NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
(February 4, 2016)

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair DeCaprio at 4:07 p.m. in Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Boardroom, NJIT Campus, Newark, N.J. In attendance were Chair DePalma, Vice Chairs DeCaprio and Garcia, Board Members Bone, Beachem (telephonically Cistaro, Dahms, Poddar and Raia. Absent: Vice Chair Cordes and Board Members Knapp, Sugla, Slimowicz and Taylor. Administrative members in attendance were President Bloom, Provost and Executive Vice President Deek, Senior Vice Presidents Bishop, Dees and Sebastian and Vice Presidents Christ, Fey and Turner, 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 12, 2015, and posted on the University website. This Schedule was also mailed and sent electronically to the County Clerk on August 12, 2015 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. By a motion duly made by Mr. Cistaro, seconded by Ms. Garcia and unanimously approved, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2015.

3. By a motion duly made Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Bone and unanimously approved, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of December 28, 2015, with an amendment noting the telephonic attendance of Sr. Vice President Bishof.

4. Secretary Stern noted that no one registered to speak at the public comments portion of the meeting.

5. Provost Deek introduced a proclamation recognizing Dr. Moshe Kam, Dean of Newark College of Engineering, and as the recipient of the 2016 IEEE Haraden Pratt Award for his original and high-impact contributions to IEEE’s educational activities and expanding IEEE’s global reach and effectiveness.

6. Provost Deek further introduced a proclamation recognizing Dr. Somenath Mitra, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science, for induction as an NAI Fellow into the National Academy of Inventors.

7. The Board joined Dr. Deek and the administration in applauding both Dr. Kam and Dr. Mitra for their accomplishments. A third proclamation recognizing Dr. Zeynip Celik, will be introduced at a later meeting.
BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to approve the sabbatical leave recommendations as set forth in the Board materials.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MR. CISTARO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION CHANGING UNIVERSITY SENATE BYLAWS.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PODDAR, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AMEND PRESIDENTIAL CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS, SECONDED BY MS. GARCIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING CERTAIN SUBSTITUTIONS AND ADDITIONS IN THE 2013 EQUIPMENT LEASING FUND AGREEMENT AND REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE NEW JERSEY SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SUCH CHANGES.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PODDAR, SECONDED BY DR. DeCAPRIO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE 500TB OF ENTERPRISE DISK STORAGE FROM NETAPP.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. GARCIA, SECONDED BY MR. BONE AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the Board voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION HONORING HENRY A. MAUERMeyer TO EMERITUS STATUS.

President Bloom gave his report to the Board. We submitted two proposals to the Secretary of Higher Education, seeking Capital Improvement Funds for two projects, one focusing on creating a Makerspace facility, and the other proposal for the upgrade and transformation of Faculty Memorial Hall. Provost Deek led the effort, along with Mr. Christ and Mr. Bishof. Dr. Bloom also reported that our discussions regarding the potential purchase of Riverfront stadium were not successful, but acknowledged Ms. Stern and members of the Board for their work throughout the discussions. The County Executive and Mayor support our efforts to play sports in the City of Newark and are working with us to identify alternative venues. Provost Deek and Ms. Garretson have been instrumental in working with E-Consult to develop an economic impact, which show that NJIT has an economic impact of $1.7 billion overall, and an impact of $639 million in the City.

Our building and grounds projects are doing well, and Mr. Christ was commended for his work on managing concurrent construction. We had a “Day of Dialogue” on campus, under the leadership of Dr. Fey, which was an outstanding event. Board Member Raia attended the event, along with faculty, staff and approximately 350 students.
Dr. Bloom discussed our recent publications, and thanked Ms. Ugorgi and Dr. Deek for their work which improves NJIT’s visibility. Next, Dr. Bloom introduced Mr. Bishof as NJIT’s new CFO and Senior Vice President. Mr. Bishof thanked Dr. Bloom, the Board, Vice Presidents Turner and Christ and members of the search committee. He is excited for the opportunity, and looks forward to serving the university in this new role.

15. Dr. Richard Sher, President of the Faculty Senate, gave a report as well as a presentation on behalf of the Faculty Senate. He introduced Dr. Dan Bunker, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, and acknowledged Dr. Amit Bose, first President of the Faculty Senate for his role in shared governance.

Dr. Sher first discussed general principle of improvement under shared governance, emphasizing improved communications, greater cooperation among faculty, administrators and other stakeholders, increased participation and engagement of faculty in academic decision-making, and increased efficiency as more work is done at the Faculty Senate level. The largest project to date has been the Revision of the Faculty Handbook, which has been reorganized into a coherent document in seven parts. It is 1/3 as long as the current version – 50 pages, down from 150 pages. Outdated material has been removed, and replaced with live links, allowing us to keep current. The Handbook has been entirely reformatted and standardized. Dr. Sher gave a partial list of the substantive changes, which include: expansion of the Departmental Promotion and Tenure Committees to include tenured Associate Professors; elimination of the “two shots at tenure” for newly hired faculty; and a revised sabbatical policy (all of which changes were previously approved by the Board of Trustees). Additional changes approved by the Faculty include introduction of new sections on teaching and faculty development; institution of opportunity for Deans to register their recommendations in the Promotion & Tenure process; a revised policy on Professors emeriti, and redefined search procedures for administrators involved with academic affairs. These will come to the Board for review in July. There are additional revisions in progress this Semester, including reform of departmental chair selection procedures, revision of default department bylaws and bylaws policy, formulation of guidelines for faculty hiring, review of promotion and tenure policies and a review of the status of University Lecturers.

Dr. Sher reviewed other accomplishments, including faculty evaluations of senior administrators, new policies on student evaluations and teaching load, involvement with the 2020 Strategic Plan, and with the Middle States Periodic Review. Finally, he noted major concerns and challenges of the Faculty Senate, including prioritization of academics, research facilities for STEM, faculty hiring to keep up with enrollment, increasing faculty diversity especially women, course scheduling reform and working on a presidential search policy that follows best practices. He concluded by stating that he looks forward to working with the Board. Chair DePalma commended Dr. Sher and his colleagues for their cooperative work towards progressive continuous improvement, and Dr. Deek thanked Dr. Sher for his selfless work while on sabbatical.

16. There will not be a presentation by the Dean of the School of Management at this time.

17. Vice President Fey summarized his report on Spring Enrollment, reviewing the highlights. Our student population for Spring is 10,625, up 493 from the same time last year. We have
52 new freshman who deferred enrollment by attending community college in the Fall. Our MS students have declined, in part due to the world economic situation. We have made up the difference in undergraduate enrollment, however, and have good summer recruitment. We are projecting Fall enrollment as 11,609, and are working to bring back more returning graduate students.

18. Sr. Vice President Dees gave a presentation on our Branding & Marketing Report Card, as well as the Comprehensive Campaign and Gift Report. With respect to the NEXT Campaign, we are current at $160.8 million. In 2008 we had 10 dedicated solicitors on staff; as of 2015, that has increased to 16, increasing distinct constituent meetings from 247 to 572 in the same time period. Dr. Dees reviewed development growth strategies, which include enhanced alumni cultivation and stewardship event participation; increase and track proposals; aggressive promotion of naming opportunities surrounding the WEC and other campus sponsorship opportunities; increase use of prospect identification tools and intelligence gathering methods; strategic qualification and cultivation of our new A-Sun Conference regional constituents; increased use of media to attract attention to NJIT’s reputation and submission of our Annual Fund vide and direct mail appeal to CASE for consideration of awards. Dr. Dees noted that the current $300 million expansion on campus, including the WEC, is a game-changer. Dr. Dees also reviewed highlights from our branding and marketing efforts, including brochures, media, publications and the President’s blog. He furthered reviewed the top national news stories involving NJIT, quantifying their ad value, were we to purchase the publicity. Lastly, he presented web site analytics and gave a social media update of NJIT related activities.

Dr. Deek next discussed the Campaign report. As of December 31, 2015, we reached a total of $160,808,622, not including grants from July 1, 2015 forward. Dr. Deek referenced the Board materials showing the breakdown for gifts to date, which are up significantly. Board Member Cistaro reported on the success of November’s Celebration Event. We netted $304,000, up 26% from last year, and he thanked the team for a great job. The Board next viewed a video produced in connection with fundraising efforts.

19. Mr. Bishof reported on the Operating Statement Year to Date. At mid-year, we are in line with the budget, and in fact currently above by $3.5 million, $1.4 million of which will be devoted to capital investments. With regard to short term investments, we currently hold $106.4 million, with an increase in cash and cash equivalents. This reflects an increase in collection in capital projects and student receivables.

20. Mr. DePalma called the Board’s attention to the Upcoming Calendar of Events, and changes to the meeting schedule over the next year.

21. The Acting Chair announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session would be convened on Thursday, April 14, 2016 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 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM, Eberhardt Hall Board Room.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at 4:00 PM, Eberhardt Hall Board Room, following the Closed Session of the Board.

22. The public session was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.