

**NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
June 8, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cohen at 11:10 a.m. in the Central King Building, Agile Strategy Lab, Lower Level, Room L-70. In attendance were: Chair Cohen, Vice-Chairs Clayton (via Zoom), DeNichilo, Montalto and Stamatis (via Zoom) and Board Members Baynes, Charters, Dahms, Maser and Toft. Absent: Shah.

Senior Administration Present: In attendance, President Lim, Interim Provost and Sr. Executive Vice President Dhawan, Sr. Vice President Christ, Sr. Vice President for Finance & Chief Financial Officer Brennan, Vice Presidents Alexo, Boger, and Wozencroft, Associate Vice President & Director of Athletics Kaplan, Interim Vice President for Human Resources Wilson, Chief of Staff Hageman, Chief External Affairs Officer Garretson, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Golden, Chief Diversity Officer Jones, Vice President and Secretary Stern.

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 May 18, 2023, and posted on the University website on May 18, 2023 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. **Student Presentations:**

NJIT student Jeremy Kurian in the Honors Summer Research Institute, working with advisor Dr. Burcak Ozludil and her research team described their project: Simulating Patient Behavior with Reinforcement Learning Algorithms: The Case of an Ottoman Mental Institution, discussing the significance and impact of their work. Marina Sefen, a Chemical Engineering major and McNair scholar, who will be a senior this Fall, under the advisement of Dr. Mark Zhao, discussed her project entitled: Novel MXene-Based Electrified Surface Coating for Antiviral Air Filtration. Joel Duzha, who will be a senior next year and participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates on BioSensor Materias for Advanced Research and Technology (BioSmart) talked about his project under the advisement of Dr. Alexei Khalizov in the Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science. Chair Cohen thanked everyone for their presentations, stating that their research speaks volumes as to what goes on in the university.

4. By a motion duly made by Gary Dahms, seconded by Elisa Charters and unanimously approved by those members in attendance at that meeting, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2023.
5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DeNICHILLO, SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION FOR PROMOTION OF RANK OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE AND APPOINTMENT TO THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE.
6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON, SECONDED BY MR. MASER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FACULTY HANDBOOK.
7. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DeNICHILLO, SECONDED BY MR. STAMATIS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS.
8. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MASER, SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION FOR A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH MONTCLAIR UNIVERSITY FOR THE USE OF YOGI BERRA STADIUM.
9. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. COHEN, SECONDED BY MR. MASER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, WITH MR. TOFT ABSTAINING, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FOR ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS FOR FY 2024.
10. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DeNICHILLO, SECONDED BY MS. CLAYTON AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION TO RENEW WORKERS COMPENSATION/EMPLOYERS LIABILITY AND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE.
11. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. BAYNES, SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to adopt the RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FY 2024 SCHEDULE OF ROOM RATES.
12. **Chair's Report:**

Chair Cohen commended Dr. Atam Dhawan for his role throughout the transition; we had a number of administrators in interim positions, at a time where there was disruption out of the ordinary. Though there have been challenges, the excitement that we saw at the recent Commencement exercises with the students and their parents tells a story. At the recent alumni weekend, getting the pulse of the university, and talking to the Student Senate, there is a retooling and re-energizing spirit on campus.

13. President's Report:

Dr. Lim acknowledged the faculty, staff and visitors. He recognized and welcomed Dr. John Pelesko, our incoming Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will officially begin on August 1, 2023. Dr. Ali Mili, also present today, will begin as Interim Dean of the Ying Wu College of Computing Sciences. Dr. Lim recognized Board Member Gary Dahms, recently elected as Chair of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. Sr. Vice President Christ has been elected to the National Academy of Construction, one of five Highlanders to join the academy including Vice Chair DeNichilo. Dean Louis Hamilton and Associate Dean Burcak Ozludill, are joining the meeting today online from Italy. Students are at the heart of NJIT. They have won a number of prestigious awards with 11 students earning nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships. Our student athletes have an impressive GPA of 3.4, and this is the 30th consecutive semester where our student athletes maintained an average GPA above 3.0. Commencement ceremonies this year were a great success. We recently received an award from the EPA of \$10 million as part of a \$315 million initiative to expedite the assessment and cleanup of Brownsfields sites across the country. Dr. Colette Santisieri, will oversee the efforts. A research team led by Dr. Wenda Cao at the university's Center for Solar Terrestrial Research was awarded an NSF grant of \$4.6 million. Dr. Lim highlighted the recent designation of NJIT by the DOE as both a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) serving institution. Next year we expect to be recognized as a Hispanic serving institution. We have good news from admissions, with a record number of applications, and Dr. Lim discussed the breakdown between undergraduates, masters, doctoral and transfer students. With regard to fundraising, we recently closed a \$1 million grant from United Services which will fund our Athletics facilities, and have increased efforts for the Highlander Promise, securing \$2 million in gifts and pledges. We concluded Alumni Weekend with 14 events, with 460 alumni and friends in attendance, as well as celebrated the 75th anniversary of Pi Kappa Phi Beta Alpha.

14. Report of FY22 Fundraising:

Vice President Alexo referenced the report in the meeting materials; as noted, we are tracking a bit behind in FY 22. However, thanks to the \$1 million commitment, and another achieved today, we are ahead in gifts and pledges. We will do our best to close asks by fiscal year end. Going forward, the undergraduate giving rate in US News & World Report will not factor into actual rankings. We are running roughly even with last year. Our alumni giving rate is 11%, more than double the median and higher than Rutgers University. This is compared to Princeton, which enjoys a 50% giving rate. The benchmark for alumni giving in public universities is 5% nationally. Ideally, we would like to be at 15%.

15. Report of the Chief Financial Officer:

Sr. Vice President Brennan called the Board's attention to the Executive Summary at page 61. Overall, we have a \$15 million carry forward from the prior year. Finance is working closely with Financial Aid and the Bursar. This is the first year NJIT will be in a positive financial position with regard to its contributions to NJIT (\$1.5 million to the good). Our cash on hand is presently \$174 million. This is in line with New Jersey senior public institutions; the value

of our endowment as of May closed slightly down month-over-month. Our biggest risk presently involves the impact of budget negotiations at the state level.

16. **Report of Clery Crime Data:**

Sr. Vice President Christ discussed the Clery Crime data, referencing the Board materials. Violent crimes are down, although we face challenges from theft from automobiles. Things are more challenging than during COVID, when we had a reduced campus presence. We are working hard to fill ten vacancies in the police ranks; we just settled our public safety contracts increasing salaries to maintain competitiveness and retention. There is an uptick not just in this area, but overall with car thefts, particularly KIA's and Hyundais. Criminals are aware of this. This is not just on campus, but our Public Safety Department we will also respond. Chair Cohen commended Public Safety on its professional handling and de-escalation of issues involving Dr. Lim's Inauguration.

17. **Report of Upcoming Calendar of Events:**

Chair Cohen referred the Board to the upcoming calendar of events set forth in the Board packet.

18. Chair Cohen announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session, will convene on July 20, 2023 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, July 20, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

19. The Public Session was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.