

**Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

Trustees Present: Lisa Camacho (Alumni Representative); Edward DeFazio (Secretary/Treasurer); Pamela Gardner (Vice Chair); Frank Gargiulo; Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; and Silvia Rodriguez.

Trustees Absent: Joseph Doria and Harold Stahl.

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

Report:

1. Student Government Association President's Report

2024-25 Student Government Association President Nina Maria Resurreccion offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and guests.

This past weekend's weather was impeccable, and I hope everyone was able to enjoy it. Happy Mother's Day to all mothers here and mother figures in this room. I will be sharing with you the summary of Student Government Association (SGA) events throughout the year. We held and collaborated on 14 events this year including:

- **SGA Fall Kickoff at Liberty State Park**
- **SGA Logo Competition**
- **Town Hall Meetings**
- **Noches de Brujas Afterlife**
- **Haunted House Halloween Party**
- **HCCC Culture Fest**
- **Friendsgiving**
- **Winter Snowball**
- **SGA General Meetings**

- **Valentine's Spirit Week**
- **"From the Heart" Anonymous Cards**
- **Girls' Dinner**
- **"Her Story" Women's Event**
- **Fitbit**
- **Spring Tabling**
- **Executive Board Debrief**

We also attended historical and traditional events like the Groundbreaking for the Center for Student Success, the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence (PACIEE) Annual Retreat, New Student Convocation, the Holiday Lighting Ceremony in the Culinary Plaza Park, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the parking stackers, the Topping Out Ceremony for the Center for Student Success, and several conferences including the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., the American Student Government Association Conference, Black Students Leads and Latinx Leads Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Summit at Brookdale College, Multiple Assembly public budget hearings in the State House. I can proudly say that two of these events were hosted at the HCCC Culinary Arts Center.

Our team updated SGA policies to address decreased post-pandemic student involvement and worked hard to ensure accountability among members. These efforts strengthened our unity and leadership. The team also took hard and uncomfortable steps to set our foot on the ground and ensure that every member could comply with their responsibilities as student leaders and as students. These challenges have made us stronger, and taught us patience, compassion, and unity. I commend my cohorts for sticking through our highs and lows. I would like to take this opportunity to give a shout out to my current Executive Board members with a little background about them.

- Ashley Medrano, Director of Events, who is transferring to Rutgers for Pre-Veterinary.
- Eva Kazada, Director of Communications, who is transferring to NJCU for Studio Arts.
- Adil Ishyak, Director of Finance, who is transferring to Rutgers Business School.
- Iman Mahmoud, Director of Community Service, who is planning a social work career.
- Myself, Nina Resurreccion – President, Exercise Science; transfer is to be determined.

Thank you, E-board members, for your dedication to the Student Government Association and for all the help you've given to every project we've been a part of. I loved working with each and every one of you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and congratulations to my fellow graduates.

I would also like to share my gratitude to the Board of Trustees, the All College Council, and the administrators of the College. Thank you for all you do. I may not fully understand how you all manage your adult work, but we know, see, and feel the efforts you put in to support the students, making sure our diverse student population is seen and heard. Thank you for showing us that we don't go unnoticed.

To the Office of Student Life and Leadership staff, you are the brains of everything. You support all the vital functions, including emotions and movement.

Most especially, to our amazing Student Government advisors – Associate Director Angela Tuzzo and Assistant Dean Veronica Gerosimo – thank you! You never failed to listen to student concerns, to

compromise when needed, and to make every event possible. Literally, because we needed your approval, but also because you pushed our nervous systems to their limits and made us believe we were capable.

Personally, I am beyond grateful for every single opportunity Hudson County Community College has given me over the past two years. I've grown from interactions and experiences. From my cohorts, I've learned about kindness, wisdom, and compassion, and I can't wait to bring those values into the bigger world.

I remember first standing at this podium on September 9, 2024, to give my very first remarks. I vividly remember the butterflies in my stomach because I was nervous. Today marks my ninth – and sadly, my last – Board of Trustees meeting. Writing this speech and standing before you gives me the same butterflies, but now not from nervousness, but from the bittersweet feeling of having to leave a supportive family to take a bigger step forward.

It has been a pleasure serving all of you and our student body. And, of course, to the people who heard about all of it – my mother and my partner, who are here with me today, thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as SGA President for 2024-2025. It has been an honor. I now introduce the 2025-26 SGA President, Rifaya Dubash.

2025-26 Student Government Association President Rifaya Dubash offered remarks.

Good evening, Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and guests.

My name is Rifaya Dubash, and I'm in my second year at Hudson County Community College. I feel greatly honored to be elected as the new president of SGA. This is not just a title for me. Rather, it's one of the biggest milestones I have achieved in my college career. I'm truly grateful for all the trust and support that the e-board has given me. A heartfelt thank you to my amazing advisors, Angela Tuzzo and Veronica Gerosimo. Their encouragement and guidance have helped me grow and confidently step into this position, and I would also like to give a very special thank you to our former president, Nina Maria Resurreccion, for being such a strong support system and the best friend I could ever ask for. She's been an inspiring leader, and truly the best mentor I could ever hope to learn from.

My priorities are to uplift student voices, build a strong sense of community, and make every student feel welcome and heard. I deeply believe that by working together, staying engaged, and listening to one another, we can create a vibrant and inclusive campus experience. I'm also committed to advocating student-led initiatives; pushing for positive changes and keeping communication open between the student body and the leadership.

I cannot wait to collaborate with students, clubs, and faculty and staff to make this year at HCCC one of growth and an unforgettable experience. Before I end my remarks, I would like to introduce my new team for this upcoming year.

- Emmanuel Rodriguez, Vice President
- Erin Garcia, Director of Record Keeping
- Andres Juarez, Director of Finance
- Iman Mahmoud, Director of Community Outreach

Let's make this a great year at Hudson County Community College. 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.

I'd also like to start off by congratulating my fellow colleagues who are being promoted tonight.

Good evening, Trustees.

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the close of the spring semester.

Before we move into our standing committee reports, I'd like to take a moment to share a few important updates, highlights, and some reflections as we conclude the semester - and my term as Chair of the All College Council Executive Committee.

First, I'm pleased to officially announce the results of the recent All College Council (ACC) election. As you know, our leadership term concludes this semester, and we are excited to pass the baton to a new Executive Board. The ACC election results were finalized on April 30, and I'm happy to share that the following individuals will lead the ACC moving forward:

- Fernando Garcia as Chair
- Dr. Benedetto Youssef as Vice Chair
- Irma Williams as Secretary

We thank all who stepped forward to serve. The outgoing Executive Committee is currently working hand in hand with the new leadership team to bring them up to speed. To that end, we held a transition meeting earlier today during which we offered our reflections, recommendations, and guidance on best practices for effective shared governance. We also encouraged the incoming Chair to consider forming a task force to review and update the ACC's bylaws and charter. Clarifying responsibilities and expectations will be key to ensuring continued growth and effectiveness.

As I wrap up my time as Chair, I want to say how proud I am of what we've accomplished together. From the new lactation policy and AI syllabus guidance to updated academic integrity statements and many successful community events, these achievements reflect the dedication and collaboration of so many across our college.

And with that, I'd like to take a moment now to invite our new E board to say a few words.

Incoming All College Council Chair Fernando Garcia offered remarks.

Good evening, Trustees, students, and faculty. It's a real pleasure to be here. I'm honored to have been nominated and elected as the new chair.

I look forward to working with you all, and especially the Student Government Association, as they're the pride and joy of the community at HCCC. It's a good opportunity to meet all of you. I've already been part of the ACC. We'll be presenting new General Recommendations and new opportunities to enhance the community experience at HCCC. I look forward to working with you all. Thank you.

Incoming All College Council Vice Chair Benedetto Youssef offered remarks.

Thank you so much for the introduction, and I'm so excited to continue the good work of the ACC. I had my last class for my Monday afternoon today, and I was telling my students, don't be afraid to take a chance on yourself to do something that you might think you know is a challenge. That's where the

growth is going to happen. Two years ago, I would never have dreamed that I would be Vice Chair of the ACC. And here I am now. I'm excited to continue the good work, to learn a lot, and to help make this school a better place.

Incoming All College Council Secretary Irma Williams offered remarks.

I would just like to thank Chris, Raffi and Sarah, as they have been incredibly helpful and supportive throughout the process. They've done a fantastic job, keeping everything organized, making sure communication has been clear and timely, and helping us all stay on task with our goals. Their ability to lead with such a positive spirit, patience, and a real sense of teamwork has made a big difference. It's been a pleasure working with them. They've created a space where people feel heard and valued, and that's not something to take for granted. I'm really looking forward to continuing this work with them during the transition.

I know we'll continue building on a great foundation that was set. I'm especially excited to step into the role of secretary and to contribute in a meaningful way as we move forward. So, thank you again for the opportunity. And I'm truly looking forward to what's ahead.

Dr. Christopher Cody resumed remarks.

Thank you, all.

Before we move to committee updates, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate HCCC student Felix Cintron, who was one of three national winners in this year's NISOD student essay contest. In his winning essay, Felix wrote about the tremendous support he received from Chemistry Instructor and ACC Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian. Felix and Raffi will attend the NISOD Conference in Austin, Texas later this May to receive the award. Congratulations to both on this well-deserved recognition.

Now, I'll move into ACC committee updates:

Academic Senate

- Revised Governance Recommendations for the Incomplete Policy and the Universal Grading Scale will be taken up by the new E-board in the Fall semester.

College Life

- The recent Employee Appreciation BBQ was held on May 1 in beautiful sunshine and with delicious food. About 80 faculty, staff, and administration attended the event in the park across from the culinary building.
- We thank Paula Jno-Ville Roney for her leadership with that event, and also for accepting her new role as sole chair of the committee as current co-chair Dorreen Pontius concludes her term.
- And next semester the committee will work to get the *Hudson Huddles* guest speaker event series off the ground.

Space and Facilities

- The committee reports that the Johnston Room has been converted into two classrooms, and the STEM multipurpose room will receive computers, as the D Building lab space is closed.
- Baby changing stations are being added to the Library and Culinary buildings.

- A new chair is needed for the committee, as Irma Williams concludes her term and transitions into her new leadership position as ACC secretary.

Development and Planning

- Both current co-chairs are stepping down, and the committee will require new leadership. Anyone interested in serving is advised to reach out to the incoming E-board.
- Upcoming events include the *Foundation's Annual Golf Outing* in June, and tentatively planned for next semester will be the *Dollars for Scholars* event.

Technology

- A new chair for the committee is currently being identified, with one current committee member and an external volunteer both expressing interest.

Student Affairs

- The lactation pod implementation and policy were successfully completed this semester.
- The committee is continuing efforts to track Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) student engagement with college services, with plans to continue this work into the summer.
- And there is a discussion of a potential Governance Recommendation next semester to better integrate CEWD students into the broader student body.

With that, I conclude our report and wish our students good luck on their final exams and final papers.

I'd also like to thank everyone who contributed to this work: our outgoing Executive Committee, Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian, Secretary Sarah Teichman, our dedicated committee chairs and members, President Reber and the executive cabinet, and, of course, the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for your partnership over the past two years. It's been an honor.

3. President's Report

President Reber offered the following report.

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, India and Pakistan, Africa, and other parts of 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!

Nina, thanks for your outstanding reports to the Board of Trustees as Student Government Association President during the past year. Your reports have been thorough and inspirational, and we celebrate

your strong leadership and contributions as SGA President and beyond! We wish you all the best in pursuing a bachelor degree in Exercise Science en route to becoming a physical therapist.

Rifaya, welcome to your first meeting of the Board of Trustees! We all look forward to your reports next year.

Chris it's been such a pleasure working you and your team! You are a great leader!

With us this evening is Bob DiMartino, our new Vice President for Human Resources; and Jonathan Sisk, our inaugural Director of Athletics. Bob and Jonathan, welcome to HCCC and to your first Board of Trustees meeting. We look forward to inviting you to speak with the trustees at our June meeting or soon thereafter.

Trustees, included in this evening's meeting agenda is a resolution to approve the promotion of nine full-time faculty. These promotions, from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor; and from Associate Professor to Full Professor, acknowledge exceptional teaching and learning, scholarly and professional achievements, and service to the College and broader community.

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

Darryl Jones Introduced Faculty.

Thank you very much, Dr. Reber, and good afternoon, Trustees. I am proud to recommend nine outstanding candidates for academic promotion. These individuals are dedicated educators who demonstrate a deep commitment to student success, both inside and outside the classroom.

The promotion process is both comprehensive and rigorous. Here at the College, it includes a full review of each candidate's submitted portfolio, in-depth interviews with the candidate and their immediate supervisor, and evaluation and recommendation by the committee of their faculty peers. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of these exceptional educators.

Dr. Clive Lee was recommended for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Engineering Science. Dr. Lee is the embodiment of what every faculty member should aspire to be. He is an inspiration to his students and to his colleagues. In addition to his work in the classroom, he's the Coordinator of Assessment for the School of STEM. Thank you, Dr. Lee.

Dr. Jihan Nakhla is recommended for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Medical Assisting. Dr. Nakhla's scholarly achievements, excellence in teaching, and service to the college make her a valuable asset in the classroom and as Clinical Coordinator of Medical Assisting in the School of Nursing and Health Professions. Thank you, Dr. Nakhla.

Dr. Mohammad Qasem is being recommended for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Physics. Dr. Qasem has a breadth of knowledge reflected in the multiple courses he teaches as Professor of Physics and Coordinator of Mathematics. His contributions in the classroom and his dedication to students are quite evident. He plays an active role in the modification and continuous improvement of our Physics program.

Dr. Fatma Tat is recommended for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Chemistry. In addition to teaching, Dr. Tat is the Coordinator of the STEM Scholarship Program. Fatma stands out for her focus on student-centered learning and her interactive teaching approach. She has guided numerous students to a successful academic journey by mentoring them inside and outside of the classroom. Thank you, Dr. Tat.

Dr. Sirhan Abdullah is recommended for promotion to the rank of Full Professor of Health Sciences. Dr. Abdullah fosters a learning environment that engages students in the process, which no doubt contributes to their success in the classroom and in their career paths. He also fulfills his coordinator duties professionally and is instrumental in developing many online courses in Health Sciences. Dr. Abdullah is also a member of the Professional Association Leadership Team. Thank you, Dr. Abdullah.

Dr. Peter Cronrath is recommended for promotion to the rank of Professor of Business. Dr. Cronrath is an excellent educator and excels as Assessment Coordinator. In addition, he has served as the All-College Council Chair and as Faculty Fellow for the Business-Higher Education Forum. Thank you, Dr. Cronrath.

Professor Joseph Gallo is recommended for promotion to the rank of Professor of Theater Arts. Joseph Gallo has exceptional skills and has made invaluable contributions as Professor and Manager of Theater Arts. He successfully designed our first theater classroom. He is faithful in producing theatrical student showcases internally and externally. As a professor, he is truly dedicated to his students, assisting them in developing their talents. Thank you, Professor Gallo.

Professor Denise Knapp is recommended for promotion to the rank of Professor of Human Services. Denise's track record, commitment to excellence, and ability to exceed expectations ensures confidence that she will excel in her role as full Professor. In addition to her classroom duties, her coordination of Human Services has led her to spearhead new certificate and academic development programs in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and to cultivate many student careers.

Dr. Azhar Mahmood is recommended for promotion to the rank of Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Mahmood contributes to the School of STEM in so many ways. In addition to his duties in the classroom and his dedication to the success of his students, he also serves as Coordinator of Construction Management and the Primary Investigator of the NSF Construction Management Grant. Thank you very much, Dr. Mahmood.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay, who chaired the Promotion Committee. Thank you, Pam, and thank you to all those who served: Dr. Yeurys Pujols; Professors Kathryn Buckley, Elana Winslow, Karen Galli, Cathie Seidman, Karen Hosick, and Islam El Ashkar; Dr. Paula Roberson; and Victoria Orellana – thank you very much for serving.

And finally, we wish all of the newly promoted faculty much success as they continue their journeys here at the college.

President Reber resumed remarks.

Thanks so much, Dr. Jones.

And congratulations to Professors Abdullah, Cronrath, Gallo, Knapp, and Mahmood; and Associate Professors Li, Nakhla, Tat, and Qasem. Valued colleagues, thank you for your excellence! We all look forward to your continued outstanding teaching, scholarship, leadership and service in support of our students and college mission!

Trustees, we are delighted to welcome our Achieving the Dream coaches to this evening's meeting. As you are aware, Dr. Mary Fifield is our Achieving the Dream Leadership Coach, and Dr. Rene Garcia is our Data Coach. They are on campus for several days in one of their four annual visits to the College.

We are proud that Hudson County Community College is being featured in a case study to be published by Achieving the Dream that will describe and celebrate the College's nationally recognized best practices related to student retention, completion, and overall student success. Mary and Rene will discuss some of the factors that have led to our invitation to be recognized in this way, and offer their

perspectives on our continuing college-wide initiatives to promote our students' degree completion and goal attainment.

Mary and Rene, thanks for all you do in support of our students and college!

Dr. Mary Fifield and Dr. Rene Garcia presented Achieving the Dream's [Student Success at HCCC](#).

Dr. Fifield offered remarks.

Thank you so much for inviting us to speak tonight. We are among the strongest fans of Hudson County Community College. We have been with you since 2019. We feel a very strong sense of affection and as if we're part of HCCC. And so, this is a really good opportunity for us.

There probably isn't a whole lot of question about what Achieving the Dream is, but there may be some folks in this room that aren't familiar with it. I want to just talk a little bit about it as an organization.

The year was 2004, the U.S. Department of Education had taken notice more than before of community colleges in this country, and questioned the extent to which they were successful. What did they really add to students? How helpful were they?

They developed a system to measure that success. And the system, for those of us who were presidents at the time – and I was at the time – we viewed that as not a fair system. Because what it did was measure success by our first-time, full-time students. If you consider your college, as well as mine at the time, first-time, full-time students comprise a very small percentage of your total student population.

For example, I was President of Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, and only 500 of my 14,000 students were first-time, full-time. And yet the success rate of the college was being measured that way.

I was really pleased when Achieving the Dream was founded in 2004. It came with a lot of external funding from the Gates and the Lumina Foundation and other notable entities. And it billed itself on its website as the only non-governmental organization specifically designed to promote community college student success.

For me, that was a welcome message as president, because what it did was enable me to join with my colleagues across the country and work with other community colleges to help students be successful, and to counteract the prevailing notion that you had to be first-time, full-time to be successful.

Achieving the Dream is a network of 350-plus community colleges across the country, representing 40-some states, and it has been recognized over the years as an historic organization.

Why are we here? We're here because a prominent feature of Achieving the Dream has to do with coaching. Every organization – every community college that joins Achieving the Dream – is allocated or inherits two coaches: a leadership coach, and a data coach. Our role is to serve as a critical friend, assist you as a college to help students be more successful, and work with you in collaboration.

There was a kind of a phrase that was resonating in my mind as I was thinking about coming here tonight, and I decided it ought to be part of this presentation. It's titled "Best of the Best."

And why is that? It's because Hudson County Community College, among the community colleges in this country, is among the best of the best. Sometimes when you're in an organization, and you're in a particular geographical location, it's difficult to see from a distance just how significant an organization can be and how important it can be, not just as a member of the community, but nationally.

When we look at Hudson County Community College, and we look at its reputation as one of the best institutions among the best, the first thing that comes to mind is, why is that? What is it?

Rene and I settled on three different characteristics, which are on the screen. The first one is Leadership Matters. And if you're thinking that "leadership matters" just refers to the president, that would be an incomplete definition.

Leadership matters when it refers to the Board of Trustees and how involved and committed you are to the college and students. Leadership matters when it refers to the faculty that we've seen honored here tonight, who have been promoted. Leadership matters when we talk about the officers of Student Government and the significant role they play here at Hudson County Community College.

The best institutions in this country have leaders at all levels of the institution.

The second ingredient has to do with courage. You know, it's not so easy to open yourselves up to assessment, to criticism, to evaluation. It's more of a natural inclination to want to kind of close ranks.

The best community colleges in this country, along with Hudson County Community College, have the courage to look at themselves – and to look at themselves in a very transparent way. A way that will help them be better for students.

The best community colleges in this country, Hudson County Community College among them, have made it a practice to use data, to use metrics to inform progress, and to inform success. And we call that no fear of data, because a lot of folks are afraid of data. Not just in education, but in other organizations.

Dr. Garcia continued the presentation.

It is not just our opinion that Hudson is an outstanding community college, a lot of folks have recognized that.

For example, for the last several years, it has been named as among the Best Colleges to Work For by The Chronicle of Higher Ed. It has been recognized for its work in diversity, which is especially challenging in the current climate.

As was already referenced, it was selected for a case study because of the outstanding outcomes that it has achieved for its students, because it is wonderful to try, but it is much better to actually do. And that is what Hudson has done.

But, as they say on television, wait, there's more. It has been recognized by being a recipient of two Bellwether Awards, three awards from AACC, one for Hudson Scholars, which you're going to hear about a little bit later, and selection of the CEO of the Year and Faculty Member of the Year.

So, why those accolades?

Well, it basically boils down to what happens to your students, and what has happened to your students?

Their completion rate has gone up significantly, even on those unfair measures that Mary referenced. And I especially want to call your attention to the number of students involved. Many times, quote-unquote "successful programs" are kind of boutique in form, they affect a relatively small number of students. Not at Hudson. Here, the program affects 4,000 students. And that is just the start. The vision is that every single student will be part of Hudson Scholars.

In addition to the rates, the actual number of graduates has reached record numbers for the last four years. And we were in a meeting this morning – we were told it was going to be a record number for the fifth year in a row.

It has closed achievement gaps among student groups, and it has reduced time to completion. That is especially important because you want to make sure students optimize any aid and are able to move to the next period in their journey, whether it is transferring or going to the workplace.

Dr. Fifield resumed her remarks.

I think again – for me as a coach – when I see all of these awards lined up over time, it's clear that Hudson County Community College is a national leader, and in fact has been recognized by Achieving the Dream and named, what's designated, as a Leader College.

Only a few colleges are named Leader Colleges, and there are specific metrics that they must adhere to in order to receive that designation.

But – as Rene would say, wait, there's more.

Because Hudson County Community College has gone beyond just being named a Leader College, which in and of itself is a good distinction, Hudson County Community College is a Leader College of Distinction, the highest category of membership.

Dr. Garcia resumed his remarks.

We talked a little bit about Hudson Scholars. The big question is, okay, so what?

Well, four things have happened in Hudson Scholars. It has delivered:

- One-on-one advisement to students;
- High-impact practices;
- Early academic intervention;
- And financial stipends directed to groups that have traditionally been underserved.

What are some of those accomplishments from Hudson Scholars?

Well, they're more likely to take math in the first year and successfully complete it. Do the same thing in English. Earn at least 30 credits towards a program in their first year. And improve fall-to-fall retention.

And you say, well, how is this relevant? Well, these are the building blocks to the data that we presented earlier, which resulted in multiple increases in the number of students and the rate of students who are able to complete.

Dr. Mary Fifield offered closing remarks.

We could have ended this presentation by saying, Thank you. Are there any questions?

But in thinking about it, it became clear to us that we wanted to convey something else, something that you know, frankly, much better than we do.

You know, every time we visit, we have lunch with students. Today was no different – we had lunch with students. And I said to them, "We're going to be presenting to the Board of Trustees tonight."

And I said to them, "The last slide that we're going to show is going to say Hudson is Home."

What does that mean to you?

It was an important question, because “Hudson is Home” came directly from your students. We didn’t make it up. You didn’t make it up. One of the students said this afternoon, ‘Well, it’s kind of like the difference between a house and a home. It’s a feeling.’ Quite frankly, that pretty much said it all.

You can have a strong institution. You can have good faculty. You can have good resources. You can offer good academic programs. But – it’s a feeling. And the students at lunch with us today said – it’s not just great faculty. It’s faculty that are great people.

You can see that the kind of sentiment that’s being expressed here really goes quite deep into the heart of Hudson.

Rene and I are honored and privileged – and we have been since 2019 – to serve as your coaches. And over the many years, Rene’s been coaching since 2006, I’ve been coaching for the last 13 years – we always say this is our favorite college. And we only say it to you.

Thank you so much.

And if you don’t believe what we said about the students we met with today, we have one of them here with us today. She can call us a liar if we’re misrepresenting.

President Reber resumed remarks.

Thanks so much, Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia.

It is a privilege and honor to work with you. You are both valued members of the HCCC Family!

We are all looking forward to the upcoming 48th Annual Commencement Ceremony that will be held on Wednesday, May 21 at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison.

We look forward to honoring more than 1,540 graduates and their families, representing the fourth straight year of celebrating a record number of graduates in College history.

That’s a very happy note to end on! Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 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 2026 Operating Budget was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Approval to Develop Property in the Journal Square Area for Permanent Use by Hudson County Community College (Chapter 12) was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Award of Insurance Broker and Vendor to be funded from the operating budget, with the costs to be paid as commissions through the College’s insurance policies, was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Award of Health Care Consultant, the cost of these services to be funded from the commission paid from respective insurance carriers, was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Award of an Employee Recruitment and Applicant Tracking System to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost not to exceed \$52,270 was approved.

*Summary of Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Meeting
May 13, 2025*

6. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Labor Market and Career Assessment Software System to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost not to exceed \$76,119 was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Commencement Regalia to be Funded by the Student Life Fee (SLF) at a cost not to exceed \$66,378 was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Additional Services for the Center for Student Success to be funded through Chapter 12 at a cost not to exceed \$248,500 was approved.
9. Resolution Amending Resolution #4 from the August 13, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting to be funded from the operating budget by changing the contract sum to an amount not to exceed \$37,550 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 Facilities Worker was accepted
2. The resignations of the Librarian and Career Advisor of the Center for Adult Transition (Grant-funded) were accepted.
3. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
5. Promotions of Full-time Faculty were approved.
6. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
7. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through May 2026, as needed, were approved.
8. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
9. 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
N/A	Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Academic Advisor	N/A	N/A	109	N/A	N/A	May 14, 2025
Hudson Scholars Academic Counselor	Hudson Scholars Academic Advisor	N/A	113	109	N/A	N/A	May 14, 2025
Bursar	Office of Student Accounts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	May 14, 2025
Bursar	Director of Student Accounts	Leslie Lang	117	117	N/A	N/A	May 14, 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 IJKG Opco LLC d/b/a CarePoint Health – Bayonne Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in Radiography was approved.

2. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Hudson Hospital Opco LLC d/b/a CarePoint Health – Christ Hospital for Clinical Experiences in Radiography was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and HUMCO Opco LLC d/b/a CarePoint Health – Hoboken University Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in Radiography was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Richmond University Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in Radiography was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Era Hemonc, LLC was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Continuing Partnerships Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Hudson County High Schools for the Delivery of Credit Course Instruction for Academic Year 2025-26 was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

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

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