

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

OPEN PUBLIC MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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| Trustees Present *On Zoom | Trustee Nelida Valentin, Chair (Absent) Trustee Jose Lozano, Vice Chair Trustee Michelle Keates, Secretary Trustee Raymond Ciccone* Trustee Collins Days, Sr. Trustee Mady Deininger* Trustee Sonia Gonsalves Trustee Kristi Hanselmann (Absent) Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Timothy Lowry Trustee Stephanie Lutz (Absent) Trustee Mary Maples Trustee Mukesh Roy Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris Trustee Juan Diego Chaparro Villarreal, Student Trustee Trustee Melanie Chin, Student Trustee Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio |
| Call to Order | Vice Chair Lozano called the meeting to order at 11:45 p.m. |
| Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2025 | Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Maples, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025, Board of Trustees Open Public Meeting. |
| Resolution to Meet In Closed Session | Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lutz, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 12:33 p.m. |
| Reconvene the Open Public Meeting | Vice-Chair Lozano reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 3:30 p.m. |
| Special Recognition | Vice-Chair Lozano, accompanied by President Bertolino, began the meeting by presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Student Trustee Juan Chaparro for the completion of his term. Juan expressed his gratitude to those who made his time as not only a Student Trustee but as a Stockton student a rewarding and life-changing experience. |
| Chair's Remarks | Vice-Chair Lozano thanked everyone for their attendance at the final Board meeting of the academic year and continued his remarks by once again applauding Juan Chaparro for his passion for service and acknowledged incoming Student Trustee Melanie Chin. Vice-Chair |

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| | <p>Lozano expressed his appreciation to his fellow Trustees, President Bertolino, and the University Senior Leadership for their work and dedication during a challenging academic year. He shared his excitement in Stockton being chosen as a FIFA training site for Brazil's CR Flamengo team, and the upcoming Employee Recognition Ceremony and OSPREY Awards scheduled for the following day. He concluded by mentioning the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled for June 26, 2025, which will center around tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year.</p> |
| President's Report | <p>President Bertolino began his report by thanking the student ambassadors who assisted with the Board meetings throughout the academic year and acknowledged Dr. Terricita Sass and Heather Watkins for their work in organizing the Board meetings throughout the year. He recognized and thanked the Trustees for their dedication and service and the leadership of outgoing Student Trustee, Juan Chaparro.</p> <p>President Bertolino shared that earlier in the day, the Trustees honored President Emeritus, Dr. Harvey Kesselman, on his upcoming retirement. He continued by sharing highlights from the Spring Town Hall by reaffirming Stockton's commitment to academic freedom, inclusive excellence, and access to a quality education. He celebrated the return of the Foundation Scholarship Gala to the Galloway Campus and University Advancement for surpassing their annual fundraising goal by \$700,000.</p> <p>He recognized student athletes, Jordan Niti (Stockton's all-time hits leader in Baseball), Narina Tramp (NJAC's Pitcher of the year in Softball), McKenna George (NJAC Co-Rookie of the Year in Softball) and Jack Vandergrift (Rookie of the Year in the Coastal Lacrosse Conference) for their recent achievements. President Bertolino congratulated the Speech and Hearing Clinic for acquiring a \$50,000 annual grant for the next five years to establish New Jersey's only Speak Out Therapy and Research Center for individuals with Parkinson's Disease. Stockton's University Relations and Marketing team received 9 awards at the 40th Annual Educational Advertising Awards for their work on multiple campaigns, including the "Choose Stockton" recruitment campaign and the "Undercover Osprey" video. Accolades were also given to Don Hudson and the rest of the facilities and operations team as the Park View Residential Complex at the Atlantic City Campus was named a top project by NJBIZ magazine.</p> <p>President Bertolino spoke briefly about the Campuswide Climate Survey that was administered earlier in the semester. The results will be shared with the campus community in the coming months. He represented Stockton at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities "On The Hill" conference in Washington DC, where</p> |

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| | <p>he was the only New Jersey College President in attendance. During the conference, he met with Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, along with Congressman Jeff Van Drew. In the coming weeks, he will attend the NJ Assembly Budget Committee Hearing to continue advocating for state financial support of Higher Education institutions.</p> <p>He applauded Provost Palladino and Dr. Ashlee Roberts for their leadership in the Strategic Planning process, which has shown participation from more than 1000 people (faculty, staff, students, and alumni) through surveys and community forums. This participation has assisted in identifying five key themes for the Strategic Plan. Additional feedback sessions are forthcoming. The President concluded his remarks by speaking about the upcoming commencement ceremonies, announcing the name of the keynote speaker for the undergraduate ceremonies, Stockton Alumnus Dwight McBee, Chief Patient Experience Officer at RWJ Barnabas Health.</p> |
| Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report | <p>Vice Chair Lozano called upon Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves began by sharing some of what Provost Michael Palladino discussed regarding Federal policy updates that may affect grant funding and accreditation for Higher Education Institutions. He is working with the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, the Faculty Union, and General Counsel to monitor these changes and respond accordingly if needed. The Provost continued to speak about Academic Affairs' focus on improving campus culture and student academic success and provided an update on three Dean Searches that are underway.</p> <p>Information was provided about the "Walls and Halls" project. A new initiative to display faculty, staff, student, and alumni art across campus to build pride and camaraderie. New articulation agreements were signed with local community colleges to continue to enhance transfer pathways. A working group has been formed to take a look at the Student orientation process through the Academic Affairs lens to better engage incoming. The Academic Affairs division is also working on a Summer Bridge program, a pilot program to support new undergraduates.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves turned the report over to Provost Palladino, who acknowledged the faculty who received tenure and promotion. He asked them to stand and be recognized.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves closed out her report by mentioning the grant received from the Parkinson's Voice Project for the Speech and Hearing Clinic and the Faculty presentation by Dr. Lauren Seyler. She presented her research on methane seeps and iron bogs along with student Jasper Herbert, who shared his lab experience.</p> |

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| Student Success Committee Report | <p>Committee Vice Chair Trustee Roy began the Student Success report by summarizing the four divisional priorities that Interim Vice President Dr. William Latham outlined in the meeting, along with various tools and strategies that Dr. Latham gleaned from his recent attendance at the First Year Experience Annual conference in New Orleans.</p> <p>One of the things that was highlighted was the addition of 203 new members within fraternity and sorority life during the Spring Semester.</p> <p>Dr. Ana Edmonson highlighted the progression of Osprey Navigate, which included 3700 student check-ins since January. Dr. Steve Radwanski spoke briefly about the proposed 12-year maintenance and furniture plan for University Housing. Ms. Candace Mitchell shared a bit about her recent attendance at the First Year Experience conference in New Orleans, and Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darren Bush, spoke about the 39.7% increase in enrollment deposits for the coming academic year.</p> <p>Trustee Roy ended his report by asking Dr. Ian Bouie, Director of Academic Achievement, to formally recognize the latest recipients of the Board of Trustees Fellowship for Distinguished Students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Leonel – <i>“Women of Color and Leadership in Media”</i>, advisor Toby Rosenthal • Jackson O'Brien – <i>“Jose Limon Dance Company Summer Intensive”</i>, advisor Professor Rain Ross • Guivenchiali Saint. Jean – <i>“The Black Excellence of Atlantic City”</i>, advisor Professor Donnetrice Allison |
| Finance and Professional Services Committee Report | <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 four resolutions to be presented to the Board for approval.</p> <p>Trustee Lowry presented the following resolutions by Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the FY25 budget into FY26: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FY25 budget will remain in place until the FY26 state budget is finalized. • FY26-FY28 Bid Waiver Contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AtlantiCare Physicians Group PA (2-Year waiver, \$1,834,250) - Baker Tilly Advisory Group Parent, LP dba Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP (2-Year waiver, \$226,800) - ProQuest LP dba ProQuest LLC (2-Year Waiver, \$185,000) - EBSCO Industries Inc. (2-Year Waiver, \$570,000) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Center for the Helping Professions (1-Year Waiver, \$196,000) - NJ State Colleges and Universities (NJSCU) Risk Management Program c/o The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) (1-Year Waiver, \$1,000,000) - Montrose Environmental Solutions, Inc. (2-Year Waiver, \$217,700) - Ex Libris (USA) Inc. (2-Year Waiver, \$300,000) • FY26 Increase in Bid Waiver Contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PageUp People Inc. (FY26, additional amount requested \$54,065) • Academic Terms Fees Effective for FY26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are a total of seven changes as compared to last year's fees, including renaming some of the fees, removing outdated ones, and adding a \$100 Nursing Education Resource Fee. <p>The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Days. There was one abstention by Trustee Maples for the FY26-FY28 Bid Waiver Contract resolution.</p> <p>Trustee Lowry concluded his report by sharing that the committee was provided with a FY25 finance update on operational and capital spending through April 30, 2025. He noted that 94% of the operating revenue forecast was realized, and 90% of the operating expense forecast was realized. Capital expenditures to date totaled \$2.6M. He stated that the budget forecast through April 30th reflects significant improvement because of stronger summer tuition and housing revenue and recognition of savings from vacancies and non-salary expenses. The \$9.7M budget shortfall reported in March has been revised to a \$1.3M budget shortfall. During the meeting, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance & CFO, Jennifer Potter, provided an update on the development of the FY26 budget, noting that it is well underway, and lastly, Fitch affirmed the University's "A" rating and stable outlook in their March 14th ratings action.</p> |
| Audit Committee Report | <p>Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee met with the external and internal auditors on April 30, 2025.</p> <p>Baker Tilly, Stockton's outsourced internal audit function, reviewed their current internal audit activities, including reviews of Supplemental Payments and Sponsored Research. Additionally, they shared the status of internal audit follow-up for the recently completed Office of Global Engagement and Financial Systems Access Controls audits.</p> <p>Grant Thornton presented their 2025 annual audit Plan. They reviewed the audit timeline and scope with the committee, significant audit risk areas and other areas of focus, required audit communications, and auditor independence. Additionally, two new FASB pronouncements were reviewed – GASB 101, Compensated</p> |

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| | <p>Absences and GASB 102, Certain Risk Disclosures. Both are effective for Stockton's fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Additionally, Regina Rosenello, the University's Risk Manager, shared an Enterprise Risk Management update on 3 of the University's top risks – Student Success, Government Relations, and Campus Morale.</p> |
| <p>Buildings and Grounds Committee Report</p> | <p>Committee Chair Trustee Lozano opened his committee report by sharing that some of the Trustees had the opportunity to Tour Housing I earlier in the day. He noted the need for renovation and that future investment options for improvements would be presented to the board at a later date.</p> <p>During the committee meeting, Don Hudson provided brief details on the over 20 Summer projects that are underway. The Summer projects fall under either deferred maintenance or general improvements for new and developing parts of the campus. The Library renovation project continues to go well and remains on schedule. A committee consisting of faculty, staff, and students will soon be assembled to engage in design and furniture decisions for the new space. Ongoing evaluation of off-campus properties is being conducted, the results of which will be shared in more detail at a later date.</p> <p>Trustee Lozano concluded his report by noting that a discussion commenced in regard to next year's investment into Capital Projects. The FY26 capital project proposal is currently at \$6.2M, but the institution has committed to not exceeding \$5M to be more fiscally prudent and responsible as the institution navigates challenging financial times.</p> |
| <p>Advancement Committee Report</p> | <p>Committee Chair Trustee Days began his report by sharing that University Advancement has exceeded their fiscal year goals with new gift commitments totaling more than \$4.7M with additional gifts in progress. Several gift signings and announcements are planned over the next several weeks.</p> <p>He congratulated the team involved with the Scholarship Gala and its return to campus for the first time in 20 years. The Stockton Spring 2025 media campaign is gaining momentum; the ads are beautiful and helping people discover Stockton. There have been planes flying Stockton banners from Wildwood to Sandy Hook, and the new "Lake Fred" Instagram Account has already gained 500 followers in two short months.</p> <p>During the committee meeting, the Government Relations Team provided an update on their ongoing work to secure adequate state funding for the next fiscal year, amid cuts to Higher Education funding. Trustee Days acknowledged the work that President Bertolino has been doing. The President has had over 100 meetings with legislators to advocate for funding equity and to champion public Higher Education.</p> |

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| | Trustee Days concluded his report by thanking Laura Leonel, who was recognized earlier in the board meeting as a Board of Trustees Distinguished Student Fellow. Laura shared with the Advancement committee her experience participating in the First Gen leadership conference. |
| Investment Committee Report | <p>Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported that the Investment Committee met on April 29, 2025, with our Investment Advisors to review investment performance through March 31, 2025.</p> <p>The University's total portfolio balance as of March 31st was \$123,282,939. For the nine months ending March 31st, the University had a gain on investments of \$4,397,794. Wells Fargo's return for the nine months was 4.07% and Windmark's return was 3.57%.</p> <p>Trustee Keates concluded her report by sharing that both Advisors reported that investment objectives and asset allocations were within the guidelines outlined in the University's Investment Policy Statement. Additionally, during April, there was a loss on investments of \$24,232, bringing the University's total portfolio balance to \$123,263,199. The risk of recession has surfaced due to moderating economic activity but mostly related to the prospective impact tariffs will have on prices, inflation, and export growth. This is a fluid situation that is being closely watched.</p> |
| University Policies | <p>President Bertolino presented the following policies for a second reading and approval by the Board of Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-55 Campus Conduct Code • I-57 Campus Hearing Boards • II-73 Terminal Degree <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Roy the board approved the resolutions.</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 Roy and seconded by Trustee Gonsalves the Board approved the resolution.</p> |
| New Business: | |
| Board Comments and Comments from the Public | <p>Student Representatives of Stockton's Smokefree Ambassadors group provided a short presentation advocating for a clearer and more enforceable smoking policy at the institution. During their presentation, they highlighted student-led efforts funded by the Truth Initiative and NJ Quits. Emphasized the rise in vape and nicotine pouches and called for a more collaborative policy revision and enforcement to reduce academic disruptions and promote wellness. They also shared a short video featuring student testimonials supporting a smoke-free campus.</p> |

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| | <p>Faculty Senate President & Associate Professor of Biology Mike Law congratulated his fellow faculty and staff on their promotions and tenure.</p> <p>Sophomore student Guivenchiali Saint Jean inquired about Stockton's role in addressing the Food insecurity issues in Atlantic City, as the University has a campus in the city. President Bertolino acknowledged the issue and shared that the University is working with local officials to advocate for solutions. Trustee Lozano added that Stockton Alum Cookie Till has also been actively involved in addressing the food insecurity issues in that area.</p> <p>Incoming Student Trustee, Melanie Chin, expressed heartfelt appreciation for outgoing Student Trustee, Juan Chaparro's service and leadership as Student Trustee, highlighting his dedication and impact on the Stockton community.</p> |
| Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting | The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. This meeting will be virtual. |
| Adjournment | Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. |

Approved by the Board of Trustees on July 16, 2025