

**Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 11, 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); Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; Silvia Rodriguez; and Harold Stahl.

Trustees Absent: Joseph Doria and Frank Gargiulo.

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, President Reber, faculty, staff, and guests. As we move closer to the end of the semester, we are also deepening our connections with the student body. I am pleased to share some exciting updates on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA).

We are preparing for the upcoming 2-day American Student Government Association (ASGA) Conference that we will be hosting in the Culinary Conference Center. We are excited to welcome student leaders from various colleges and universities and engage in meaningful discussions on improving our governance on campus.

One of our long-awaited initiatives – the student bulletin board project – is now being installed in the Student Center. Student involvement has progressively decreased after the pandemic, and although we understand the cause of social detachment among our college students, this inspires us even more to strive for creative ideas such as this project. This opens opportunities for students to express their creativity and share it with others, advocate and voice their interests, and gradually rebuild the community through our commonalities.

Updates from Clubs and Organizations:

- **Model United Nations Club:** On February 20-23, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus and Advisor for the Model UN Club Joseph Caniglia took five HCCC students to participate and attend the Harvard Model United Nations Conference in Boston. A special thanks to Sonny Tungala, Nievi Nunez, Lidia Khayrulina, Desiree Page, and Leonardo Amador who did an outstanding job at the conference. This year Hudson was assigned Ecuador as our country to

research. HCCC students did an amazing job in collaborating with over 2500 students from across the globe. We invite everyone to attend the April 30, 2025 All College Council Meeting, where they will present their experience.

- **American Chemical Society, PTK and Girls Who Code:** On March 6, these organizations hosted a successful Women in STEM event featuring HCCC alumna Dr. Nadia Dob. The event welcomed 125 attendees.
- **Girls Who Code and Cybersecurity Club** will participate in the upcoming Hackathon competition at Kean University on March 22.
- **Astronomy Class:** Professor Raffi Manjikian's students will attend a Planetarium show at the Liberty Science Center tomorrow, further enriching their academic experience.
- **American Chemical Society:** The induction/graduation ceremony will be on Friday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center Multipurpose Room.
- **Sisters Empowering Sisters:** Hosted two events – Sisters Brunch on February 10 and a general meeting on February 27 – to foster empowerment and community building.
- **Kultura Club** hosted their first general body meeting and a Black History Month Movie Night screening of *Hidden Figures*.
- **Black Student Union, Environmental Club, Teacher Education Club, and The History of Tomorrow Club** collaborated on Black History Month events, including a children's celebration.
- **Health and Medical Sciences Club** held its first general body meeting.
- **Cybersecurity Club** hosted a Network Mapper (NMAP) Workshop on Master Network Scanning.
- **Girls Who Code** led a "Create Your Own Vision Board" activity.
- **Latin Society** celebrated Dominican Independence with a movie night.
- **It's On Us** hosted a Self-Care Giveaway to promote wellness.
- **Student Programming Board** organized a campus-wide Ice Cream Social to build community and morale.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating Women's History Month with a lineup of empowering events throughout March.

Have an amazing rest of your day, and happy spring, everyone!

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

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

Good evening, Trustees.

Before I begin with my prepared remarks, I would like to take a moment to offer heartfelt congratulations to my coworkers, colleagues, and friends – Daniel Ondieki and Inez Cruz. On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and students, I want to say how happy and proud we all are of you. Your achievements are deeply inspiring, and we celebrate this moment with you.

It's a pleasure to see you all again. I'd like to take a moment to highlight a few important updates and events happening at Hudson this March.

We've been celebrating Women's History Month with several impactful events. On March 5, we hosted the *Women in Business* event, where Trustee Stacy Gemma spoke. On the following day, we held a *Women in STEM* event, featuring an inspiring talk from an HCCC alum, who is now a doctor and pharmacist. She shared how Hudson shaped her career. Finally, on March 7, a panel discussion hosted by Human Resources marked our celebration of International Women's Day.

Next, the All College Council (ACC) is currently reviewing a Governance Recommendation (GR) submitted by the Online Learning and Academic Computing (OLAC) Committee regarding syllabus statement templates on AI usage. This will build upon our existing academic integrity policy, providing flexibility for professors to either forbid, allow some, or fully permit the use of AI in their courses. We expect to bring this GR to a vote for approval before the end of the semester, and we'll be sure to keep you updated.

Now, let's turn to some key updates from our standing committees:

- **Academic Senate** - In addition to the Online Learning and Academic Computing (OLAC) Governance Recommendation (GR), which was reviewed and approved by the Academic Senate (AS), the AS is nearing the conclusion of its reviews of the incomplete policy and the universal grading scale policy. We look forward to analyzing these proposed GRs and moving them forward through the approval process. These initiatives will help streamline our academic procedures and improve consistency across the College.
- **College Life** - The launch of the *Hudson Huddles* speaker series is now targeted for fall 2025. This additional time will allow the committee to fully plan and refine this exciting initiative. Additionally, the committee is planning the faculty and staff appreciation Spring BBQ, which is scheduled for May 1 from noon to 2:00 p.m.
- **Space and Facilities** - The committee is exploring the creation of a calming and prayer room on the 5th floor of the North Hudson Campus. In addition, thanks to the Student Parent Task Force, a new baby-changing station has been installed in the 81 Sip building to better support our community. The committee also contributed to last week's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new car stackers at 119 Newkirk.
- **Development and Planning** - The committee is targeting June for the *Dollars for Scholars* event. Faculty, clubs, and other groups will soon be contacted to participate, and the committee continues to gather scholarship information to share with students. Additionally, they will be supporting the 50th anniversary celebration and the Foundation golf outing.
- **Technology** - The Technology Committee is excited to announce the recent launch of a webpage that aggregates all mobile apps used by the College. This webpage is live and can be found under the Information Technology Services section of the College's website. Promotional materials for the page will be available soon and will be shared college-wide.
- **Student Affairs** - Student Affairs has been gathering valuable information about Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) students and exploring ways to engage them more fully in the College community. The Hudson Helps graduate interns are also hosting support group sessions for women of color, providing an essential space for community and support.

With that, we conclude our report. I'd like to congratulate my colleagues who are going to be earning their tenure. I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to these updates, including ACC Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian, ACC Secretary Sarah Teichman, all the committee chairs, Dr. Reber, and Cabinet. Thank you all for your continued dedication and hard work.

3. **President's Report**

President Reber offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees.

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

Last Thursday, we celebrated our new parking stacker facility that is now open and parking up to 104 cars of students, faculty, and staff. We thank Trustees Pena, Gardner and Gemma for attending, and Chair Pena for offering remarks.

We are looking forward to a public “Topping Out Beam Signing Ceremony” for our new Center for Student Success beginning at noon on Thursday, April 17. Our Center for Student Success has really risen from the ground and is on schedule for fall 2026 completion and occupancy. We are planning a grand opening event for the Center that will conclude our 2025-26 year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of HCCC’s first graduates.

All very exciting!

This evening, I have invited two valued faculty colleagues to join us. They have been recommended to you for the granting of tenure and promotion to Assistant Professor. We welcome Daniel Ondieki, Instructor of Mathematics; and Inez Cruz, Instructor of Radiography. Daniel and Inez are dedicated to their students and have contributed to the College in multiple ways.

I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones to introduce the faculty, who will offer remarks.

Dr. Jones offered remarks.

Thank you, President Reber, and good evening, trustees.

It is always an honor to present our tenure candidates to the college community. I'm especially proud to say that we identify, hire, and cultivate exceptional faculty in all of our academic disciplines. The work remains a critical component of the progress toward our mission to provide quality education for students and to make a profound impact in our local community.

These are faculty who continue to exemplify high standards of teaching excellence, service to the college and community, professional development, and, of course, scholarly activities. Tenured candidates compile a tenure portfolio, interview with committee members and receive a recommendation from their academic Dean. This year, in addition to their many years of higher education and teaching experience, both of our tenure candidates’ careers in education began before joining Hudson County Community College.

Both also tutored, taught, and were involved in student success initiatives exemplifying their service and dedication to our students. At this time, I would like to introduce Daniel Ondieki and Inez Cruz.

Daniel Ondieki joined Hudson County Community College as an adjunct instructor in 2016. In 2022 he was hired as a full-time, tenure track Instructor of Mathematics. Prior to joining the college, Daniel taught algebra and geometry at the Newark School of Fashion and Design in New Jersey, where he was a member of the high school student success team. He also tutors students in mathematics at the Newark YMCA and worked as an adjunct instructor at other institutions. Currently he is pursuing his Doctorate in Mathematics at Teachers College, Columbia University. He holds a master's degree in mathematics education from New Jersey City University.

According to his supervisor, Dr. Burl Yearwood, who is here tonight, helping students overcome their fear of math and helping them believe they will be successful is a challenge that Daniel addresses in his classes, every day. He has focused on developing his pedagogy to engage students and help them be successful.

Our next faculty member is Inez Cruz. Inez joined Hudson County Community College in January 2021 as a full-time tenure tracker. She also serves as a clinical coordinator. Prior to joining the college, Inez was a special procedures technologist for Mount Sinai Health System. In addition to part of her responsibilities, she taught and evaluated students in the radiography program.

Inez holds a Master of Public Health from New York Medical College and has taught several courses in the Public Health program at our institution. She also advises the Health and Science Club.

Her supervisor, Cheryl Cashell, commented that Inez is a dedicated educator who goes above and beyond to support her students. As coordinator, she has successfully secured and maintained partnerships with several prestigious healthcare facilities, ensuring that our students gain hands-on experience in state-of-the-art health settings.

Trustees, I would like to also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Heather DeVries, who chaired the Tenure Review Board. Linda Guastini and Domonique Callens also provided exemplary administrative support during the tenure process, and, of course, to those who served on the Tenure Review Board.

It is a particularly important responsibility, and I greatly appreciate the hard work and time contributed to this process by all.

Let me share with you those who served on the Tenure Review Board: Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Dr. Abdallah Matari, Dr. David Clark, Dr. Ara Karakashian, Heather Connors, Dr. Angela Pack, Dr. Sirhan Abdullah, Kewal Krishan, and Courtney Payne.

I now ask our tenured candidates to come forth and offer brief remarks.

Daniel Ondieki offered the following remarks.

“God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good.”

We always say Hudson is home – and it truly is a home, like a family. We have dads, moms, siblings, and grandchildren in a family setup. Hudson has been my home since I arrived, and it has become part of my daughter’s life too. She is five, turning six soon. I call her a "tenure-track daughter" because she has been here with me since the beginning of this journey in 2019.

I want to thank Dean Yearwood and the STEM team. They’ve been like family – always mentoring me, supporting me, and giving me the flexibility to be both a teacher and a father. Hudson is a place where, if you want to succeed, there is support. That’s what I’m thankful for.

I thank my students. They are my number one priority. In my class, I always say: *“Respect – you give it, and you’ll receive it.”* That is my motto.

My family is back in Kenya. My dad, who never went to school, always said, *“I’m smart up to here,”* and challenged us to go beyond that. He may not have had a job or formal education, but he gave us motivation. That shaped who I am today.

Teaching has always been my passion. Even when I was in seventh grade, I gathered my peers to stay after school and work on math. I’ve always believed in the power of learning together. That’s why I’m now pursuing my doctorate in mathematics education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Thank you so much. I love Hudson.

Inez Cruz offered the following remarks.

Good evening, everyone.

I feel very grateful to be receiving tenure at this point in my career. I feel so thankful to work at Hudson, to work with the people I work with, and to teach the students I teach.

My family is here this evening, and I'm especially proud that my daughter is here.

I'd like to thank a few people who have made this journey possible: Dean Sirangelo, for believing in me. My Program Director, Cheryl Cashell, for evaluating me every year and supporting me through the tenure binder process. The radiography staff for all of their support, especially as I worked through the five tenure binders! My colleagues Karen Galli, Karen Hosick, and Benedetto "Benny" Youssef for helping me finalize my portfolio with their advice and guidance. Most importantly, my family, for always believing in me and reminding me that there is nothing I cannot achieve. Finally, to my daughter Savannah – thank you for always inspiring me to do better.

Thank you.

President Reber resumed remarks.

Thanks so much, Daniel, Inez, and Darryl!

Daniel and Inez, congratulations! We look forward to your continued strong contributions to – and support of – our students, our college and our community.

Trustees, this concludes my report.

Chair Peña offered the following remarks.

Congratulations on behalf of the Board. It's exciting to have new staff, especially going through this whole process. I know it's not an easy process. But bringing your family and your children is beautiful. There's nothing more beautiful than for you to model what it means to continue being a student at this point in your career. Thank you for sharing your family with us. I love that you brought them over. And thank you for choosing Hudson to be your home.

Vice Chair Gardner offered the following remarks.

Congratulations on a job well done. And we know that you will continue to make Hudson feel like home for the students, to be part of that, to be part of our family. Welcome as tenured faculty!

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025 were approved.

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 Renewal of Nutanix Software at a cost not to exceed \$212,648, to be funded from the operating budget, was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Helpdesk ChatBot Platform for the Offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Services at a cost not to exceed \$49,460, to be funded from the operating budget, was approved.
3. Resolution to Approve May 21, 2025 Commencement Date and Venue to be funded by the Student Life Fee (SLF) at a cost not to exceed \$84,074 was approved.
4. Resolution Approving Award of "Some College No Degree" Consultant at a cost not to exceed \$62,500, to be funded by a grant, was approved.

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5. Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Seven-Credit, Last-Dollar Free Tuition and Fee Policy for Summer 2025 Courses was approved.

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

1. The resignation of Career and Transfer Coach, Career and Transfer Pathways; and Instructor of Physics were accepted.
2. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
3. Appointment of Temporary Full-time Staff was approved.
4. Tenure for two full-time faculty was approved.
5. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through March 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
Enrollment Support Assistant	International Student Assistant	Sabrina Bullock	105	105	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator, Nursing Program	Manager, Admissions and Recruitment, Nursing Program	Lisa Cieckiewicz	112	117	\$ 79,016.49	\$ 86,000.00	March 12, 2025
Senior Support Analyst	Junior Systems Administrator	Malcolm Kornegay	112	112	\$ 53,120.64	\$ 54,461.00	March 12, 2025
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Accessibility Services	Director of Accessibility Services	Danielle Lopez	119	119	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Enrollment Support Assistant	Veterans Affairs Assistant	Willie Malone	105	105	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Help Desk Manager	Information Technology Project Manager	Kenneth Melewski	113	113	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Academic Lab Manager	User Services Manager	Diana Perez	112	114	\$ 71,605.34	\$ 78,400.00	March 12, 2025
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence	Yeurys Pujols	Ungraded	Ungraded	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of Institutional Engagement and Excellence	Mirta Sanchez	112	112	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Cultural Affairs	Director of Cultural Affairs	Michelle Vitale	117	117	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Associate Director of DEI Training	Associate Director of Institutional Engagement and Excellence Training	Richard Walker	115	115	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025
Administrative Assistant, Registrar	Coordinator, Registrar	N/A	108	109	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2025

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Financial Aid Advisor	Assistant Director, One Stop Student Services Center	Maribel Alvarado-Bikai	109	113	\$71,129.24	\$74,129.24	February 19, 2025
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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 Saint Michael’s Medical Center was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Firehouse Fitness was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Rutgers University-Newark for the CONNECT Program was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Dimension Energy was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:35 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.