

**Summary of Proceedings
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

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

Trustees Absent: Joseph Doria and Vincent Lombardo

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

Report:

1. Student Government Association President's Report

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

Good day, Trustees, faculty, staff, and guests. My name is Nina Resurreccion, and I am president of the Student Government Association (SGA). It's wonderful to see everyone again and share what we've been working on during the first quarter of the semester.

I will begin with some updates regarding SGA:

- We had a successful Fall Kick-Off event in collaboration with the Student Programming Board, held at Liberty State Park on September 20. Students enjoyed Filipino cuisine, arts and crafts such as tote bag painting and sand art, and outdoor games like grass volleyball. It was great to see many freshmen actively participating and connecting with their peers outside of campus. We've also received feedback that students are interested in more sports-related activities in the future.
- On September 23, we held our first General Body Meeting (GBM), where we introduced the purpose of SGA to the student body, explained how we serve them, and shared our roles and goals. We had a great turnout of students eager to get involved and find more resources on campus.
- The Executive Board and I are currently planning SGA's first Town Hall Meeting, which we've named "Catch Me Up!" to make it more engaging for students. We've invited speakers to discuss the various resources available at HCCC, such as the Faculty-Student Relations Committee, Honor Societies like Phi Theta Kappa and the American Chemical Society, and Career and Transfer Pathways. We're also awaiting confirmation from an alumnus to share their personal journey.
- We are collaborating with the Student Programming Board for Multicultural Day on October 23.

- Two Halloween parties are coming up on October 25. The North Hudson Campus will host “Noches de Brujas,” organized by the Latin Society and Model UN, while the Journal Square Campus will hold the “Afterlife Affair,” hosted by the Film Club, SGA, and Starry Eyes Dance Team.
- We’ve received positive feedback about the availability of free feminine care products in the STEM Building.

Now, moving on to updates from other clubs:

KULTURA Club:

- Their first General Body Meeting on October 2 had a strong turnout, with external guests from SPU’s SPARK joining and engaging with students. The club presented its mission statement, shared roles within the club, and hosted cultural games that connected to their values.
- Their second event, Karaoke Night, will take place on October 16.
- One of their major events, the "Finders Keepers" clothes swap mixer, is scheduled for October 21. They are collaborating with SPU’s SPARK and NJIT’s FINEST and expect around 80 guests.

Criminal Justice, Black Student Union, and History Club:

- These clubs worked together to facilitate a Voter Registration event on October 3.

Health and Medical Sciences Club:

- Their first online meeting took place on October 1. They introduced their Executive Board and outlined their mission.

Nursing Club, Model UN, PTK, and SGA:

- These groups are collaborating on the next blood drive scheduled for November 6.

Latin Society:

- Mexican Independence on September 16
- Hispanic Heritage Fashion Show on October 5

Community Service Events:

- The Breast Cancer Awareness Walk took place on October 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Liberty State Park.
- The Out of the Darkness Walk is scheduled for October 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Stevens Institute of Technology.

That concludes my updates. Thank you for your time, and I hope you have an amazing evening!

2. All College Council Chair's Report

All College Council Chair, Dr. Christopher Cody, offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and guests. It’s great to see you all this evening.

Before I begin my prepared remarks, I learned that it is Sally Elwir’s final night as our student alumni representative.

Sally, on behalf of the entire college, I want to thank you so much for your service. We look forward to following your ongoing successes, and I know you have the LSATs coming up in November, so good luck!

We will begin by recognizing the fantastic job HCCC has done in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month this year. There have been several engaging events, with more to come. On October 3 at 12:00 p.m., we held a Faculty Panel featuring the life stories of Professors Tony Acevedo, Claudia Delgado, Jonathan Cabrera, and Dr. Josue Perez. Later that day, we hosted a "La Hermandad" event, which highlighted Hispanic employees across the college. A special shout-out goes to Professor Claudia Delgado for participating in both events!

The signature event for Hispanic Heritage Month will take place this Thursday at noon, when the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jeanette Peña, will speak at the North Hudson Campus (NHC). A reception will follow her presentation. I will be there with my students, and I encourage everyone who can attend to join us.

We would also like to congratulate Vice President Yeurys Pujols and Dr. Jose Lowe, who were recently honored by the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey. Dr. Pujols received the 2024 Excellence in Education Award, and Dr. Lowe received the 2024 Leader in Education Award. Congratulations to both of you!

As we approach election season, we want to acknowledge the events held on campus that emphasized the importance of voting in local and national elections. It was great to see voter registration tables at each event. Election Day is November 5, so if you haven't yet registered, please do so and make sure to vote!

Lastly, I want to remind the community that the next All College Council (ACC) General Meeting will be held at the North Hudson Campus on October 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Now, on to the committee reports:

- The **Academic Senate** continues to review the college-wide grading scales and incomplete policy. They are also working with the Online Learning Advisory Council (OLAC) to standardize syllabi statements.
- The **College Life Committee** has completed the first week of the "Steps for Wellness" program, with 31 participants so far, and that number is expected to grow. There are seven more weeks to go, and we wish good luck to all participants. The committee is also working on a guest speaker series called "Hudson Huddles" and coordinating with Flik to finalize the date for the annual holiday party.
- The **Student Affairs Committee** has drafted a survey to better understand the interests of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) students. They are also collaborating with Hudson Helps on the Fall Resource Fair, which will take place on October 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Journal Square Campus.
- The **Space and Facilities Committee** reports that security has been conducting fire drills on both campuses. The NHC held a successful fire drill this past Thursday, and I know this firsthand because my Western Civ I class participated!
- The **Development and Planning Committee** has welcomed a new co-chair, Karina Arango, who will collaborate with Anita Belle. The committee is working to develop fundraising initiatives college-wide and on producing infographics that will visually demonstrate the impact of giving.

- The **Technology Committee** continues its work on exploring wayfinding technology to assist HCCC community members in navigating our campuses. They are also looking into creating a website to aggregate all mobile apps used by the college.

This concludes our committee reports. We wish all students success on their midterm exams and assignments. We thank everyone who contributed to this report, including ACC Vice Chair Raffi Manjikian, ACC Secretary Sarah Teichman, all ACC committee chairs and members, Dr. Reber, Cabinet, Trustees, and the entire college community. We look forward to providing more updates in November.

One final note: I would like to wish a very hearty and heartfelt bon voyage to Vice President Anna Krupitskiy of Human Resources. Anna, I understand this will be your last time attending a Board of Trustees meeting. Thank you again for all you've done. We'll miss you.

3. **President's Report**

President Reber offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees and members of the HCCC family.

I join you virtually from Denver, Colorado, where I'm attending a meeting of the Lumina Foundation that we hope will help lead to some significant grant support.

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

Moment of Silence

Thank you.

On this one-year anniversary of the terrorist attack on Israel that significantly escalated the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and other parts of the Middle East, we continue to condemn violence and hatred of all kinds, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

We support one another in times of difficulty, and we strive to be a community that is respectful of and safe for everyone.

Chris and Nina, thank you for your reports and your leadership. Wow! Another great year is underway! We really appreciate everything you and all of your colleagues are doing.

As has already been noted, this evening is the final meeting for Sally Elwir in her role as Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees. At next month's meeting, we'll welcome the 2024-25 Student Alumni Representative. Lisa Camacho, who, most of you know, served last year as Student Government Association President, and she offered reports at our monthly Board of Trustee meetings.

Sally, on behalf of all trustees, thank you for your service as Student Alumni Representative to the Board during 2023-24. We're all proud of you, and we wish you the very best in your completion of baccalaureate studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and in your future at law school and beyond. On behalf of the Board, I'm pleased to present you, along with Trustee Peña, a token of our appreciation. It reads: "With sincere appreciation to Sally Elwir, Trustee Alumni Representative, from your friends at Hudson County Community College. You made a Difference! November 2023 to October 2024." Thank you, and best wishes, Sally.

Chair Peña offered remarks.

Sally, we are like family here. Hudson is Home, and we hope you'll come back to share all the exciting new adventures you'll embark on. We'll be here to support you every step of the way, no matter what you need.

Sally Elwir offered remarks.

Thank you. I appreciate everything that Hudson has done for me, and you know I'll be back. I haven't left, so don't worry. This is just a transition period.

President Reber resumed remarks.

Thank you again, Sally. We'll keep in touch with you.

Trustees, I've invited several colleagues to speak this evening about our growing efforts to serve student parents through HCCC's engagement in Generation Hope's two-year Family U project, and student support initiatives funded through the College's Community to Opportunity Grant awarded by the Tepper Foundation. Joining us are Dr. Lisa Dougherty, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment; Dr. David Clark, Dean of Students; Ariana Calle, Associate Director of the Hudson Helps Resource Center; and, virtually, we welcome Shanice Acevedo, our inaugural HCCC Student Parent Fellow. Thank you for being here, colleagues.

Dr. Lisa Dougherty presented [Community to Opportunity Grant and Generation Hope FamilyU Engagement](#).

Good evening, everyone.

I'm excited to share updates on two important projects this evening. Dr. Reber asked me to highlight a few initiatives for the Board, and it was genuinely difficult to choose because there are so many positive developments in Student Affairs and Enrollment. You can expect to hear more from us at future meetings as we continue to make progress.

The first project I'll discuss this evening is the Community to Opportunity Project, which is coordinated through the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. We're part of a learning community with other institutions, and the goal is to support students' basic needs. This has been a priority at Hudson for over five years, especially since Dr. Reber arrived, and we've been fortunate to develop programs like Hudson Helps Resource Center, our food pantry, and emergency funding to address these needs.

The second initiative is Generation Hope's Family U project, which focuses on supporting student parents. We recently learned that nearly 30% of our students are parents, whether they have biological children, stepchildren, or are legal guardians, and their needs are unique.

Of all the projects we've worked on, these two are particularly impactful because they deliver both tangible and meaningful results. It's not just about participating in a project, this work is making a real difference.

As part of the Family U engagement, we were also recently awarded the Family U Seal, further recognizing our institution's dedication to supporting student parents. We're proud to add this honor to the list of awards that highlight Hudson's leadership in student support.

Now, to share more about the Community to Opportunity Project, I'll turn this over to Ariana Calle. For the Family U initiative, Dr. David Clark and I will go into more detail afterward. I also want to recognize Katherine Morales, who is currently on maternity leave. Many of you know her from her involvement with the Fashion Show and Hudson Helps. She's been an incredible energy source for our team, and she's passed the torch to David, Ariana, and myself.

Now, I'll hand it over to Ariana to talk more about the Community to Opportunity Project.

Ariana Calle offered remarks.

Thank you, Lisa. Good evening, everyone.

I'm here to provide an update on the Community to Opportunity Project, which is funded by the Tepper Foundation. Since starting my role, we've been working with support from this grant to address equity gaps by providing holistic support, including basic needs assistance, mental health services, and other essential resources for students at Hudson County Community College.

To give you some context, a survey conducted by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education in spring 2024 revealed that 68.5% of our students faced food insecurity, 43% faced housing insecurity, and 12% experienced homelessness in the past year.

Thanks to the Tepper Foundation, we've secured \$80,000 to help address these issues, focusing particularly on supporting student parents and those facing food and housing insecurity. Part of the grant will be used to install lactation pods on both campuses, ensuring that nursing parents have a safe and private space to express milk while on campus. This initiative is also part of our broader effort to expand our lactation policy for staff and students.

Additionally, we're launching a scholarship opportunity that invites students to share their personal stories about their basic needs' experiences. These stories can be submitted in various artistic or written forms. We're planning to hold an exhibition on Wednesday, February 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where we'll showcase these student projects and honor the scholarship recipients.

The first 75 valid submissions will automatically receive \$150, and the top three winners, selected by a working committee, will receive scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000. These funds can be used for any need beyond tuition.

I have more information available if anyone is interested, and we are also looking for sponsors to help sustain this scholarship in the future. Our goal is to eventually endow the scholarship so it can support students for years to come.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Clark offered remarks.

Good evening, everyone.

I've prepared some remarks to update you on the work we're doing through Generation Hope's Family U cohort.

Family U is a comprehensive, two-year, capacity-building experience designed to enhance support for student parents. Hudson is part of the 2023-2025 cohort, along with College Unbound in Rhode Island, Jackson State University in Mississippi, Dallas College in Texas, and Howard Community College in Maryland.

As members of the cohort, we receive several key benefits:

- A customized work plan guided by the Student Parent Campus Capacity Assessment Tool.
- A dedicated coach to help analyze our assessment results and facilitate student-parent efforts at HCCC.

- Eight interactive quarterly cohort meetings aligned with core competencies. Our team was carefully selected but will likely expand beyond this core group as we move forward.
- Fifteen one-on-one customized coaching sessions, specifically tailored to HCCC, over the course of two years.
- A Student-Parent Fellow, whom you'll hear from shortly.
- Lastly, an executive session scheduled for November 18, when the Generation Hope Family U team will visit HCCC to hold a session with our leadership.

Through this project, we aim to raise awareness of our student-parent population; boost student enrollment, retention, and completion rates; and develop equitable, parent-friendly policies across the institution. We also hope to engage offices and key stakeholders in improving institution-wide support for student parents.

I want to share some of the progress we've been able to make based on those four core competencies.

Prior to this work, the only data we had about student parents came through the FAFSA. Now, we have a question on our admissions application, and we also use EAB Navigate, a student portal that prompts a questionnaire at the start of each registration. One of the questions is specific to student parents. Additionally, we have included a student parent question in the campus climate survey.

We have priority registration for student parents. Under Title IX, we have updated our language to specifically include pregnant and parenting students. We have also revised our lactation policy and our children on campus policy.

Tonight, you will hear from Shanice Acevedo. She's our Student-Parent Fellow, who joined us in year two of this work. We have launched a student parent webpage, which is a living page that will be regularly updated. As Ariana mentioned, we also have lactation pods on both campuses.

President Reber has been a strong supporter, attending some convenings as a guest speaker. Family U held its first national conference in New Orleans earlier this year, which we attended. Institutional support has been key to the work we're doing, along with family-friendly events. We also recently celebrated National Student Parent Awareness Month.

Lastly, we have a series of family-friendly events that will be highlighted and shared regularly with the campus community.

Now, I'll hand this presentation over to Shanice, our Student-Parent Fellow.

Shanice Acevedo offered remarks.

Good evening, everyone. I apologize for not being able to be there because I am not feeling my best this evening. Thank you for understanding.

I've created the Student Parent Alliance Hub, a space for student parents to connect, share experiences, and access resources. We'll offer workshops, cultural celebrations, networking events, and more to create a strong sense of community and support for student parents. The Hub will also simplify access to resources, fostering a feeling of belonging.

Our goal is to increase connections among student parents, improve access to support services, and ensure that student parents feel heard and supported by the College.

Thank you.

Dr. Dougherty offered remarks.

Thank you, Shanice. I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work Shanice has done with the Student Parent Alliance. There's already a constitution in place, and she's making great strides. I am very proud of the work that she's already been doing and will continue to do.

That concludes our updates. Thank you all for having us – we truly appreciate your time.

President Reber offered closing remarks.

Lisa, David, Ariana, and Shanice, thank you for your presentation and for your leadership and support of our students and our college. This is transformative work, and, as they say, It Takes a Village! We appreciate everyone's efforts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to echo what Chris mentioned earlier and express my heartfelt thanks to our dear friend and colleague, Anna Krupitskiy. This is her final meeting of the Board of Trustees as our Vice President for Human Resources. As many of you know, Anna has accepted an exciting new role as the inaugural Vice President for Human Resources for Connecticut State Community College. This new system unites Connecticut's 12 community colleges into one, and Anna will lead HR for the entire system.

Anna, on behalf of our HCCC family, I want to thank you for your phenomenal work here. You've been a valued colleague, leading many improvements and points of pride we celebrate as a college. We will miss you greatly, but we're thrilled for you and this exciting next step in your career.

Anna's last day will be October 15, when we'll host a college-wide send-off and celebration.

That concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

- 1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2024 were approved.**
- 2. Gifts, Grants, and Contracts Report**

Hudson County Community College has received the following grant:

Title: College Readiness Now XI

Agency: New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE)

Purpose of Grant: To Increase College Readiness of High School Students Prior to Graduation.

College Administrator: Cristhian Altamirano

College Contribution: \$0

Award Amount: \$44,045

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 Sign and Spoken Interpretation Services, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$175 per hour, was approved.

2. Resolution Authorizing Recruitment Services from Association of Community College Trustees for the Vice President for Human Resources national search, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$28,000, was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Achieving the Dream Teaching and Learning Seminar Series coaching, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$20,500, was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Interactive Projector Systems, to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$57,999, was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Fiber Maintenance Agreement, to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost for a three-year term not to exceed \$489,443, was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Identity Verification and Access Management Software, to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost not to exceed \$116,000 for two years, was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of College Campus-Wide Software License Agreement, to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost not to exceed \$166,397 for one year, was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Cinema Cameras and Peripherals for the Fine Arts Department, to be funded by the Carl D. Perkins Grant at a total cost not to exceed \$67,362, was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Architectural and Engineering Services for the 162-168 Sip Avenue Relocation, to be funded through Chapter 12 at a total cost not to exceed \$82,000, was approved.

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

1. The resignations of two Support Analysts; Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars Program; and the Vice President for Human Resources were accepted.
2. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through October 2025, as needed, were approved.
3. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
4. The following Modification to the Staffing Table was approved:

Current Approved Title	New Title/Classification	Incumbent	Current Salary Grade	New Salary Grade	Current Salary	New Salary	Effective Date
N/A	Director of Athletics	N/A	N/A	119	N/A	N/A	October 9, 2024

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 Contract Amendment Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Classroom Au Pair, LLC was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the Regents of the University of California was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the Union City Board of Education (UCBOE) was approved.

*Summary of Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Meeting
October 8, 2024*

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:37 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.