The meeting was called to order by Chair DePalma at 4:00 p.m. in Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Boardroom, NJIT Campus, Newark, N.J. In attendance were Chair DePalma, Chair-Elect Cohen, Vice-Chairs Montalto, Raia and Taylor, and Board Members Baynes, Bone, Cistaro, Clayton, Dahms, DeCaprio, DeNichilo, Hu, Maser and Stamatis. Also in attendance: Elizabeth Garcia, P.E.

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, Sr. Vice President Sebastian, Vice Presidents Alexo and Nynens, Dean Boger and Vice President and Secretary Stern.

1. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chair DePalma 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 mailed and sent electronically to the Star Ledger, the Herald News and the Vector on August 20, 2019, and posted on the University on August 20, 2019 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. Public Comments:

   Secretary Stern noted that three individuals registered to speak at the meeting, and called the first speaker. Mr. Nikola Bosnjak introduced himself, as a PhD student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, speaking on behalf of the graduate students. He stated that they are the ones conducting research in the labs and conducting coursework. The issues they are experiencing affects research performance. They face the same challenges every year and are expected to perform trying to survive on $24,000 every year and $3500 in the summer. He stated that on top of their financial burdens, they are the victims of NJIT’s administrative failures. The research assistants were charged fees they do not owe, and they filed a grievance. Another serious financial difficulty is that they continually receive compensation that is significantly delayed.

   Mr. Salmon Habib next spoke, introducing himself as a Research Assistant in the Electrical Engineering Department. Last summer he worked full time. He received the first stipend more than one month later. He was not able to pay his rent on time, which resulted in a conflict with his landlord. One summer stipend was not received until the Fall, causing serious financial difficulties. Payment for Fall 2019 was not received until 6 weeks after the start of Fall. This affects their main work. RA’s are charged many fees that TA’s are not. He stated that we are already underpaid, and we put in the same hours of work they do. Many talented employees are considering leaving.
Chair DePalma responded that he is hearing that we have a process issue with regard to timely payment. It is a management issue, and it should be fixed. We understand that there is a fee and compensation issue, and there is a process going on in an attempt to find resolution; we encourage you to have an open mind. We will relay this message to the administration. He thanked the students for coming in, and stated that he hopes we can resolve this in a professional way and go forward. We appreciate your hard work and recognize your contributions to the university.

Dr. Yehoshua Perl next spoke. He discussed issues regarding the construction of buildings at NJIT, stating that there is a rush to build a dorm to accommodate new students. He is happy to hear that there is no new building planned for the florist site. He questioned the need for a dorm, sharing written materials reporting a national decline in enrollment in college students due to declining birthrates. This crisis is ongoing, and students are coming to school in smaller numbers. He stated that in the College of Computing Science enrollment is booming, and many classes are full to the brink and are barely able to handle the amounts of students. There is a national problem, and this is not the time to build a new dorm. We will have to accept students who can’t make it in a STEM university. For years, we were underrated as a university. Now, there are no controls that students have to have certain levels of SAT’s. Faculty do not want to go back to those times, as things are better. He predicted future declining enrollment, noting that tuition is quite high, and working class students will not be able to afford it. Dr. Perl also addressed the future search for a new president succeeding Dr. Bloom at the end of his current contract. The faculty would like to process to begin as soon as possible, and they believe that the process should be done right. Chair DePalma thanked Dr. Perl for his comments and insight.

3. Provost Deek introduced three distinguished faculty, whom we are honored to present with proclamations today: Dr. Nirwan Ansari, for his election to the rank of NAI Fellow; Dr. Dale Gary for his election to the rank of AAAS Fellow, and Dr. Durgamadhab Misra, for his election to IEEE fellow. Chair DePalma presented proclamations to each faculty members on behalf of the Board, recognizing their outstanding accomplishments.

4. The Board presented a proclamation recognizing the NJIT’s men’s soccer team for winning its first-ever ASUN Conference Tournament regular season title, and its first title at the Division I level, bringing great acclaim to NJIT. Mr. Leonard Kaplan, Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics introduced members of the team and their coaches to receive the proclamation. Chair DePalma expressed the Board’s appreciation for their efforts, and thanked the athletes, their coach Mr. Fernando Barbato, and the coaching staff.

5. By a motion duly made by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2019, with abstentions from those members not in attendance at such meeting.

6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DECAPRIO, SECONDED BY MR. BAYNES AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SABBATICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AY 2020-2021.
7. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TAYLOR, SECONDED BY MR. CISTARO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES TO EDUCO USA, INC. FOR FY20.

8. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TAYLOR, SECONDED BY MR. HU AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

9. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. COHEN, SECONDED BY MR. CISTATO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION HONORING ELIZABETH “LIZ” GARCIA, P.E. ’73. Chair DePalma thanked Ms. Garcia on behalf of the Board for her service, and presented her with a plaque, noting that she will be missed.

10. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS, SECONDED BY MR. COHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION HONORING DENNIS M. BONE.

11. President’s Report:

Dr. Bloom referred to his report in the closed session. He noted the outstanding article in New Jersey Business: Buzz Builds for Newark as a Technology Hub, which discussed Newark’s growing reputation as a tech hub, and referenced NJIT’s role. Newark came up #6 as a top East Coast market, as referenced in the handouts. Dr. Bloom also thanked the Board for the four year opportunity to work with the Air Force. He was recently presented with the highest level award granted by the Secretary of the Air Force to a non-employee civilian for his public service contributions. He noted that half of four-star generals are PhD’s. Science and technology are behind everything they do, commending their commitment and loyalty to the country. It was a pleasure to participate in their planning sessions, and it was an overall great experience.

12. Report from the Faculty Senate:

Dr. Deek introduced Dr. Ellen Thomas and Dr. Denis Blackmore, current and incoming Presidents of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Thomas welcomed all new trustees. She explained that the shared governance structure began in 2014. The Faculty Senate addresses faculty and academic issues. There is a culture of cooperation and transparency as they work with trustees, faculty, administration, staff, students and lecturers, leading to improved communication. They meet regularly with Dr. Bloom, Dr. Deek, Mr. Bishof, Mr. Christ and the Registrar, all of whom are generous with their time.

Current projects include developing and approving a process for the selection of Distinguished Professors. They are engaged in the Middle States 2022 accreditation process through working groups, the assessment subcommittee and shared governance review, as well as the Strategic Plan development (Building on a Strong Foundation). With respect to the New Jersey State mandate on access to open textbooks, they are working with Dr. Deek
and Ms. Huong, the University Librarian. They also engaged with the Registrar on scheduling (simulation of centralized vs. hybrid). Additional current projects include work on teaching loads and “TAC’s”, and curriculum updates at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. They continue to refine the new general education requirements. They approved the new BS program in cyberpsychology and a BS program in materials engineering received a preliminary approval. Working with the Student Senate, they provided feedback and guidance for their initiative. The Faculty Handbook was reviewed for updates, and two ad hoc committees were created in response to faculty concerns.

They have some concerns and challenges. They would like to resume regular meetings with the Board of Trustees. They are also concerned with the presidential search process. They started working on this in the Fall of 2018 and would like to complete the process, as delays introduce risk. The faculty do not want to feel disenfranchised again. Their funding priorities are focused upon maintaining our R-1 and Top 100 status. CRR should focus on teaching and office infrastructure. Dr. Thomas also discussed faculty hiring. The goal of 345 faculty members was not met. The faculty remain concern about construction of new buildings. Another issue to be addressed is evaluation of upper administrators. A proposal was passed by the Faculty Senate, but rejected by the administration. Concluding her remarks, Dr. Thomas stated that the Faculty Senate leadership appreciates the fact that their concerns are being heard by the Board of Trustees and the President, though some concerns remain. They asked to be involved in decisions.

Chair DePalma noted that the Board’s Executive Committee had a good meeting with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate this morning, which was very productive. He thanked the Faculty Senate representatives on behalf of the Board, expressing appreciation and respect for the faculty, who are the lifeblood of the organization. We appreciate their service.

13. Dr. Deek departed the meeting at 5 p.m.

14. **Report of FY 2020 Fundraising Updates:**

Vice President Alexo gave a report on fundraising, referring to the materials in the meeting package and distributing an updated report. In terms of overall commitments, we expect to close on $15 million in gifts by June 30th. We have no concerns on the cash front. We are having a very good year in terms of pooled endowment funds.

15. **Operating Statement Year to Date and Schedule of Short Term Investments:**

Treasurer Bishof gave a report on Operating Statement Year to Date, and Schedule of Short Term Investments. He called the Board’s attention to p. 43 of the Board materials. At this point in the fiscal year, 93.4% of tuition and fees have been realized. While had some concerns earlier in the year, we are able to achieve our budgetary objectives within 1% of the target. We had to incur additional costs related to facilities, specifically, the Cell and Gene Therapy lab. We continue to do well on return on our cash reserves, and are on target to generate another $5.2 million this year.
16. **Report of Clery Crime Data:**

Vice President Christ discussed our obligation to review our Clery statistics. He reported that our Part 1 and Part 2 offenses are down, which reflects the professionalism of our Public Safety Department. Our public safety department was ranked #6 in the nation for campus public safety departments, and he commended their efforts.

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

Chair DePalma called the Board’s attention to the upcoming calendar of events, which is self-explanatory.

18. The Chair announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session will be convened on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Eberhardt Hall Alumni Center Board Room, 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 Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall Board Room.

    The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall Board Room, following the Closed Session of the Board.

19. The public session was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.