The meeting was called to order by Chair DePalma at 4:10 p.m. in Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Boardroom, NJIT Campus, Newark, N.J. In attendance were Chair DePalma, Vice Chairs Cordes, DeCaprio and Garcia, Board Members Beachem, Bone, Cistaro, Dahms, Knapp (telephonically), Raia, Sugla, and Taylor. Absent: Board Member Slimowicz. Administrative members in attendance were President Bloom, Provost and Executive Vice President Deek, Sr. Vice President Sebastian, Vice Presidents Dees and Turner, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer Mauermeyer and Secretary Stern. Absent: Vice President Fey.

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 November 20, 2013. This Schedule was also mailed and sent electronically to the County Clerk on November 20, 2013 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. By a motion duly made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Beachem and unanimously approved, the minutes of the public meeting of November 6, 2014 and January 21, 2015 were unanimously approved, except that Board Members Bone, Cordes and Taylor abstained from approving the minutes of November 6, 2014 and Board Member Cistaro abstained from approving the minutes of January 21, 2015, as they were absent from the respective meetings as noted.

3. Secretary Stern reported that no one registered to speak in the public comments portion of the meeting.

4. Provost Deek presented a Proclamation to the Microsoft/UAF Hackathon Student Winners and their advisors, on behalf of the University. NJIT students Matthew Cooper ’16, Jackie Patel ’15, Nikhil Kaushal ’16 and Pitambar Dayal ’16, supported by their faculty advisor, Dr. Cesar Bandera, participated in the United Athletes Foundation-Microsoft Hackathon in November 2014 at Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington, competing against teams from 25 universities and colleges. The NJIT team won top honors for their mobile gateway app, and each student received a $10,000 award. Dr. Deek commended the students, as well as their advisors, Dr. Cesar Bandera, and Dean Katia Passerini.

5. Provost Deek presented a Proclamation to Professor Gordon Thomas, Professor of Physics, for his induction into the Academy of Inventors. The status of Fellow is accorded to academic inventors who have demonstrated a highly prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventors that have made a tangible impact on quality of life,
economic development and the welfare of society. The Board recognizes and commends Dr. Thomas for his accomplishment and distinguished contributions.

6. Professor Amit Bose, Chair of the Faculty Senate gave a presentation to the Board on behalf of the Faculty Senate. He discussed the Faculty Senate role in the context of shared governance and proposed Faculty Handbook changes. Referencing material in his slides, he noted that of the three New Jersey public research universities, NJIT was Carnegie classified as having “high research activity” and that public research universities conduct more than 60% of the nation’s academic research and produce over 70% of its scientists, engineers and doctors. He stated that the Faculty Senate believes that to improve our ranking we must change our classification to “very high research activity” and that this should be taken into consideration by every Faculty Senate action. He outlined the areas of successes of shared governance, including an open line of communication with the Provost, the Faculty Hiring Plan, the Faculty Research Advisory Board, course evaluation improvements, the grade appeal policy, the Retention & Graduation Task Force, improvements in course scheduling, the improvement of research and teaching infrastructure and noted that he had a meeting schedule with Vice President Dees to discuss the relationship of grants and fundraising. He concluded that NJIT is experiencing a paradigm shift. Dr. Bose raised concerns about the drafting of the 2020 Vision Plan, stating that the Faculty Senate voted to abstain from providing a recommendation on the Plan. Chair DePalma replied that the drafting of the Plan was well underway prior to the formation of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Bose also raised Faculty Senate concerns about the Sabbatical Policy, stating that it should be a working assumption that every research eligible faculty member who writes a recommended or highly recommended proposal be granted a sabbatical. Finally, he discussed Faculty Handbook changes, stating that the Faculty Senate is actively debating all recommendations and suggestions made by Dr. Zeddie Bowen, and that Dr. Bowen recommends a Board of Trustees dialogue and forum with regard to the President search process. Their goal is to have a revised Handbook for Board approval in June 2015.

Chair DePalma thanked Dr. Bose and noted that the Board shared many of the concerns noted, particularly with respect to gaining “high research” status and the support of shared governance. We look forward to dealing with these concerns, and he thanked Dr. Bose and his colleagues, urging them to continue to work with Provost Deek.

7. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUESTS. Vice Chair DeCaprio noted that the 12 requests approved were of very high quality, and endorsed by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Research.

8. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MR. TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCLUSIVE LICENSING OF UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
9. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2020 VISION STRATEGIC PLAN. Provost Deek thanked the University community who participated in the development of the plan, which will be transformational for the university.

10. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. CORDES, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD (Mr. Raia and Dr. Sugla abstaining), the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING OF THE WELLNESS AND EVENTS CENTER ON THE NJIT CAMPUS.

11. Vice President Dees gave a report on Branding and Marketing. He introduced Mr. Michael Wahl, the Executive Director of Constituent Relations, and Mr. Michael Smullin, our new Director of Alumni Relations. Board Member Cistaro gave a report on the Comprehensive Campaign and Gifts. He reported that the Celebration Event in November 2014 netted $255,000 more than the previous year. Referencing the Giving Report in the Board materials, he noted that we are behind last year in our numbers, but added that we had two windfall bequests the previous year, and we will likely increase our numbers by the year’s end. We have reached 90% of the NEXT Campaign goal of $150 million, and could declare victory at the beginning of 2016.

Dr. Dees reported on Development Growth Strategies. He reported that we have done a Campaign Study on readiness for fundraising for the Events Center, resulting in a recommendation for an Events Center Strategy. He also reviewed the Branding and Marketing Scorecard, compiled with Meltwater Group software which utilizes data analytics to determine the advertising value of top stories featuring NJIT accomplishments. Dr. Dees further reviewed the highlights and activities of NJIT, including upcoming events, noting that the date of Commencement for 2015 will be May 15, 2015. He also commended Board Member Cistaro for his valued leadership of the Advancement Committee.

12. Provost Deek gave a report on Winter/Spring enrollment. He first introduced Dr. Wendy Lin-Cook, our new Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management & Academic Services, as well as Mr. Michael Maysilles, University Registrar and Mr. Steven Eck, Director of Admissions. We have experienced an increase in Winter session enrollment, with students utilizing the opportunity to take courses needed to graduate. There has been an unusual increase in Spring enrollment, and we have asked the departments to add classes for the Summer semester. We project that by Fall of 2015, we are on target to enroll 11,013 students. The only area of decline is in the enrollment of PhD students. This is an important lifeline for research activity, and strategies are being implemented to increase our enrollment there. Overall, we have had a healthy increase in applications, due both to our hard work and the utilization of the common application.

13. President Bloom gave his report to the Board. He thanked the Board for the historic actions taken today. With respect to the adoption of the 2020 Vision Strategic Plan, he believes that the KPI’s will track solid outcomes, and that while the goals are ambitious, we can accomplish them. The next challenge will be in the implementation process. He also summarized the importance of the Wellness & Events Center approval. This will provide
200,000 square feet of space for many multi-purpose events. This year we had to turn away 30 companies from jobs recruitment events for lack of space. The current gym was opened in 1967 when we had 4,000 commuter students, and is not adequate to meet the needs of our current and growing student population of 11,000 (2,000 of whom are residential) as well as faculty and staff. The new facility will provide a venue for fitness, wellness and recreation for all students, including our Division One athletes. This will be a game-changer for the University.

Discussing other matters, President Bloom noted our media coverage has been outstanding recently. He congratulated the Microsoft-UAF Hackathon team for their accomplishments. We have also opened 12 new laboratories in Tieman Hall and outfitted the fourth floor of Fenster for Research offices, all promoting a rich academic environment. Current, the Provost is leading a search for 18 new faculty positions. Dr. Bloom thanked the Board for its support of these important initiatives.

14. Senior Vice President and Treasurer Mauermeyer gave a report on the Operating Statement Year to Date, referring to the materials in the Board Book, and invited any questions.

15. Chair DePalma reminded the Board of the Calendar of Events on page 56 of the Board book, adding that Commencement 2015 will be held on May 19, 2015 in the Prudential Center.

16. The Chair announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session would be convened on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 2:00 PM 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 Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 2:00 PM, Eberhardt Hall Board Room.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Eberhardt Hall Board Room, following the Closed Session of the Board.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.