries are helping all students get support, build skills, create projects, make connections, and find a career, all in the context of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

[Dean John Hernandez offered HCCC Libraries Supporting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Presentation.](#)

*John Hernandez offered the following remarks.*

Thank you very much, Dr. Jones. President Reber, members of the Board of Trustees, I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you this evening.

I'm excited to announce that the Library has been awarded the Library Excellence in Access and Diversity Award (LEAD) by *Insight Into Diversity* magazine. This is the same organization that sponsors the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, which the college has won four years in a row. This is only the second year the LEAD award has been offered, and our library is one of several recipients. This award acknowledges academic libraries' efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. I'll highlight a few initiatives from our application.

The Library is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and strives to uphold the principles fostered by Hudson County Community College. We adhere to the College's commitment by working closely with other campus units, building a relevant collection of resources and materials, and providing a welcome environment for all of our users that supports teaching, research, and learning, respectful of all perspectives.

One of our recent programs is "Ticket to Culture," our museum pass program. This initiative provides free annual guest passes to cultural institutions, mostly museums. We started our pilot with five institutions: El Museo del Barrio, Museum of the City of New York, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Newark Museum of Art, and Montclair Art Museum. These passes can be reserved at both North Hudson and Journal Square libraries and are available to all Hudson students, faculty, and staff. The idea is to provide opportunities for our community to experience diverse cultural resources. We hope to expand this program to other institutions.

The library serves as a campus hub for studying, creating, and meeting at both campuses. We strive to make the library a safe and welcoming space by collaborating with many college offices and organizations, including Student Life and Leadership, various student organizations, Hudson Helps, Hudson Pride, and the Student Parent Alliance. Our goal is to draw our community into the library and expose them to the rich, diverse community at Hudson.

We've also begun engaging in public library partnerships. At Journal Square, we are partnering with the Jersey City Free Public Library, and the North Bergen Public Library. These partnerships provide opportunities for students to sign up for public library cards and build reciprocal relationships with these libraries. One of our librarians, Saudia Reid, recently presented on this topic at the Jersey Academic Libraries Conference.

Other ways we engage at the library include decorating the library space to recognize holidays and celebrations in our diverse community and curate thematic book displays, such as one for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

We provide other services, including prayer and meditation rooms, promoted with the help of Doreen Pontius, Director of the Office of Mental Health Counseling and Wellness. We are also housing the lactation pods here at the Gabert Library and providing a private space for lactating members to express and store milk. We also offer study breaks with games, coloring, clay, and therapy dog visits to help students de-stress.

The library focuses on building diverse collections and resources. We celebrate Banned Books Week, recognizing the increasing number of challenges to books. We believe strongly in the freedom to read. We've also acquired databases focused on DEI topics, such as Black Life, Hispanic Life, and Asian Life in America from NewsBank, and the Ethnic Diversity Source database from EBSCO.

Accessibility is another facet of diversity. We provide assistive technology, such as an assistive keyboard for sight-challenged or blind students, and talking books through the New Jersey State Library's Talking Book and Braille Center. These resources are available for users to check out and use.

We've been working closely with Danielle Lopez, our new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Accessibility Services, who has been a wonderful resource. I also want to acknowledge Saudia Reid for her tremendous work in our collaborative programming efforts and partnerships.

Thank you very much. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

*President Reber resumed his remarks.*

Thanks so much, John.

We greatly appreciate all that you and the members of your team do in support of our students and our college mission!

As we prepare for classes to begin on Friday, our College community will meet tomorrow for our spring 2025 College Service Day. We look forward to a day of stimulating discussion, presentations and celebrations. The theme for the day is "Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility."

Finally, I am delighted to share some wonderful late-breaking news.

On the heels of the College's receipt last year of a stunning three national awards of excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges that included the naming of Dr. Clive Li as AACC's 2024 Faculty Member of the Year; the College's receipt of the AACC 2024 Student Success Award of Excellence for the Hudson Scholars Program; and the honor of being named AACC's 2024 CEO of the Year – we celebrate three national finalists for this year's AACC 2025 Awards of Excellence!

These finalists were published in last Friday's AACC national *Community College Daily*.

We congratulate Associate Vice Presidents Lori Margolin and Dr. Heather DeVries for their leadership that has led to the College's selection as one of five finalists for AACC's 2025 Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership Award for HCCC's Incarcerated and Reentry Training Programs; we congratulate Associate Dean of Career and Transfer Pathways Jennifer Valcarcel, who is one of three finalists for AACC's 2025 Rising Star Manager Award of Excellence; and we congratulate Associate Professor of Chemistry and Coordinator of the Construction Management Program Dr. Azhar Mahmood, who is one of three finalists for AACC's 2025 Faculty Innovation Award of Excellence.

We thank and salute Lori, Heather, Jen and Azhar for their dedication and excellence. They make us all proud!

Happy New Year, everyone! Hudson is Home!

Trustees, this concludes my report.

### ***Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations***

**1. The Minutes of the Reorganization and Regular Meeting of November 26, 2024 were approved.**

**2. Gifts, Grants, and Contracts Report**

*Hudson County Community College has received the following grants:*

**Title:** Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century (Perkins V)

**Agency:** NJ Department of Education (NJDOE)

**Purpose of Grant:** Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has received notice of its FY 2025 allocation, designated for direct program and instructional support for HCCC Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The application will be resubmitted with a budget modification for review and approval by the State.

**College Administrator:** Nydia James

**College Contribution:** \$0

**Award Amount:** \$1,264,951

**Title:** Hudson Oral History Project

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Purpose of Grant:** The Hudson Oral History Project uses humanities practices and oral history tools to engage students and the community. capturing stories of the city's transformation and integrating them into courses and curricula.

**College Administrator:** Sean Egan and Antonio Acevedo

**College Contribution:** \$0

**Award Amount:** \$150,000

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 Awarding Contract with APS Contracting, Inc. for Wayfinding Phase II Services for Journal Square Campus was approved at a cost not to exceed \$1,390,000.
2. Resolution Authorizing Award of Security Services with Allied Universal over a three-year term at a total cost not to exceed \$13,150,968, was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Consultation Services for Latino Outreach, with Atabey Consulting Group, at a total cost not to exceed \$72,000 for a one-year term, was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Award of Snow Removal Services with a cost not to exceed \$21,364, with an additional rate of \$250 per inch beyond 18 inches of accumulation, was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Document Imaging Software with Accelerated Information Systems at a cost not to exceed \$103,258 was approved.
6. Resolution Rejecting Purchase and Installation of Interactive Projector Systems to rescind the previously awarded contract to Howard Technology Solutions due to non-compliance with NJ labor laws was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Purchase and Installation of Interactive Projector Systems and award a contract to Howard Technology Solutions at a cost not to exceed \$53,675 was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Website Redesign Content Management System (CMS) Services with Modern Campus at a total cost not to exceed \$49,792 was approved.



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9. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Room Scheduling and Course Catalog Management Software with Insight Public Sector, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$212,830 for a two-year term was approved.
10. Resolution Authorizing Contract for Demand Response Services with NRG Curtailment Solutions, Inc. with a reimbursement rate of 70% was approved.
11. Resolution Amending Contract for Custodial Services to authorize a settlement agreement with Maverick Building Services, resolving disputes regarding payroll tax inclusion, 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 ESL and Academic Foundations English was accepted.
2. The resignation of an Internship Coordinator (Grant-funded); a Director, Practical Nursing; and a Career and Transfer Specialist (Grant-funded), were accepted.
3. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
5. Appointment of Full-time Faculty was approved.
6. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
7. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through January 2026, as needed, were approved.
8. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
9. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

<b>Current Approved Title</b>	<b>New Title/ Classification</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Current Salary Grade</b>	<b>New Salary Grade</b>	<b>Current Salary</b>	<b>New Salary</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Accounts Receivable Clerk, Bursar/ Student Accounts	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Estefany Ferreira	102	107	\$42,627.59	\$45,627.59	January 22, 2025
Student Services Assistant, Enrollment Services	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Omar Hamza	105	107	\$42,087.71	\$45,087.71	January 22, 2025
Financial Aid Assistant, Financial Aid	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Shameka Jennings	105	107	\$48,922.45	\$51,922.45	January 22, 2025
Enrollment Services Assistant, Enrollment Services	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	JoAnn Kulpeksa	105	107	\$47,514.88	\$50,514.88	January 22, 2025
Financial Aid Assistant, Financial Aid	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Shaniqua Matos	105	107	\$46,565.03	\$49,565.03	January 22, 2025
Student Services Assistant, Advisement	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Crystal Newton	105	107	\$43,523.62	\$46,523.62	January 22, 2025
Student Services Assistant, Financial Aid	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Juan Peralta	105	107	\$40,314.20	\$43,314.20	January 22, 2025

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Accounts Receivable Clerk, Bursar/ Student Accounts	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Fernelis Ramirez	102	107	\$44,298.56	\$47,298.56	January 22, 2025
Enrollment Services Assistant, Enrollment Services	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Christian Sanchez	105	107	\$47,514.88	\$50,514.88	January 22, 2025
Accounts Receivable Clerk, Bursar/ Student Accounts	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	Genny Sanchez	102	107	\$41,740.93	\$44,740.93	January 22, 2025
Enrollment Support Assistant, Enrollment Services	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	N/A	105	107	N/A	N/A	January 22, 2025
Enrollment Support Assistant, Registrar	Student Services Assistant, Hudson Hub	N/A	105	107	N/A	N/A	January 22, 2025

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

1. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and William Paterson University (WPU) for Preceptorship Experiences for WPU Students in WPU Nursing Programs was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and The New Jersey Imaging Network (NJIN) Hoboken for Clinical Experiences in HCCC's Radiography Program was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Shared Services Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the County of Hudson to Provide Training for the Exclusive Benefit of the County and its Designees was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing an Extension of the Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and The Regents of the University of California was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Academic Calendars for the Winter, Spring, and Summer 2026 Terms was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing 2024-29 Strategic Plan was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:42 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.