NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
(September 12, 2013)

The meeting was called to order by Chair DePalma at 8:30 p.m. in Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Boardroom, NJIT Campus, Newark, N.J. Also in attendance were Vice Chairs DeCaprio and Garcia (in person) and Slimowicz (telephonically) and Board Members Bone, Cordes, Cistaro, Raia Sugla and Wielkopolski. Absent: Board Members Beachem, Dahms and Knapp. Administrative members in attendance included President Bloom, Treasurer Mauermeyer, Secretary Stern, Provost Deek, Vice Presidents Turner, Dees, Fey, and Sebastian.

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

“Notice of this meeting was provided to the public as required by the New Jersey Meeting Act in the Schedule of Meeting Dates of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, which was mailed to the Star Ledger, The Herald News and the Vector on July 29, 2013. This Schedule was also mailed to the City Clerk of Newark on July 29, 2013 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. BY A MOTION MADE BY MR. RAIA, SECONDED BY MS. WIELKOPOLSKI and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to approve the minutes of July 25, 2013.

3. No members of the public had registered to speak in the Public Comments time period.

4. Vice President Fey introduced Ms. Elaine Gomez, a recipient of the Board of Trustees Scholarship, who made a presentation to the Board. Ms. Gomez is a senior Chemical Engineering Undergraduate and a member of the Albert Dorman College, sustaining a 4.0 average. She described her lifelong interest in complicated science projects, and described her current project of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through ammonia scrubbing. Her long term goal is to contribute alternate energy solutions through research, and intends to further her education through graduate school. She is the recipient of a number of other scholarships, and thanked the Board for their support, noting that scholarships do not simply provide financial support, but opportunities as well. She thanked the Board on behalf of all scholarship recipients.

4. BY A MOTION MADE BY MR. RAIA, SECONDED BY MS. WIELKOPOLSKI AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to Approve Resolution to Accept FY 2013 Audited Financial Statements.

5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY DR. SUGLA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to Approve Tenure for Dr. Marek Rusinkiewicz, consistent with the terms of his employment agreement.
6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY DR. SUGLA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCLUSIVE LICENSE OF UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

7. The Board agreed to carry the resolution approving amendments to the NJIT Supplemental Benefit Program and Trust pending further clarification.

8. Dr. Marek Rusinkiewicz, the new Dean of the College of Computing Sciences was introduced to, and welcomed by the Board. Dr. Rusinkiewicz addressed the Board, relating his background in academia and industry. He is looking forward to collaborative efforts with the other colleges, changing the perception of the College and studying changes to the current curriculum.

9. Vice President Fey gave a report on Enrollment Competition for Undergraduate Recruiting and Report of Fall 2013 enrollment, referring to materials in the Board Book and a powerpoint presentation of the highlight. We are at all all-time high in the number of students, now exceeding 10,000. The latest number is 10,087. We did lose 125 part time students, and re-admits are down. Our continuing student enrollment is up; new transfers are down. Our yield is better than the national average. We need to increase enrollment in the School of Management. We should consider having “business” in the title for search purposes. 94% of our students are from New Jersey; New Jersey is the largest exporter of students to other States. We also need to grow our international population.

10. The Board discussed Benchmark Peer Universities and Provost Deek gave a Presentation focusing on US News and World Reports rankings. This is the report that is most influential. NJIT’s recent decline in the rankings was primarily due to the change in emphasis on retention and graduation (22.5% of the weighted score); our overall scores were the same. US News has calculated that our graduation rate should be at 64%; it was 57%. There are a variety of reasons for this; students stop out for a number of reasons, including good jobs, financial and academic challenges. While this is a challenge for many STEM schools, we need to be doing better in terms of the graduation rate. We intend to focus on more centralized advising; there are three new employees in the Advising Center. We need to concentrate on the six week period, where a number of students are at risk. Additionally, students need to be able to have a solid grounding in Math. The Board discussed the effect of ranking on attracting students. Dr. Bloom notes that we attract about half of the New Jersey students who want to study engineering.

11. Vice President Dees gave a report on Gifts and Fund Raising Activities. He reviewed the materials contained in the Board Book, and highlighted upcoming activities and events, including the ribbon-cutting planned for the Warren Street Village on September 18, 2013. Board Member Bone noted that one student’s telephone call yielded a $100,000 donation; appreciation was noted.

12. Treasurer Mauermeyer discussed the Operating Statement Year to Date, and the Schedule of Short Term Investments and Operating Statement Year to Date. All of the summer activities have been completed; 54% of tuition is in, which is where we expected to be at this time. We are on target with income. There is substantially more financial aid distributed earlier, which is part of an overall program to address the receivables issues. Because of the joint
efforts of the Provost, the Vice President of Student Services, and the Treasurer, there is much more timely payment by students, despite the fact that these are more challenging times than ever. We are focused on coordinating communications with students so they don’t have to shop for answers to their financial questions.

With respect to the Schedule of Short Term Investments, the cash and cash equivalent is up substantially from last year at this time. This reflects increased receipts, and our construction expenses are reimbursed in a more timely manner.

13. Chair DePalma read a resolution regarding Closed Sessions to discuss Personnel, Real Estate, Contract and Legal Matters to be held on Wednesday September 18th, 2013 at 9:00 a.m, Thursday September 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday November 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at Eberhardt Hall Alumni Center Board Room, to discuss personnel, real estate, contract and legal 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, contract and legal matters to take place on Wednesday September 18th, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., Thursday September 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m and Thursday November 7, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Board Room.

The next Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall Board Room, following the Closed Session of the Board.

The public session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.