

**Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

Trustees Present: Edward DeFazio (Secretary/Treasurer); Roberta Kenny; Vincent Lombardo; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; Joanne Rivera (Student Alumni Representative); Silvia Rodriguez; Lissa Santiago; Harold Stahl; and Frances Teabout.

Trustees Absent: Frank Gargiulo and Stacy Gemma.

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

1. President's Report

President Reber offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees.

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

Moment of Silence

Thank you.

Since our spring semester has not yet begun, we will not hear reports today from the Student Government Association or the All College Council. Those reports will resume next month, but I am pleased to offer my report today.

Recently, the College received the results of an audit of the College's disbursement of federal funds for career and technical education provided through the Carl D. Perkins annual grant for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. There is considerable lag time here, as that was six years ago. As you will recall, 2020-2021 was the peak of the pandemic when we were operating virtually. I have learned that a number of other colleges and universities have recently received a similar report.

The results of the audit will be posted on the College's website. The audit questions some of the expenditures and required documentation for that year's Perkins activities. We are currently gathering the additional information to substantiate the questioned expenditures and we will appeal most of the determinations. The audit asks that HCCC develop a corrective action plan to address any issues related to policies and procedures.

This evening's meeting agenda includes a resolution to authorize the appeal and file the corrective action plan, which we discussed in last week's meeting of the Board of Trustees Finance Committee. I thank Vice President Veronica Zeichner and her team for their leadership in responding to the audit questions.

This evening, I have invited Professor of Studio Art Laurie Riccadonna to discuss her involvement last fall in Princeton University's Community College Faculty Program, including upcoming opportunities at Princeton for our students. I have asked Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones to introduce Laurie and her presentation.

Dr. Darryl Jones offered the following remarks.

This evening's presentation is significant as it reminds us of the importance and the impact of faculty professional development. Professional development empowers our faculty and staff to remain current in their disciplines, adopt innovative pedagogical strategies, and respond effectively to the evolving needs of our students.

Through ongoing professional learning, faculty strengthen their ability to create engaging, student-centered learning environments that support academic excellence and foster a sense of belonging among our students.

Over the years, Professor Laurie Riccadonna has presented to the Board. Most recently, she and her colleague, Professor Jeremiah Typen, presented on the *Food Fuels Minds Project*, which addressed food insecurity and highlighted the importance of SNAP. That work was conducted in collaboration with the Hudson Helps Resource Center and Rutgers University.

Professor Riccadonna earned her Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University School of Art, and her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from The Pennsylvania State University. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is included in the U.S. Department of State Art in Embassies Program, as well as a number of public and private collections. She has received numerous awards recognizing both her artistic excellence and her teaching.

This evening, Professor Riccadonna will be speaking about her participation during the fall semester in Princeton University's Community College Faculty Program, and the professional growth and academic opportunities that resulted from that experience, including opportunities that may benefit our students.

I now invite Professor Riccadonna to come forward and share her presentation.

[Laurie Riccadonna Presented Princeton University Community College Faculty Program](#)

Good evening, everyone.

During the fall 2025 semester, I participated in Princeton University's Community College Faculty Program, which was formerly known as the Community College Mid-Career Faculty Program. I initially assumed this was a new opportunity for Hudson faculty but learned that the last time an HCCC faculty member participated was in the late 1990s, so it has been quite some time.

Princeton invites faculty from New Jersey community colleges to apply for this program, which allows participants to audit one or two courses during a semester and to be fully integrated into the classroom experience. When reviewing the course offerings, two courses immediately stood out to me. I approached Vice President Jones with some concern about balancing my teaching schedule with participation in this program, and I am grateful for the release time that made my participation possible.

Participants are fully integrated into the academic environment, and communication with Princeton faculty is welcomed and encouraged. The goal of the program is professional growth and the opportunity to deepen one's engagement within a unique academic community. The program allows community college faculty to consult with leading scholars, deepen subject expertise, and become part of a major research university community.

I audited two courses during the fall semester. The first was an art history course titled "Italy Before Rome: Uncovering the Archaeology of the Early Peninsula." This course was taught by Professor Mattia D'acri, an archaeologist from the University of Calabria who was visiting Princeton for the year. My interest in this topic originated from a professional development experience I completed in Padula, Italy, during the summer of 2024, supported by Hudson County Community College, where I encountered pre-Roman artifacts that sparked my curiosity.

In this course, we explored archaeological evidence, excavation practices, and emerging scholarship related to early Italian civilizations. We studied objects held in the Princeton University Art Museum and participated in a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for close study. Guest scholars included Massimo Osanna, former Director of the Pompeii Archaeological Site and current Director of Italian National Museums.

The second course I audited was Creative Ecologies: American Environmental Narrative and Art, taught by Professor Allison Carruth, who directs Princeton's Environmental Studies Program and leads the Princeton Blue Lab, a climate storytelling incubator. This course integrated literature, visual art, performance, and environmental science. Students engaged with weekly readings, performances, and works of art, and developed creative projects addressing environmental themes in collaboration with scientists and artists.

What was particularly meaningful for me was the experience of being on the other side of the classroom; sitting alongside students; observing classroom design, pedagogy, and approaches to student engagement. This perspective continues to inform my own teaching practice at Hudson.

Princeton University is deeply interested in developing relationships with community colleges. Faculty and students have access to Princeton's research libraries, museum resources, and academic programming. Community college faculty and students may request library access for research purposes, including supervised access to rare materials. The Princeton campus itself functions as an extended learning environment, with sculpture installations and museum resources integrated throughout.

One highlight of the semester was the reopening of the Princeton University Art Museum in October. It is designed as a teaching museum, with opportunities for close study of works from across cultures and historical periods. In March, I will bring a group of graduating Studio Arts students from Hudson to the museum for guided exploration, close-looking exercises, and engagement with contemporary exhibitions.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to consider participating in this program. It was an incredibly enriching professional experience, and it opened the door to meaningful academic collaboration and student opportunities.

Thank you very much, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

President Reber resumed his remarks.

Thanks very much, Professor Riccadonna and Vice President Jones.

Laurie, thanks for this exciting work and your support of upcoming opportunities for members of our HCCC family!

Trustees, we are very much looking forward to College Service Day tomorrow beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. in the Culinary Conference Center and via WebEx.

As I have mentioned in my weekly *Green Memo* to trustees, the day will begin with a half-hour address by American Association of Community Colleges President Dr. DeRionne Pollard, who began her leadership last July as AACC's first woman president. In her new role, Dr. Pollard is the nation's leading advocate for community colleges.

We hope many of you will join us virtually or in person for Dr. Pollard's remarks and any or all of the day's activities.

You received a copy of the agenda in last Friday's *Green Memo*, and we have copies of the College Service Day agenda here this evening if you would like to take one.

Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Reorganization and Regular Meeting of November 25, 2025 were approved.

The following actions were taken concerning **Fiscal, Administrative, Lease, and Capital Recommendations** brought forward by the Administration and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

1. Resolution Authorizing Replacement of the Projector System in the North Hudson Campus Multipurpose Room was approved, at a cost not to exceed \$57,115.
2. Resolution Amending Resolution #7 from the November 25, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting was approved.
3. Resolution to Appeal Audit Findings and Provide a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the 2020-21 Perkins Audit 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 an Assistant Director, Hudson Hub One Stop, was approved.
2. The resignation of an Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars, was accepted.
3. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
5. Appointments of Full-time Faculty were approved.
6. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
7. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through January 2027, as needed, were approved.
8. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
9. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

Summary of Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Meeting
January 20, 2026

Current Approved Title	New Title/ Classification	Incumbent	Current Salary Grade	New Salary Grade	Current Salary	New Salary	Effective Date
Senior Executive Assistant, Finance	Operations Manager, Finance	Christopher Ciely	116	117	\$ 81,796	\$ 85,885	January 21, 2026
Dean of Student Affairs	Dean of Student Affairs	David Clark	122	122	\$ 128,159	\$ 135,000	January 1, 2025
Dean of Enrollment Services	Dean of Enrollment Services	Matthew Fessler	122	122	\$ 128,159	\$ 135,000	January 1, 2026
Director, Student Accounts	Director, Accounts Receivable	N/A	117	117	N/A	N/A	January 21, 2026

10. Resolution to Approve the Use of College Facilities Policy was approved.

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

1. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New York University (NYU) was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Hudson County Schools of Technology (HCST) for dual credit instruction in Biomedical Sciences was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Amendment to Existing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Peace Care St. Ann's for clinical experiences in HCCC's Practical Nursing Program was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey Reentry Corporation for internship experiences in Human Services was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Amendment to Existing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey Reentry Corporation for the delivery of Artificial Intelligence curricula was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and The Regents of the University of California was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Greater Bergen Community Action was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:26 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.