

**Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 14, 2026
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

Trustees Present: Edward DeFazio (Vice Chair); Frank Gargiulo; Stacy Gemma (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: None.

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. I am pleased to provide an update on recent and upcoming student activities and collaborative initiatives across the campus.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) continues to demonstrate strong collaboration with fellow student organizations. On April 8, ACS partnered with Girls Who Code, the STEM Club, and the Society of Physics Students (SPS) to host a STEM Transfer Information Session in the STEM Multipurpose Room. The session featured Dr. Robert Ciervo, Assistant Dean of the School of Engineering from Rutgers New Brunswick, who shared valuable guidance and resources for students interested in transferring to four-year institutions.

On April 12, ACS collaborated with the Art Club for a student trip to the New York and New Jersey Botanical Gardens. Building on this partnership, ACS and the Art Club hosted a Chemistry of Art workshop on April 14, exploring the intersection of science, art, and academic pathways.

Looking ahead, the ACS Induction and Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.

The Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center, in partnership with the Active Minds Chapter of Hudson County Community College, is seeking student volunteers for the Send Silence Packing Exhibit, which will be held at the North Hudson Campus on April 16. This initiative focuses on raising awareness around mental health and suicide prevention.

Additional upcoming programming includes an Anime Fest hosted by the Student Programming Board (SPB) on April 15, as well as a Family and Friends Food Fest hosted by the Culinary Club.

On April 16, SGA and the Professional Association will collaborate on a student-faculty hangout event designed to strengthen engagement and connection between students and faculty members.

SGA leaders will also attend the National Student Leadership Diversity Conference in the upcoming week alongside fellow student leaders. This conference will provide opportunities to gain valuable insights and return with new ideas to better serve the student body.

Finally, student leaders recently participated in the Association of Student Governments of America American Student Union Conference, which was hosted on campus last week. The conference offered an impactful learning experience and provided new perspectives on leadership and advocacy, reinforcing our continued commitment to serving and advocating for the student body.

Thank you.

2. All College Council Chair's Report

All College Council Chair Dr. Benny Youssef offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees. The All College Council (ACC) has been working on revising the [Charter](#) since the start of the fall semester. This has been the ACC's primary charge since I assumed the role of Chair. Given time constraints, and as there are not many changes to report since last month's meeting, I will provide a brief summary of the work underway and the items that will be brought forward for a vote at this month's ACC General Meeting.

I want to begin by acknowledging that this work truly took a collaborative effort across the College. Many individuals contributed to the Charter revision, including members of the faculty, staff, and administration, some of whom are present this evening. Their feedback, time, and expertise were essential to this process.

Turning to the rationale for the revision, the former Charter contained redundancies and some ambiguous language. Our goal was to establish a clearer, more coherent, and more transparent governance structure. We also aimed to improve the accessibility, mobility, and responsiveness of the ACC, and we believe the revised Charter achieves those objectives.

I will briefly review the membership categories. Standing membership remains consistent with prior practice. Individuals serving on a standing committee or the Academic Senate are members of the ACC. The revised Charter introduces a Member-at-Large category, which expands access by allowing students, adjunct faculty, and staff to participate without committing to a two-year term.

Members-at-Large may be assigned to semester-long committee work to gain experience and support Council operations. Ex officio members, defined as Cabinet-level administrators, will continue to participate without voting rights, and the inactive member designation remains unchanged.

The Member-at-Large category provides flexible entry points for those unable to make long-term commitments, while still engaging in meaningful governance work. It also allows the ACC to strategically assign members as needed to support specific initiatives or events.

Several updates to standing committees are included in the revised Charter. The College Life Committee will now include Campus Security within its scope, a responsibility previously housed under Space and Facilities. The former Development and Planning Committee has been renamed Advancement and Finance, reflecting its role as the treasury arm of the ACC, including oversight of budgets, scholarships, and advancement efforts. The Technology Committee has been renamed Technology and Infrastructure, incorporating facilities-related responsibilities alongside technology

oversight. No changes are proposed to Student Affairs, and the Charter establishes a new Community Affairs Committee.

The Community Affairs Committee will centralize responsibility for ACC elections, attendance tracking, coordination of standing members, and ACC branding and social media. These changes are intended to improve transparency and cohesion and enhance the Council's visibility and engagement, particularly with students.

Additional notable changes include limiting eligibility for service on the ACC Executive Committee, comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, to full-time employees. A formal review and resolution process has been established to address leadership vacancies or concerns. The revised Charter also formalizes an ACC budget, to be stewarded by the Chair of Advancement and Finance. In addition, voting in biennial general elections will be extended to all College employees, reinforcing the inclusive nature of the All College Council.

Finally, with respect to the timeline, the revised Charter was presented to the ACC at the March 25 meeting, and substantial feedback was received. We are currently refining the document, which will be brought back to the ACC for a vote at the ACC General Meeting on April 29. If approved, a soft implementation is anticipated over the summer, followed by full implementation in the fall semester.

I welcome any questions now and am also happy to continue the conversation via email or in person. Thank you.

3. *President's Report*

President Reber offered the following report.

Good evening, Trustees.

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

Trustees, a team of HCCC faculty, staff and students has been attending the American Association of Community Colleges national conference in Seattle that ended earlier today.

Last evening represented another proud milestone in HCCC's more than 50-year story and history! Our college and its people won three national awards at the American Association of Community Colleges "AACC Annual" conference in Seattle. Hudson County Community College is the only institution to receive three of the ten national awards in recognition of the College's excellence in teaching, equity, and belonging.

We congratulate Professor of Theatre Arts Joseph Gallo, who won the Faculty Innovation Award; Assistant Professor of Exercise Science Karen Hosick, who was named AACC Faculty of the Year; and, Our HCCC Family, which was honored with the AACC Advancing Institutional Equity and Belonging Award.

Also celebrated before several thousand community college faculty, staff, students and trustees last evening were three additional HCCC colleagues and partners who were finalists in more award categories. Congratulations to Director of Employee Relations Amaalah Ogburn, a finalist for Rising Star Manager; Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Heather DeVries, a finalist for Rising Star Executive; and, HCCC and the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, honored in the category of Outstanding College Corporate Partnership.

Collectively, these honors are a huge HCCC point of pride, and we congratulate and deeply thank all in our College family for their excellence. And, speaking of dedicated colleagues whom we celebrate, I

have invited faculty colleagues who have been recommended to you for promotion to the rank of Professor or Associate Professor to join us this evening. I have asked Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones to introduce the faculty who have joined us this evening.

Dr. Darryl Jones offered the following remarks.

Good evening, Trustees. It is truly an honor to recognize and celebrate the promotion recommendations for twelve of our esteemed faculty members this evening. Promotion in rank is a meaningful achievement that reflects dedication, excellence, and a deep commitment to the mission of Hudson County Community College.

Promotion is far more than a change in title. It recognizes sustained effort, professional growth, and lasting impact. It acknowledges faculty members who have not only excelled in the classroom, but who have also contributed significantly to curriculum development, student mentorship, institutional service, and the broader academic community.

In many ways, promotion serves as a reaffirmation of the essential role faculty play in shaping the intellectual and personal journeys of our students. When faculty grow, students thrive. Promoted faculty bring refined teaching practices, deeper disciplinary expertise, and a renewed sense of purpose to their work. They serve as role models of lifelong learning, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity, and as a result, students benefit from richer, more engaging educational environments that support and inspire their success.

The candidates recommended for promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Faisal Aljamal is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Computer Science, Cybersecurity. Professor Aljamal has made significant contributions to the College and the School of STEM. As a coordinator, he has played a key role in the development of programs and certificates, including the Cybersecurity Program, and has contributed to a National Science Foundation grant. He is deeply committed to helping students master complex material and overcome academic challenges.

Lauren Drew is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of English as a Second Language. Professor Drew has demonstrated sustained excellence as an ESL educator with more than a decade of experience. She prioritizes student success and continues to refine instruction using research-informed practices. Her students show strong outcomes in progression and transition to credit-bearing coursework. She currently serves as ESL Coordinator, Chair of the ESL Scoring Committee, and Co-Chair of the Middle States Self-Study Standard I.

Karen Galli is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of English. Professor Galli demonstrates excellence through an evolving pedagogical philosophy that frames composition as intellectual inquiry. As Coordinator of College Composition II, she oversees staffing, adjunct onboarding, and curriculum consistency.

Lauren O’Gara is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Academic Foundations English. Professor O’Gara demonstrates a strong commitment to meeting diverse student needs through creative and alternative assessment strategies. She has provided leadership in developmental education initiatives, co-led the redevelopment of learning communities, and continues to focus on faculty development, program assessment, and strengthening online and AI-responsive teaching practices.

Susannah Wexler is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of English. Professor Wexler has demonstrated sustained excellence through inclusive and supportive classroom environments. As English 101 Coordinator, she has contributed to curriculum initiatives and revisions to placement and

assessment practices. She has also provided extensive service through committee work and as a Hudson Scholars mentor.

Now, the candidates recommended for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor.

Antonio Acevedo is recommended for promotion to Professor of History. Professor Acevedo is recognized for engaging instruction, innovative teaching approaches, and a consistent commitment to students. He has contributed to curriculum development, grant funding initiatives, and faculty mentoring, and he co-founded and co-directs the Hudson Oral History Project.

Robin Anderson is recommended for promotion to Professor of Early Childhood Education. Professor Anderson's instruction reflects the integration of advanced doctoral study and teacher education, aligned with preparation for early childhood educators. As Coordinator of the Education Department, she provides strong leadership, adjunct support, and program oversight.

Allison Bach is recommended for promotion to Professor of English. Professor Bach demonstrates excellence through consistent, student-centered teaching. She has provided substantial institutional leadership as Chair of the General Education Committee, Co-Chair of the Middle States Self-Study Standard III, and Humanities Coordinator.

Evgeniya Kozlenko is recommended for promotion to Professor of English as a Second Language. Professor Kozlenko has demonstrated sustained excellence across more than two decades of instruction in ESL and English composition. As Level IV ESL Coordinator, she oversees staffing, mentoring, and evaluations. She has served on multiple college committees and consistently exceeds expectations in instructional leadership, curriculum stewardship, assessment, and faculty development.

Kewal Krishan is recommended for promotion to Professor of Academic Foundations Mathematics. Professor Krishan has taught a wide range of mathematics courses, from foundational levels through calculus. As Coordinator of Basic Algebra, he has helped redefine and expand the program and contributed to the cyclical review of Academic Foundations Mathematics.

Craig McLaughlin is recommended for promotion to Professor of Psychology. Professor McLaughlin has demonstrated consistent and effective teaching across psychology courses. As Program Coordinator, he has advanced academic transitions, served as a Hudson Scholars faculty mentor, and contributed to multiple college committees.

Elana Winslow is recommended for promotion to Professor of Business. Professor Winslow is a resolute educator who provides meaningful learning opportunities that support student growth and success. She serves as coordinator across multiple areas within the School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management and has participated in national-level higher education forums. Her participation in the inaugural Business Higher Education Forum reflects her initiative and leadership. Her recognition on both collegiate and national levels highlights her impact on higher education.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay for her leadership of the promotion review process and for guiding the faculty committees responsible for these recommendations.

Trustees, this concludes my remarks. Thank you.

President Reber resumed and offered closing remarks.

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

Finally, April is National Community College Month, and this evening’s agenda includes a resolution recognizing April 2026 as Hudson County Community College Month. We thank Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Heather DeVries for preparing the resolution that includes a long list of exemplary institutional outcomes and points of pride that are owned by the entire HCCC family. Next year’s resolution will include last evening’s phenomenal national affirmations of this college’s exemplary outcomes for students and our community!

And that’s a perfect note to end on. Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 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 Authorizing 26 Journal Square Lease Extension to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$267,820 was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Real Estate Legal Counsel Services to be funded from the operating budget at a rate of \$200 per hour 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 Professor was approved.
2. The separation of a Coordinator of Academic Success was accepted.
3. Appointments of Full-time Staff were approved.
4. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Staff were approved.
5. Approvals of Faculty Promotions were approved.
6. Appointments of Full-time Faculty were approved.
7. Appointments of Temporary Full-time Faculty were approved.
8. Authorizations of Part-time Staff through April 2027, as needed, were approved.
9. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
10. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

Current Approved Title	New Title/ Classification	Incumbent	Current Salary Grade	New Salary Grade	Current Salary	New Salary	Effective Date
Associate Director, North Hudson Campus	Associate Director, Hudson Hub One Stop Student Services Center	Jason Figueroa	15	15	\$73,766	\$78,766	May 1, 2026
Associate Director of English as a Second Language	Senior Director of English as a Second Language and Academic Foundations English	Matthew Kolbusz	17	Director II	\$79,089	\$105,000	April 26, 2026

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and Academic Foundations English							
Student Services Assistant	Student Services Assistant	Yadeline Tineo	05	07	\$42,469	\$44,916	May 1, 2026

11. Resolution Removing Provision from Employment Agreement was approved.

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

1. Resolution Recognizing April 2026 as Hudson County Community College Month was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) was tabled.
3. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the Institute of International Education, Inc. (IIE) was approved.
4. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Shared Services Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the County of Hudson to Provide Training for the Exclusive Benefit of the County and its Designees was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Academic Calendars for Summer and Fall 2027 Terms was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:28 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.