

Summary of Proceedings
Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, June 18, 2024
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom

Trustees Present: Edward DeFazio; Sally Elwir (Student Alumni Representative); Pamela Gardner; Frank Gargiulo; Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña; Christopher Reber; Silvia Rodriguez; and Harold Stahl.

Trustees Absent: Joseph Doria.

Reorganization Meeting was opened by David Blank, Legal Counsel to the Board of Trustees.

Swearing in of New Trustees: Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo were sworn in as new members of the Board of Trustees.

Pamela Gardner was elected **Chair Pro Temp.**

Reorganization Meeting Call to Order: The reorganization meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Temp Pamela Gardner.

The following **Trustees were Elected as Board Officers** for the term extending through November 2024: Jeanette Peña, Chair; Pamela Gardner, Vice Chair; and Edward DeFazio, Secretary/Treasurer.

Chair Peña offered remarks.

Thank you, everyone, for being here today. The college has grown so much since I was introduced to Hudson County Community College in 1996 when I became an adjunct professor. Bill has been at the mast for 20 years until I was presented with the idea of being chair. Bill and I talked about this for a while, and he kept saying, "You know, it's almost time for me to retire." And I kept saying, "Yeah, we're not there yet." But the time has come for Bill to retire, and he thought I would be a good fit to fill his shoes. I am very flattered and humbled by that. And then I wonder, how will I fill in those shoes? So, as you all know, I love shoes, and then I remembered I have many great high heels that will help me fulfill those duties.

I just wanted to thank a few people who helped me get here today, starting by thanking my family. Similar to so many of our students, I'm a first-generation American child of immigrants. My parents left Cuba in 1969, just looking for a better life, which is the same story that we have for all of our students. Just change the country, change the year, and this is our story. Our parents wanted a better life for us, and they came here looking for that. My grandmother only attended school up until the sixth grade. However, she understood how important

education was because she always told me, “They can take everything from you, but they can never take away your education.”

I thank my teachers throughout the years and my mentors who taught me to learn from my mistakes. I thank Senator Stack for always encouraging me to let my voice be heard. I remember when he approached me many years ago about being a board member. I said, I don't know anything about that role, and it's 23 years and several boards later, and I'm still here. I thank our County Executive, Craig Guy, and the County Commissioners for supporting the College. Also, I thank my fellow trustees, Dr. Reber, and senior staff, for all the work they put into making sure that Hudson is Home for every single student. Finally, I want to thank my husband, Raul, and my daughter, Dalia. They are my biggest supporters. They're my rock. They put up with all the board meetings and all the events. They're experts at this. Thank you to everyone!

Vice Chair Gardner offered remarks.

Thank you so much for your vote of confidence. I welcome our new board members and thank you for your willingness to serve. I look forward to continuing to serve and do my best to move our college forward with your help. I'm excited to be working with Jeannette as chair and Ed as the secretary/treasurer. Thank you so much, and thank you, everyone, for this opportunity. I know that we're going to continue to progress. I also want to thank Bakari and Bill for their many years of service to this institution and the help they have given me after joining the Board of Trustees. We wish them all the best.

Secretary/Treasurer DeFazio made remarks.

Thank you, trustees. I know that we'll continue to progress. And thank you, Former Vice Chair Bakari, and Chair Bill, for all the help you offered me. We wish you the best and we'll continue to follow in your footsteps.

The reorganization meeting was then adjourned and the trustees immediately reconvened to conduct the **Regular Monthly Business Meeting**.

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

Report:

1. Student Government Association President's Report

Student Government Association 2023-24 President Lisa Camacho offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and guests. I hope you all are enjoying your summer thus far.

For my final Student Government Association (SGA) President's report, I'll review our accomplishments throughout the year. We held and collaborated on 15 successful events this year.

- Student Government Town Hall, 15 attendees
- Fall Kickoff, 73 attendees
- Glow in the Dark Halloween Party, 145 attendees
- Noche de Brujas, 37 attendees
- Mid-Semester Night, 75 attendees

- Winter Wonderland Festival, 70 attendees
- Smores with SGA Recruitment, 118 attendees
- Welcome to the Arab World, 100 attendees
- Oscar Night, 35 attendees
- SGA Skills Workshop, 30 attendees
- Marketplace Monday, 80 attendees
- Multicultural Game Day, 30 attendees
- End of Semester Euphoria Party, 85 attendees

SGA held 30 general meetings with an average of 15 members attending each, in person and online.

At the beginning of the year, we had ten Executive Board members and ten senators. I am proud to report that we've doubled those numbers from then to now, as we have 40 e-board members, senators, and volunteers. Thank you all for your talents, for being a productive team, and for working well with each other to make all we do possible.

Several members and representatives of SGA attended three conferences this year. The Association of Community College Trustees' National Legislative Summit in Washington D.C, the New Jersey Student Government Associations' Conference at Stevens University, and the American Student Government Association Conference held here at Hudson.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our exiting Executive Board members and their future plans.

- President Lisa Camacho: I graduated this past May with an Associate's degree in Business Administration. I will be moving on to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in Public Relations at New Jersey City University.
- Vice President of Journal Square Campus Natalia Amin Montero: Graduated with an Associate's degree in Biology. Moving on to pursue a Bachelor's degree at New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- Vice President of North Hudson Campus Roberto Gomez: Graduated with an Associate's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Moving on to pursue a Bachelor's degree at New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- Director of Interclub Council Imani Birchett: Graduated with an Associate's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Moving on to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology at New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- Director of Finance Brandon Johnson: Graduated with an Associate's degree in Computer Science.
- Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Shemia Superville: Graduated with an Associate's degree in Medical Science (Pre-Nursing). Moving on to be a part of the Nursing Program here at Hudson.
- Director of Record Keeping Najwa Essaki: Graduated as Valedictorian with an Associate's degree in Accounting. Moving on to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Accounting at Rutgers University.
- Director of Communications Destiny Herrera: Finishing an Associate's degree in Business Administration at Hudson.

- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Abdessamad Belguebli: Finishing an Associate's degree in Computer Science at Hudson.
- Director of Community Service Nina Maria Resurreccion: Finishing an Associate's degree in Exercise Science at Hudson.

I thank the entire e-board for their dedication to SGA and all the help they provided me in every project, meeting, and event. I loved working with you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and congratulations to my fellow graduates.

I conclude my speech by showing gratitude and giving thanks. I thank the staff from the Office of Student Life and Leadership for their support and encouragement of all students. A special thanks to our amazing SGA advisors Veronica Gerosimo and Angela Tuzzo for all the help they have given us.

I also thank the Board of Trustees and administrators of the College for everything you do. Your ongoing support for the students, ensuring all groups of diverse backgrounds are seen and heard, does not go unnoticed. Thank you for putting the students first and genuinely caring about us all.

Personally, I thank you for the opportunities you have bestowed upon me this past year. All the words of wisdom and the feedback filled with kindness I have received during every meeting resonate with me. It has been a pleasure to have met you all and stand before you as a strong voice of advocacy for all students during these meetings this past year. This has been an amazing experience and something that I will cherish for many years to come and always be proud of.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Student Government Association President for the 2023-24 school year. It has been an honor. I now introduce the newly elected SGA President for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, Nina Maria Resurreccion!

Student Government Association 2024-25 President Nina Maria Resurreccion offered remarks.

Thank you, Lisa, for the warm introduction.

To our President, Dr. Reber, the Board of Trustees, administration, staff, and fellow leaders, good evening.

Again, my name is Nina Resurreccion - the newly elected SGA President, and it is a pleasure to finally meet you all.

This year, the team aims to create more and stronger bridges between the student body – forming a more reliable and inclusive community within HCCC. I am happy to share with you how we plan to achieve this goal. I would like to introduce this year's Student Government Association e-board.

- Vice President of Journal Square, Ronny Martinez
- Vice President of North Hudson, Neivi Nunez
- Director of Record-Keeping, Cayla Rojas
- Director of Communication, Destiny Herrera
- Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Ashley Medrano
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Abdessamad Belguebli
- Director of Community Service, Albania Cruz

- Director of Interclub Council, Sebastian Martinez

Our first major initiative is making information easily accessible. We'll begin by having a themed bulletin board in the Student Center for flyers, press releases, memos, and other media or documents for information or advertisement and to be updated monthly. We will also create podcast videos for announcements that are scheduled to be posted every two weeks.

The second proposal came from our Director of Community Service, who proposed ways to extend our help to students in need of accessibility support services or other necessities. We plan to collaborate with Hudson Helps by restocking and upkeep of the food pantry, and creating ready-to-go bags for distribution, all of which opens opportunities for volunteering - bringing HCCC closer to the community.

Lastly, we are planning multiple events throughout the year to enhance student engagement.

I look forward to communicating and working with all. I hope we have a smooth and functional year!

Enjoy the remainder of your night. Thank you.

2. All College Council Chair's Report

All College Council Vice Chair, Raffi Manjikian, offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees. For those who may not know me, my name is Professor Raffi Manjikian and I am the Vice Chair of the All College Council (ACC), Co-chair of President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), and an Instructor of Chemistry. I will be delivering tonight's ACC report in place of Dr. Cody. Chris is very sorry that he can't be here this evening, as he is in the midst of moving his family from Brooklyn to Monmouth County, NJ.

We'll begin by recognizing and thanking former trustees Bakari Lee and William Netchert for their years of service to Hudson County Community College. The Office of Communications issued a June 12 press release about both outstanding trustees and their contributions to the College.

We welcome our new trustees, Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo, and look forward to working with them. Also, today, we held the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Student Success. We look forward to the amazing 11-story tower that is scheduled to be operational by the fall 2026 semester.

This summer has been busy with conferences, and many of our HCCC colleagues have been presenting at various conferences. Last month, the ACC Executive Board presented at the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Conference in Austin, TX, along with a large Hudson delegation. We discussed the impact of our college's shared governance model and the holistic approach to moving HCCC forward. The room was full, and many in attendance informed us that they had left invigorated and hopeful they could advocate something similar at their institutions. Other presenters at NISOD included Professors Sonja Rodiger, Saliha Yagoubi, Jonathan Cabrera, and adjunct Lilisa Williams.

There was also a strong HCCC presence at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) in Honolulu, Hawaii, back in May. Presenters at NCORE included Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus (NHC) Joseph Caniglia, Assistant Director of the NHC Diana Galvez, Social Worker Deliana Acosta, Associate Dean Pamela Bandyopadhyay, and Director of Hudson Helps Katherine Morales.

At the New Jersey Council of County Colleges Opportunity Summit, Katherine Morales received the Spirit Award, and Trustee Netchert received the Trustee Leadership Award.

Today's board packet includes an ACC Governance Recommendation (GR) for your approval. We are excited and proud because this is the first GR since we've begun our leadership term.

Now, I'll present the committee reports:

- The Academic Senate will resume its work on analyzing college policies, such as the Incomplete Policy, in early September.
- The Student Affairs Committee is to be congratulated for producing the amended Lactation Policy for your review in today's board packet. The governance recommendation provides a clear and progressive lactation policy for our whole community, especially for student parents.
- The Development and Planning Committee will look to build upon their success in the upcoming fall semester by continuing to raise awareness around the importance of giving back to HCCC.
- The College Life Committee held a successful employee appreciation luncheon at the end of spring, with over 200 attendees.
- The Technology Committee will address the issue of wayfinding technology in the fall. The initiative was proposed by a student who had difficulty navigating the campus.
- The Space and Facilities Committee continues to oversee the student-led mural painting on the STEM Building, which is expected to be completed this summer.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the ACC Retreat will occur on Thursday, August 8, from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Johnston Room at the Culinary Conference Center.

I thank everyone who made this report possible, including ACC Chair Dr. Christopher Cody, Secretary Sarah Teichman, all the ACC committee members, President Reber and Cabinet, and the entire Board of Trustees. Once again, thank you to Trustees Lee and Netchert for all you have done for the HCCC community and family.

President's Report

President Reber offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees.

Before we begin, I ask you to join me in a moment of silence for victims of war and violence in the Middle East, Ukraine, Africa, and throughout the world.

Moment of Silence

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

Lisa, thank you for your report, and congratulations to you and all students involved for the fine year of activities and advocacy led by the SGA this year!

Professor Manjikian, thanks for your report and for your outstanding leadership of the All College Council this year in partnership with Dr. Chris Cody and Sarah Teichman, and thank you for co-chairing our President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It is a pleasure working with all of you and your colleagues, and we so appreciate everything you do for Hudson County Community College!

This evening, we welcome our new trustees, Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo. Trustee Lombardo prefers to be addressed as Vin. Stacy and Vin, welcome to the HCCC family!

Trustee Gemma is a successful retail store owner, fashion consultant, and, since 2016, commercial realtor with Donovan Realty Group in Jersey City. She serves as an active member of several boards and numerous charitable and social organizations including Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Jersey City Jewish Association, Jersey City Youth Foundation, Hudson Pride, Jersey City Theatre Company, the Cancer Support Community of Monmouth County, and Monmouth Medical Center Women's Council. Stacy holds an associate degree in Business Administration and Management from Brookdale Community College, so she especially values the community college mission.

Trustee Lombardo is the Executive Director of Development for New Jersey Institute of Technology's Newark College of Engineering. He is an accomplished fundraising and networking professional with more than 37 years of experience in the nonprofit and not-for-profit sectors. Vin previously served as Director of Development and Public Relations at United Cerebral Palsy of Hudson County and as Vice President of Development and Foundation at Bayonne Medical Center. He serves as chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Bayonne Housing Authority. Trustee Lombardo holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State University, and a Master of Public Administration degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Trustees Gemma and Lombardo, on behalf of the HCCC family, thanks for your willingness to serve on this Board of Trustees at a period of tremendous opportunity and success in service of our mission.

Would either of you like to offer brief remarks?

Trustee Lombardo offered remarks.

I am proud that a number of our graduates are going to NJIT.

Trustee Gemma offered remarks.

I want to say thank you for having me.

President Reber resumed remarks.

Thank you, Trustees Gemma and Lombardo, and welcome again to the HCCC family. We all look forward to working with you!

On behalf of the HCCC family, I want to thank Trustees Jeanette Peña, Pamela Gardner, and Edward DeFazio for their upcoming service as our Board of Trustees Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively. Jeanette, Pam, and Judge Ed, we all value your enduring guidance and support for this great college and its transformational mission. We all look forward to your leadership in these new officer roles, and to working with you to achieve continuous improvement in our high-performing and nationally acclaimed college.

This evening, we thank long-serving trustees and board officers William Netchert and Bakari Lee, whose terms have expired. Both are HCCC legends. Bill and Bakari have made a transformative impact on the growth, development, outcomes, and points of pride of Hudson County Community College. Bill and Bakari will always be prominent in the history and story of Hudson County Community College. Indeed, the myriad contributions of these two leaders and public servants have left an indelible mark here for which the HCCC family shall be eternally grateful.

Chairman Netchert was first appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2003, and he was elected chairman in 2005. Under his leadership, and in partnership with the College's administration, Chairman

Netchert promoted the development of the “urban college campus” concept. As chair of the Board’s Capital Projects Advisory Committee for many years, he led efforts to secure funding of the College’s cumulative \$346 million expansion that included construction of the award-winning HCCC Culinary Arts Institute and Conference Center, Culinary Plaza Park, North Hudson Campus in Union City, national award-winning Gabert Library, state-of-the-art STEM Building, our new Student Center, and the future Center for Student Success – the groundbreaking for which we celebrated this morning – in addition to the revitalization and repurposing of four other buildings. Chairman Netchert supported the College’s creation of robust cultural programs, including our nationally distinctive Foundation Art Collection, DEI exhibits, seminars, lectures, performing arts presentations, and so many other events that are offered free-of-charge to students and the community.

Under Bill’s leadership over 21 years, the College forged partnerships with and garnered the support of local, state, and national elected officials for a growing array of grants and scholarships that directly benefit our HCCC family.

Trustee and long-serving Vice Chair Bakari Lee was appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2006. He served the Board as Secretary/Treasurer from 2009 until he was elected Vice Chair in 2012. For many years, he chaired the HCCC Finance Committee. Bakari also served on the Capital Projects Advisory Committee, Presidential Search Committee, and Middle States and Technology committees. Bakari Lee is an active and participating member of the HCCC President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, or PACDEI; he served as Trustee Liaison to the HCCC Foundation Board; and he has spoken and offered presentations at countless HCCC events, including the annual Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education, Kente Graduation, Juneteenth Celebration, and so many others.

Trustee Lee has also represented the College exceedingly well in leadership roles in statewide and national organizations. He chaired the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and, under his leadership, the New Jersey Center for Student Success was established, which is dedicated to college completion for the state’s community college students. Trustee Lee supported enhanced capital funding through the passage of the Building our Futures Bond Act, passage of legislation that preserves the Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship, or NJ STARS, and legislation that provides in-county tuition for undocumented students, among many others. Bakari is a recognized and respected leader for community colleges across the nation. He served as Chair of the Association of Community College Trustees Board of Directors, and, last October, he received the ACCT M. Dale Ensign National Trustee Leadership Award in recognition of his exemplary leadership. The award is the association’s highest honor that is bestowed upon a single trustee annually – from many thousands of trustees at all 1,200 community colleges across the United States – in recognition of exemplary leadership.

In addition to their leadership and guidance for transformative outcomes including state-of-the-art facilities; nationally acclaimed progress in moving the needle on student retention, completion, and the achievement of students’ goals and dreams; visionary commitments to and outcomes associated with diversity, equity and inclusion in all forms; important initiatives to ensure fairness and equity in employee compensation and the welfare of employees; and many other outcomes, Bill and Bakari also led the college to achieve and sustain financial strength of the institution in partnership with my legendary predecessor, Dr. Glen Gabert, and with me over the last six years.

Today, the College’s reserve is at a level of best practice as defined by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, or NACUBO; the college’s net position has increased every year for the past 5 consecutive years; the college’s annual audits have confirmed sound accounting practices with no material findings – and with commendations – for 8 consecutive years including the pandemic years; and, with the support of the county and the state, the college doesn’t carry any capital

debt. This means that we have been able to moderate increases in student tuition and fees to help our students afford attending HCCC, while also investing in comprehensive supports and wraparound services to help all students navigate complex life challenges.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated a college record 1,532 graduates at Red Bull Arena in Harrison. Thanks in no small measure to the steady leadership, guidance, advocacy and support of Trustees Netchert, Lee, and all of our trustees, most of these students were the first in their families to earn postsecondary credentials that are fundamental to their moving from public assistance to family-sustaining wages. Further, these inspirational graduates are now members of the skilled workforce that is so vital to Hudson County, and of critical importance to our statewide and national communities and economies.

Members of the HCCC family, please join me in thanking William Netchert and Bakari Lee for their combined nearly 40 years of exemplary leadership, guidance, advocacy and support for Hudson County Community College's students and mission.

Bill and Bakari, we will be organizing a dinner in your honor later this summer or early fall, but, for now, we would like to present each of you with a memento that reads:

*"With Sincere Appreciation to William J. Netchert, Esq., Chair of Board of Trustees;
With Sincere Appreciation to Bakari G. Lee, Esq., Vice Chair of Board of Trustees;
From Your Friends at Hudson County Community College.
You Made a Difference!"*

Your many years of board service are also included.

Before I invite each of you to offer remarks, I'd like to offer others here this evening the opportunity to share any brief comments should they choose.

Trustee Stahl offered remarks earlier in meeting.

Bakari and Bill, after sitting around this table for ten years and under your leadership and guidance, I learned so much from both of you. The leadership came from a steady source, you two, through the most recent college leaders, Dr. Gabert and Dr. Reber. I admire both of you for getting us where we are today as a board. Surely, you had an impact and affected my way of thinking along the way, as well as my wants and desires for the College and the appropriate timing for all decision-making. You built a great foundation for the board, and, hopefully, we can continue to strengthen, enhance, and reinforce the work to build upon it further.

Vice Chair Gardner offered remarks.

Thank you both. I know how you've served, how you've worked, and how you have encouraged and supported me and my leadership and my development on the board. I am most grateful for all that you've done. I've been able to work with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. I've been encouraged to serve on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) representing the Northeast Region. Bakari introduced me to the ACCT Governance Leadership Institute and encouraged me to go to the meetings to start getting in tune with what it is all about to be a trustee. I began the process and continue to be on board because of their involvement and the support of other trustees, and I truly appreciate that so much. I will miss you. If I call for help, I know you will be here because that's who you are. I hope to do as well as you did to give all I have for this community and this college. Thank you so much for the example that you have set.

Vice President Chiaravalloti offered remarks.

Thank you to the Lee family, especially to his daughters. You have devoted an unwavering amount of time to the College. When I traveled with you, I witnessed you being recognized not only by the state but also nationally as a leader. A motto you always brought up was about Hudson County Community College being Hudson County's best-kept secret, but you broke through that glass barrier a long time ago. People around the country know who we are because of your efforts.

Bill, our chairman, invited me to an informal meeting with breakfast and stale coffee at the VIP Diner eight years ago and made an interesting proposal. I thank you for bringing me this idea because I have not regretted a single day accepting that proposal. I hope I've made you proud, and I appreciate your leadership.

I've written a book about the 50 years of Hudson County Community College, and the reality is that in the last 25 years, this institution has become true, serving the entire community. It's in great part due to your efforts and the partnership we've had with the County. Thank you.

Vice President Pujols offered remarks.

Thank you, Chris, for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Yeurys Pujols. I serve as Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Today I stand before you as a long-serving employee of the college and a very proud alumnus of the college. I've been here for 18 years, and it's been my duty to serve the vibrant, rich, and talented HCCC community. Anytime you see or hear our students, like Sally Elwir, and others, it is a direct reflection of our efforts and the effectiveness of our mission.

I graduated from HCCC in 2001, and my time and experience here have empowered me to continue my studies. I obtained a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and, most recently, a doctoral degree. This is my story, but this story has been experienced thousands of times over by our students. Our alums have scattered and are making an impact and a difference within their specialized fields. These stories are possible due to the College.

During my time as an employee, I've seen how far we've come not only with the facilities we built but also with the impact that we're making, decreasing equity gaps for all students and all groups. We're providing more opportunities, educational programs, and pathways, celebrating record numbers of graduates every year.

Bill, some time ago, you mentioned that HCCC is the best-kept secret. I think we're past that. We've won every major recognition from all the national organizations that we are affiliated with: ACCT, AACC, ATD, HACU, and the list of acronyms goes on. We had the pleasure of presenting at all of these conferences on our Student Success, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities. To the attendees, it was evident that we're committed, including our president. However, at every presentation, a question they would ask was, "What about the board?" The attendees were surprised that the board was so supportive and the driving force for making new initiatives a priority.

In closing, I welcome Trustees Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo to the HCCC Board. Welcome to the Hudson County Community College family! On behalf of thousands of current and former students of the college, I want to say thank you, Bill Netchert and Bakari Lee, for the time, imagination, and creativity that you invested at the College. Thank you.

Assistant Dean Gerosimo offered remarks.

Yes, thank you both so much for all of your time. I remember my first time coming to talk to the board; I was so nervous. You were always so genuine; it is an excellent speaking environment. Every time SGA is up here speaking, I know there'll be comments coming from Bakari to ease their soul. Thank you all so much for your time, and thank you to the families for all the time they spend with us. Pam, you have to be ready to give feedback to the students, taking Bakari's role in celebration of our students.

Former Trustee Lee offered remarks.

It has been a journey. At the beginning, I didn't know anything about community colleges. I know my dad worked at one in the eighties. I would walk through Journal Square on my way to the PATH to take the train into the city and had no idea that there was a college here.

My firm has represented the Hudson County Improvement Authority for a long time, and I did a few financings with them and some meetings and had rare occasions to sit and chat with Bill. At one point, Bill learned that I lived in Jersey City. Weeks later, I received a call from the lead partner at the firm, asking if Bill had reached out to me, or if I had heard from Bill, and I didn't know what he was referring to. I thought it was about the next transaction and it turned out that he wanted to talk to me about joining the HCCC Board. I did not have any concept or clue, like literally ignorant, benignly ignorant, as to what that meant.

Nonetheless, I met with Bill and former County Executive Tom DeGise to discuss becoming a member of the board. Before I knew it, I was appointed to the board.

The first thing that Bill asked me to do as a trustee at Hudson County Community College was attend Commencement. Bill, being the great leader that he is, wanted to establish what this work was all about.

Moving forward, I began to figure out how to achieve the best results aligned with our goals. I learned about the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and ACCT. Then, I'd go to these events and learn how to do what we're supposed to be doing. And again, in the fashion of a true leader, Bill supported and stood behind my decisions. I continued to get more involved, especially here at the College. My knowledge base and understanding grew, and the opportunities unfurled themselves to me, and I embraced them with Bill's support.

We have come to the end of this 18-year saga that has become part of my family history. I joined the board in 2006. I met my wife in 2013. We got engaged and married in 2015. My first daughter was conceived in 2016 and born in 2017. My second daughter was conceived in 2019 and born in 2020. The community college has been a family journey, and it's taught me so much. I've grown a lot. As I mentioned before, it's given me a world of opportunities. I am immensely thankful that every stage of the process has been positive for me.

What we have here is not always the case in other colleges. Frankly, it's rarely the case. I've interacted with boards around the country. If you communicate with other trustees around the state or the country, you'll hear quite the contrary of their challenging and difficult experiences.

I want to impress upon all of us once again how special an institution this is and how special a board this is! I want to implore you and encourage you to continue along that path. Keep this place special. No other institutions around the country have the opportunity to educate the diversity of students that HCCC has the opportunity to educate. Setting families on the right path in their lives. Making students tax-paying citizens. This college has become the anchor of the Journal Square community, and throughout the county. This is highly commendable. And again, that all starts with the leadership of our chair. There's nothing more important than good leadership.

I'm very thankful to have spent my time on this board. It's been a wonderful journey. I hope I've served you well. It has been my intention to do just that. I am looking forward to taking the time that I've dedicated to the college and dedicating it to my family. It's difficult when we're out in the evenings or away for conferences to be present for my young daughters and my beautiful wife, but she is super supportive and takes care of them. It's nearly impossible to achieve anything without someone standing with you, walking with you, and helping you reach your goal. When you take on a load of responsibilities, someone has to help you bear that burden. It's not doable by yourself. My wife has done that for me. I thank her for everything that she's done.

I feel as though my term here has come full circle. The first thing that I did as a trustee was attend Commencement. The last thing I did as a trustee was sit in this board meeting and hear a wonderful report about "The Brotherhood." I believe in and support mentorship programs. It's a beautiful bookend for me personally.

I'm thankful for every step of the way. I'm thankful for the friendship and leadership of my partner, Bill Netchert, and thankful to all of you for everything that you've done. I implore you, particularly the new trustees, to keep the faith. Keep this thing moving along, and thank you all.

Former Trustee William Nechert offered remarks.

It's been a great run. Twenty-one years ago, Tom DeGise called me and said, "Bill, would you like to serve on the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees?" I said, "Sure, I don't have anything else to do. Why not?"

It's been one of the most daunting tasks I've ever been asked to take on. The first was husband, the second was father, and the last was trustee of Hudson County Community College.

Becoming a trustee is a task not to be taken lightly and just coming on board to say they're a trustee. I took on the responsibility and led by my best judgment and intuition.

When I met Bakari, my intuition was that he belonged here. I spoke with the County Executive to allow me to recommend him and the rest is history. I felt the same way about Pamela and Jeanette when they joined the board.

I thank County Executive DeGise. Look at the board we have now. When I came here, Dr. Epps was the Chair of the Board. However, he left because he was becoming an Assemblyman. So away Dr. Epps went, and I was elected as chair, and Adrienne Sires as vice chair. She is a retired educator from West New York and the wife of the mayor at the time. Then, along came Kevin Callahan, Karen Fahrenholz, Principal Alfred Zampella, and Principal James Fife. We had a board that we could be proud of. The governor appointed two trustees, and the county executive appointed the rest.

Ed Defazio is the last appointed trustee before today. I knew you were right for this role. I know you'll do well because your heart is in the right place. When you first came on board, you saw what we believe in and what you had to deal with as a prosecutor, and then as a judge. We believe in trying to find a way to save some of the students who leave high school and never get anywhere except in the hospital with a gunshot or extreme circumstance. We needed to figure out a way to get them, and we found a way to get them, and we have gotten them.

Now, I welcome our two new board members, and I hope that somebody talks about you guys the way people are talking about Bakari and me someday. But I want to echo what Bakari says, "Keep the faith!"

Last story, six years ago, Chris Reber became president of the College. Before him, we had Glen Gabert who was a great president. However, he is not Chris Reber. People asked, "How's Chris?" I said, "He's Glen Gabert but on steroids."

As Chair I was tasked with the President's leave. I talked to him about staying for another couple of more years, but he had to go, and I don't blame him. Everyone should move on.

Then, the board took on the task of finding a new president, and we decided we were going to do it the right way, not the convenient way, not the political way, but the right way, and I appointed a Presidential Search Committee including Bakari Lee, Kevin Callahan, and Karen Fahrenholz from the Board of Trustees. We had three members from the Union. We had members of the faculty. We interviewed about 30 or so people through Zoom initially and then live. We ended up with four to five final candidates. We all reviewed them and made the right decision in selecting Chris. As my friend Nicholas has said, we're not the best-kept secret anymore. We've gone from a little anonymous college to now one of the most important educational institutions in the country, without doubt.

I urge the new trustees and my friends who I'm leaving to continue to do the right thing. I will be available and only a phone call or text away. Thank you all for everything!

President Reber offered closing remarks.

Thank you, Bill and Bakari. Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2024 were approved.

2. Gifts, Grants, and Contracts Report

Hudson County Community College has received the following grant:

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

Agency: NJ Department of Education (NJDOE)

Purpose of Grant: HCCC received notice of the College's FY'25 allocation to be utilized for direct program and instructional support for HCCC CTE programs. The funding application will be submitted for review and approval.

College Administrator: Nydia James

College Contribution: \$0

Award Amount: \$1,264,951

Title: Growing Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS)

Agency: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Apprenticeships

Purpose of Grant: Apprenticeships in Non-Traditional Sectors

College Administrator: Anita Belle

College Contribution: \$0

Award Amount: \$71,694

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 Contract for the Management and Operation of Parking Stackers to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$964,697 was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Award of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$87,000 was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Staff and Faculty Monthly Parking at Vroom Street Church to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$99,000 was approved.
4. Resolution Approving Agreement for Electronic Processing Services to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$230,000 was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Agreement with the County of Hudson and the Hudson County Improvement Authority to Share Services Related to Certain Capital Development Projects to be funded through Chapter 12 at a cost for the Services not to exceed \$180,000 and at a cost for Consulting Services not to exceed \$126,896 was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Advanced Email Security Protection Software to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$62,454 was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Canvas Cloud Software to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$185,814 was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Altice Media Services Contract for Cable Advertisements to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$62,065 was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of News 12 Media Services Contract for Cable Advertisements to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$30,113 was approved.
10. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Effectv Media Services for Cable Advertisements to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 was approved.
11. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Liability and Casualty Insurance to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$590,000 was approved.
12. Resolution Amending Resolution #1 from April 16, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting to accept Chapter 12 funds of \$3,155,808 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 an Associate Vice President, Institutional Research and Planning was accepted.
2. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
3. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
5. Reappointments of Tenure-Track Faculty for Academic Year 2024-25 were approved.
6. Reappointments of College Lecturers for Academic Year 2024-25 were approved.
7. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through June 2025, 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	Incumbent (If applicable)	Salary Grade and Salary Adjustment (If applicable)	Effective Date
College Lecturer, Criminal Justice	Associate Director, DEI Training	Richard Walker	Salary Grade From: 112 To: 115 No Change in Salary	June 16, 2024
Custodial Supervisor	N/A	Jose Acosta	Salary Grade From: 106 To: 110 Salary From: \$44,177.57 To: \$52,037.79	June 16, 2024
Payroll Officer	Director	Zuany Chicas	Salary Grade From: 114 To: 117 Salary From: \$74,822.54 To: \$82,110.81	June 16, 2024
Maintenance Manager	N/A	Mark Murray	No Change in Grade Salary From: \$87,838.31 To: \$92,838.31	June 16, 2024
Custodial Supervisor	N/A	Denzel Smith	Salary Grade From: 106 To: 110 Salary From: \$44,027.00 To: \$48,219.77	June 16, 2024
Assistant Director, Testing	Associate Director, Testing	Guerly Jean-Baptiste	Salary Grade From: 113 To: 115 Salary From: \$59,747.05 To: \$73,532.82	June 16, 2024
Senior Assistant Director	N/A	Andy Adler	Salary From: \$57,397.53 To: \$65,677.87	June 16, 2024
Senior Assistant Director	N/A	Brianna Casagrande	Salary From: \$55,923.20 To: \$62,321.48	June 16, 2024
Academic Counselor	N/A	Josh Mariscal	Salary From: \$55,476.61 To: \$57,828.79	June 16, 2024

10. Resolution to Amend Sex Non-Discrimination and Title IX Policy and Lactation Policy, and Approve Demonstration and Protest Policy was approved.

11. Resolution Authorizing a 3% Increase in Base Salary for Confidential and Part-time Employees was approved.

12. Resolution to Grant Trustee Emeritus Honorific Title was approved.

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

1. Resolution Authorizing an Addendum to the Existing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) for the Delivery of the Summer Training Institute was approved.

2. Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Rising Tide Capital was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing an Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Iron Culture for Internship Experiences in HCCC's Personal Fitness Training and Exercise Science Programs was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing an Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Fitness Factory for Internship Experiences in HCCC's Personal Fitness Training and Exercise Science Programs was approved.
5. 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 2024-25 was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 6:17 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.