

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024- 5:00 PM
MIDDLESEX COLLEGE
2600 WOODBRIDGE AVE., EDISON, NJ
WEST HALL, PARKVIEW ROOM

MINUTES

I. WELCOME

1. Meeting was Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. - Reading of Public Announcement

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, advance notice of this Public Meeting of the Council was provided on July 25, 2024 by posting written notice of this meeting on the Council website and by transmitting the meeting notice to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, and to the Secretary of State.

ATTENDEES:

<u>College</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>Board Alternate/ Other Trustees</u>
Atlantic Cape	Barbara Gaba		
Bergen	Eric Friedman		Sheetal Ranjan
Brookdale		Barbara Horl	
Camden	Lovell Pugh Bassett		Jessica Stewart
Essex	Augustine Boakye		Arnold Lewis
Hudson			Pamela Gardner
Mercer	Deborah Preston		Lawrence Nespoli
Middlesex	Mark McCormick		Chrissy Buteas
Morris	Anthony Iacono		
Ocean	Pamela Monaco		
Passaic	Steve Rose		
Raritan	Michael McDonough	Zenon Christodoulou	
Rowan at Burlington	Michal Cioce		
Rowan at South Jersey			
Salem	Michael Gorman		Dot Hall
Sussex			
Union	Margaret McMenamin		Mary Zimmermann
Warren			Marianne VanDeursen

There were 24 voting members of the Council who were present during the business meeting, constituting a majority and quorum.

Council Staff: Aaron Fichtner, Megan Swieconeck, Catherine Starghill, Linda Scherr, Maria Heidkamp, Jacob Farbman, and Jessica Britt.

2. Introduction and Announcements- Chair Sheetal Ranjan

II. Council Election

3. ACTION: Election of Officers for 2024-2025

By motion of Barbara Horl, and seconded by Augustine Boakye, the Council unanimously elected the following officers for 2024-2025:

- Chair- Sheetal Ranjan (Bergen)
- Vice Chair- Jessica Stewart (Camden)
- Trustee Executive Committee Member – Dot Hall (Salem)
- Trustee Executive Committee Member- Mary Zimmermann (Union)
- Secretary- Michael Gorman (Salem)
- Treasurer- Mark McCormick (Middlesex)
- President Executive Committee Member- Frederick Keating (RCSJ)

III. Business

4. ACTION: Adoption of Organizational Resolutions Including Council Meeting Dates, Designations of Official Newspapers, Authorized Depositories, Appointment of Legal Counsel and Auditor

By motion of Eric Freidman, and seconded by Margaret McMEnamin, the Organizational Resolutions were approved without amendment.

5. Approval of Minutes

By motion of Anthony Iacono, and seconded by Mark McCormick, the minutes of the of June 3, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; June 11, 2024 Council meeting; July 15, 2024 Executive Committee meeting; September 16, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting; September 23, 2024 Council Meeting; and October 14, 2024 Executive Committee meeting were approved without amendment.

6. Acceptance of Council Financial Statements

By motion of Lovell Pugh-Bassett, and seconded by Barbara Gaba, the Council accepted the financial statements for July, August, September and October 2024.

7. Report on Temporary Investments

The Council currently keeps its cash reserves in an account with Spencer Savings Bank. The Council is also enrolled in the NJ Cash Management Fund. As of October 31, 2024, the Council's NJ Cash Management Fund holdings are \$2,165,381.

8. NJCCC Committees Reorganization

Fichtner shared the new committee assignments with the Council members. Trustee members were encouraged to reach out to Fichtner and Ranjan if they would like to join a committee.

IV. STRATEGY

9. State Policy Agenda and Budget Request

- **Adoption of the FY2026 State Budget Request**

By motion of Steve Rose, and seconded by Barbara Gaba, the Council's FY2026 State Budget request was approved without amendment. The budget request will be transmitted to the State Treasurer.

- **Legislative Update-** The full legislative update report was transmitted in the agenda packet. Fichtner highlighted the Lampitt 2.0 legislation. The bill was reported out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee with some amendments and referred to Assembly Appropriations. The bill was amended again from the floor on October 28th, and moved to the 2nd reading in the Assembly. NJCCC will continue to monitor.

10. Update on Opportunity Agenda Bill Package*

Fichtner reviewed additional memos with the Council members not presented previously:

- **Memo 1: Modernize NJ Council of County Colleges Statute to Reflect Current Priorities**
 - a. New Jersey should amend the enabling legislation for the New Jersey Council of County Colleges to reflect both the current higher education landscape and the expanding roles of community colleges.
 - b. The amended legislation would maintain the current college-led governance structure of the Council while solidifying the role of the Council in providing leadership for collaboration and innovation of community colleges to advance economic and educational opportunity and economic impact.
- **Memo 10: Re-envision NJ's Workforce Development System Around Community College**
 - a. Introduce legislation to establish a New Economy Opportunity Skills System that:
 - Strengthens coordination, collaboration, and communication between the State Workforce Development System (i.e. Workforce Development Boards) and

Community Colleges to create a more efficient, effective, and seamless service delivery model that assists employers, workers, and job seekers with skills training and builds a skilled talent pipeline to meet labor market needs throughout New Jersey.

-Designates Community Colleges as the preferred provider of postsecondary education and workforce training, as well as adult literacy programs for the State Workforce Development System.

- **Proposed Opportunity Agenda Convenings at Community Colleges-** The NJCCC and community colleges are co-hosting convenings to discuss critical issues tied to the future of higher education and the Opportunity Agenda bill package. Each of the convenings will include examples of promising New Jersey community college initiatives and legislative and partner insights.

11. Council Convenings

- NJ Community College Opportunity Summit - June 4-6 2025 (Hard Rock, Atlantic City)

Meeting Adjourned.