The meeting was called to order by Chair Cohen at 4:18 p.m. at the Agile Strategy Lab, Central King Building, as well as by electronic means through a dedicated WebEx meeting line which was publicly advertised. In attendance were: Chair Cohen, Vice-Chairs Clayton (by WebEx), DeNichilo, Montalto (by WebEx) and Taylor, and Board Members Baynes, Cistaro, Dahms (by WebEx), Hu (by WebEx), Raia, Stamatis and Toft (by WebEx). Absent: Board Member Maser.

**Senior Administration Present:** In attendance were President Bloom, Provost and Sr. Executive Vice President Deek, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer Bishof, Sr. Vice President Christ, Vice Presidents Alexo, McLeod and Nynens, Dean Boger, Chief Strategy Officer Golden and Vice President and Secretary Stern (all in person).

1. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chair Cohen read the following statement:

   “Notice of this Meeting was provided to the public as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, in the Schedule of Meeting Dates of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Institute of Technology which was sent electronically to the Star Ledger, the Herald News and the Vector on January 29, 2021, and posted on the University website on January 29, 2021 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. **Public Comments:**

   Secretary Stern noted that there was no one from the public registered to speak.

3. By a motion duly made by Mr. Raia, seconded by Ms. Montalto and unanimously approved, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2020.

4. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. BAYNES, SECONDED BY MR. CISTARO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION FOR FY20 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON, SECONDED BY MR. HU AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION AWARD CHANGE ORDER TO THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE GREEN AT UNIVERSITY PARK AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL MITIGATION.

6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS, SECONDED BY MR. HU AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES TO OMEGA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING.
7. By a motion duly made by Mr. Cistaro, seconded by Ms. Clayton and unanimously approved, the Board voted to adopt the Resolution for New BS in Data Science Program.

8. By a motion duly made by Diane Montalto, seconded by Ms. Clayton and unanimously approved, the Board voted to adopt the Resolution for a Renewal Agreement with Elsevier B.V.

9. The Board agreed to carry the Resolution for 2021 Honorary Doctorate Recipients to the following Board of Trustees meeting.

10. By a motion duly made by Ms. Clayton, seconded by Mr. Stamatis and unanimously approved, the Board voted to adopt the Resolution to Authorize Exclusive License of University Intellectual Property.

11. President’s Report:

Dr. Bloom gave a brief report to the Board. We opened the Spring semester under challenging circumstances. The enrollment is the largest Spring semester to date, and Dr. Bloom gave kudos to all involved. This will help us in our efforts to build the budget, along with CARES-Act funding, which we worked expeditiously to distribute. We received full State funding in quarters 2 through 4, and we have engaged in outstanding cash management, as well as grow our endowment. If everything stays as is in terms of budgetary assumptions, we can get through the rest of this fiscal year without asking for additional employee givebacks. We will assess the vectors going forward. We are asking the State for supplemental funding, and a lifting of our current FTE cap. External research awards are about even with the prior year, and we may end up being a little ahead. We heard an in-depth report in the Closed Session regarding CRR. The Mueller’s building is in the process of coming down; it was a health and safety concern. Our fundraising is comparable to last year’s levels; this is a challenging environment for fundraising. Overall, considering the challenges, we are doing well. Because of COVID-19 concerns, we got off to a slower start this semester. We were online only for the first two weeks, followed by continued virtual teaching for 2 days due to the snowstorm. Yesterday we had a positive outcome in our discussions with University Hospital to provide vaccinations for faculty and instructional staff. After this population gets vaccinated, we will work to provide vaccination opportunities for non-instructional staff. This has been a team effort, and Dr. Bloom thanked the administrators in the room for their efforts.

12. Faculty Senate Report: Dr. Denis Blackmore, President of the Faculty Senate, gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees. His presentation reflects the input of Faculty Senate Executive Committee members Dr. Ellen Thomas, Dr. Tony Rosato, Dr. David Hornthorp and Dr. Usman Rosan. He spoke of the synergistic shared governance structure at the university, stating that while the essence of the university is its faculty, they represent all constituents. He had productive meetings with Chair Cohen, who met with the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. They are both interested in what is best for NJIT. Additionally, there have been numerous meetings with President Bloom, monthly meeting with Dr. Deek and Mr. Bishof, as well as meetings with Mr. Christ, the Deans and the Registrar. He extended a welcome to the new Trustees. He gave a presentation with an overview, focusing on dealing
with the impacts of COVID-19, the improved relationship with the Board of Trustees, precedents, the Presidential Search, OARS notification, the new TAC program (teaching assignment criteria) and surveys. In the near future, the Faculty Senate will focus on COVID-19 impacts, the Presidential Search, Faculty Handbook additions, Strategic Plans and the evaluation of administrators (which was delayed due to COVID-19). He discussed some recommendations. There is fear and anxiety among the faculty as a result of the pandemic; the Faculty Senate needs to be a calming influence. They have had many meetings, which were heated at times. He commended the Faculty Senate leadership and the administration for their open communication about the significant steps to ensure safety, and the Faculty Senate leadership facilitated that communication.

He spoke of the improved relationship with the Board of Trustees, pointing to the agreement reached with respect to Presidential Search guidelines. They agreed on what was important and how to achieve it. He commended Chair Cohen for his presentation to the Faculty Senate, which he stated was a first. They sense that the Board is committed to working together. He also discussed new programs, including the BS in Data Science, Financial Technology and the BS in Biology and Health.

With regard to current and prospective projects, COVID-19 remains a concern, but we have done well and managed to “lower the temperature.” He commended Mr. Christ’s “COVID warriors” for implementing strategies that kept faculty and students safe. These are remarkable accomplishments. The Presidential search is in the quiet stage, as they work on nominations for the search committee, and work on the presidential profile. There are some additions and revisions they seek to the Faculty Handbook. There is no policy in the Handbook for nominating Search Committee members. They are also working on proposed guidelines for the role of Deans in the faculty hiring process.

Dr. Blackmore pointed to a joint Faculty Senate/PSA memorandum advocating a proposal to eliminate salary inequities. Summarizing the near future activities, Dr. Blackmore focused on COVID-19 response, the Presidential Search, the Strategic Plan, Handbook Revisions and procedures for the Evaluation of Administrators by faculty. They also recommended that the Presidential search timeline be reduced by three months.

Chair Cohen commended the work of the Faculty, and stated that we look forward to an outstanding partnership, as we all hope for the same thing. He stated that the Board will live up to a level of accountability and transparency.

13. Report from the Student Senate: Anuj Patel gave a report on behalf of the Student Senate. He first addressed their budget, which was about $358,000 for the Fall semester and $300,000 for the Spring semester. They had to curb expectations for student activity because of COVID-19. As such, they gave a refund of $20 to all students for the reduction in student activities and the students were appreciative. They have a proposal to spend $25,000 to erect an outdoor tent, so students can gather safely outdoors. They also have a proposal to spend $3,000 for a reusable bag proposal from GDS, for student food. Another proposal discussed relates to an open educational resources textbook for general education classes. They are looking at outdoor seating and a firepit proposal, also for outdoor student activities. Another proposal considered is installing menstrual product dispensers in bathrooms throughout campus in order to provide
products for free for students. There is a proposal to spend $17,000 for Black History Month activities and programs.

Mr. Patel discussed the academic affairs co-op resolution aimed at standardizing the curriculum. They are working with the administration on pass/fail options, which were appreciated during the pandemic. They are also reviewing syllabi to ensure they are comparable between courses and students. Regarding course evaluation usage, they are reaching out to other universities for comparison. They are also looking to standardize tutoring. There are 100-plus student organizations, and they are looking to standardize structures. In support of public relations, they are working on a 1000-shirt giveaway with Athletics, to increase pride in NJIT. They are also exploring mental health and wellness events (yoga, arts, mental health events) and potentially a food truck event. Mr. Patel invited questions from the Board. Chair Cohen asked how the student body is doing, discussing the challenges faced. Ms. Montalto commended Mr. Patel, noting that the students have an insightful perspective and she values their input greatly. Mr. Patel thanked the Board and the Administrators.

14. **Report of FY 2021 Fundraising Progress to Date:** Dr. Alexo gave a report on fundraising, calling the Board’s attention to the materials starting at p. 62 of the Board book. We are about even with our respective levels for the same time last year, so this is a positive sign. At the end of January, we closed the gap to about $7,000. The Executive Summary puts numbers in context. Dr. Alexo highlighted the fact that we have a lot of asks out, including $6 million in verbal commitments which have not been signed, but we expect that they will be booked before the end of the fiscal year. We hope to close 50% of them by 6/30/21 towards our goal of $18 million. Dr. Alexo called attention to the list of upcoming virtual events, commending his team for their efforts. There have been 7,000 views of our virtual events. The highlights include the Celebration of Hope, a virtual event occurring on March 25th to tell the NJIT story through the words of our students (including Anuj Patel). This is a fundraiser; we are looking to raise $300,000 and have $120,000 in gifts so far.

15. **Monthly Financial Status Report as of January 31, 2020:** Mr. Bishof reported that the budget for FY 21 is in good shape at this point in time. Our cash balance is strong, as are our investments, and the managed endowment.

16. **Report of Clery Crime Data:** Mr. Christ reported on the Clery Crime Data, referencing the material in the Board book. There are no significant safety issues or concerns at this time; Mr. Christ pointed to the reduced on campus population as impacting the decrease in incidents.

17. **Report of Upcoming Calendar of Events:** Chair Cohen reviewed the updated Calendar of Events in the Board material, calling the Board’s attention to the NCE Salute to Excellence (virtual). The Alumni Weekend is likely to consist of limited in-person attendance, and mostly virtual attendance. Dr. Bloom indicated that we’ll know by the end of the month whether we can conduct Commencement exercises with partial limited in-person attendance, so we can then notify the community.

18. Chair Cohen announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session, will be convened on April 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel, real estate, legal and contractual matters. The following resolution was read and approved by all Trustees present:
WHEREAS, there are matters that require consideration by the Board of Trustees that qualify under the Open Public Meetings Act for discussion at a Closed Session;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees shall have a Closed Session to discuss matters involving personnel, real estate, legal and contractual matters on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

15. The Public Session was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.