NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Garden City, New York

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MINUTES

Meeting of May 12, 2026

The six hundred ninety-fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 in the College Center Building Room 252-253 and via video-conferencing. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gardyn at 5:45 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Donna M. Tuman, Vice Chair
John R. Durso, Secretary Pro Temp;
Elliot S. Conway, Lynne D'Agostino, John A. DeGrace, via video-conferencing,
Paul A. Pereira, Joshua Hammer, Student Trustee.

Absent: Wanda H. Jackson, George Siberón

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

1. Report of Academic Senate Chair, Edward Boyden:

First, on behalf of the Senate, Chair Boyden welcomed Trustee Pereira to the College, and thanked Student Trustee Josh Hammer for his service and commitment.

At its March and April meetings, the Senate approved dual enrollment agreements with Barry Technical High School and EPIC South High School; the deactivation of the English, Creative Writing, and Paralegal Studies degree programs and the Paralegal Certificate program; three additional courses to fulfill the SUNY Civic Discourse requirement; the Fall 2027–Summer 2028 academic calendars; and a resolution amending the placement testing extension policy.

The Senate finalized appointments to the Institutional Planning Committee. Once Dr. Conzatti and Dr. Alvarez-Ortiz determine the next steps for that committee, meetings will begin.

The Senate is nearly finished developing a list of appointees for a new Artificial Intelligence Working Group. This effort is in response to a SUNY mandate requiring all SUNY campuses to establish some form of AI policy.

Additionally, Dr. Alvarez-Ortiz forwarded an email from SUNY regarding the possible reactivation and rethinking of transfer pathways. These pathways are intended to help facilitate students' transfer from our liberal arts degree programs into bachelor's degree programs at four-year institutions. The Senate will be working on appointing faculty members to the transfer pathway working groups.

He also expressed appreciation to Dean Glynis Pereyra for her presentation to the curriculum committee on the SUNY Academic Momentum Initiative and noted that additional presentations are expected next year.

He acknowledged the passing of former President Sean Fanelli, and expressed condolences to his family.

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 purposes: 1) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the NCCFT; 2) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the Department Chairs; 3) to discuss matters relating to negotiations involving the AFA; 4) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation; and 5) to review the medical, financial, credit or

DRAFT

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 Durso moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Tuman. Motion carried 8-0.

Chair Gardyn resumed the open meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Present: Jorge L. Gardyn, Chair
Donna M. Tuman, Vice Chair
John R. Durso, Secretary Pro Temp;
Elliot S. Conway, Lynne D'Agostino,
John A. DeGrace, via video-conferencing, Joshua Hammer, Student Trustee.

Absent: Wanda H. Jackson, Paul A. Pereira, George Siberón

Also in attendance: CAO Conzatti

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026. Trustee Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Trustee Durso 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 Clifton Larson Allen LLP, in the anticipated annual amount of $125,000 as requested by Alexandra Cruz, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

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

4. Trustee Gardyn 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 Total Environmental Restoration Solutions, Inc. d/b/a TERS, All Island Cleaning Corp., and Belfor Long Island, LLC with an anticipated contract amount Not-to-exceed $1,500,000 each, 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 D'Agostino. Motion carried 7-0.

5. 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 an annual expenditure in the amount of $250,000 under the pricing agreement with Saracino Construction Corp., as requested by Phillip Cappello, AVP Facilities Management.

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

DRAFT

6. Trustee Hammer 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 annual expenditure in the amount of $250,000 under the pricing agreement with MT Group, LLC, 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 Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

7. 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 an operating budget for the fiscal year commencing September 1, 2026 in the amount of $185,730,691, 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 Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

8. 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 establishes a Tuition and Fees schedule to be effective for the academic year 2026/2027 wherein there shall be no increase in full time and per credit part-time tuition, wherein the per credit technology fee for 6.5 - 11.99 credits shall be increased to $100, wherein the technology fee for full time students shall increase to $175, and wherein a non-refundable enrollment deposit shall be charged to new incoming and transfer first-time students in the amount of $100, 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 Conway. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Hammer).

9. Trustee Hammer 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 that pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers, and upon the recommendation of the college-wide promotion and tenure committee and the college administration, the faculty members named herein are hereby granted promotion and/or tenure at Nassau Community College effective September 1, 2026.

Tenure

Name	**Department**
Deborah McCallion	Allied Health Sciences

DRAFT

Promotion to Administrative Assistant II

Name	Department
Fernanda Marmo-McCauley	Academic Advisement
Jainey Thomas	Academic Advisement

Promotion to Technical Assistant II

Name	Department
Frances Calleo	Student Personnel Services
Cara Tuzzolino	English
Mary Woodrufff	Student Personnel Services

Promotion to Technical Assistant III

Name	Department
Daniel Perrotto	Allied Health Sciences

Promotion to Administrative Assistant IV

Name	Department
Mark Campbell	Financial Aid
Andrea Warmbrand	Financial Aid

Chair Gardyn requested a motion to consider this item. Trustee D'Agostino moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Hammer. 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 (6)six items that did not appear on the Calendar. Trustee Tuman seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

10. First Reading of the Amendment to Policy 6800 Procurement

Trustee Tuman reported that the purpose of the amendment lays out the process for the College's acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost, and sets out the steps to be followed to ensure that the College's procurement process guards against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.

Trustee Tuman asked if there were any comments, hearing none, Dr. Conzatti certified that Policy 6800 has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board. Therefore, Trustee Tuman recommended Policy 6800 to the Full Board of Trustees for a second reading and adoption at its next scheduled Board meeting. Approved 7-0.

11. First Reading of the Amendment to Policy 6200: Travel

Trustee Tuman reported that the purpose of the amendment of Policy 6200 recognizes the need for travel for the purpose of continuing professional education, representing the College at certain functions and to conduct general college business away from the Campus. Such travel expenditures are specifically included in Section 602.4(d) of the New York State Code of Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Community

DRAFT

Colleges (NYCRR) as allowable operating expenses. This policy governs the payment of the reimbursement for authorized College business-related travel expenses incurred by travelers. This policy also ensures that College resources are used in a fiscally prudent manner.

Trustee Tuman asked if there were any comments, hearing none, Dr. Conzatti certified that Policy 6200 has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board. Therefore, Trustee Tuman recommended Policy 6200 to the Full Board of Trustees for a second reading and adoption at its next scheduled Board meeting. Approved 7-0.

12. First Reading of the Amendment to Policy 7200: Visitors to the College

The purpose of the amendment welcomes and encourages members of the community and other interested persons to visit the College. However, because the College is a place of work and learning, certain limits must be set for such visits.

Trustee Tuman asked if there were any comments, hearing none, Dr. Conzatti certified that Policy 7200 has been submitted for consultation to the appropriate constituencies within the College prior to submission to the Board. Therefore, Trustee Tuman recommended Policy 7200 to the Full Board of Trustees for a second reading and adoption at its next scheduled Board meeting. Approved 7-0.

13. Trustee Tuman introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The College operates within the system of the State University of New York ("SUNY"), and the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the College is vested with authority pursuant to New York Education Law § 6306 to establish academic programs and degree requirements, subject to SUNY academic policy and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, SUNY's current policy framework, including **Policy and Guidance: State University of New York General Education, Memorandum to Presidents, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Jan. 7, 2025)**, provides that:

- students must be able to complete SUNY General Education requirements **within the first 60 credits** of undergraduate study; and
- SUNY degree framework tables identify **Associate in Arts (A.A.) (60)** and **Associate in Science (A.S.) (60)** as the standard degree structures; and

WHEREAS, prior SUNY guidance, including the **Seamless Transfer Requirements (Memorandum to Presidents, Vol. 13, No. 3)**, establishes that the first two years of undergraduate study correspond to **60 credits**, and guarantees transfer with junior standing upon completion of A.A. and A.S. degrees; and

WHEREAS, guidance of the New York State Education Department ("NYSED") likewise establishes that the **minimum total credits for Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees is 60**, thereby reflecting a longstanding statewide baseline for associate degree structure; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, although SUNY has not promulgated a formal regulation mandating a universal 60-credit cap for two-year associates degree programs, SUNY policy, transfer guarantees, and systemwide academic expectations collectively establish **60 credits as the operative standard for associate degree completion**; and

DRAFT

WHEREAS, institutional data and analysis conducted by the College demonstrate that **excess credit requirements above 60 credits constitute a material structural barrier to timely graduation**, contributing to:

- reduced two-year and three-year graduation rates;
- diminished fall-to-fall retention;
- delayed completion of Gateway coursework;
- increased student cost and debt burden; and
- loss of academic momentum, particularly among Pell-eligible and first-generation students; and

WHEREAS, the College has undertaken comprehensive, data-driven initiatives aligned with SUNY's **Academic Momentum Campaign**, including:

- promoting completion of 30 credits in the first year;
- embedding Gateway English and Mathematics in the first year;
- reducing excess program credits;
- strengthening academic advising and structured pathways; and
- implementing as required by SUNY first-year engagement strategies, including NCC 101; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that alignment of associate degree programs to a **60-credit maximum**:

- promotes timely degree completion;
- ensures consistency with SUNY transfer expectations and junior standing guarantees;
- enhances clarity and transparency of academic pathways;
- reduces unnecessary accumulation of non-transferable credits; and
- advances equity and student success outcomes consistent with accreditation expectations, including but limited to, **Middle States Standards III and VII**; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and affirms the essential role of shared governance, including the Academic Senate and the College-Wide Curriculum Committee ("CWCC"), in reviewing and recommending curricular matters, while also reaffirming that **final authority over degree requirements resides with the Board**; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that peer SUNY community colleges have substantially aligned liberal arts degree programs and discrete degree programs at or near **60 credits**, and that Nassau Community College's current 64-credit or more structure exceeds prevailing system norms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. **Establishment of 60-Credit Maximum**

Effective beginning with the **Fall 2026 semester**, all liberal arts associate degree programs offered by the College shall require **no more than sixty (60) total credit hours** for degree completion.

Effective beginning with the **Fall 2027 semester**, all discrete degree programs offered by the College shall **require no more than sixty (60) total credit hours** for degree completion.

DRAFT

2. Programs Covered

This resolution applies to all programs leading to:

- Associate in Arts (A.A.) degrees; and
- Associate in Science (A.S.) degrees designated as liberal arts or transfer-oriented programs,

including all concentrations, options, and program variants.

3. Limited Exceptions

No program subject to this resolution shall exceed sixty (60) credits unless it is both:

- required to do so by external accreditation, licensure, or professional standards; and
- approved by the Board upon written recommendation of the President, setting forth specific justification.

All exceptions shall be narrowly construed and periodically reviewed.

4. Implementation and Governance Process

(a) The Vice President of Academic Affairs shall direct all academic departments, that have not already been directed to do so, to review and revise curricula to comply with this resolution.

(b) Proposed revisions shall be submitted through established shared governance processes.

(c) Such review shall be consultative and recommendatory in nature and shall not delay timely implementation of this Board policy.

5. Transition and Student Protection

The President shall establish a transition plan that:

- protects currently enrolled students from adverse impact; and
- permits students to graduate under existing or revised requirements, as appropriate.

6. Alignment with Student Success Initiatives

Implementation of the 60-credit maximum shall be coordinated with:

- NCC 101 first-year experience requirements;
- Guided Pathways framework;
- Gateway course sequencing reforms; and
- Academic advising and degree audit modernization efforts,

to ensure a coherent, institution-wide strategy for student success and completion.

7. Reporting Requirement

The President shall report to the Board within **six (6) months and annually thereafter** regarding:

- program compliance status;
- any requested exceptions;
- measurable impacts on retention, credit accumulation, and graduation rates; and
- continued alignment with SUNY policy and accreditation standards.

DRAFT

8. Statement of Policy Rationale

The Board expressly finds that this resolution is:

- grounded in longstanding SUNY and NYSED credit frameworks;
- supported by institutional data demonstrating barriers created by excess credits;
- consistent with SUNY Academic Momentum objectives; and
- necessary to promote timely graduation, reduce student cost, and improve institutional effectiveness.

9. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, with full implementation as set forth herein. The reference herein to "President" shall include "Chief Administrative Officer".

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

14. Trustee Gardyn introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College herewith authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to negotiate and execute an amendment to the employment agreement between the College and Dr. Maria P. Conzatti, which the Board having previously reviewed the contents of said agreement.

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

15. Trustee Durso introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College, in consultation with members of the Board of Trustees and also in consultation with College Counsel and with Outside Counsel to the College, is herewith authorized to take any and all actions including but not limited to the commencement of an action or proceeding at law in the event of the adoption by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York of the proposed March 10, 2026 amendments to regulations related to the temporary leadership at SUNY community colleges.

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

Dr. Conzatti reported on the following items:

- The annual Job Fair was held on Thursday, April 23rd, from 930a-1230p in CCB. There were 87 employers and 451 students and alumni participating, with faculty soliciting internships and helping students navigate discussions for potential job opportunities. Thank you to all involved.
- More than 200 high school students and teachers from local high schools attended annual Fashion Show on Friday, May 1st, showcasing the talents of our students and the commitment of our faculty to their success. The Business and Professional Studies department 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 Chairperson Lynn Bergin, who once

DRAFT

again promoted and recruited for the college positively. Also, Professors. Stephanie Buto and Julie de la Lastra for all their work in making both shows so successful.

- Congratulations to ASAP, specifically Kerri Nelson and Amanda Fox, on meeting SUNY's student engagement benchmark of 85% or more. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, as well as to the commitment and strong engagement of our students.
- Congratulations to the NCC Foundation on another successful gala. With over 200 guests, raising tens of thousands of dollars for scholarship funding.

Athletics

Wrestling

John De La Rosa, was named the SUNY Scholar Athlete award winner. He is a freshman majoring in Liberal Arts Multidisciplinary Studies with an overall GPA of a 3.75. One of the top men's wrestlers in the country in his weight class, John finished 7th nationally against a combined field of DI and DIII athletes and helped lead the Nassau team to 5th in the country in the non-scholarship division.

Track & Field

- Team finished 12th in the country
- Freshmen, Jeremaiyh Burch won the National Championship in 800m with a time of 1:56.66 and was named the NJCAA Coaches Association Northeast Track Athlete of the Year and earned All American honors.
- Mark Roberts, Jayden Ashley, Cahill Louis (4 x 400 relay) earned Second Team All American honors.
- Top 8 in the country finishes: Mark Roberts (4th, 400m hurdles), Ahmad Crosby, Jaidyn Lacey, Mark Roberts, Shamir Lisbon (6th, 4 x100 relay), Shamir Lisbon (7th long jump)

Men's Volleyball

- Team finished 4th in the country
- Thomas Wilderman, earned First Team All American honors
- Dominick Cieleski, earned Third Team All American honors

Men's Lacrosse

- Finished 3rd in the country

A reminder for those scheduled to attend commencement. The 66th annual Commencement exercise is on Wednesday, May 20th at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Please note the following:

Faculty and Staff Arrival: 6 p.m. through gate 5
Academic Procession Begins 7 p.m.
Bring your NCC ID

We're proud to announce that Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger—best known as the inspiration behind the iconic film *Rudy* and his enduring legacy with the University of Notre Dame football—will serve as the keynote speaker for its 2026 Commencement Ceremony. His story is one of perseverance, determination, and the power of resilience. That experience closely mirrors the journeys of so many Nassau Community College students.

Sad news

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of President Emeritus Dr. Sean Fanelli. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and the entire Fanelli family.

DRAFT

Speaker

David Stern, President of NCCFT, expressed his deepest sympathies to the family of NCC's past president, Sean Fanelli. He thanked CAO Conzatti for accepting the request to follow the NCCFT collective bargaining agreement regarding promotions for members in P ranks, and also thanked the Board, while disappointed that assistant professor promotions were not included. He believes that the 2027 budget could reduce faculty and staff positions despite increasing enrollment, and that insufficient county funding and continued staffing reductions could weaken academic programs, strain student support services, and increase workloads for faculty and staff. He urged the administration, legal counsel, and Board to improve labor relations and work collaboratively toward future solutions.

Dr. Gardyn thanked Joshua Hammer, Student Trustee for his service to the Board. Josh served effectively in the dual role of student and trustee, earned the respect and admiration of the Board, and wished him continued success in the future.

Chair Gardyn announced the next Board of Trustees' Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026 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 Tuman moved the motion; seconded by Trustee Durso. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Durso
Secretary Pro Temp

DRAFT