

**Summary of Proceedings  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025  
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

**Trustees Present:** Pamela Gardner (Vice Chair); Frank Gargiulo; Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; Silvia Rodriguez; and Harold Stahl.

**Trustees Absent:** Lisa Camacho (Alumni Representative), Edward DeFazio (Secretary/Treasurer), and Joseph Doria.

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

**Closed Session:** The Board of Trustees altered the meeting agenda, and a Closed Session was held after Item X. The Board went into closed session at 5:38 p.m. and returned to the public session at 6:41 p.m.

**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.

As the President of the Student Government Association (SGA), I am pleased to present this monthly report on student involvement. The active participation of our student representatives has ensured that the voices of the student body are heard and considered in the decision-making processes that impact our campus community.

Before I begin, I would like to express my gratitude to my team and to my mother, who flew 8,000 miles to be here with us today. Their unwavering support means the world to me.

The following is a list of events held from March to today:

- **The History of Tomorrow Club:** Trivia Night
- **Starry Eye Dance Team:** Herstory Unleashed Recruitment and Photoshoot
- **Nursing Club:** Coffee Social
- **Health and Medical Sciences Club:** Hands-only CPR
- **LGBTQ+ Club:** Bi the Mic – Karaoke Celebration for Bisexual Awareness

- **Active Minds:**
  - Rock Solid Wellness
  - Cinemania: Inside Out
- **Cybersecurity Club:** Cybersecurity Workshop – Wireshark
- **Sisters Empowering Sisters Club:** Empower Your Dreams
- **Girls Who Code Club:** Mini Python Workshop
- **Student Programming Board:** Women's Care Kits Grab n Go
- **Culinary Club:**
  - The Culinary Club completed its Complimentary Soup events on Tuesdays. The Club is now preparing for its annual Friends and Family event, which will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Culinary Arts Center. Tickets are \$50. Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management, has dubbed this event a mini-gala, and it is an event you do not want to miss!
- **Girls Who Code and Cybersecurity Clubs:** Attended the Kean University Hackathon on March 22.

#### **Interclub Collaborative Events:**

- **Student Parent Alliance with Mental Health Counseling and Wellness:** Student Parent Focus Group
- **Teacher Education Club, Student Parent Alliance, and HCCC Libraries:** Spanish Storytime and Craft
- **Teacher Education Club, Environment Club, Criminal Justice Club, and Black Student Union:** Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash

#### **Student Government Association:**

We closed Women's History Month with a Girl's Dinner yesterday at the Gabert Library Atrium. We heard from Juan Vargas, a self-defense instructor, who taught valuable self-defense techniques. We also took time to discuss womanhood and address the tough conversations that many women face daily, making sure it was a safe space for everyone.

Since this will be the last week of club-held events, I invite everyone in the room to come and show your support!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Teacher Education Club, Student Parent Alliance, and HCCC Libraries:**
  - Arabic Storytime in the Library on Sunday, April 13.
  - Movie Night on Friday, April 11: Physics on Screen featuring *Oppenheimer*
- **American Chemical Society:** The induction/graduation ceremony is on May 9 at 6:00 p.m.
- **LGBTQ+ Club:**
  - Herstory Unleashed on April 11 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Students of various genders and

sexualities will present in their unique ways to share their talents and express their perceptions of womanhood.

### **Student Government Association:**

I'd like to mention once again that HCCC will be hosting the annual American Student Government Association (ASGA) Conference this year. It will take place on April 12 and 13 in the Banquet Room of the Culinary Conference Center. I am excited to welcome students from various universities and look forward to learning how we can all become more effective leaders on campus.

Finally, most organizations finalized their rosters on March 28, and we will be honoring and officially handing over positions on April 21. I will be presenting the Student Government Association Executive Board Roster at our next Board of Trustees meeting.

That concludes the student-led events for the 2024-2025 year. It has been a pleasure to share these updates with all of you.

Thank you, and have a blessed evening, everyone!

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

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

Good evening, Trustees.

It's good to be with you again. I hope everyone is well and that our faculty and students enjoyed the recent spring break. Before we move into our standing committee reports, I'd like to take a few moments to share some important updates and highlights from the last few weeks.

First, I'm pleased to share that the All College Council (ACC) has announced the official nominations for our next Executive Board. As you know, our term will be concluding this semester, and we look forward to passing the baton to the next generation of ACC Leadership.

Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management Dr. Ara Karakashian is overseeing the election process, for which we thank him. At the most recent ACC general meeting, he announced the following slate of candidates:

- Fernando Garcia for Chair
- Sarah Teichman, Dr. Kade Thurman, and Dr. Benny Youssef for Vice Chair
- Irma Williams for Secretary

We're grateful to all who have stepped forward to serve. Voting began yesterday and will continue until April 23. The winners will be announced at the April 30 ACC election, and I will also announce them at the May 13 Board meeting.

Now, I'd like to highlight two additional items of interest from the recent ACC meeting. A Governance Recommendation developed by the Online Learning and Academic Computing (OLAC) Committee on Artificial Intelligence (AI) syllabus statements was presented to the ACC at our recent meeting and put up for a vote. The proposal, you'll likely remember, recommends that all faculty include a course-specific statement in their syllabi outlining expectations for AI use – whether full, limited, or none. Three templates have been developed to assist faculty in articulating their approach, with the goal of helping students better understand ethical and permissible use of AI. The vote passed with a majority in favor of

the GR. This week, the Executive Board will sign off on the election results and forward it to President Reber for his review. Thank you to OLAC for their hard work on this project.

At the same meeting, Dr. Yeurys Pujols introduced a proposed Community Agreement for College hybrid and virtual meetings. This proposal aims to enhance flexibility and engagement in remote work and meeting participation, with clear best practices for hybrid etiquette and virtual communication. Thank you to Dr. Pujols for sharing that with the ACC.

Next, a few community-wide events. On Friday, May 3, the Culinary Club will host a dining event from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., showcasing student and faculty talent. If you're interested, you can speak to Dr. Karakashian.

In April, three workshops are scheduled: On April 23 at Journal Square and April 24 at North Hudson, the library will host poetry writing workshops featuring the use of virtual reality headsets, and on April 28 the library will present a virtual workshop for faculty regarding student information literacy.

Now, let's move to key updates from our committees:

- **Academic Senate** reports that they will be working closely with individual schools and deans to gather feedback on the universal grading scale and incomplete policy Governance Recommendations.
- **College Life** is moving ahead with plans for the Faculty Appreciation BBQ, scheduled for May 1 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Chair Doreen Pontius will be concluding her term this semester, and we thank her for her many contributions.
- **Space and Facilities** reports that baby changing stations have arrived, with installations planned for the Library building and the Culinary building. The Johnston Room is currently being divided into two classrooms, and the STEM multipurpose room is being transitioned to a classroom for the fall semester. Chair Irma Williams will also be concluding her term at the end of this semester, and we extend our sincere appreciation for her service.
- **Development and Planning** is preparing for two key events: the Foundation's annual golf outing in June and the Dollars for Scholars event, also in June, which will spotlight student scholarships. The committee is also continuing to support activities related to the College's 50th anniversary.
- **Technology** reports that the mobile apps page is now live on the College website. Chair Lisa Bogart will also be concluding her term this semester as well, and we thank her for her leadership.
- **Student Affairs** has drafted a flyer detailing services available to CEWD students, which will be distributed soon. Summer and Fall registration opened on April 1, and the committee is promoting a summer initiative that allows matriculated students to take up to seven credits for free.

With that, we conclude our report. I'd 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, of course, the Board of Trustees. Thank you.

*Chair Peña asked a question.*

I'm very intrigued by this showcase of staff and the students' cooking. Will it be similar to an Iron Chef-style competition?

*Dean Dr. Karakashian responded.*

Great question! While it may have that exciting energy, it is not structured as a formal competition. The students have been working hard to prepare dishes that reflect their cultural heritage and personal backgrounds. Faculty and staff have been guiding and supporting them through the process. On the day of the event, it will be more of a celebration than a contest – each student will present their dish as a showcase of their skills and growth. It's more about personal challenge and pride than competing against one another. Thank you for your interest!

### **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 war and violence in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and throughout the world.

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 are committed to a community that is respectful of – and safe for – everyone.

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

April is National Community College Month, which began with a proclamation passed by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1985. Throughout April, community colleges across the nation are celebrating the important contributions of our sector to the nation's total educational system.

In your agenda this evening is a resolution requesting recognition of April 2025 as Hudson County Community College Month by the Hudson County Commissioners. The resolution gets longer every year as we include new items from the ever-growing list of HCCC points of pride, and we thank our colleague, Dr. Heather DeVries, for drafting this year's very affirming statement.

Recently, a team of five HCCC students attended the Harvard University Model United Nations (UN) convening in Boston. Leading and supporting them was North Hudson Campus Executive Director and Model UN Advisor Joe Caniglia.

This evening, I have invited Joe and the students to discuss their experience at the Model UN representing their assigned country of Ecuador. I'll turn this over to Joe, who will introduce our students.

*Joe Caniglia offered remarks.*

Good evening, Board of Trustees, Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, and the HCCC.

My name is Joe Caniglia. I serve as the Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus and advisor to the Model UN Club at Hudson County Community College.

From February 20 to 23, I had the distinct honor of accompanying five of our students to the National Harvard Model UN Conference in Boston.

Our students interacted with 2,500 students from institutions across the globe. This year, our delegation represented the country of Ecuador.

Throughout the conference, our students demonstrated exceptional skills, dedication, and diplomacy at the Harvard Model UN Conference, showcasing their deep understanding of global issues and their ability to engage in meaningful debates. Through well-researched arguments, persuasive public speaking, and effective collaboration with delegates from around the world, Hudson County Community College students played a pivotal role in crafting resolutions and navigating complex geopolitical challenges.

Their hard work, professionalism, and leadership throughout the conference were truly commendable. Their performance not only reflected their academic excellence, but also highlighted their potential as future leaders in international affairs.

I am incredibly proud of the students who represented us: Sonny Tungala, Lidia Khayrulina, Nievi Nunez, Desiree Page, and Leonardo Amador. Each of them did an excellent job.

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Office of Student Life and Leadership, especially Associate Director Angela Tuzzo, for coordinating travel arrangements and for the encouragement and support that she provides to all students and clubs.

The students have prepared a brief presentation from the conference that we would now like to share with you.

[Harvard Model UN Presentation Video.](#)

*Joseph Caniglia resumed remarks.*

At this time, two of the participating students would like to share a few reflections from their experience at the conference.

*Sonny Tungala offered remarks.*

Good evening, Dr. Reber and Trustees. I would like to thank and express our gratitude for giving us the chance, my fellow students and me, to represent our school at this very enlightening event, which is considered the "Super Bowl" of Model UN conferences. This conference is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious of its kind, and for a community college to participate alongside leading global universities, it was just an incredible experience.

Many times during the event, we were asked, "What university are you from?" And we would say, "We're not from a university. We are from a community college." There was a silence, and they'd look at us in disbelief. We proudly stated, "Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, NJ" and that's when they said, "Wow!"

To be there, representing our college at par with universities around the world, including Ivy League schools, to tackle issues of diplomacy – it was a privilege. I was fortunate to be among the few chosen for the Special Crisis Committee, which was the Cuban Crisis Committee. It was a very good experience. So, on behalf of my fellow delegates at the conference, thank you very much. I hope the school continues to foster such activities because this really helps in the development of not only leadership but also diplomacy skills for students. Thank you.

*Leonardo Amador offered remarks.*

Good afternoon, Board of Trustees and college members. Thank you so much for allowing my peers and me to participate in this amazing opportunity to apply and enhance the skills we practice in class and professional environments. I can say from my experience that I enhanced my communication skills as well as my public speaking skills.

Every day, we had to present in front of large groups, form alliances, and create persuasive arguments. My partner, Desiree Page, and I successfully garnered support from other countries' delegates, which allowed our document to pass. On the final day of this experience, our document was the last one to pass, and because of that, it went above all the other documents.

Many people were surprised and stunned when we mentioned we were from Hudson County Community College. I always said, "We may be small in number, but we are here, and that is what matters."

Thank you to all the staff, advisors, and faculty who provided this opportunity for students like me and my peers. It allows us to enhance our skills and grow professionally and personally. Thank you.

*Joseph Caniglia resumed his remarks.*

Thank you all so much. At this time, Chris, if you do not mind, we would like to present a small token of appreciation to our students.

Hudson County Community College is proud to recognize their efforts with a commemorative plaque for each student.

*Dr. Reber presented awards to the students.*

*Joseph Caniglia concluded.*

Thank you again, everyone. I hope you enjoyed the presentation. We welcome any questions.

*Chair Peña offered remarks.*

I noticed one of the placards mentioned the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a Cuban, I found that particularly meaningful. Thank you for sharing what you learned and experienced. Keep going. Catch that ball and keep running – you're doing amazing work.

*President Reber resumed remarks.*

Thanks so much, Joe, Leonardo, Lidia, Neivi, Desiree, and Sonny. You make us all proud!

Just to conclude, our Center for Student Success remains on schedule for fall 2026 completion and occupancy. A reminder that we are planning a "Topping Out Beam Signing Ceremony" on Thursday, April 17 at noon, and we hope many of you can join us.

Trustees, this concludes my report.

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

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 11, 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 Approving Award of Insurance Broker and Vendor was tabled.
2. Resolution Approving Award of Consulting Services for Government Affairs at a cost not to exceed \$90,000, to be funded from the operating budget, was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Canvas Cloud Software at a cost not to exceed \$185,000, to be funded from the operating budget, was approved.

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4. Resolution Approving Award of External Evaluator for the School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at a cost not to exceed \$43,500 for two years, to be funded from the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (SCCTG), was approved.
5. Resolution Approving Award of Air Displacement Plethysmography at a total cost not to exceed \$60,750, to be funded from the Carl D. Perkins Grant, was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Review and Testing Course for Registered Nursing Program at a cost not to exceed \$180 per academic term per student, to be funded from the Carl D. Perkins Grant, was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Cooperative with the County of Union was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Personal Property was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Furniture was approved.

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

1. The retirement of a Student Services Assistant was accepted
2. The resignations of Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President, and Coordinator, Instructional Technology and Testing, were accepted.
3. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointment of Temporary Full-time Staff was approved.
5. Reappointments of Tenure-Track Faculty for Academic Year 2025-26 were approved
6. Reappointments of College Lecturers, Non-tenured, for Academic Year 2025-26 were approved
7. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through April 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>
Payroll Office Assistant, Part-time (2)	Assistant Director, Payroll	N/A	N/A	113	N/A	N/A	April 9, 2025
Vice President for External Affairs, Special Initiatives, and Senior Counsel to the President	Consultant	Nicholas A. Chiaravalloti	Cabinet	Consultant	\$ 185,200.00	\$ 90,000.00	July 1, 2025
Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Continuing Education and Workforce Development	Lori Margolin	122	Cabinet	\$ 164,251.00	\$ 180,000.00	July 1, 2025
Director of Faculty and Staff Development (Director I)	Director of Faculty and Staff Development (Director II)	Amaalah Ogburn	117	119	\$ 77,250.00	\$ 87,250.00	July 1, 2025
Senior Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees	Senior Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/ Chief of Staff	Alexa Riano	116	116	\$ 95,067.24	\$105,067.24	July 1, 2025



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

1. Resolution Authorizing Recognition of April 2025 as Hudson County Community College Month was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing New Academic Certificate in Cybersecurity was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Articulation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey Prevention Network for the Award of Credit for Prior Learning in Addictions Counseling was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Amendment of Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) for the Delivery of a General Education Development Test (GED) Preparation Program was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Optima Care Fountains was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Peace Care, Inc., was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and MMD was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Genesis Training, LLC., was approved.
10. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Saint Michael's Medical Center was approved.
11. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Firehouse Fitness was approved.
12. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Rutgers University-Newark for the CONNECT Program was approved.
13. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Dimension Energy was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The meeting went into a **Closed Session** to discuss personnel, current litigation matters, and matters of attorney/client privilege.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 6:46 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.