

Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 18, 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; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; and Harold Stahl.

Trustees Absent: Joseph Doria, Roberta Kenny, and Silvia Rodriguez.

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

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. The past month has been interesting for our clubs and organizations, and I am excited to share an update with you.

- The **Involvement Fair** took place at both the Journal Square and North Hudson campuses, allowing clubs and organizations to connect with students and encourage participation.
- The **Model United Nations (UN) Club** began the semester with community service and academic engagement. In December, members volunteered at a local shelter in Jersey City, preparing and serving meals to individuals in need. In preparation for the Harvard National Model UN Conference, Executive Board members participated in a six-week remote course, refining their diplomatic and public speaking skills. Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of North Hudson Campus (NHC) and Advisor of Model UN, will be taking five Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students to attend the conference in Boston, where they will engage in negotiations and discussions with over 2,500 participants from across the globe between February 20 and 23. This year was assigned Ecuador, and I would like to congratulate the students representing us: Lidia Khayrulina, Sonny Tungala, Neivi Nunez, Leonardo Amador, and Desiree Page.
- The **American Chemical Society (ACS)** continued its commitment to education and outreach. In October, members attended the Regional Environmental Symposium at Hosboro University, gaining insights into current environmental challenges and sustainable solutions. In December, ACS members served as science fair judges at PS 5 Middle School, helping to encourage young students interested in STEM fields.

- On March 6, ACS, Phi Theta Kappa, President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), and Girls Who Code will host a Women in STEM event featuring guest speaker Dr. Nadia Dob, an HCCC alumna and recent Rutgers Pharmacy School graduate.
- The **Environmental Club** hosted a welcome meeting and film screening where members shared ideas for future events.
- The **National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)** participated in the Martin Luther King Day event on January 28 and assisted with the New Student Orientation on January 23.
- The **Culinary Club** will resume its Complimentary Soup Tuesdays on March 11, 18, and 25.

The **Sisters Empowering Brunch** provided an opportunity for students and staff to connect in a supportive environment. Attendees participated in a wall of encouragement, where they shared motivational notes and exchanged flowers while listening to uplifting speeches.

Several clubs also hosted events that fostered engagement and community spirit:

- **Active Minds** organized an informational tabling event at the North Hudson and Journal Square campuses to promote mental health awareness and campus wellness resources. In partnership with La Hermanidad and the Jed Foundation, they will host a Self-Love Celebration on February 12, highlighting confidence, self-care, and personal development.
- The **Latin Society Club** held the *Besitos de Amistad* fundraiser, where students donated \$5 in exchange for personalized DIY Valentine's Day telegrams. All proceeds were donated to the HCCC Foundation in support of DACA students.
- The **Student Programming Board** successfully hosted Valentine's Spirit Week, encouraging students and staff to wear red, pink, or twin with their best friends to celebrate the occasion.

SGA recently held elections to fill vacant positions and welcomed new leaders who will support and advocate for students throughout the semester. A training period will take place over the next few weeks to ensure a smooth transition for the newly elected officers.

Finally, SGA members had the privilege of attending the National Legislative Summit (NLS) in Washington, D.C. Composed of student representatives, administrators, and trustees, our delegation met with lawmakers to discuss financial aid, diversity initiatives, and student support resources. We shared our personal experiences as community college students and emphasized the importance of these policies in shaping our academic and professional futures. Connecting with student government leaders from across the country reinforced the idea that, while our journeys may differ, we are united in our goal of advocating a stronger, more accessible higher education system.

That concludes my report. Thank you, and I hope you all stay warm.

Trustee Gardner offered remarks.

I would like to take a moment to commend Nina for the outstanding job at NLS. She and Lisa Camacho represented us in Washington, D.C. with professionalism and dedication. They highlighted the needs of community colleges across the country, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented themselves and our institution. Thank you.

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

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

Good evening, Trustees,

It is great to see you all again, and I hope the semester is off to a smooth start for everyone. Before proceeding to committee reports, I would like to highlight a few key upcoming events and items of importance.

The North Hudson Campus (NHC) will host an information session on Tuesday, February 25 for students to learn about the services available to them. NHC will also be the location of our All College Council (ACC) meeting on Wednesday, March 26. Additionally, the College will hold two open houses this semester: one at the Journal Square Campus (JSQ) on Saturday, March 22, and another at NHC on Saturday, April 26. These events provide valuable opportunities to engage with the community and share information about the resources we offer. Finally, the College's Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education will take place next week. Each day will feature thoughtful sessions exploring a variety of timely issues and topics. We look forward to seeing you there.

Now, I would like to share an update regarding the ACC. My two-year term as Chair will conclude at the end of this semester, as will the terms of Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian and Secretary Sarah Teichman.

Professor Elana Winslow and I will form a committee to facilitate the election of a new executive board, and I look forward to a smooth transition.

Now, let us move to key updates from our committees.

- The Academic Senate is pleased to announce that Sonja Rodiger-Radovic has stepped into the role of Secretary. Co-chairs Jeanne Baptiste and Fernando Garcia continue leading the review of the incomplete policy and the college-wide grading policy. Additionally, the Academic Senate has approved OLAC's Governance Recommendation on AI syllabus statements. These statements align with the existing academic integrity policy and provide guidelines for AI use in the classroom. The recommendation was unanimously approved by the ACC executive board and steering committee. In March, we anticipate an ACC-wide vote, which, if passed, will be forwarded to Dr. Reber. We will keep you posted on the progress.
- The College Life Committee reports that planning is underway for Hudson Huddles, and preparations have begun for the Spring Employee BBQ. These events provide excellent opportunities for community engagement, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.
- The Development and Planning Committee has been collaborating with the 50th Anniversary Committee to support fundraising efforts for the College. We encourage everyone to participate and support this initiative. Additionally, the committee is working with the Poetry and Language Collective to host scholarship essay writing workshops for students.
- The Technology Committee reports that the mobile apps page, which consolidates all apps used by the College, is now live under the ITS section of the College website. The committee is also developing a flyer to promote this resource, which will be distributed soon by Communications.
- The Space and Facilities Committee's current chair, Irma Williams, will conclude her two terms at the end of this semester. Irma has made significant contributions to the College in her role, and we sincerely appreciate her dedication. The committee is in the process of identifying a new chair for the upcoming semester. In other news, the Johnston Room is being converted into two classrooms to accommodate the closure of rooms in the C-D building. Construction is set to begin soon.
- The Student Affairs Committee celebrated the official unveiling of the lactation pods with last week's ribbon-cutting ceremony. The committee is working to ensure information about the lactation pods is included on the Student Parent webpage. Additionally, outreach to Continuing

Education and Workforce Development students continues as the committee works to integrate them more holistically into the student body.

With that, we conclude our report. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these updates, including ACC Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian, ACC Secretary Sarah Teichman, committee chairs, Dr. Reber, Cabinet, and the Board of Trustees. Thank you.

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 all victims of war and violence in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, Africa, and worldwide, including families of victims and their loved ones.

Moment of Silence

Thank you.

We condemn violence and hatred of all kinds, including racism, 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.

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

This evening, I have invited Associate Professor of English Dr. Sean Egan, and Associate Professor of History Antonio Acevedo, to discuss their development of an exciting oral history project focused on Journal Square.

I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones to introduce our faculty and presentation.

Dr. Darryl Jones offered the following remarks.

Thank you, President Rieber. Good afternoon, Trustees.

Tonight's presentation highlights the importance and impact of grant writing in higher education. Our commitment to faculty grant writing gained momentum under the leadership of former Provost and Senior Vice President, Dr. Eric Friedman.

Several years ago, Eric and I engaged in discussions about how we could develop a grant-writing culture at the college, emphasizing the importance of identifying and submitting compelling grant proposals. Specifically, we began incorporating grant-writing skills into faculty position postings and descriptions, reinforcing its role in academic success. Over the years, the college's grant acquisitions have grown significantly thanks to the dedicated work of a talented team led by Vice President for Advancement and Communications Nicole Johnson.

Institutionally, we recognize grant writing as a vital tool for faculty members to obtain financial support for research, curriculum development, and service initiatives. Grants provide the resources needed to fund innovative research, create new academic programs, and implement impactful community engagement projects. These initiatives are at the heart of higher education and allow faculty expertise to extend beyond the college, directly benefiting the communities we serve.

Through grant-funded projects like the one you will hear about shortly, faculty members can address societal challenges and create meaningful change. Grants enable outreach programs, workshops, and

partnerships with local organizations. These efforts not only benefit the community but also contribute to faculty growth and development.

By securing funding for service-based projects, colleges integrate more deeply into their surrounding communities. This approach underscores the essential role of higher education – not only in advancing individual success but in fostering collective prosperity within towns, cities, and regions.

With that, I now invite the Oral History Project co-directors, Dr. Sean Egan, Associate Professor of English, and Antonio Acevedo, Associate Professor of History, to share details about this exciting initiative.

[Dr. Sean Egan and Professor Antonio Acevedo presented Journal Square Oral History Project.](#)

Dr. Sean Egan offered the following remarks.

Thank you, Dr. Jones and Trustees, for your time this evening.

There were two key moments that sparked this initiative. First, simply working in Journal Square, I became more aware of how much change is happening around us. Then, a few years ago, Professor Joseph Gallo wrote a play titled *Yuppies Invade My House at Dinnertime*, based on oral histories and interviews from the 1980s and documenting the gentrification of Hoboken. Seeing his work, I thought: *Why wait 50 years to document what is happening now? We need to start recording these stories today.*

Shortly after, Dr. Alison Wakefield invited some faculty members to attend a New Jersey Council for the Humanities convening for community colleges. At that event, I learned about available grants, and that's when the pieces started coming together.

We applied for and received an initial \$15,000 grant to launch this project, which provided funding for faculty release time, equipment, and research support.

Professor Antonio Acevedo continued his remarks.

This first grant was crucial in getting our project off the ground. As a historian, I was familiar with the concept of oral history, but I had never conducted this type of work myself. So, the first thing we did was immerse ourselves in learning the methodology.

With this funding, we brought in an expert to lead a workshop for faculty and students. We also secured student interns who assisted with research, transcription, and interview preparation.

Additionally, we participated in a week-long summer seminar hosted remotely by UC Berkeley, which provided extensive training in oral history methodologies. This experience helped us develop a structured approach to conducting and preserving interviews.

Dr. Sean Egan continued remarks.

Over the past year, we have conducted over a dozen full-length interviews, each ranging from one to two hours. We have spoken with business owners, city officials, longtime residents, and former faculty members.

We also held an on-campus event where we conducted shorter interviews with students, professors, and community members. These oral histories provide firsthand insights into urban development, cultural shifts, and the role of HCCC in shaping Journal Square.

Transcription and archival work have been a major focus, and we have partnered with Rutgers University to explore long-term preservation options for these materials.

This initiative has also been a valuable learning experience for our students. Thanks to Federal Work-Study funding, we have been able to hire student interns who are gaining hands-on experience in historical documentation and digital archiving.

Professor Antonio Acevedo continued his remarks.

Given the success of our early efforts, we applied for additional funding and were awarded a \$150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) – one of only three institutions nationwide to receive this level of support.

We also secured an additional \$9,700 grant from the Hudson County History Partnership Program, which will allow us to expand our work and increase community engagement.

With this funding, we are developing a public exhibition at the Gabert Library, where we will showcase recordings, photographs, and archival materials related to Journal Square's history.

Additionally, we are working to integrate oral history methods into our coursework. Specifically, we are revamping the History of American Ethnicity and Immigration course to include oral history projects where students will collect and analyze personal immigration stories.

Through these efforts, we hope to preserve the voices of those who have shaped Journal Square while also giving students valuable opportunities to engage in historical research.

Vice Chair Pamela Gardner offered remarks.

I love this project.

Journal Square holds so many memories for many of us. When I grew up in the 1960s, we went there every Saturday. The Stanley, Lowe's, and State Theater were always packed for matinees. Shopping was vibrant, and there were iconic restaurants like Boulevard Drinks and the Canton Tea Garden. It is incredible to hear these stories being preserved for future generations.

Chair Jeanette Peña offered remarks.

Although we are a relatively young group of trustees, each of us has witnessed the transformation of Journal Square in our own way.

When I started teaching at Hudson County Community College, our classes were held across the street, on the upper floors of the Jersey Journal building. At the time, that space was filled with classrooms, and it is incredible to think about how much has changed in what feels like a short period.

This project is truly wonderful – it allows us to reflect, reminisce, and appreciate just how far we have come as a community. Thank you for preserving these important stories.

President Reber resumed his remarks.

Thanks so much, Tony and Sean! Congratulations, and thank you for this exciting work that makes us all proud!

Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

- 1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2025 were approved.**
- 2. Gifts, Grants, and Contracts Report**

Hudson County Community College has received the following grant:

Title: FY 2025 Hudson County History Partnership Program (HPP)

Agency: Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development

Purpose of Grant: Expansion of the Oral History Project

College Administrators: Sean Egan and Antonio Acevedo

College Contribution: \$0

Award Amount: \$9,748.42

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 Rejecting All Bids for the Award of Contract for STEM Center Renovation Services was approved.
2. Resolution Approving Award of a Career Pathways Consultant to Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) for a seven-month term at a cost not to exceed \$70,000 was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Commencement Regalia with Follett Corporation at a cost not to exceed \$38,620, funded by the Student Life Fee (SLF), was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of a 3D Printer for the Fine Arts Program and awarding a contract to CADimensions at a cost not to exceed \$59,188, funded by the Carl D. Perkins Grant, was approved.

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

1. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
2. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
3. Appointment of Full-time Faculty was approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
5. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through February 2026, as needed, were approved.
6. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
7. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

Current Approved Title	New Title/ Classification	Incumbent	Current Salary Grade	New Salary Grade	Current Salary	New Salary	Effective Date
Financial Aid Advisor	Assistant Director, One Stop Student Services Center	Maribel Alvarado-Bikai	109	113	\$71,129.24	\$74,129.24	February 19, 2025
Transcript Coordinator	Assistant Director, One Stop Student Services Center	Jacqueline Castillo	109	113	\$57,452.55	\$67,110.98	February 19, 2025
Student Accounts Coordinator	Assistant Director, One Stop Student Services Center	Carmen Garcia	109	113	\$58,015.46	\$65,394.83	February 19, 2025
Senior Assistant Director, Advisement, North Hudson Operations and Development	Associate Director of Advisement, North Hudson Campus	/A	114	115	N/A	N/A	February 19, 2025

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Director, DEI of Veterans Affairs and International Student Services	Associate Director of Veterans Affairs and International Student Services	N/A	119	115	N/A	N/A	February 19, 2025
Associate Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Coordinator of Cultural Affairs	N/A	115	109	N/A	N/A	February 19, 2025

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

1. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Lenox Hill Radiology and Medical Imaging Associates P.C. for Clinical Experiences in the Radiography Program was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Kearny Health Department for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Paradigm Clinical Services for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the Hispanic American Commerce Association of Jersey City (HACA JC) to Support Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses in Hudson County was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Education Design Lab for the Community College Growth Engine (CCGE) Project was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:40 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.