UCNJ UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NJ

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of Meeting March 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Victor M. Richel, Chair, at 6:01 p.m. in the Engagement Arena on the Scotch Plains Campus. The following were in attendance:

TRUSTEES

Mr. Richel; Rafael J. Betancourt, Esq.; Daniel J. Connolly; Jeffrey H. Katz, Esq.; Miguel A. Merino; Daryl Palmieri; Dr. Kamran Tasharofi; Mary M. Zimmermann (via phone); Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, President.

GOVERNORS

Mr. Richel; Mr. Betancourt; Brian Campbell; F. Jim Della Sala; Deborah Enix-Ross; Stephen F. Hehl, Esq.; Donna M. Herran; Gary S. Horan; Mr. Katz; Matthew R. Nazzaro; Paul T. O'Neill; John Richel; Allan L. Weisberg; Mrs. Zimmermann.

ALSO PRESENT

Denise Collins; Michael M. Horn, Esq., McCarter English; Dr. Jaime M. Segal.

A quorum of the Board of Trustees was present.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

Completed

MINUTES

On motion duly made by Mr. Katz and seconded by Mr. Connolly, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of February 18, 2025 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Segal stated there were no communications.

REPORTS OF JOINT TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS' COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Hehl reported that at the Audit Committee held earlier, the results of an internal audit performed by PKF O'Connor Davies were reviewed as follows:

Executive Compensation which focused on the review of the College's calculations related to executive compensation. The overall control environment was well controlled,

and no findings and improvement opportunities were identified during the internal audit engagement.

Data Integrity which focused on data validation, audit trails regarding grade changes, and data back-up practices and reporting. The overall control environment was deemed well controlled.

Budget and Forecasting which focused on the College's budget and forecasting process for efficiency and effectiveness. Two recommendations were provided by the auditors that will be followed up on.

Remediation Tracker which was a follow up on remediation items identified during the 2024 internal audit engagements was performed. There were six (6) observations in total and the auditors concluded that all were remediated.

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Betancourt stated to the Board that at the Educational Planning and Policy meeting held earlier, Dr. Lown reported that Community College 3.0 focuses on student success beyond graduation through enhanced transfer pathways, increased bachelor's attainment, and engaged alumni connections. Mr. Betancourt reported that Dr. Ziner presented a survey of workforce outcomes for UCNJ graduates for both one year and five years post-graduation. He stated that enrollment for spring is +7.6 in FTE hours.

Mr. Betancourt submitted the following Resolutions for approval:

Resolution E025-011 - Faculty Personnel Actions

RESOLVED, that the following faculty actions recommended by the President be approved:

Reappointments:

Dr. Sohal Hallur, Senior Professor, Physical Therapist Assistant, Academic Affairs, effective September 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.

Carol Hellams, Assistant Professor, Practical Nursing, Academic Affairs, effective September 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.

Rachel Sliker, Assistant Professor, Practical Nursing, Academic Affairs, effective September 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.

On motion duly made by Mr. Merino, seconded by Dr. Tasharofi and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

Resolution E025-012 Staff Personnel Actions

RESOLVED, that the following staff personnel actions recommended by the President be approved:

Appointments:

Emily Poyraz, Transfer Transition Coordinator, Administrative Services, effective February 10, 2025, \$60,000 per annum.

LeeAndrea Tello, Copy Machine Operator/Finisher, Administrative Services, effective February 10, 2025, \$39,000 per annum.

Promotions/Reclassifications:

Saralia Bontempo, Associate Director of Branding & Design, from Creative Services Manager, effective February 1, 2025, \$80,000 per annum.

Margaret Ortuso, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communication, from Communication and Marketing Coordinator, effective February 1, 2025, \$64,000 per annum.

Elizabeth Schade, Assistant Dean of Institute of Intensive English, from Director of Institute of Intensive English, effective February 1, 2025, \$108,160 per annum.

William Dunscombe, Dean of Plainfield and Allied Sciences, from Dean of STEM, effective March 1, 2025, \$148,526 per annum.

Dr. Maris Lown, Executive Vice President and Provost, from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective March 1, 2025, \$258,658 per annum.

Dr. Sara Lacagnino, Vice President for Academic Affairs, from Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Dean of Plainfield and Allied Sciences, effective March 1, 2025, \$190,000 per annum.

Douglas Rouse, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, from Executive Director of the Union County College Foundation, effective March 1, 2025, \$183,465 per annum.

Dr. Faraz Siddique, Dean of STEM, from Associate Dean of STEM, effective March 1, 2025, \$140,000 per annum.

Separations:

Lacy Guzman, Student Services Specialist, ACT, Student Development, effective January 21, 2025.

Carolina Ibanez, Student Services Generalist, Student Development, effective January 31, 2025.

Denise O'Neill, Special Assistant to Vice President of Student Development, Student Development, effective February 15, 2025.

Samuel Kankam, Academic Specialist, Mathematics, Academic Affairs, effective February 18, 2025.

Kobe Penn, Student Services Generalist, Student Development, effective February 21, 2025.

Matthew Vaughn, Public Safety Officer, Student Development, effective February 28, 2025

On motion duly made by Dr. Tasharofi, seconded by Mr. Merino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

<u>Resolution E025-013 - New Program Option – Artificial Intelligence Option Offered Through Computer Science, A.S.</u>

- **WHEREAS,** it has been determined there is a need for an Artificial Intelligence Option offered through Computer Science, A.S. program at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey (Exhibit 1) and,
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey approves, upon recommendation of the faculty, the Artificial Intelligence Option offered through Computer Science, A.S. program at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey (Exhibit 1) and,
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of the new Artificial Intelligence Option offered through Computer Science, A.S. at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey be submitted to the New Jersey Presidents' Council Academic Issues Committee for its information.

On motion duly made by Dr. Tasharofi, seconded by Mr. Merino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

Resolution E025-014 - New Certificate – Computer Programming, CT.

- WHEREAS, it has been determined there is a need for a Computer Programming, CT. (CIP 11.0701) program at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey (Exhibit 1) and,
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey approves, upon recommendation of the faculty, the Computer Programming, CT. (CIP 11.0701) program at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey (Exhibit 1) and,
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that notice of the new Computer Programming, CT. (CIP 11.0701) at UCNJ Union College of Union County, New Jersey be submitted to the New Jersey Presidents' Council Academic Issues Committee for its information.

On motion duly made by Dr. Tasharofi, seconded by Mr. Merino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

SAFETY REPORT

Dr. McMenamin stated that in compliance with the Cunningham – Ruiz Law (S485, codified at N.J.S.A. 18a:3B-71) requiring reporting of campus crimes and fire incidents for the period from February 4, 2025 through February 28, 2025, Public Safety advised that there was a theft of an electric scooter from the rear of the Lessner Building. This matter is being investigated by the Elizabeth Police Department.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Investment Report:

Mr. Connolly stated that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier and reported that all investments are found to be in order and are within acceptable norms.

Financial Report:

Mr. Connolly reviewed the Financial Report and reported that variances within the report are due to the following: an increase in enrollment which impacted tuition revenue and student receivables; the timing of the financial aid fund drawdown which resulted in a large grant receivable balance, which was completed in March 2025 compared to February 2024; the net increase in expenses, primarily driven by the various contract negotiations, rising healthcare premium, utilities and expected annual increases in software and other operating expenses.

Current Estimate Report:

Mr. Connolly reviewed the Current Estimate Report and stated that at this time, a transfer from Unrestricted Net Position of \$3.7 million is anticipated for fiscal year ended June 30, 2025:

Mr. Connolly presented the following Resolutions for approval:

Contracts Exempt from Competitive Bidding

Resolution F025-045 - Additional Computer Hardware and Accessories

- **WHEREAS,** the College requires additional computer hardware and accessories, in support of the mission of the College, and
- **WHEREAS,** the County College Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-25.5.a.(19) provides for an exception to the requirement of advertising for bids in the provision of goods or services for the use, support or maintenance of proprietary computer hardware, software peripherals and system development for the hardware, and
- WHEREAS, the County College Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-25.11a.a. authorizes County Colleges to be a participating contracting unit in a cooperative pricing system established pursuant to the laws of the State of New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2024, the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ awarded contracts to SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ, for software licenses, network maintenance, and hardware at a total cost not to exceed \$1,875,515, for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and

- WHEREAS, on November 4, 2024, the Board of Trustees awarded contracts to SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ, for annual renewal of Jamf software licenses and operating supplies at a total cost not to exceed \$6,477, for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and
- WHEREAS, SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ has also provided technological equipment at a cost of \$7,949 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, which was under the threshold for the "Report of Authorized Payments in Excess of Original Award," and which did not require Board of Trustee approval, and
- WHEREAS, SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ has submitted a proposal under NJEdge.Net contract #269EMCPS-21-001-EM-SHI for additional computer hardware and accessories at a cost not to exceed \$3,241, and
- **WHEREAS,** the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4. et seq. provides that when the values of all contracts to a single vendor exceeds \$17,500 in the aggregate, that vendor is subject to the Pay-to-Play Law, and
- **WHEREAS,** the Vice President of Finance and Operations has determined that the total contract awards will exceed \$17,500, and
- WHEREAS, NJEdge.Net utilized competitive bidding for the awards of their contracts to SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ thereby releasing UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ from the requirement to obtain Pay-to-Play documentation, and
- **WHEREAS,** a Certification of Funds availability has been filed by the Vice President of Finance and Operations;
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ award a contract to SHI International Corp., Somerset, NJ for additional computer hardware and accessories for the Communication Center at a cost not to exceed \$3,241 for a total award not to exceed \$1,893,182 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Resolution F025-046 - Spend \$17,500-\$41,600

- WHEREAS, there exists a need throughout the College for goods or services, and
- **WHEREAS**, the attached purchase of goods and services are under the bid threshold of \$41,600, and

- **WHEREAS,** the New Jersey Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4. et seq. provides that when the values of all contracts to a single vendor exceeds \$17,500 in the aggregate, that vendor is subject to the Pay-to-Play Law, and
- **WHEREAS,** the Vice President of Finance and Operations has determined that the individual contract will exceed \$17,500, and
- WHEREAS, the vendor provided information that exhibited compliance with the Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., or the contracts were arrived at through an open and fair process thereby releasing UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ from the requirement to obtain such documentation, and
- **WHEREAS**, the Vice President of Finance and Operations certifies that sufficient funds are available for the goods and services;
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ award contracts between \$17,500 and \$41,600 to the listed vendors for a total spend of \$49,500.

TYPE OF SERVICE	SOLICITATION/ EXEMPTION	COOPERATIVE/ STATE CONTRACT#	AWARD AMOUNT	PRIOR AWARD	TOTAL AWARD	DESCRIPTION	DEPARTMENT/ FUNDING SOURCE	VENDOR
Supplies	N/A	N/A	\$24,350	\$16,250	\$ 40,600	Parking Tags	Public Safety 11- 605004-52010	Amano Cincinnati
Supplies	N/A	N/A	\$ 9,650	\$17,270	\$ 26,920	Rental-Three thousand (3,000) folding chairs for Graduation	College Life 11- 407010-54510	JADS Productions
Supplies	N/A	N/A	\$ 7,500	\$16,000	\$ 23,500	Landscaping Supplies	Facilities 11- 600005-52530	L.P. Statile
Service	18A:64A-25.5(1) Professional Services	N/A	\$ 8,000	\$12,000	\$ 20,000	Landscaping Design Services	Facilities 11- 600005-52542	Hirsch Design
		TOTAL	\$49,500	\$61,250	\$111,020			

On motion duly made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolutions F025-045 and F025-046 for adoption.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Katz presented the following Resolutions for approval:

<u>Resolution B025-010 - Authorization for Funding of the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center Renovation</u>

WHEREAS, the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center needs renovation and expansion for this space to by fully utilized and operational. The facility does not meet athletic conference standards, and the current configuration must be upgraded, in support of the mission of the College, and

WHEREAS, the most recent estimate of the cost of the project is \$34.5 million, and

- WHEREAS, on February 25, 2020, the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ authorized renovations to the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center and certified an amount of money for such purpose as \$5.580 million to be provided under the provisions of the Fiscal Year 2021 Chapter 12 funding, and
- WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, the Board of Trustees authorized renovations to the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center and certified an amount of money for such purpose as \$5.578 million to be provided under the provisions of the Fiscal Year 2022 Chapter 12 funding, and
- WHEREAS, on February 22, 2022, the Board of Trustees authorized renovations to the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center and certified an amount of money for such purpose as \$4.264 million to be provided under the provisions of the Fiscal Year 2023 Chapter 12 funding, and
- WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023, the Board of Trustees authorized renovations to the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center and certified an amount of money for such purpose as \$4.567 million to be provided under the provisions of the Fiscal Year 2024 Chapter 12 funding, and
- WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024, the Board of Trustees authorized renovations to the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center and certified an amount of money for such purpose as \$3.097 million to be provided under the provisions of the Fiscal Year 2025 Chapter 12 funding, and
- **WHEREAS,** on November 4, 2024, the Board of Trustees designated \$7.5 million from reserves for the completion of this project, and
- **WHEREAS,** it has been determined that the remaining \$3.91 million necessary to fund this project will be from college reserves instead of the Fiscal Year 2026 Chapter 12 funds as originally planned so to keep to an aggressive construction timeline;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ hereby determines a) that an estimated \$34.5 million will be needed to renovate the Cranford Campus Physical Education Center, b) the College has received \$23.086 million under the provisions of Chapter 12 funding, c) and therefore the College requires an additional estimated \$11.4 million to be allocated from reserves for completion of this project.

On motion duly made by Mr. Katz, seconded by Dr. Tasharofi and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

<u>Resolution B025-011 - Authorization for Certification for Cranford and Plainfield Campus</u> <u>Roof Replacements</u>

- WHEREAS, roof replacements are necessary on the Cranford Campus McKay Library and Plainfield Campus Annex Building due to end of service life and wear and tear, and
- **WHEREAS,** constant exposure to the elements has degraded the roofs' integrity, causing deterioration and the need for the roofs to be replaced, and
- WHEREAS, UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ (the "College") informed the New Jersey Council of County Colleges ("NJCCC") of its desire to participate in the capital funding allocation under N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-12.4, known as County College Capital Projects Funding ("Chapter 12"), and, with an interest in securing financial assistance for this project, has included it in its preliminary funding request to the NJCCC for Fiscal Year 2026 under Chapter 12, and
- **WHEREAS**, the funds will be used to replace the roofs on the Cranford Campus McKay Library and Plainfield Campus Annex Building, and
- WHEREAS, the cost of such roof replacements is anticipated to be \$2.2 million, and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-19, the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ is to deliver to the UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ Board of School Estimate (the "Board of School Estimate") an estimate of its cost of the project and the amount of money needed for the project;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ hereby determines a) the need for the College to expend \$2.2 million to replace the roofs on the Cranford Campus McKay Library and Plainfield Campus Annex Building, b) the estimated cost of these replacements is \$2.2 million, c) the amount of money needed for such purpose by the Board of Trustees of the College is \$2.2 million, and d) the College will pursue Chapter 12 State funding for all or a portion of said purpose.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of School Estimate is hereby requested to certify to the Union County Board of County Commissioners that \$2.2 million be raised through the issuance of County College bonds and notes by the County of Union to fund the roof replacements on the Cranford Campus McKay Library and Plainfield Campus Annex Building.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to each member of the UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ Board of School Estimate.

On motion duly made by Mr. Katz, seconded by Dr. Tasharofi and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

Resolution B025-012 - Authorization for Certification for Cranford Campus Parking Lot Paving and Trenching

- **WHEREAS,** parking lot paving and trenching are necessary on the Cranford Campus due to aging and wear and tear, as well as preparation for future security upgrades and infrastructure, and
- **WHEREAS,** constant exposure to the elements has degraded parking lots, which are marked by potholes, cracks, and uneven surfaces, as well as trenching necessary for future security upgrade infrastructure, and
- WHEREAS, UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ (the "College") informed the New Jersey Council of County Colleges ("NJCCC") of its desire to participate in the capital funding allocation under N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-12.4, known as County College Capital Projects Funding ("Chapter 12"), and, with an interest in securing financial assistance for this project, has included it in its preliminary funding request to the NJCCC for Fiscal Year 2026 under Chapter 12, and
- **WHEREAS**, the funds will be used to pave and trench parking lots on the Cranford Campus, and,
- WHEREAS, the cost of such paving and trenching is anticipated to be \$1.8 million, and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-19, the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ is to deliver to the UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ Board of School Estimate (the "Board of School Estimate") an estimate of its cost of the project and the amount of money needed for the project;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ hereby determines a) the need for the College to expend \$1.8 million for parking lot paving and trenching on the Cranford Campus, b) the estimated cost of this project is \$1.8 million, c) the amount of money needed for such purpose by the Board of Trustees of the College is \$1.8 million, and d) the College will pursue Chapter 12 State funding for all or a portion of said purpose.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of School Estimate is hereby requested to certify to the Union County Board of County Commissioners that \$1.8 million be raised through the issuance of County College bonds and notes by the County of Union to fund the Cranford Campus Parking Lot Paving and Trenching.
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to each member of the UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ Board of School Estimate.

On motion duly made by Mr. Katz, seconded by Dr. Tasharofi and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

Resolution B025-013 - Second Amendment to Cellular Service Implementation for the Cranford Campus

- WHEREAS, on June 26, 2018, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution regarding a solution to address the limited cellular service on the Cranford Campus as well as an authorization to sign a land lease with Verizon Wireless which included a monopole cell tower at 130 feet, and
- **WHEREAS,** on January 22, 2019, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to approve a modification to extend the height of the monopole cell tower to 140 feet with additional branches extending above the tower on the Cranford Campus, and
- **WHEREAS**, there is a need to memorialize a slight shift of the compound away from the closest neighbor;
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ approve this amendment, with all other terms of the lease remaining unchanged and in full force and effect.

On motion duly made by Mr. Katz, seconded by Dr. Tasharofi and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

Campus Projects:

Mr. Katz reported on the updates to the Project Prioritization List as well as the various projects on all campuses.

Cell Tower Update:

Mr. Katz reported that updated lease agreement by carriers will be signed upon approval of Resolution B025-013 above. He stated that the carriers have begun construction prep by calling for a mark out of utilities.

Kellogg Recovery Status:

Mr. Katz reported that there are no updates at this time.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

No one rose to address the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

On motion duly made by Dr. Tasharofi, seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously carried, the Board ratified all actions taken at the Joint Board of Governors and Trustees that immediately preceded this Trustees Meeting, and that the Minutes of the Joint Meeting shall be appended to and made part of these Trustees Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Betancourt read the following Resolution:

Resolution PT025-003 - Resolution Authorizing a Closed Session of the UCNJ Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the UCNJ Board of Trustees are subject to New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA); and

WHEREAS, OPMA generally requires that all meetings of public bodies be open to the public but that the public may be excluded when items requiring confidentiality are to be discussed as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the UCNJ Board of Trustees that:

- 1. The UCNJ Board of Trustees shall hold a closed meeting on March 18, 2025 from which the public shall be excluded.
- 2. The Executive Session will convene at approximately 6:45 p.m. and is expected to last until approximately 7:05 p.m.
- 3. The Board of Governors is invited to attend this meeting.
- 4. The general nature of the subjects to be discussed at said closed meeting involves a personnel matter and potential litigation.
- 5. The Minutes of said closed meeting shall be made available for disclosure to the public consistent with N.J.S.A.10:4-14, when the item which is the subject of the closed session is resolved and a reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

On motion duly made by Mr. Betancourt, seconded by Mr. Katz and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution for adoption.

The meeting went into Executive Session and the meeting resumed at 6:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business on the agenda, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Katz, seconded by Mr. Connolly at 7:15 p.m.