

**Summary of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
5:00 p.m., Mary T. Norton Board Room and via Zoom**

Trustees Present: Edward DeFazio (Secretary/Treasurer); Stacy Gemma; Roberta Kenny; Jeanette Peña (Chair); Christopher Reber; Harold Stahl; and Frances Teabout.

Trustees Absent: Lisa Camacho (Alumni Representative); Joseph Doria; Frank Gargiulo; Vincent Lombardo; and Silvia Rodriguez.

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

Report:

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, India and Pakistan, Africa, and other parts of the world.

Moment of Silence.

Thank you.

We condemn violence and hatred of all kinds, including racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia. We support one another in times of difficulty and are committed to a community that is respectful of and safe for everyone.

This evening, we will not have a report from the Student Government Association or All College Council since we are still in summer mode. Both of those reports will resume in September.

Attending today's meeting is Dr. Margaret Schedel, Professor of Music at Stony Brook University, who is serving as an American Council on Education Fellow at HCCC during the fall semester. Since 1965, the ACE Fellows leadership program has placed more than 2,000 participants at invited site institutions. The program has various benefits for the ACE Fellow and the host institutions.

These include increasing the nation's executive-level higher education leadership pipeline, providing the host institution with expertise and support of a seasoned leader, and promoting professional development and growth opportunities for the participants, from which the host institutions also benefit.

Dr. Schedel chose HCCC as her requested fall ACE Fellowship site because of our recognized leadership for outcomes in areas of importance to her, including student success, equity, AI leadership, and innovation, among others. She brings extensive experience in teaching and learning, academic administration, and technology applications.

Welcome, Dr. Schedel! We all look forward to working with you!

Hot off the press, we learned yesterday that Hudson County Community College will be recognized with two awards at the Association of Community College Trustees National Leadership Congress that will be held in New Orleans, LA in late October.

First, we congratulate Associate Professor of Business Elana Winslow, who will receive the ACCT Northeast Regional Faculty Award. According to ACCT, the Faculty Member Award “recognizes that the central purpose of our community colleges is teaching and learning, and that achievement of excellence in that purpose relates directly to the quality of our faculty.” Elana will also be the sole nominee from the Northeast Region for ACCT’s nationwide William H. Meardy Faculty Award that will be announced at the Awards Gala held at the conclusion of the conference.

We have also learned that Hudson County Community College has been chosen as the recipient of ACCT’s 2025 Northeast Regional Impact and Success Award. According to ACCT, this award “recognizes exemplary commitment by a governing board and president of a two-year postsecondary institution to achieve impact and success in the college’s education programs and services, and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services.” Again, HCCC will be the sole nominee for the ACCT nationwide Impact and Success Award to be presented at the Leadership Congress Gala.

Two more wonderful points of pride for Hudson County Community College!

As you all are aware, planning is well underway for the new HCCC athletics program that will debut in fall 2026 with the opening of the gymnasium and wellness facility in the new Center for Student Success.

Joining us to discuss his work and our early planning for the program is our inaugural Director of Athletics, Jonathan Sisk. Jonathan, we are so excited that you have joined the HCCC family as the leader of this phenomenal new program that will grow and develop in support of our students and community over the next five years and beyond!

Introducing Jonathan is his supervisor, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. David Clark, who has co-chaired our Athletics Task Force over the past several years in preparation for Jonathan’s arrival.

Dr. David Clark and Jonathan Sisk presented [New HCCC Athletics Program](#).

Dr. David Clark introduced Jonathan Sisk.

Thanks for having us, and a special shoutout to Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti, who has been instrumental and served as a co-chair on this journey since 2022.

We appreciate the opportunity to share an update on the exciting progress toward establishing intercollegiate athletics at Hudson County Community College.

As Dr. Reber mentioned, I’ll be providing supervision to Jonathan Sisk as he builds the program into a lasting success.

A little bit about Jonathan: he has been leading the way as our inaugural Director of Athletics since May, bringing with him over a decade of proven success in building and revitalizing athletic programs. His leadership has consistently driven higher academic achievement and greater competitive success for student-athletes, while also contributing to long-term growth at every institution he has served.

Jonathan joined the HCCC family following a five-year tenure as Director of Athletics at Malcolm X College in Chicago, Illinois. He has also led athletics at Wilbur Wright College, SUNY Adirondack, Central Carolina Community College, and Barber-Scotia College.

He's helped revitalize programs after the pandemic shutdowns, launched new sports, and overseen major facility upgrades. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management, a Master of Education in Sports Administration, and is currently completing a Juris Doctorate.

So, without further ado, I'd like to turn it over to Jonathan to share more updates on athletics here at Hudson County Community College.

Jonathan Sisk offered the following remarks.

Thank you, Dr. Clark.

And thank you, Trustees, for giving us the opportunity to share an update with you today.

Athletics has been a hot topic here at HCCC for some time, and I'm truly grateful to help carry this baton across the finish line. Today's presentation offers a high-level overview of the timeline and planning process that will guide the development of our intercollegiate athletics program over the next three years, building something that the entire HCCC community can be proud of.

The Athletics Task Force was formed in June 2022 and was co-chaired by Dr. Clark and Dr. Chiaravalloti. Through leadership, hard work, and the passion of every task force member, we laid the foundation for the program we're building today. I want to sincerely thank them all, especially Dr. Clark, and acknowledge that several task force members are with us this evening.

This work led the process that resulted in my hiring. I started on April 28 and quickly developed a three-year athletics budget and personnel plan. Our goal is to launch a men's and a women's sport each year.

To establish credibility and ensure regional and national opportunities for our student-athletes, HCCC will be joining:

- The National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) – the national governing body for two-year athletics;
- Region 19 – our regional governing body; and,
- The Garden State Athletic Conference.

Applications for these memberships will be completed in Fall 2025.

Our athletics program will officially debut with men's and women's basketball competitive programs. Head coach positions are already posted, and we've received a great deal of interest. Once hired, coaches will begin recruiting athletes in spring 2026, and I look forward to hearing basketballs bouncing on the court soon after!

Another pivotal milestone will be the selection of our team name and mascot. There's a great deal of excitement and momentum from the community, and we plan to harness that energy during fall 2025 and spring 2026. In conjunction with our 50th Anniversary events, we'll launch a campaign to engage students in the process. We'll begin with an idea collection survey at our anniversary kickoff event and follow up with a student-centered contest to help decide our final mascot and team name by spring 2026.

In fall 2026, men's and women's basketball will begin competition, right alongside the opening of our new Center for Student Success. I'm especially excited for that moment. I live nearby and walk past the

site every day, watching its progress. That building will be a cornerstone for our athletics program and student support services.

In fall 2026, we'll hire head coaches for men's and women's volleyball, with recruiting beginning in spring 2027 and competition starting in fall 2027. Then, in fall 2027, we'll hire head coaches for men's and women's soccer, who will begin recruiting in spring 2028 to prepare for competition in fall 2028.

We've been active in the community, forming strong relationships with partners that are key to our success. On May 19, I was introduced at the Region 19 meeting and will attend the next meeting this week. On June 12, I met with Vincent Almeida, President of the Hudson County Interscholastic Athletic League (HCIAL), who was very supportive and even offered access to facilities. I'm scheduled to present to the entire board of HCIAL on October 7. On July 15, I was introduced at the Hudson County Board of Commissioners meeting with a room full of excitement and energy. Most recently, on July 29, I met with Associate Vice President Robert Cole at New Jersey City University, and we discussed several promising ideas for collaboration.

There's growing momentum and excitement about athletics at HCCC. I want to thank Jennifer Christopher and our Communications team for creating marketing materials like this flyer, which has been generating real buzz on campus.

And, finally, our interest form is now live on our website. We've already received responses from several prospective student-athletes. If you know of any students who might be interested, please feel free to share the QR code or direct them to me via the contact info on the page.

Thank you again for your time and support. I'll be happy to take any questions.

Chair Peña offered remarks.

This is all so exciting. I do have a question, but I'll preface it with a quick memory. My very first unofficial one-on-one with Dr. Reber happened while my daughter was at swim practice. I was sitting poolside, basically part of the furniture at that point, because I was always there.

So that leads me to my question: what about swimming? We have great local pools, and there's a strong pipeline of young swimmers in our area. Maybe something to consider for the future.

Thank you again. This truly feels like the next level for HCCC. Our students need something that hooks them in; although academics are essential, of course, athletics offers that extra spark. It builds connection, pride, and belonging. I really believe this will help us continue growing stronger year after year.

President Reber resumed his remarks.

Great idea, Chair Peña! Very exciting!

As you know, this athletics program is being designed with student success at its core. We're focused on developing the student-athlete, meaning we want our athletes to not only compete, but to outperform their non-athlete peers academically.

We also want them to develop strong leadership and team-building skills. Athletics should serve as both a retention and engagement tool, and importantly, a way to attract and support students we haven't traditionally been able to reach.

Over the next five years, the plan is to grow the program to include up to ten sports. While there is an initial investment, we expect the program to become revenue-positive as we enroll more student-athletes. We're confident this will support our continued growth and positively impact student retention.

This is an exciting new chapter in the college's vision and trajectory that will be featured prominently during the upcoming year-long celebration of the college's 50th anniversary!

Thanks so much, Jonathan and David. Hudson is Home!

Trustees, this concludes my report.

Regular Monthly Reports and Recommendations

1. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 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 the Execution of the First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease with the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency for Property Located at 68-74 Sip Avenue (Block 9501, Lot 21); 150-164 Sip Avenue; and 28 Tonnelles Avenue (Block 10602, Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16), Jersey City, New Jersey was approved.
2. Resolution Approving Architectural and Engineering Services On-Call List was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Computers, Laptops, Monitors, and Docking Stations to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$365,588 was approved.
4. Resolution Awarding Lease of Replacement Printers/Copiers for the Copy Center to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$195,005 was approved.
5. Resolution Awarding Lease of Replacement Printers/Copiers to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$100,920 was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Smart Net Maintenance and Technical Support to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$297,073 was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Advanced Email Security Protection Software to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$68,700 was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Adobe Licenses to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$59,204 was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Award of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$97,000 was approved.
10. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Contract with WW Grainger for Supplies and Equipment to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$85,000 was approved.
11. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Marketing, Advertising and Community Media Relations Services for the Office of Communications to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$118,440 was approved.
12. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Digital Advertisement Services to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$51,320 was approved.
13. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Achieving the Dream Annual Contract to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$76,500 was approved.
14. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of New Jersey Council of County Colleges Membership to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$74,298 was approved.
15. Resolution Rejecting Award of Insurance Broker and Vendor was approved.

16. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Liability and Casualty Insurance to be funded from the operating budget at a cost not to exceed \$565,000 was approved.
17. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Purchasing Bid Threshold for Fiscal Year 2026 was approved.
18. Resolution Authorizing Cooperative with the County of Hunterdon Pricing Agreement, effective immediately, was approved.
19. Resolution Approving Amendment of Follett Bookstore Contract 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 Administrative Support Specialist was accepted.
2. The resignations of an Associate Director, two Academic Counselors, and a Support Analyst were 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 August 2026, as needed, were approved.
8. Appointments of New Hire Adjunct Instructors were approved.
9. The following Modifications to the Staffing Table were approved:

Current Approved Title	New Title/ Classification	Incumbent	Current Salary Grade	New Salary Grade	Current Salary	New Salary	Effective Date
Associate Director, Safety and Security	N/A	Gregory Burns	115	N/A	\$ 76,997.87	\$ 80,000.00	August 16, 2025
Safety and Security Coordinator	Fire Safety Manager	Patrick Del Piano	109	N/A	\$ 59,280.25	\$ 75,000.00	August 16, 2025
Administrative Support Specialist, Advisement	Student Success Coordinator	N/A	105	109	N/A	N/A	August 13, 2025
N/A	ESL Student Support Specialist (Grant-funded)	N/A	N/A	109	N/A	N/A	August 13, 2025

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 Fordham University was approved.
2. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice for Internship Experiences for HCCC's Criminal Justice Program was approved.
3. Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Digital Promise Global was approved.

4. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Bayonne Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
5. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Christ Hospital for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
6. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Clara Maass Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
7. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
8. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Hoboken University Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
9. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Hudson Regional Hospital for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
10. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Jersey City Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
11. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
12. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and University Hospital for Clinical Experiences in the Registered Nursing Program was approved.
13. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Bayonne Medical Center for Clinical Experiences in the Practical Nursing Program was approved.
14. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Peace Care St. Ann's for Clinical Experiences in the Practical Nursing Program was approved.
15. Resolution Authorizing Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Alaris Health at Jersey City for Clinical Experiences in the Practical Nursing Program was approved.
16. Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Affiliation Agreement Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Optum Medical Care of New Jersey, P.C., located in Rutherford, New Jersey, was approved.
17. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Save Latin America, Inc. was approved.
18. Resolution Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Westcliff University was approved.

There was no **New Business**.

*Summary of Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Meeting
August 12, 2025*

The **meeting was adjourned** at 5:20 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.