

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

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

<b>Trustees Present (*via Zoom)</b>	Trustee Nelida Valentin, Chair Trustee Raymond Ciccone Trustee Nancy Davis Trustee Collins Days, Sr. Trustee Mady Deininger Trustee Stan Ellis Trustee Sonia Gonsalves Trustee Kristi Hanselmann Trustee Michelle Keates Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Timothy Lowry Trustee Jose Lozano Trustee Stephanie Lutz-Koch Trustee Fotios Tjournakaris Trustee Shalayby Parsons, Student Trustee Trustee Juan Diego Chaparro Villarreal, Student Trustee Alternate Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
<b>Call to Order</b>	Chair Valentin called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.
<b>Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2023</b>	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lozano and seconded by Trustee Deininger, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, Board of Trustees Regular Open Public Meeting.
<b>Approval of Open Public Special Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2023</b>	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Deininger, the Board voted to approve the revised minutes of the October 25 <sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Special Open Public Meetings.
<b>Resolution to Meet in Closed Session</b>	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 1:14 p.m.
<b>Reconvene of Open Public Meeting</b>	Trustee Valentin reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 3:30 p.m.
<b>Chair's Remarks</b>	Trustee Valentin welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressing gratitude to faculty and students for their hard work throughout the year. She acknowledged that the last time they gathered was for the September 20 <sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, reflecting on how time has flown by. Trustee Valentin thanked faculty and students for their dedication, whether it was their first semester or their last at Stockton. She then welcomed special guest, Dr. Pamela Monaco, the President of Ocean County College.

	<p>Trustee Valentin extended wishes for faculty and students to have an opportunity to decompress and enjoy time with family and friends as the year comes to an end.</p> <p>Trustee Valentin proceeded to share the commitments made by the Board of Trustees, emphasizing the importance of ethical behavior, strategic focus, serving as ambassadors, and actively participating in higher education discussions. She highlighted the ongoing efforts to engage in productive dialogue, particularly within committees, and commended the success of the Latino Visitation Day, expressing gratitude to Dr. Heinrich, Heather Medina, and the admissions team for their dedication.</p> <p>In closing, Trustee Valentin reiterated that one of the Board's commitments, as she perceived it, was to actively participate in visitation events and engage with prospective students, showing their dedication to leading by example and fostering a sense of community at Stockton University.</p>
<p><b>President's Report</b></p>	<p>To begin his report, President Joe took a moment to recognize the students who volunteered to provide support for the board meeting. These students include Student Ambassadors and members of the Stockton Music Union. President Joe also conveyed appreciation for the warm welcome and support received at Stockton University during the fall semester. Acknowledging the Board's commitment to productive dialogue, President Joe highlighted the positive impact of ongoing conversations and commitments on the university's strength, particularly during times of change.</p> <p>The report highlighted the university's engagement in various academic activities, events, and recruitment efforts throughout the semester. President Joe commended the community for coming together to address the impact of conflicts in the Middle East, emphasizing the importance of respectful dialogue and community support during challenging times.</p> <p>Special recognition was given to Enrollment Management for successfully organizing the Discover Stockton Day and Latino Visitation Day, which saw impressive attendance numbers. Welcoming 4,000 prospective students and their families on Discover Stockton Day and 1,000 students for Latino Visitation Day. The report also mentioned the success of the 6th Annual Day of Giving, "Osprey's Give 2023", exceeding its goal, engaging more than 1,100 donors which is a 20% increase over the previous year.</p> <p>Noteworthy achievements included new agreements for educational partnerships, a 3+1 pathway program with Atlantic Cape Community College, and a groundbreaking Esports degree pathway program with Camden County College. Efforts to address the teacher shortage were acknowledged, including legislative changes and stipend programs benefiting student teachers.</p>

	<p>President Joe highlighted his participation in the Governor and First Lady Tammy Murphy's economic mission to East Asia, where memoranda of understanding for student exchange programs with Sookmyung Women's University in South Korea were signed, and an agreement establishing student exchange opportunities between the two institutions was signed.</p> <p>The report concluded with an invitation to view the State of the University Address on the website and an announcement of a town hall meeting in February to provide updates on University plans and future initiatives. President Joe thanked everyone for their continued support and engagement, extending holiday wishes to the Board and wishing students success in their finals.</p>
<p><b>Academic Affairs &amp; Planning Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Chair Valentin called upon Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves began her report by summarizing the committee meeting. During that meeting, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Education Claudine Keenan provided insights into Academic Program decision-making and prioritization. Additionally, Dr. Keenan discussed the assessment of the committee's activities and how to prepare for the upcoming strategic phase. Trustee Gonsalves noted the eleven (11) faculty members advancing in ranks, with one tenure instructor becoming an Assistant Professor, two Assistant Professors progressing to Associate, seven Associates moving to full, and one new Distinguished Professor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Peter Straub, Distinguished Professor of Biology and Coastal Zone Management, an invited guest, shared insights into the significance of artificial reefs in marine technology.</li> <li>• Distinguished Professor of Business Law, Dr. Audrey Latourette, presented her research on sex discrimination, challenging Title IX directives, and the First Amendment Rights and the Professorate.</li> <li>• Interim Provost Marissa Levy outlined potential upcoming curricular changes, including two new pathway programs like the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences leading to an MBA or MPH, the transformation of the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice into a Bachelor of Science, and the introduction of a Bachelor of Science in Cannabis Management and a new minor in Archaeology.</li> <li>• New appointments were acknowledged, with Dr. Patricia Suppes joining as the Director of Global Engagement and Senior International Officer, and Amber Gihorski as the Associate Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Additionally, four professors recommended for Emeritus status were recognized.</li> </ul> <p>Trustee Gonsalves concluded the report by expressing excitement about the upcoming spring and looking forward to sharing the impressive work of the Division of Academic Affairs.</p>
<p><b>Student Success Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Davis began her report by sharing appreciation for the committee's enthusiasm and highlighting the</p>

	<p>presence of the student Trustee and three students who shared their Stockton experiences related to career readiness at the meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Davis commended the Student Success Committee for their dedication to student success and noted the significance of the new Student Career offices, praising the available resources for students today.</p> <p>Dr. Chris Catching followed up, providing additional insights, and mentioning leaders who supplied valuable information, including the Director of Career Education and Development, Sofia Abreu, and Dr. Ian Bouie. He expressed excitement about the new Career Success Studio funded by the Secretary of Higher Education and encouraged everyone to stop by the new space.</p> <p>Dr. Ian Bouie, Director of Academic Achievement Programs, was invited to present the Fall 2023 Board of Trustees Fellowship recipients. In presenting these four (4) new students, Dr. Bouie acknowledged the Review Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ashley Ramirez</b>, Junior – <i>“Post Affirmative Action: Analysis of Potential Effects on Minority and Low-Income Students,”</i> Advisor: Michael Rodriguez</li> <li>• <b>Abigail Bell</b>, Senior – <i>“David Dorfman 2024 Emerging Artist Winter Intensive,”</i> Advisor: Rain Ross</li> <li>• <b>Jacob Kirschenmann</b>, Junior – <i>“Looking for Ethically Sourced Critical Metals in Domestic Sources,”</i> Advisor: Matthew Severs</li> <li>• <b>Sheyla Piana</b>, Senior – <i>“Support a Senior Day,”</i> Advisor: Theodore Alter</li> </ul> <p>Applauding the recipients, the report concluded on a positive note.</p>
<p><b>Finance and Professional Services Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Ellis began by presenting two resolutions for Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition and Fees Discount Effective for 2024 Summer Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution proposes a 20% discount of tuition and fees for any undergraduates living on campus during the summer in a 12-month or 3-month contract. In-state and out-of-state per credit charges will go from \$472 down to \$378 and \$695 to \$556, respectively.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• FY24 Managerial Salary Increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution proposes suspending the Managerial Merit Program for assessment by outside experts. In its place, the President seeks approval for salary increases as follows: 3.5% for managers with a salary less than or equal to \$100,000, 2.5% for managers with a salary between \$100,001 and \$150,000, and 1.5% for managers with a salary greater than \$150,000.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Committee recommends the Board's adoption of both resolutions.</p>

**Upon a motion made by Trustee Davis and seconded Trustee Days, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda resolutions.**

Trustee Ellis presented another resolution to the Board:

- FY24 Bid Waiver Contracts
  - Alia Innovations Corporation – 1 year, \$281,415
  - Phenios Creighton Koellhoffer Media (PCK Media) – 1 year, \$300,000

**Upon a motion made by Trustee Lozano and seconded by Trustee Deininger the Board approved the resolution with one abstention by Trustee Lowry.**

Trustee Ellis presented an additional resolution to the Board:

- FY24-FY28 Increase in Bid Waiver Contracts
  - StarRez Inc.– 1 year - \$57,291 increase
  - Modern Campus USA, Inc.– 5 year - \$52,000 increase

**Upon a motion made by Trustee Ciccone and seconded Trustee Davis the Board approved the resolution with one abstention by Trustee Lowry.**

Furthermore, Trustee Ellis relayed the details of the Committee's discussion on the fiscal 2024 operating and capital budget. As of October 31st, 43% of the operating revenue budget and 63% of the operating expense budget were realized, aligning with a 5-year trend. Capital expenditures, including encumbrances, totaled \$4.1 million. Efforts to address a forecasted operating and capital deficit of \$15 million resulted in significant improvement, reducing the forecasted deficit as of October 31st to \$8.4 million.

The Committee also reviewed the University's FY25 State Budget Request which included the following budget priorities:

- \$2.306 million for Atlantic City Campus Phase II
- \$5.15 million for Atlantic City Campus Phase III
- \$9.5 million for the Atlantic City Coastal Resiliency Institute and Marine Science Center
- \$1.5 million for the Student Health Equity and Success Initiative
- \$600,000 for Ospreys RISE

Lastly, Trustee Ellis noted that there were several informational items that the Committee reviewed as follows:

- Two administrative approvals on bid waiver increases \$20,000 and below:
  - Bennett Brothers Mechanical Inc.
  - Reading & Language Arts Centers Inc.
- Four contracts awarded following competitive bidding:
  - Bennett Brothers Mechanical Inc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$450,000 contract over 3 years to provide HVAC services for all University campus locations on an as needed basis.</li> <li>• Bluestone Communications and Kane Communications, LLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500,000 contract over five years, to provide internal and external communication wiring services for all University campus locations on an as needed basis including installation, testing, and ongoing maintenance and repair.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Falasca Mechanical, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$199,150 contract that will provide mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades in Housing 1, E-Court laundry room.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brailsford &amp; Dunlavey, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$300,000 contract to provide a feasibility study regarding the future expansion and programming for a Phase III project in Atlantic City to support the needs of the University, community, and the City of Atlantic City.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Audit Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee met on November 27th and addressed matters related to both external and internal audits.</p> <p>Grant Thornton, the external auditors, provided an update on the FY23 audit. Final financial statements are expected soon, despite delays in receiving postemployment benefit information from the State. The audit report will include a clean or unmodified audit opinion, and no misstatements and no internal control deficiencies were noted. The Division of Administration &amp; Finance received praise for maintaining accurate financial information.</p> <p>Additionally, Trustee Ciccone relayed that the internal auditor, Baker Tilly, reported progress on current internal audits, including the Enterprise Risk Management initiative, which is nearing completion.</p>
<p><b>Buildings and Grounds Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lozano thanked the Finance and Professional Services Committee for granting a bid waiver for the Atlantic City task force. He Co-Chairs the task force with Trustee Ciccone and noted that the task force has a tight timeline to explore opportunities in Lot 21 and consider Phase III developments. The consultancy firm faces significant work, and increased communications are expected in the coming months as they engage stakeholders. Don Hudson, Senior Vice President for Facilities and Operations, was then invited to provide further details.</p> <p>Mr. Hudson noted that the committee meeting addressed ongoing modest projects to enhance services for students and faculty, with significant time spent on planning, especially on the Atlantic City Task Force and the Library and Learning Commons Project.</p>

	<p>Atlantic City Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility consultant engaged for study initiation.</li> <li>• The committee met last week, and intensive research will take place from January to March.</li> <li>• Draft report expected in April, with a final report in June.</li> <li>• Various focus groups planned during the research period.</li> </ul> <p>Library &amp; Learning Commons Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architect retained, and preliminary schematic diagrams submitted.</li> <li>• Committee led by Tom Kinsella, academic professionals involved in multiple groups.</li> <li>• Evolution of the committee over the next six to eight months.</li> <li>• Communication concept starting in January, finalized designs anticipated in May.</li> <li>• Emphasis on a threefold increase in student space for enhanced resources and traditional library experience.</li> <li>• Logistics plan for service relocation during library closure from Summer 2024 to Summer 2026, to be presented in January.</li> <li>• Assurance of uninterrupted services during the relocation.</li> <li>• More detailed communications are expected in January.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advancement Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Days provided an update on the University's Advancement team's initiatives. Trustee Days highlighted ongoing efforts in fundraising, marketing, and alumni engagement, along with preparations for the Foundation Scholarship cycle. New gift commitments amounting to over \$1.2 million were reported, and year-end gift solicitations and campaigns are in progress, with results to be discussed in the next meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Days also mentioned the launch of the <i>"Eye on Stockton"</i> monthly video series featuring President Joe, noting it is a collaboration with the University Relations and Marketing (URM) as part of their communication efforts. This series features the President providing timely updates and recapping exciting events at Stockton. An archive of past episodes is available on the website and the President's social media channels.</p> <p>Trustee Days invited everyone to join the Alumni Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) planning committee for a discussion on the book <i>"Emerging Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds"</i> by Adrienne Maree Brown.</p> <p>After the conclusion of the committee report, Trustee Deininger briefly commented on tomorrow night's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) program, mentioning that one of the leaders of the program is the previous Student Trustee, Ike Ejikeme. She noted that the program will be conducted through Zoom and encouraged attendees to find more information and register on the website.</p>
<p><b>Investment Committee Report</b></p>	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported on the Investment Committee meeting held on November 8th with investment advisors Wells Fargo and Windmark. The University's total portfolio balance was \$104,218,156 as of September 30th, with a loss of \$2,670,955</p>

	<p>for the first fiscal quarter. Negative returns were observed from Wells Fargo (-2.08) and Windmark (-2.65). It was a challenging quarter for both equity and fixed income assets. Market direction was influenced by inflation, interest rates, and monetary policies. The advisors reported that the investment objectives and asset allocation adhered to the guidelines set in the University's investment policy statement.</p> <p>November showed improvement, with the portfolio reaching \$107,541,632. Fiscal year returns for July 1st through November 30th were positive for both advisors: Wells Fargo (1.17%) and Windmark (0.52%).</p> <p>Trustee Keates also mentioned that the Committee conducted an in-depth review of the University's current investment policy and procedure. Trustee Keates concluded the report by stating that an updated investment policy statement is scheduled to be presented to the full board at the February Board Meeting.</p>
<p><b>University Policies</b></p>	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following policies as informational items for a first reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VI-57.5 Post Issuance Tax Exempt Bond Compliance</li> <li>• VI-100 Protection of Minors Policy</li> </ul> <p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following policies for second reading and Board approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-6 Accreditation</li> <li>• VI-91 Identity Theft Prevention Program</li> </ul> <p><b>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board unanimously approved the revised policies.</b></p> <p>President Bertolino presented the Board with an additional policy for second reading and Board approval after the first reading occurred at the October 25th special board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-9 Board of Trustees By-laws</li> </ul> <p><b>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Tjoumarkaris, the Board approved the revised policy by a vote of 11-4 in favor of the Resolution. Trustee Davis, Trustee Keates, Trustee Ciccone, and Trustee Ellis opposed.</b></p>
<p><b>Personnel Actions Resolution</b></p>	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the Personnel Actions Resolution.</p> <p><b>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board unanimously adopted the Personnel Actions Resolution.</b></p> <p><b>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lozano and seconded by Trustee Days the Board ratified and approved the payment, reconciliation and classification of moving expenses for</b></p>



	<p><b>Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, Dr. Terricita Sass. Trustee Ciccone abstained from the vote.</b></p>
<p><b>Board Comments and Comments from the Public</b></p>	<p>Interim Provost and Dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Marissa Levy, highlighted the achievements of faculty members, particularly those who were promoted and those who will become emeriti upon retirement.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Deanna Button: Proud of balancing a successful career while starting a family.</li> <li>• Dr. Jordan Corson: Published and released the book "Reconceptualizing Education for Newcomer Youth" this fall.</li> <li>• Dr. Anthony Dissen: Recognized nationally for advocating for LGBTQ+ competency in nutrition and allied health.</li> <li>• Dr. Michael Hayes: Directed the Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project under the auspices of the Sarah and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.</li> <li>• Dr. Nazia Kazi: Proud of the success of "Islamophobia Race and Global Politics" in both classes and public facing settings.</li> <li>• Dr. Michelle McDonald: Key figure behind the Engleberg Leadership Scholarship Program and Stockton's Atlantic City based education opportunity fund (EOFAC), and contributor to Stockton's Transfer Pathways Program.</li> <li>• Dr. Katherine Panagakos: Proud of the positive impact on students' education and lives.</li> <li>• Dr. Kerri Sowers: Proudest moment is seeing her students become the next generation of compassionate and competent healthcare professionals.</li> <li>• Dr. Peter Straub: Developed and launched the graduate PSM Program in Coastal Zone Management with colleagues.</li> <li>• Dr. Helen Way: Established eight technology training workshops for senior citizens in the South New Jersey community.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Levy also recognized four Emeriti Faculty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Dave Burdick: Nurtured Stockton's founding principles of interdisciplinary and engaged learning.</li> <li>• Dr. Amy Hadley: Developed and led the Master of Science and Communication Disorders program.</li> <li>• Dr. Lois Spitzer: Prepared students for careers in teaching and working.</li> <li>• Dr. Weihong Fan: Developed the GIS certification program in 2002.</li> </ul> <p>Trustee Davis then thanked and congratulated the faculty for their hard work and expressed pride in how they represent Stockton.</p> <p>Finally, the President acknowledged and congratulated Peter Baratta, Chief Officer, for Strategic Planning and Effectiveness, for defending his dissertation, and acknowledged the production services team for their work throughout the semester.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, returning to the public comments after the Mission Moment, Christine Tartaro, Chair of the MACJ Program and Professor of Criminal Justice at Stockton, shared that Academic Program chairs, including herself, were tasked with budget cuts to allocate funds back to the university due to financial constraints. Despite challenges, her program and another found \$1,000 to contribute. However, Christine expressed frustration over the decision to use this money for the moving expenses of a highly-paid individual, highlighting a perceived lack of sensitivity to faculty and lower-level staff concerns. She urged thoughtful consideration of such decisions, emphasizing their impact on those with lower incomes.</p>
<p><b>New Business: Mission Moment</b></p>	<p>President Joe introduced the meeting’s Mission Moment, which centered around the importance of enrolling and graduating transfer students to fulfill the mission of developing engaged and effective citizens. Kevin Kusion, a Stockton alumnus who transferred from Ocean County College and is now working at Google, was introduced. Dr. Pamela Monaco, President of Ocean County College, was also welcomed. The focus was on the impact of their work in providing education and experiences for the success of transfer students and the betterment of the community.</p> <p>Kevin, a 2016 Stockton graduate and former Ocean County College transfer student, shared his journey. He highlighted his unique entry into Stockton by starting as a student worker at the Help Desk, initially motivated by a Wi-Fi complaint. Kevin gained valuable experience in critical thinking while working with mentors Pete Gallagher and Scott Huston. This experience proved instrumental when he transitioned to Google, where he navigated challenges using the Stockton experience that he obtained. Despite Google being an excellent workplace, Kevin expressed that his time at Stockton was among the most fulfilling working years of his life.</p> <p>Following Kevin Kusion, Dr. Pamela Monaco, President of Ocean County College (OCC), congratulated Kevin for his educational journey from OCC to Stockton and then to Google. She expressed gratitude to President Bertolino and EVP Sass for inviting her to the Mission Moment.</p> <p>Dr. Monaco emphasized the strong OCC-Stockton partnership, highlighting key transfer programs like the transfer pathway and reverse transfer programs. In FY 2020, over 200 students transferred from OCC to Stockton, with approximately one in four OCC students consistently choosing Stockton.</p> <p>Dr. Monaco outlined popular transfer programs and efforts to enhance articulations through 3+1 and 3+2 degree options. Enrico DeRooy was praised for facilitating smooth transfers, and Dr. Monaco thanked Stockton's faculty and staff for their support, ensuring the success of transfer students at Stockton. The overall sentiment was one of gratitude for the thriving partnership.</p>

<b>Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting</b>	The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. at the Galloway Campus in the Campus Center Event Room.
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p><b>Trustee Valentin thanked everyone for their attendance.</b></p> <p><b>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Davis, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.</b></p>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on February 21, 2024