

**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Trustees Present	Trustee Jose Lozano, Chair Trustee Timothy Lowry, Vice Chair Trustee Mary Maples, Secretary Trustee Raymond Ciccone (Zoom) Trustee Collins Days, Sr. Trustee Mady Deininger Trustee Sonia Gonsalves Trustee Kristi Hanselmann Trustee Michelle Keates Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Stephanie Lutz (Absent) Trustee Mukesh Roy (Absent) Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris Trustee Nelida Valentin Trustee Melanie Chin, Student Trustee Trustee Najmah Laing, Student Trustee Alternate (Absent) Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
Call to Order	Chair Lozano called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.
Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Kennedy, the Board voted to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025, Board of Trustees Open Public Meeting.
Resolution to Meet In Closed Session	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Maples, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 12:19 p.m.
Reconvene the Open Public Meeting	Chair Lozano reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 3:38 p.m.
Chair's Remarks	Chair Lozano opened the meeting by welcoming the Trustees and thanking the Stockton Community for attending the Board meeting, noting the end of a productive fall semester.
President's Report	President Bertolino opened his report by emphasizing the momentum and growth that is taking place at the University. He discussed the official launch of the new Strategic Plan following the endorsement by the Board of Trustees in September. He noted that the Strategic Planning implementation team has spent time developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure success across the five strategic priorities. He referenced the success of "Discover Stockton Day" and "Latino Visitation Day," which together brought hundreds of families to

	<p>campus reinforcing Stockton’s reputation as a welcoming and inclusive institution.</p> <p>President Bertolino continued his report by celebrating a “record-setting” Ospreys Give event, which raised over \$600,000 from more than 1400 donors in just 24 hours. He extended special gratitude to Spencer’s and Spirit Halloway, whose \$250,000 gift brought their lifetime commitment to the University to \$ 1 million dollars. He also championed the Atlantic City Campus “Community Cleanup Day,” in which hundreds of volunteers participated in clean-up efforts across all six wards of Atlantic City. President Joe described it as a powerful reminder of Stockton’s role as a service -rooted anchor institution.</p> <p>He shared that Stockton received a \$27,500 “hunger-free campus grant” to combat food insecurity through the campus food pantry and SNAP outreach and preliminary approval was secured for nearly \$13 million in state grants, this includes \$5 million to replace the 55-year-old fire alarm systems and \$7.6 million for a comprehensive roofing and waterproofing initiative to address building leaks and improve drainage.</p> <p>President Bertolino announced a new articulation agreement with Thomas Edison University, creating a direct pathway for Health Science students who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Athletic Training. He also noted the work being done by the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee in developing ethical guidelines for AI use on campus.</p> <p>In his closing, he formally welcomed Dr. Marty Wygmans as the incoming Vice President for Student Affairs, effective January 2026. He acknowledged the interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Bill Latham, and Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darren Bush, for their work in student success and enrollment management, which stabilized the University during a pivotal time.</p>
<p>Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report</p>	<p>Chair Lozano called upon Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves opened her report by presenting four resolutions for Board Approval by consent agenda: <i>Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Dual Degree Program Options, K-12 Concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Degree Program, Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and Master of Social Work Joint Degree Program, Victimology and Victim Services Track within the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Degree Program.</i></p>

	<p>The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry.</p> <p>She continued her committee report by sharing details surrounding the second Winter Term pilot, which has enrolled over 400 students and is trending positively for tuition revenue. During their meeting the committee welcomed new Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Dr. Naima Hall and mentioned the financial support of Spencer’s Spirit which enabled the School of Business to develop the new Finance and Investment Lab. Beginning in January the lab will provide students with access to live financial market data, providing experiential opportunities crucial to employability, faculty research and potential new certification programs.</p> <p>The committee received an update about accreditation efforts that have put Stockton in excellent standing and the Occupational Therapy programs “Activities of Daily Living Lab” was renovated to align more closely with clinical practice. Trustee Gonsalves called Provost Palladino to the podium to recognize the faculty being recommended for promotion.</p> <p>She concluded the report by discussing the ongoing conversations that Academic Affairs is having with AtlantiCare Health System in the ways that our partnership with them can improve healthcare access in Southern New Jersey.</p>
<p>Student Success Committee Report</p>	<p>Trustee Kennedy began her report by thanking Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Bill Latham, for his leadership over the past several months. She continued by sharing that the Student Success Committee was provided with an update on Ospreys Navigate, which has engaged 5700 students this academic year. The launch of the “<i>Suit Closet</i>” was discussed, which was created to provide professional attire to students, and Student Affairs’ role in the “Reimagining of General Education” task force. Residential Life celebrated the ongoing success of its programming efforts, which saw an increase of 58% in attendance.</p> <p>During the committee meeting, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darren Bush, provided an overview of the current enrollment projections, the challenges, and the uptick in graduate student enrollment. He shared that the University remains committed to its target of expanding to 8800 students by 2028.</p>
<p>Finance and Professional Services Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lowry initiated his report by providing a brief overview of the items discussed in the Finance and Professional Services Committee, including in detail the seven resolutions to be presented to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The following resolutions were presented by Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Session 2026 Tuition and Fees Discount <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective for the 2026 Summer Session, management is recommending a 20% tuition and fees discount for

any undergraduate or graduate student who lives on campus in the summer in a 12-month or 3-month contract.

- FY26 Managerial Cost-of-Living Increase
 - President Bertolino, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, is seeking Board approval for a cost-of-living increase of 4% for all eligible managers. Unlike union employees, managers are not contractually eligible for annual increments or cost-of-living increases.
- FY26-FY29 Bid Waiver Contracts
 - PCK Media (1-year waiver, \$300,000)
 - ADP, Inc. (3-year waiver, \$186,000)
- FY26 Increase in Bid Waiver Contract
 - Command Company Inc. (additional amount requested \$49,215)
- Governmental Affairs Contract
 - One-year contract with Public Strategies Impact for a cost of \$6,000 per month to support the University's mission and strategic goals with State policy, funding, legislation, and regulations.
- Refunding of Certain Outstanding Bonds Issued by the Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA) and Refunding of Certain Outstanding Bonds Issued by the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority (NJEFA)
 - Resolution #1 - The Refunding Project, consisting of the refinancing of all or a portion of the ACIA Stockton University General Obligation Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2016A, and the costs for financing in order to achieve debt service savings, provided the Refunding Project results in net present value debt savings of at least 3% in the aggregate.
 - Resolution #2 - The Refunding Project, consisting of the refinancing of all or a portion of the NJEFA Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Stockton University Issue, Series 2016A, and the costs for financing in order to achieve debt service savings, provided the Refunding Project results in net present value debt savings of at least 3% in the aggregate.

The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Valentin. There was one Recusal by Trustee Maples for the Government Affairs Contract.

Trustee Lowry ended his report by sharing the discussion items reviewed by the Committee regarding the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund, Moody's 2026 Higher Education Outlook, the FY27 State Budget Request, and an update on the FY26 budget.

<p>Audit Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Vice Chair Trustee Tjournakararis reported that the Audit Committee met with external and internal auditors on November 17, 2025.</p> <p>Grant Thornton provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 audit. The audit is complete, and the University’s financial statements will be issued as final in mid-December with a clean or unmodified audit opinion. No misstatements and no internal control deficiencies were noted. Trustee Tjournakararis congratulated everyone on a job well done.</p> <p>He continued the report by discussing Baker Tilly’s status update on internal audit follow-up activities and noted that fieldwork is underway for the Gender Equity in Athletics and ADA 508-Digital Accessibility audits.</p> <p>During the committee meeting, Vice President for Information Technology Services, Scott Huston, and Demetrios Roubos provided a Cybersecurity update. They shared the status of three important initiatives: 1) alumni and inactive student account deactivation, 2) duo multi-factor authentication student rollout, and 3) user account password expiration. Additionally, they updated the committee on vulnerability and threat mitigation strategies and cybersecurity awareness month activities.</p>
<p>Buildings and Grounds Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Kristi Hanselmann opened her committee report by sharing brief details on the items discussed during the meeting: The University Library construction project continues to remain on schedule, the roof work and interior framing are complete, and drywall is in progress. The board is looking forward to an opportunity to tour the space soon. The project is also projected to remain 3% below the total development budget. The committee also discussed the state grant funds that were recently received to assist in improving the Emergency Management Technology, Fire Alarm System, and roofing repairs. These funds will reduce some of the University’s deferred maintenance costs.</p> <p>In closing, she shared that preliminary conversations have begun regarding the proposed renovation of Housing I centered around budget and schematic concepts. .</p>
<p>Advancement Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Days congratulated the Advancement team for a very successful Ospreys Give campaign, noting that the University has secured over \$1.8 million in new gifts and commitments year to date.</p> <p>The University Relations and Marketing team showed the new television commercial that will be featured in both English and Spanish, which was launched to boost awareness throughout New Jersey and across the Delaware Valley.</p>
<p>Investment Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported that the Investment Committee met on November 12, 2025, with Investment Advisors –</p>

	<p>Wells Fargo and Windmark – to review investment performance through September 30, 2025. The University’s total portfolio balance as of September 30, 2025, was \$135,744,946. For the three months ending September 30th, the University had a gain on investments of \$5,489,272.</p> <p>Wells Fargo’s fiscal year-to-date return was 3.87%, and Windmark’s return was 4.34%. Both Advisors reported that investment objectives and asset allocations were within the guidelines outlined in the University’s Investment Policy Statement.</p> <p>The University’s total portfolio balance as of October 31st, was \$137,353,238. Investment gains for the first four months of FY26 totaled \$7,030,888.</p>
University Policies	<p>President Bertolino presented the following policy as an informational item for first reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • II-13 Student Academic Credit Load • II-15 Bulletin Rights • VI-68 Campus Closure Policy <p>He continued the policy update by presenting the following policy for a second reading and approval by the Board of Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-3 Authorizations in Absence of the President • II-3 Academic Calendar <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Hanselmann, the board approved the resolution.</p>
Personnel Actions Resolution	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following resolution for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Actions Resolution <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Hanselmann, the Board approved the resolution.</p>
Board Comments and Comments from the Public	<p>Student Alyssa Vilas, provided comments advocating for the re-opening of the on-campus childcare center “Free to Be.” In her remarks, she emphasized the impact on student parents and faculty by the University’s lack of childcare options, suggested that the University look at potential ways to fund reinstating the center with a potential partnership through the School of Education.</p>
Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	<p>The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room at the Atlantic City Campus.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Gonsalves, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.</p>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on February 26, 2026