NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of May 15, 2025

The six hundred eighty-fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2025 in the College Center Building Room 252-253. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 6:21 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Donna M. Tuman, Vice Chair
Elliot S. Conway, Secretary Pro Tem;
Lynne D'Agostino, John A. DeGrace
Kathy Weiss, Jordon Groom, Student Trustee.

Absent: John R. Durso, Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

Chair Gardyn requested a motion that pursuant to Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees shall enter Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Trustee Conway moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Donna M. Tuman, Vice Chair
Elliot S. Conway, Secretary Pro Tem;
Lynne D'Agostino, John A. DeGrace
Kathy Weiss, Jordon Groom, Student Trustee.

Absent: John R. Durso, Wanda H. Jackson George Siberón

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2025. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Conway. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Trustee DeGrace introduced the following resolution as amended at committee meeting:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with ABS Pump Repair, Inc. in the annual amount of $225,000, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP for Facilities Management.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with Nassau Auto Spring Co., Inc. in the annual amount of $190,000, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee DeGrace. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Trustee D'Agostino introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with Hi-Tech Air Conditioning Service, Inc. in the annual amount of $500,000, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Conway moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Groom. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Trustee Groom introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with On-Call Engineering Services in the anticipated amount of Not-to-Exceed $6,000,000, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Trustee Conway introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves the pending college procurement agreement with On-Call Architecture and Engineering Services in the anticipated amount of Not-to-Exceed $6,000,000, as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee DeGrace moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Trustee DeGrace introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves an operating budget for the fiscal year commencing September 1, 2025 in the amount of $184,371,748, and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees recommends the adoption of the College operating budget by the Nassau County Legislature and the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Conway moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0.

8. Trustee Weiss introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Finance and Capital Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby establishes a Tuition and Fees schedule to be effective for the academic year 2025/2026 wherein there shall be an annual increase of $190 in full-time tuition and $8 in part-time tuition, as well as increases to assorted fees, commencing with the Fall 2025 semester, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Tuition and Fees schedule be forwarded to the State University of New York for approval.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Trustee Tuman introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby approves pursuant to the terms of the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement, and upon the recommendation of the Sabbatical Committee and the College administration, the following named faculty members are granted sabbatical leave as indicated during the 2025/2026 academic year to pursue appropriate educational or professional activities to enhance their professional competence and/or service to the College.

One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Fall 2025

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Christine Faraday	Library	Professor	1/2009	None
Joseph Pilaro	English	Associate Professor	1/2011	Fall 2018
Francesco Pupa	Art	Professor	9/2008	None
Elisa Salvi	Accounting/Business Administration	Professor	9/2007	None
Jolie Zangari	Accounting/Business Administration	Assistant Professor	9/2019	None

One Half-Year Sabbaticals – Spring 2026

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Robert Costello	Accounting/Business Administration	Professor	9/1999	Fall 2009
Amanda Favia	Art	Associate Professor	9/2013	None
Darshna Katwala	English	Professor	8/2005	None
Paul Rosa	English	Professor	9/2001	Fall 2014
Cara Tuzzolino-Werben	English	Technical Assistant	9/2010	None

Full-Year Sabbaticals – 2025/2026

Name	Dept.	Rank	Appt. Date	Previous Sabbatical
Jeanne Golan	Art	Professor	9/1997	2003-04 2010-11 2017-18
Kristin LeVeness	English	Professor	9/2001	2017-18
Carolyn Monastra	Art	Professor	2005	2011-12 2018-19

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee D'Agostino moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

10. Trustee D'Agostino introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees Personnel, Affirmative Action & Labor Committee, the Nassau Community College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and approves a onetime honorarium of $5000 to Professor Ricardo Santos as the recipient of the SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee Weiss moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Gardyn made a motion under Article VIII section C(6) of the Rules of Procedure to allow for the consideration of an (2)two items that did not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Tuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

11. First Reading Policy 4400 Microcredential

Trustee Tuman stated the purpose of Policy 4400 is to define Nassau Community College's practice with respect to both credit-bearing and non-credit bearing microcredential programs. Dr. Conzatti certified that she reviewed Policy 4400 and it has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

12. First Reading Policy 4500 Credit for Prior Learning

Trustee Tuman stated the purpose of Policy 4500 is to define Nassau Community College's practice with respect to awarding academic credit for validated learning experience(s) that were not obtained from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, when a student's knowledge and skill are determined to be equivalent to college-level learning. Dr. Conzatti certified that she reviewed Policy 4500 and it has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board.

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

- The annual Job Fair was held on Thursday, May 1st with 108 employers and 461 students and alumni participating, with faculty soliciting internships and helping students navigate discussions for potential job opportunities. Thank you to all involved.
- Approximately 250 high school students and teachers from eight local high schools, including Babylon,

Baldwin, East Meadow, Uniondale, Valley Stream, and BOCES Barry Tech, attended our annual Fashion Show on Friday, May 2nd showcasing the talents of our students and the commitment of our faculty to their success. Faculty who teach Marketing, Retailing, Interior Design and Fashion Design courses conducted tours of their classrooms and labs, as well as the Student Services area for the visiting students. Lunch was provided by the SGA. A second evening show welcomed the parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives, and friends of the student designers. Thank you to Professor Pat Lupino who once again promoted and recruited the college positively that will attract enrollments. The best of luck to Professor Lupino in her retirement this August after 24 years at NCC.

- A total of 234 scholarship opportunities for a total of over $300, were awarded to 203 student recipients at the Presidential Awards Ceremony which took place on May 8th. Thank you to all the chairs, faculty, administrators, donors, and staff who attended to help support the event.
- The Committee on Accreditation (COA) of the American Board of Funeral Service Education informed the college that the response to "Show Cause" was accepted and that the program is returned to good standing and reaccredited for a three (3) year period effective April 9, 2025.
- Congratulations to our student John Jarvis for being selected from Nassau Community College as the recipient of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
- Congratulations to Dr. Anna Feuerbach for having her peer reviewed paper, An Easy Framework to Organize Complex Data published in Anthropology: A Humanistic Science.
- Congratulations to the Respiratory Care program which has again received the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award. The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care views the RRT credential as a measure of the program's success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations.
- Congratulations to Dr. Ricardo Santos a professor of English for being chosen a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor
- Men's Lacrosse secured the 2025 North Atlantic District Championship. Nassau Men's Lacrosse is the winningest program in NJCAA lacrosse history with 23 NJCAA National Championships.
- Sophomore Joseph Mattei, Accounting & Business major, was awarded the SUNY Winter Wrestling Scholar Athlete of the Year.
- The men's wrestling team finished tied for 3rd at the NJCAA National.
- Outdoor Track & Field Team had 9 student-athletes met the national qualifications standards and competed in the NJCAA National Championship Meet, May 7-10th in Utica, NY.
    - Sophomore Gianna Russo-Sanchez, Fashion Design, Accounting & Business major, competed in 3 events including the 100m, 200m and 400m runs.
    - Freshman Daniel Blae-Prince, Liberal Arts major, competed in the 200m and 400m and anchored the team's 4x400 relay.
    - Freshman Gary Leschinski, Liberal Arts major, competed in the 100m, 400m, and javelin.
- Student-athlete, Kirina Azemar, Marketing, Accounting & Business major, was named to the Region XV All-Region First Team and the 2025 Region XV All-Tournament Team and finished the season as the leading scorer in the country for Division III.

- The men's volleyball team earned the Region XV Championship title and heads to the NJCAA National Championship Tournament ranked #2 in the country. The team also had major overall All-Region award winners named for the 2025 season including:
    - Freshman Suhaib Amir, Region Player of the Year, let the country in several statistics
    - Sophomores Dom Cieleski & Hunter Dunn, Region Co-Setters of the Year
    - Head Coach, Nicholas O'Malley, Region Coach of the Year
- A reminder for those scheduled to attend that commencement. The 65th annual Commencement exercise is on Wednesday, May 21st at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Faculty and Staff Arrival: 6 p.m. through gate 5, Academic Procession Begins 7 p.m. and bring your NCC ID.

Speakers

Carolyn Monastra, Professor of Art, spoke of her anxiety from the delay in not hearing if her sabbatical would be approved and from the planned shortening of classes from 5 to 4.5 contact hours for studio Art courses.

Hyojeong Kim, Adjunct Korean Professor, spoke of her concerns on the decision to offer Korean 101 every other semester based on previous year's low enrollment as the justification, which she disagrees is not the case.

Mary Lannon, Professor of English and chair of Women Gender Studies, spoke on behalf of her colleagues whose promotions have been delayed, and of her concern that women and gender studies classes are only offered online and not in person.

Silvia Albanese, Professor of Art, spoke of her concerns on the need to replace faculty lines due to retirements since there are only three professors who teach foreign languages.

Grant Peterson, Student, advocated to start an Honors program instead of just assigning Honors courses.

Suzanne Kaebnick, Professor of English & NCCFT Secretary, spoke of her concerns with the cutting of academic programs, classes in biology, and nursing and full-time faculty lines.

Jason Gorman, Professor of Art, spoke of his concern with Policy 4300 Credit Contact relating to compliance issues and the UX-UI Design Degree Program that was tabled 1-1/2 years ago.

Cara Tuzzolino Werben, TA in Writing Center, explained that the purpose of her sabbatical is to assist the ESL students, especially the beginning learners who struggle the most, with targeted resources like the short videos embedded into the writing center of Bright Space.

Art Friedman, Professor of Library and Chair of the Academic Senate Distinguished Professor Committee, stated that he is pleased the Board recognized Professor Ricardo Santos, recipient of the prestigious SUNY Distinguished Professor Teaching Award, and hopes the College publicizes this achievement.

David Stern, NCCFT Acting President, spoke of his concerns on not approving promotions and tenure, which violates the contract, reduced faculty lines, the budget, Policy 4300, and hiring unnecessary administrators.

Adam Alssaidi, NCC Student, Vice President of both the MAC (Math and Computing) and ACM (Association of Computing of Machinery) clubs, spoke on behalf of his peers regarding the reduction in hours in the Academic Learning Centers, which impacts students' academic experiences.

Trustee Tuman thanked Student Trustee Jordon Groom for his service to NCC.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Board of Trustees' Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. It is anticipated the Board will open the public session between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee DeGrace moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Weiss. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John DeGrace
Secretary Pro Tem