

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

OPEN PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Trustees Present *On Zoom	Trustee Nelida Valentin, Chair 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 Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Timothy Lowry Trustee Stephanie Lutz Trustee Mary Maples Trustee Mukesh Roy Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris (Absent) Trustee Juan Diego Chaparro Villarreal, Student Trustee Trustee Melanie Chin, Student Trustee Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
Call to Order	Chair Valentin called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.
Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lozano and seconded by Trustee Hanselmann, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024, Board of Trustees Open Public Meeting.
Resolution to Meet in Closed Session	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Maples, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 1:17 p.m.
Reconvene of Open Public Meeting	Trustee Valentin reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 3:38 p.m.
Chair's Remarks	<p>Chair Valentin began the meeting with a warm welcome to everyone present, expressing delight at seeing everyone gathered. Valentin noted the arrival of March and the anticipation of spring, reflecting on the time spent together in the Trustee Room and the last meeting held in December.</p> <p>Chair Valentin then directed attention to the slides being displayed, which introduced the Trustees to the community. She emphasized the importance of recognizing the Trustees, acknowledging their daily work and commitment to Stockton University. Chair Valentin</p>

	<p>encouraged everyone to get to know the Trustees, reinforcing that they are there to serve the community.</p> <p>She concluded her report by mentioning Talon's recent birthday and the institution's 10th anniversary of becoming a University.</p>
President's Report	<p>President Bertolino began his report by thanking the student ambassadors who assisted with the Board meeting and acknowledged Dr. Beverly Vaughn and student performer Destiny Bright for their contributions. He also extended birthday wishes to Trustee Mady Deininger.</p> <p>He remarked that the Spring semester started with significant momentum, highlighted by Stockton's 21st annual MLK Day of service, which saw participation from over 900 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. February's Black History Month was celebrated with various events, including the annual Pan African flag-raising ceremony. For March's Women's History Month, the University has a full slate of programs scheduled, designed to educate, inspire, and celebrate women's contributions throughout history and at Stockton.</p> <p>President Bertolino discussed the recent Hughes Center Event, which focused on the importance of public colleges and universities in New Jersey. The event, held in partnership with the Southern New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, featured key community and higher education leaders, state legislators, and an alumni panel that resonated with the audience.</p> <p>The men's basketball team had another strong season, finishing third in the NJAC tournament and receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Special recognition was given to men's basketball player EJ Matthews-Spartley for reaching the 1,000-point milestone. Track and field standout Kayla Cass set a new record in the 500 meters, contributing to the team's third place in the NJAC tournament.</p> <p>Interim Vice-President Darren Bush was acknowledged for his leadership as Spring enrollment remains steady. The Spring Discover Stockton Day Open House will be held on March 23rd, and Experience Stockton Day for admitted students on April 5th.</p> <p>President Bertolino highlighted our new public awareness campaign, which was launched across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware. The campaign features the tagline "<i>The Only University With a View Like This.</i>"</p> <p>He concluded his report by addressing recent changes in federal policy. He emphasized that Stockton would respond with thoughtful, measured action, ensuring compliance while focusing on providing a world-class education and upholding academic freedom. A campus-</p>

	<p>wide Town Hall meeting is scheduled for March 6th to discuss these issues further. The President reminded everyone of Stockton's ethic of care, which calls for treating people with dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, and civility. And reminded everyone to stay united and focused on the institution's shared vision.</p>
<p>Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report</p>	<p>Chair Valentin called upon Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves began by stating that the committee meeting began with a review of two resolutions being presented to the Board for approval.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves presented the following resolutions by Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate in Public Policy • Honorary Degree Conferral, Andrew (Tim) Kiniry <p>The board unanimously approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Kennedy</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves continued by sharing that Provost Palladino updated the committee on initiatives to enhance campus culture. Senior Leadership has engaged with student groups, faculty, and staff to explore ways to support students and foster inclusivity. The Provost's Office hosted a breakfast with new full-time faculty to discuss improvements in faculty orientation and development programs.</p> <p>Progress on strategic priorities for academic and student success included the recent approval of the change from a BA to a BS in Criminal Justice, ongoing Dean searches, and the use of the Gray Decision Intelligence project for academic program review and new program development.</p> <p>Faculty Senate President, Mike Law, also spoke about the history, status, and challenges of aligning the course attributes with graduation requirements. He also shared findings from the Faculty Senate Task Force focusing on assessment of the attributes.</p> <p>The Provost highlighted the success of the Winter/J-Term Pilot. The first session enrolled more than 200 juniors and seniors, with 93% earning a grade of C or better. Students and Faculty reported a positive experience, and 98% surveyed said they would participate again. Plans are in place for expansion based on student course demand.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves ended her report by recognizing Assistant Professor, Dr. Bobbi Hornbeck and her research on human impact in</p>

	<p>the Alaskan Aleutian Islands which was also shared at the committee meeting.</p>
<p>Student Success Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Hanselmann began her report by sharing that Dr. Latham, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, provided an update on the Division's four main priorities. Osprey Navigate, the Residential Life Strategic Plan, First Year Experience Task Force, and Stockton's Activate and Motivate Pride initiative.</p> <p>Those involved with Osprey Navigate continue to work on the targeted email and outreach campaign, and there is ongoing training for faculty and staff to ensure effective use of the system.</p> <p>Dr. Steve Radwanski, Assistant Vice President for Student Living & Learning, shared additional insight regarding the strategic planning process for residential life. The plan is approaching its completion date of March 31, 2205. The Final recommendations will be shared at a later date, followed by a review and plan for implementation.</p> <p>Dr. Ana Edmondson, Assistant Vice President for Student Transitions, Access and Retention Programs, reported on the progress of the First Year Experience task force, which aims to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and holistic first-year experience for the next academic year. The task force consists of 28 members representing Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and students. The task force has met to share best practices and determine the five subcommittees' plan of action. The timeline and anticipated completion for this task force is Spring 2026.</p> <p>Trustee Hanselmann ended her report by highlighting the Stockton Activate and Motivate Pride program, which started in January 2025. The initiative centralizes and elevates schools' spirit through new and traditional events and programs across the University. The program is overseen by Candance Mitchell, Director of Student Transition Programs.</p> <p>Following the Student Success Committee report. Dr. Terricita Sass, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, presented a Spring Enrollment update on behalf of Interim Vice President for Enrollment, Darren Bush, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Sass expressed that Spring enrollment has held steady, a positive indicator after five years of Spring decline. For the Fall 2025 semester, the University is ahead in freshman, transfer, and graduate deposits by 28%. Reviewing the presentation prepared by Mr. Bush, the following items are part of his plan to prepare for enrollment growth. Assess the current departmental structure to support the University's goals, reengineering financial aid and scholarship awarding, implement yield strategies to position Stockton as a more competitive institution, develop new funnel and enrollment modeling to adapt to post-COVID challenges, and expand K-12 outreach and partnerships with high schools and community colleges.</p>

	<p>Dr. Sass concluded the update by expressing optimism about the future and the strategic changes being implemented to enhance enrollment and student success.</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 three 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"> • FY25-FY30 Bid Waiver Contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EBH 18 LLC dba Hilton East Brunswick (1-Year waiver, \$111,435) - CollegeNet, Inc. (5-Year waiver, \$254,000) • FY25 Increase in Bid Waiver Contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suasion Communication Group (FY25, additional amount requested \$170,000) - Command Company, Inc. (FY25, additional amount requested \$59,000) • Amendment to the FY25 Operating & Capital Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional funding in the amount of \$284,556 for the Library Learning Commons Project - Additional funding in the amount of \$3,143,000 for the Accepted Alternatives - Total additional funding of \$3,427,556 will be withdrawn from the Investment Fund <p>The board unanimously approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Lutz.</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 January 31, 2025. He noted that 82% of the operating revenue forecast was realized and 74% of the operating expense forecast was realized. Capital expenditures to date including encumbrances totaled \$3.1M. He stated that the budget forecast improved as a result of stronger-than-expected spring enrollment and savings from personnel vacancies and non-salary expenses. The \$18.3M shortfall reported at the December meeting has been revised to \$9.7 M. Lastly, Moody's affirmed the University's A3 rating and stable outlook in their February 19th press release and credit opinion report.</p>
<p>Audit Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee has not met since the December Board meeting.</p> <p>Grant Thornton completed the University's FY2024 Financial Statement and Uniform Guidance audits. The statements were issued on December 17, 2024, and included a clean or unmodified audit opinion.</p>

	<p>Baker Tilly continues to make progress on current internal audits related to Supplemental Pay and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025.</p>
<p>Buildings and Grounds Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lozano discussed the updates provided to the committee by Mr. Donald Hudson, Senior Vice President for Facilities and Operations.</p> <p>The committee spent considerable time discussing the Library Learning Commons Project, which has exceeded the original budget. The committee emphasized the importance to modernizing the library to create a “library of the future” that serves as the focal point of the campus. Ultimately, the committee deemed the additional investment necessary to ensure the library remains a valuable resource for students and faculty. The project is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2026.</p> <p>The Housing 1 renovations were also discussed where the committee acknowledged the need for a facelift for the structure which is 53 years old. The University administration has been tasked with working with engineers to explore the best alternatives for investment. The goal is to ensure Housing 1 remains a suitable housing option for students while preserving its historical significance. The committee also discussed the broader strategy for deferred maintenance and residential components across the campus.</p> <p>Trustee Lozano concluded his report by expressing the committee’s commitment to ensuring the library and housing projects meet the needs of the Stockton community.</p>
<p>Advancement Committee Report</p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Days began his report by sharing that University fundraising efforts for the year are on track and already ahead of last year’s totals. Several gift announcements are expected in the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>The committee also spoke about the New Awareness campaign featuring the tagline “<i>The Only University with a View Like This</i>,” and Dr. Zupenda Davis, Assistant Vice President of Student Health and Wellness and student Joshua Matz presented on mental health initiatives funded by the Alton Mental Health Initiative Fund. They highlighted the “I’m Alive Fair” which included interactive activities to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention. Joshua shared his personal experiences and the impact of these initiatives on students. The committee thanked Karen Alton for her generosity in supporting these initiatives.</p> <p>Trustee Days reminded everyone about the upcoming Scholarship Benefit on April 26, 2025. The event will be held on the Galloway Campus. He concluded his report by expressing optimism about the</p>

	future and the positive impact of the fundraising and awareness efforts.
Investment Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported that the Investment Committee met on February 19, 2025 with the University's Investment Advisors to review the investment performance through December 31, 2024.</p> <p>The University's total portfolio balance as of December 31st was \$123,327,528. For the six months ending December 31st, the University had a gain on investments of \$4,445,715. Wells Fargo's return for the six months was 3.69% and Windmark's return was 3.76%.</p> <p>Trustee Keates concluded her report by sharing that both Advisors reported that investment objectives and asset allocations were within the guidelines set forth in the University's Investment Policy Statement. Additionally, during the month of January there was a gain on investments of \$2,926,761 bringing the University's total portfolio balance to \$126,268,103.</p>
University Policies	<p>President Bertolino presented the following policies for a first reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-55 Campus Conduct Code • I-57 Campus Hearing Boards • II-73 Terminal Degree
Personnel Actions Resolution	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following resolutions by Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Actions Resolution • Reclassification Appeals <p>Upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Hanselmann the Board approved the resolutions with two abstentions by Trustee Ciccone and Trustee Keates on the resolution for Reclassification Appeals.</p>
New Business: Mission Moment	<p>President Joe introduced the Mission Moment featuring Student Michaela Spain and Director of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez.</p> <p>Michaela spoke about her internship with the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), where she developed teaching activities, which can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education website, for secondary school teachers using materials collected in the Holocaust Resource Center's Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project. She spoke of the valuable skills that she gained through the internship working alongside the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education's Curriculum team, emphasizing how it prepared her for her future career in education. Michaela thanked Irvin and the entire staff of the HRC, and Dr. Michael Hayes for his passion for Holocaust preservation which inspired her.</p>

	<p>Following Michaela's remarks, Irvin discussed the significance of the Holocaust Resource Center and its mission to educate the community about Holocaust and Genocide prevention. He also highlighted the mentorship and guidance that is provided to students like Michaela Spain, fostering their academic and professional growth and providing a deeper understanding of human resilience and the importance of social responsibility. All goals that align with Stockton's Ethic of care.</p> <p>Chair Valentin thanked Michaela and Irvin for their presentation and extended congratulations to Irvin and his brother, Christian Moreno-Rodriguez, for being one of this year's honorees at the Atlantic County NAACP for the Sheila Oliver Civil Rights and Social Justice Award.</p>
Board Comments and Comments from the Public	There were no comments from the Public. Chair Valentin announced that immediately following the conclusion of the Board meeting, the Finance and Professional Services Committee will host the Annual Tuition Hearing in the Campus Center Event Room.
Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Event Room on the Galloway Campus
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 May 7, 2025