

**Summary of Proceedings  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

**Trustees Present:** Edward DeFazio (Vice Chair); Stacy Gemma (Secretary/Treasurer); Roberta Kenny; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; Joanne Rivera (Student Alumni Representative); Lissa Santiago; Harold Stahl; and Frances Teabout.

**Trustees Absent:** Frank Gargiulo, Vincent Lombardo, and Silvia Rodriguez.

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

**1. Student Government Association President's Report**

*Student Government Association President Rifaya Dubash Khajamohideen offered the following report.*

Good evening, everyone. My name is Rifaya Dubash Khajamohideen, and I serve as the Student Government Association (SGA) President for this academic year. I am pleased to provide a brief update on current student engagement, programming, and leadership initiatives.

In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Engagement and Excellence, SGA hosted a Student Roundtable Luncheon, which brought together students, faculty, and administrators for an open discussion of the student experience.

Student organizations continue to remain highly active and collaborative. Active Minds hosted a tabling event and participated in the Women Empowering Festival. The American Chemical Society, Girls Who Code, and the Society of Physics Students are working jointly on a weather balloon project. The Business and Accounting Club welcomed guest speaker Angelica Garcia, founder of Bloombox Flowers. The ESL Club held a Friendship Day event emphasizing community building and cultural exchange.

Additional recent programming:

- The Student Programming Board hosted the Spring Kickoff Festival.
- The Teacher Education Club presented Then and Now, a Black History Month program.
- The Latin Society offered Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) informational sessions.
- The Nursing Club is preparing for the New Jersey League for Nursing (NJLN) Convention.

Other engagement efforts included activities hosted by the Health and Medical Science Club, It's On Us, and the Social Builders Club.

Students are also preparing for participation in several major regional and national events, including the Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Regional Conference, the National Student Leadership Diversity Conference, and HACU's 31st Annual National Capitol Forum on Higher Education.

In addition, Hudson County Community College will serve as the host site for the Association of Student Governments of America Spring Summit, which is expected to welcome over 125 student government leaders from across the nation.

Overall, student engagement remains strong, with continued emphasis on collaboration, leadership development, and campus involvement. Thank you.

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

*All College Council Vice Chair Irma Williams offered the following report.*

Good evening, Trustees. I am pleased to share the latest updates from the All College Council (ACC).

The Charter Revision Task Force has continued its diligent work this semester. The first draft of the revised ACC Charter will be released to the College community for review and feedback during the general meeting tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the North Hudson Campus (NHC). All members of the community are invited to attend.

Dr. Youssef will also present highlights of the proposed changes and will provide an updated presentation at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

To support greater collaboration and participation, planning is underway for the ACC's Annual Summer Retreat, anticipated for late May or early June.

Below are the committee reports.

**Development and Planning:** Under the leadership of Dr. Christopher Cody, the committee continues to support Vice President Nicole Johnson and her team in fundraising initiatives. The Development and Planning Operations Procedures Manual remains the model for creating consistent procedures manuals across committees and the Senate. Dr. Cody is also working closely with the Charter Revision Task Force to reimagine the committee's role and responsibilities.

**Technology:** Chaired by Dr. Robert Khan, committee members are preparing to host a second Tech Café on April 8 at the North Hudson Campus, aligning it with an already scheduled breakfast event. Members agreed to conduct a review of the Chromebook Resource Hub, explore Office 365 training opportunities for faculty and staff, and have invited a representative from the Office of Human Resources to participate in the April 1 meeting.

**College Life:** Under the leadership of Paula JnoVille-Roney, the committee is planning the end-of-year barbecue scheduled for Wednesday, May 6. College Life is also continuing its work to identify and select speakers for upcoming Hudson Huddles.

**Academic Senate:** They continue to have a busy and productive year. Having passed three General Recommendations (GRs), the Senate is now exploring additional academic issues. The Attendance Subcommittee will review the collegewide attendance policy, last updated several years ago, and evaluate attendance expectations across different course modalities. A second subcommittee is

reviewing the student course evaluation process, collaborating with internal partners on updates and refinements.

Space and Facilities: Under the guidance of Professor Inez Cruz, the committee provided several campus-wide updates. Asbestos removal in 2 Enos Place is scheduled for spring break. The Wayfinding Project has been completed. Security and Locksmith Services are conducting walkthroughs to determine which offices and classrooms require locks. Facilities and IT are also assessing the first and second floors in preparation for the eventual move to the Center for Student Success facility.

Student Affairs: Led by Ariana Calle, the committee reviewed results from the Your Voice, Your Campus: Student Involvement and Decision-Making at HCCC survey, which received more than 350 responses. Students reported feeling they have a strong voice on campus, but expressed a desire for more flexible meeting options and improved event outreach. The committee also discussed the forthcoming revised ACC Charter and acknowledged the success of the Hudson Helps Resource Center (HHRC) Career Closet Fashion Show, which raised over \$15,000.

This concludes my report. I extend my gratitude to ACC Chair Benny Youssef, ACC Secretary Sarah Teichman, all committee chairs and members, Dr. Reber, Cabinet, and the entire College community for their continued partnership and support.

### **3. *President's Report***

*President Reber offered the following report.*

Good evening, Trustees.

As you are aware, our dedicated and beloved long-serving friend and colleague, Marcella Williams, passed away recently. Marcella served the HCCC family with love and dedication for 34 years before retiring a few years ago.

Earlier today, I learned of two more passings of long-serving and valued colleagues.

We mourn the passing of Rose Dalton, who served with our Academic Support Services colleagues for more than 20 years, and the College for 27 years.

We further mourn the passing yesterday of Dr. Steve Rose, who served Passaic County Community College for 39 years, mostly as president.

Please join me in a moment of silence for Marcella, Rose, Steve, their families, loved ones, and all close to them.

*Moment of Silence*

Thank you.

Rifaya and Irma, thank you for your reports and your leadership!

Trustees, I join you remotely this evening from Arizona State University, where I am attending the Business-Higher Education Forum, on whose board I serve. Joining me here are Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Continuing Education, and Workforce Development Lori Margolin; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Trisha Clay; and ACE Fellow Dr. Margaret Schedel.

We are participating in two days of interactive sessions and peer discussions regarding how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping work, skills, and regional talent systems, and the importance of industry-education partnerships. BHEF is about to release an important new publication, entitled "AI Enabled

Professional Framework” that focuses on work integrated learning, AI transformation, and cross-sector collaboration.

We look forward to sharing what we have learned with our AI Strategy and Governance Council, which Trisha Clay co-leads with Associate Vice President Matthew LaBrake, and with our college community.

This evening, I have invited four dedicated faculty colleagues to join us. They have been recommended to you for the granting of tenure and promotion to Assistant Professor.

We welcome Dr. Christopher Cody, Instructor of History; Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry; Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Instructor of English as a Second Language; and Saliha Yagoubi, Instructor of English as a Second Language. These colleagues are dedicated teachers who have contributed to the College in many ways. I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones to introduce the faculty who will each offer remarks.

*Dr. Darryl Jones offered the following remarks.*

Good afternoon, Trustees, and to all our guests. Trustees, it is my privilege to present for your consideration four faculty candidates for conferral of tenure. In doing so, I would like to briefly reflect on the meaning and significance of tenure.

Within the community college, tenure carries special weight. Our students come to us with extraordinary diversity. Diversity in background, preparation, and aspiration. Many are first-generation college students, working adults, or individuals returning to education after a significant time away.

They do not need instructors. They need dedicated educators who meet them where they are and help guide them forward, and certainly not backwards. Tenured faculty provide that continuity, that expertise, and that sustained investment in student success. At the heart of tenure is teaching excellence, the cornerstone of our mission. Excellence here is not defined solely by mastery of subject matter, but by the ability to connect and adapt and to persist.

It is seen in faculty who explain a concept in multiple ways until it resonates with students. It is seen in faculty who create inclusive classrooms where every student feels seen and heard. It is seen in faculty who understand that education at this level is often transformative. Quite simply, great teaching at community colleges changes lives for generations.

Earning tenure is not an endpoint or a time to relax. It is a new beginning. It marks the transition from demonstrating one’s capabilities to sustaining excellence over time. It is a two-way promise: a promise from the institution to value and support our faculty, and from the faculty that they will grow, learn, lead, and serve with purpose and passion. For our students in the room, tenure means that your professors are not here just for a semester, but for the long term, continuously refining their teaching, contributing to college-wide initiatives, and strengthening the academic community that supports student success and achievement. In presenting these faculty, we recognize not only what they have accomplished, but what they will continue to contribute to the college in the future.

It is my pleasure to now introduce our tenure candidates.

**Dr. Christopher Cody** joined Hudson County Community College in 2017 as an adjunct faculty member and was appointed full-time Instructor of History in 2022. He earned his Ph.D. in World History from St. John’s University and also holds a master’s degree in World History from Northeastern University. He is a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the college’s chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, the NISOD Excellence Award, and the League for

Innovation Excellence Award, among many other accolades. He previously served as Chair of the All College Council.

Dr. Cody's supervisor, Dr. Alison Wakefield, states that Chris has distinguished himself as an exemplary educator and scholar, with a deep commitment to student engagement, equity, and academic rigor. His teaching is characterized by a proactive approach to student success. Thank you, Chris.

Our next candidate is **Professor Raffi Manjikian**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Raffi was appointed to the position of Instructor of Chemistry in 2022. He earned a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Seton Hall University and also holds a Certificate in Higher Education Teaching from Harvard University.

Raffi is a recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award, the EOF Champion Award, and the League for Innovation and Excellence Award, among many, many other honors. He previously served as Vice Chair of the All College Council and currently serves as Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence.

His Dean, Dr. Burl Yearwood shares that Raffi has made significant contributions to the college, our students, and the broader community.

Raffi communicates effectively with his students, fostering a supportive learning environment in his classroom. He has also participated in and presented at numerous conferences, sharing the knowledge he gained with his colleagues. Thank you, Raffi.

Our next candidate is **Professor Sonja Rodiger-Radovic**, Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language. Sonja accepted the position of full-time tenure-track Instructor of ESL in 2023 after working as an ESL and English adjunct and as a temporary full-time instructor. She earned her master's degree in Secondary Education, with specializations in English as a Foreign Language, English Language Arts, and Pedagogical Studies, from Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

Sonja is certified in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Creative Commons, and Adult Mental Health First Aid. She has been instrumental in reimagining learning communities and off-campus events that incorporate both experiential and community based learning.

Dr. Wakefield states that Sonja exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional educator, colleague, and scholar. Sonja demonstrates sustained excellence and a deep commitment to student success, as well as meaningful contributions to our institutional initiatives. Congratulations, Sonja!

Our next candidate is **Professor Saliha Yagoubi**, Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language. For several years, Saliha served the college as an ESL adjunct and temporary full-time instructor. In 2022, she began her role as an ESL bilingual instructor as part of the college's Title V grant. She earned her master's degree in Translation Theory from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

She is fluent in multiple languages. Saliha's expertise in speaking and interpreting is an invaluable asset to our ESL students. She is a recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award and the Hudson Is Home Outstanding Teacher Award, among many, many other honors.

Dr. Wakefield states that throughout her many years of service to the college, Saliha has demonstrated unwavering dedication to student success, program development, scholarly achievement, and the advancement of an inclusive and vibrant community.

I now invite Michael Ferliese, President of the Professional Association, to come forward and share brief remarks. I will return with final comments before inviting our faculty members to make brief remarks.

*Professor Michael Ferliese offered the following remarks.*

Thank you, Dr. Jones.

Good evening, Trustees, President Reber, members of the All College Council, community, and extended family. It is always a great pleasure and a happy occasion to come before the Board and congratulate those of our faculty who are receiving their hard-earned tenure.

For the last four or five years, I have had the pleasure of working with Saliha, Chris, Raffi, and Sonja, each to varying degrees, and I can personally attest to their professional commitment and the exceptional talents and energy they have brought to our institution and to their classrooms. Each, in their own dedicated and creative way, has enriched Hudson County Community College and now, with the benefits of tenure, will continue doing so well into the future.

Tenure is often described in terms of job security, which, of course, it is meant to provide. But, as you know, this is only one aspect of its real meaning and purpose. It is less commonly discussed for its essential role in securing academic freedom, its vital importance in protecting scientific investigation and research in the production of knowledge, and, most importantly to us, in safeguarding the classroom from political or religious interference. We also hear far too little about the rich benefits tenure affords our students by securing an open environment for robust debate, critical thinking, and independent inquiry. Such open and free thinking learning environments provide empowering and joyful experiences that can change our students' lives and their worlds forever, and for the better.

Our students hear, read, and discuss many ideas in our instructors' classrooms and at our college that they have never been exposed to before, ideas that are often not permitted to be taught or spoken about in their home or community. Broad philosophical and anthropological questions; for example, questions that go to the core of what it means to be human, will remain personal and abstract explorations for them throughout their lives, long after they leave our college.

Few assumptions or beliefs will go unchallenged or unexamined in their courses and studies at Hudson County Community College, allowing students to develop new and more liberated relationships with the world around them and with themselves.

Today, many faculty, as we know and as I learned firsthand at a recent National Education Association conference in Arizona, are being dismissed for discussing basic aspects of American history that address slavery and other issues concerning racial, ethnic, or gender inequality, or simply for exploring the diversity of gender and sexual identity.

I am happy and proud to say that at Hudson County Community College, our classrooms continue to be places of open, critical, and robust debate. They allow both students and faculty to explore and interrogate the full panoply of life and society, and this remains very much our business and our mission. As Randi Weingarten expressed in her recent book, our classrooms establish the habits of democracy and remain the best antidote to fascism. This would not be possible without the strong and principled support of our institution.

So, to our college administration and to the Trustees, thank you for your forward-thinking and principled support of academic freedom not only by recognizing tenure, but also by continuing to open additional tenure-track lines at our college.

To our newly tenured members - Professors Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Saliha Yagoubi, Raffi Manjikian, and Christopher Cody, we congratulate you on your well-deserved success, welcome you as permanent members of our academic community, and simply encourage you to continue doing exactly what you have already been doing. Continue supporting and challenging your students and your colleagues. Continue opening their imaginations, as our masthead says, to a world of possibilities, and allowing them to discover abilities and potential they never knew they had. Continue giving them hope and the vision that a better world is possible. You have proven yourselves to be excellent instructors and exceptional contributors to your community and profession. We are proud and fortunate to have you among our ranks.

Thank you.

*Dr. Darryl Jones resumed his remarks.*

Now to Dr. Christopher Cody, Raffi Manjikian, Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, and Saliha Yagoubi:

After years of hard work and evaluation, your reward is not only tenure, but more responsibility, more students seeking guidance, more colleagues looking to you for leadership, and more opportunities for you to help shape the future of Hudson County Community College. It is, in the best sense, a deeper commitment to meaningful work.

Trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Heather DeVries, who chaired the Tenure Review Board. As always, she was supported by Linda Guastini and Dominique Callens, who consistently provide exemplary administrative support throughout the process. This is a particularly important responsibility, and I greatly appreciate the hard work and time contributed by all who serve.

The Tenure Review Board members were Amaalah Ogburn, Director of Employee and Labor Relations; Heather Connors, Assistant Professor, Academic Foundations English; Darlery Franco, Assistant Dean of Testing; Dr. Catherine Serangelo, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions; Karen Galli, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Jerry Lamb, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice; Inez Cruz, Assistant Professor of Radiography; Mohammad Qasem, Associate Professor of Physics; and Carrie Rong-Zhao, Assistant Professor of Accounting.

I now ask our tenure candidates to come forth. They all have written remarks, and I invite them to share their comments. Thank you, Trustees.

*Dr. Christopher Cody offered the following remarks.*

I want to start by congratulating my fellow newly tenured colleagues, Professors Manjikian, Yagoubi, and Rodiger-Radovic. I'm proud of all of you. Congratulations!

Thank you to Hudson County Community College for entrusting me with the privilege and responsibility of tenure. I'm committed to continuing to invest in this institution and our students and their success.

I also want to thank Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, Dr. Wakefield, the Board of Trustees, and my many outstanding colleagues, without whom none of my success would have been possible.

Speaking of support, I'm especially honored to have my family here today: my beautiful wife, Olivia; my two sons, Adrian, eight years old, a budding historian just like his dad; and Miles, five years old, a mathematician. And my parents, my mom and dad, Steven and Angela, my sister Catherine, and my mother-in-law, Martine.

Hard work matters, but it doesn't happen without a strong support system, so thank you to my family.

As an educator, my greatest focus is on the future. That may sound strange for a history professor to say, but I believe the antidote to this moment of deep division and uncertainty is education and learning from our past so that we don't repeat its mistakes.

I will continue to dedicate myself to helping our students become thoughtful, informed, and engaged citizens. People who can build, lead, and solve the problems we are sure to face in the future. I will continue to look to the past in order to better carve a path forward, for myself, for my students, for all of you, and for my children.

And, finally, I will close with a small piece of wisdom that has always informed my pedagogy: "Yesterday's mistakes are today's lessons, and they are tomorrow's dreams realized."

Thank you for believing in me and helping me fulfill this dream of tenure.

*Professor Raffi Manjikian offered the following remarks.*

I will do my best to be brief. If I become a bit emotional, I apologize in advance, as this has been a 14-year journey. During that time, I have seen colleagues at both two- and four-year institutions reach this milestone, and I am deeply grateful that the moment has finally arrived for me. I am truly thankful for the opportunity and the support that made it possible.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the students and alumni of HCCC. Without them, none of us would be here. I am deeply appreciative of everything they contribute, and it has been a privilege to witness their growth and progress, during their time at Hudson and after they graduate. I feel truly fortunate to play a role in their development.

My journey at HCCC began as a part-time adjunct. I served in that role for four years prior to becoming full-time. Because of that experience, I would like to acknowledge two unions. Before thanking Michael, I want to recognize the Adjunct Union, led by President Nancy Lasek. I served on the executive board alongside Nancy and Qamar Raza, and it was through that leadership role that I first engaged closely with members of the administration. Michael Ferlise and his team have helped tremendously. Thank you, Michael, for everything you do for all of us.

Thanks to the Tenure Review Board, chaired by Dr. DeVries, and everyone involved in the process. Our tenure cohort members are all close. We have become a very close group, remaining in regular contact, checking in with one another often. I truly could not have asked for a better group of people to share this journey with, and I am very grateful for their support.

Thank you as well to everyone who wrote letters of recommendation for my tenure application, both internal and external. It was nice to see what people wrote about me and how they viewed my work.

While there are many faculty members I could thank, I must acknowledge the person who first opened the door for me: Dr. Rafaela Pernice. She is a professor of biology, and without her mentorship and encouragement, I truly would not be standing here today.

All the school deans played a role: Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dr. Alison Wakefield, and Dr. Catherine Sirangelo. Most especially, I thank my dean, fellow chemist Dr. Burl Yearwood. Thank you for your guidance, your mentorship, your wisdom, and for the scientific discussions. You revitalized my interest in research.

Thank you, School of STEM team Daisy Baiza, Ronny Canales, and others; from the Office of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jones and Dean Pamela Bandyopadhyay, who played an instrumental role during my adjunct years and my full-time years.

I am honored to serve as co-chair of the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence alongside Co-Chair Diana Galvez and Vice President Yeurys Pujols. To the All-College Council, Benny, Irma, and Sarah, thank you for your leadership and service.

To the Educational Opportunity Fund and Hudson Scholars, I am grateful for your work and support. Thank you, Dr. Jose Lowe, Tejal Parekh, Rosa Perez, and Paula Jno-Ville-Roney.

Thank you, Mackenzie Johnson, for being the first person to reach out and congratulate me. Thank you, Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, John Urgola, Dr. Bernadette So, Dr. Lisa Dougherty, Phi Theta Kappa students, and Professor Ted Lai, for your mentorship.

To the North Hudson Campus, thank you, Joseph Caniglia, you've helped all of us, and those before us. Center for Online Learning and Information Technology Services, Matt LaBrake and Tricia Clay, thank you.

The President's Executive Council, which remains my favorite committee, and especially to Dr. Reber, thank you for believing in tenure-track opportunities and in all of us. Hudson Helps Resource Center and the Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center team, Katherine Morales and Doreen Pontius, thank you.

The Office of the President, Alexa Riano, Janet Chavez, and Madeline Rivera, thank you for always keeping everything organized and running smoothly. Chair Peña and Trustees, thank you for your support.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge Judge Carmen Messano. My wife and I are extremely grateful for everything you've done for us.

Thank you to my in-laws, Tigran and Argine Safari, and my brother-in-law, who helped dress me today.

To my brother, and my parents, Silva and Abraham. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for everything.

And finally, my wife, Beata. Anyone who knows me knows that if you meet me, you will eventually meet my wife. Behind every okay man is a great woman.

Thank you all so much. I truly appreciate everything.

*Professor Sonja Rodiger-Radovic offered the following remarks.*

Good evening. Tenure is a significant term, and we have already heard thoughtful reflections on it from Dr. Jones and from Michael Ferliese. My own reflection is heavily informed by Dean Wakefield, who once said, "Tenure is a marriage without the option of divorce." To this marriage between Hudson County Community College and me, I happily, proudly, and wholeheartedly say, yes, I do, because this is a marriage between two partners who equally share the core values of respect, trust, communication, support, growth, and joy.

There is mutual respect here. My work and ideas are fully valued, and in return, I bring professionalism and genuine care for our students. There is deep trust on both sides. The college trusts that my teaching supports students' success, and I meet that trust with commitment and integrity. There is open communication and honest conversations among students, colleagues, and leadership, where everyone truly feels heard and seen. There is steady support. The college provides resources and encouragement, and I give that back by being a resourceful and encouraging instructor and colleague. There is continuous growth. As an educator and as a person, I am always learning, improving, and evolving alongside my students and my colleagues. Finally, there is joy in the classroom, in student success, and in the many moments that remind all of us why we are here together.

Today, when I say “yes, I do” to tenure, I also want to say thank you. Thank you to everyone who made this journey possible. Thank you, Trustees. Thank you, Dr. Reber, Dr. Jones, Dr. DeVries, and the tenure committee. Thank you, Dr. Wakefield. Chris, Raffi, Saliha, and everyone who made me feel “Hudson is Home!” Hudson is where I truly and fully belong.

Thank you.

*Professor Saliha Yagoubi offered the following remarks.*

Members of the Board of Trustees, distinguished colleagues, and friends, it is truly an honor to stand before you today at this important moment in my professional journey. When I first began teaching, I could not have imagined the path that would unfold before me.

I came to this country from Algeria, carrying with me a deep love of learning. What I did not anticipate was that teaching would become the most transformative turn in my life. It has been both extraordinary and humbling to teach others how to communicate, connect, and belong.

I stand before you today not only as an educator, but as an immigrant, a woman, and a mother. These are not simply personal details; they are the facets that shape how I see my students, how I listen to them, and how I understand what it truly means to walk into a classroom in a country where you were not born, searching for words that will help you build a new life. I have had those experiences, and they have made me a better teacher.

This milestone is not mine alone. It belongs to every colleague who inspired me, every student who trusted me, and to my family and friends who have been my foundation, including my husband and daughter.

There is one person who deserves special knowledge beyond the many who supported me throughout my time at Hudson County Community College: my dean, Dr. Allison Wakefield. Thank you. Your support was not occasional or circumstantial; it was consistent and deeply meaningful. You believed in me every step of the way, and I would not be standing here today without you.

As I look ahead to the future here at Hudson, after tenure, I remain deeply committed to excellence in ESL education. I will continue to refine our programs, contribute to the vision of this institution, and serve our students with care and dedication. Thank you for this honor. Thank you for trusting me and for allowing me to be part of this journey.

*President Reber resumed and offered closing remarks.*

Thanks so much Chris, Raffi, Sonja, Saliha, Michael, and Darryl!

Congratulations, faculty colleagues!

We look forward to your continued strong support of our students, our college and our community.

Trustees, this concludes my report.

*Chair Peña offered the following remarks.*

I just want to say thank you for choosing Hudson to be your home. I also want to thank your families, because that is so true, we spend many hours here together, and our families are the ones who step in for us and support us with our other responsibilities.

It's only right that we stand and say thank you to the families.

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2026 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 Change Order No. 1 to the Contract for Mixed-Use Academic Building to be funded through the Hudson County bond ordinance in the amount of \$2,500,000, was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Water Infiltration Remediation Services to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$51,000 was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Nutanix Software to be funded from the operating budget at a total cost of \$184,869 was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Consultation Services for Latino Outreach to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$96,000 was approved.
5. Resolution to Approve May 19, 2026 Commencement Date and Venue to be funded by the Student Life Fee (SLF) was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Personal Property 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 Director of Nursing Program was approved.
2. The resignations of a Senior Assistant Director, Center for Academic and Student Success; Director, Talent Management; and Student Services Assistant, were accepted.
3. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Approvals of Faculty Tenure were approved.
5. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through March 2027, as needed, were approved.
6. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
7. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

<b>Current Approved Title</b>	<b>New Title/ Classification</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Current Salary Grade</b>	<b>New Salary Grade</b>	<b>Current Salary</b>	<b>New Salary</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Executive Director, Center for Online Learning	<i>Associate Vice President for Digital Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies</i>	Matthew LaBrake	122	124*	N/A	N/A	February 25, 2026

\*Incorrectly reported on February 2026 Board of Trustees agenda.

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

1. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) was approved.

2. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Bayonne Dry Dock was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:49 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.