

**NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
(February 7, 2019)**

The meeting was called to order by Chair DePalma at 4:05 p.m. in Eberhardt Hall, NJIT Alumni Center Boardroom, NJIT Campus, Newark, N.J. In attendance were Chair DePalma, Vice Chairs Cohen, DeCaprio, Raia and Taylor, and Board Members Bone (telephonically), Cistaro, Dahms, Montalto, and Toft. Absent: Board Member Garcia.

Senior Administration Present: In attendance were President Bloom, Provost and Sr. Executive Vice President Deek, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer Bishof, Sr. Vice President Sebastian, Vice Presidents Alexo, Christ, Iyer, and Nynens, Dean Boger, 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 June 28, 2018, and posted on the University on June 28, 2018 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. By a motion duly made by Mr. Toft, seconded by Mr. Dahms and unanimously approved, the Board approved the public minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2018, with abstentions from those members not in attendance at such meeting.
3. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MR. RAIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE THE 2019-2020 FACULTY SABBATICAL REQUESTS as set forth in the Provost’s recommendations dated February 7, 2019.
4. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY DR. DeCAPRIO, SECONDED BY MR. RAIA AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR FUNDING \$1.3 MILLION FOR 2019-2021 CONTRACT WITH ELSEVIER-SCIENCE DIRECT FREEDOM COLLECTION DATABASE.
5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. CISTARO, SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, the BOARD voted to APPROVE RESOLUTION TO EXTEND PRESIDENT’S CONTRACT.
6. The Board opened the meeting for public comments from those previously registered. Ms. Beverly Glasgow was the first speaker. She stated that the university has wonderful conveniences and amenities. She criticized the administration of case-handling, stating that she received numerous versions of statements from staff. She felt that her student loan was

mishandled, even though she followed the deadlines given. This may not always come to the Board's attention, and she felt that feedback is not welcomed. Chair DePalma responded that customer service to our students is an aspect of administration that the Board takes seriously. He thanked her for coming to the Board, and stated that we will continue to pursue and look into this.

Dr. Perl was also registered to speak, but indicated that he would wait to give his remarks until after the Faculty Senate President gave her report. Chair DePalma agreed to do so.

7. Dr. Deek stated he was pleased to recognize Dr. Craig Gotsman, Distinguished Professor and Dean of the Ying Wu College of Computing Sciences, for his election to the rank of NAI Fellow of the National Academy and Inventors, and read the following commendation, which was presented to him on behalf of the Board:

WHEREAS, *The National Academy of Inventors (NAI)* annually elects to the rank of NAI Fellow named inventors on U.S. patents and those nominated by their peers for outstanding contributions in areas such as patents and licensing, innovative discovery and technology, significant impact on society, and support and enhancement of innovation, and

WHEREAS, election to NAI Fellow status is the highest professional accolade bestowed to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and welfare of society, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Craig Gotsman, Distinguished Professor and Dean, Ying Wu College of Computing, was evaluated by the members of the 2019 Selection Committee, and recognized for his contributions and inventions, including a number of cutting-edge software technologies for manipulating 3D geometric data, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gotsman was one of 148 renowned inventors named Fellows of the NAI this year and will be inducted into the National Academy of Inventors in April 2019,

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of New Jersey Institute of Technology, on behalf of the entire university community, extends its congratulations to Dr. Gotsman for his accomplishment and salutes him for his distinguished contributions.

8. Dr. Deek noted that Dr. Abdi was unable to appear at today's meeting to accept his commendation, and the Board agreed to act upon it at a subsequent Board meeting when he could be present to receive it.
9. Dr. Bloom gave his report to the Board, reporting that we have received and reviewed Governor Murphy's report on *The State of Innovation: Building a Stronger and Fairer Economy in New Jersey*. Working with Dr. Deek and Dr. Sebastian, we wrote a response to this report, detailing NJIT's assets and initiatives and setting forth how NJIT can be an integral part of the Governor's plan.

10. Dr. Deek gave a presentation on Spring 2019 enrollment. We have realized the headcount and budget goals, increasing enrollment for the same period last year by 2.5%. We are confident that will reach our enrollment goal set forth in the 2020 Vision KPI.
11. Dr. Eliza Michalopoulou, President of the Faculty Senate, gave a report and presentation with slides on behalf of the Faculty Senate. She pointed to improved communications with NJIT leadership, and noted that they have had many meetings with NJIT senior administration, including with Dr. Bloom, Dr. Deek, Mr. Bishof, Mr. Christ and Ms. Iyer. They are happy with their interactions with the Board of Trustees; they had frank exchanges, and provided a report in December 2018, as well as in engaging in numerous discussions regarding the search process. With respect to the search process, both parties are converging on consensus.

Dr. Michalopoulou then reviewed completed and ongoing projects of the Faculty Senate. Completed and ongoing projects include review of all undergraduate degrees and the new GER, implementation of the State 120 credit requirement, a policy on the hiring and promotion of lecturers (which they introduced, and was adopted by the PSA) and preliminary approval of a MS in medical science program. They support benefits for our students' dependents, which will help in recruitment. Other projects include streamline the procedures for distinguished professors, evaluation of upper administrators, and improvement of the teaching evaluation process. With regard to continuing concerns, she highlighted comments from the faculty regarding continuing issues with on-line testing and integrity issues, classroom and university facilities and resources, particularly lack of space in the classrooms and computers. The faculty are concerned about budget prioritization. Additionally, they believe that the presidential search process should start now, as it takes a long time. She voiced concern about a decline in SAT scores as a result of enrollment increases, and the impact it would have on our rankings. She noted that it is difficult to teach a class with students who have diverse qualifications, and who struggle with the material. Another point of concern is faculty hiring; we currently have the same number of tenure/tenure-track faculty as we did in 2001, with a much smaller student population. Additionally, they would like to see more diversity in faculty hiring. Two years ago, we made big progress, and she advocated for additional faculty lines. With respect to outsourcing, she expressed concern with a decline in the quality of helpdesk resources, noting that many faculty simply try to solve issues by themselves, rather than call out of state. She spoke in favor of in-house personalized support for research and teaching. We need to compete for equipment grants.

In summary, Dr. Michalopoulou commended Dr. Bloom for addressing some of their concerns at the Faculty Senate meeting on January 31st, noting that other concerns remain. The Faculty Senate was concerned about rumors of plans for future construction, and she noted that it was important to have open communication to avoid rumors. The Faculty Senate would like to work with the administration to meet the goals of 2020 Vision and beyond, but also wants the administration to move in the right direction, and they will speak up when they disagree with the direction.

Chair DePalma thanked Dr. Michalopoulou on behalf of the Board, for her caring and for the work that she does. He said that he enjoyed their collaboration, and explained that he prefers to look at the glass as "half full." With respect to the list of concerns, he regards this as a list

of opportunities to improve and continue on a path of upward trajectory. The Board understands the faculty's concerns, and they are important to both the administration and the Board. He countered the negative rumors circulated about future building, explaining that the Board had asked Dr. Bloom to prepare a white paper on strategic property purchases for the future. We are accelerating Capital Renewal and Replacement to maintain and improve existing facilities. We are focused on existing infrastructure, and getting it up to the right standards. Without external funding sources, no new building will be initiated. Vice Chair Taylor also thanked Dr. Michalopoulou, stating that the items of concern can be fixed, if we know about them. As to enrollment, he noted that tuition and State funding is the source of our revenue; if enrollment declines, there is no increase in State funding. Extending enrollment is a matter of dollars and cents. Chair DePalma added that while our enrollment moves were financially driven, we actually increased our SAT scores – they have not decreased. The Board is sensitive to this issue. As our reputation increases, it becomes easier to recruit. Marketing and reputation are converging, and we continue to attract students. Dr. Michalopoulou pointed to the College of New Jersey and St. Peters College as examples of schools that became more selective, stating that we need to sell NJIT as an excellent school. Dr. Bloom cautioned against comparing institutions, pointing out that as a math, science and engineering school, our pool is narrower. We support transparency, but it must be done in an informed way. Chair DePalma thanked Dr. Michalopoulou and her Faculty Senate colleagues for their hard work.

Dr. Yehoshua Perl spoke next. He has been here 33 years, as a Professor of Computer Science who is significantly involved in research. He is quite familiar with the issues, and has invested his life in improving NJIT. He stated that we need to invest in human infrastructure. He cited the Research Department as an area that has been greatly improved, and urged that we focus on other departments as well. He pointed out problems with the facilities and cleaning, as well as problems with internet connections on campus. There is room for improvement, and he credited the efforts of Dr. Deek and Dr. Dhawan. Dr. Perl noted the importance of increasing the number of faculty; we are bringing in \$50 million in research. He is happy that Dr. Bloom is supporting some of the Faculty Senate priorities, and he wants to ensure that the Board is aware of these. He expressed concern about attracting students with high SAT's, and stated that if we are building dorms, we need to ensure that they are occupied. Dr. Perl spoke against outsourcing as a bad idea that decreases the quality of service. Chair DePalma thanked Dr. Perl for sharing his concerns.

12. Vice President Alexo gave a summary of our fundraising progress, referring to the materials in the Board book. At this point, we have roughly \$7 million in new verbal commitments, which would put us at \$13 million to date.
13. Treasurer Bishof reported on the Operating Statement Year to Date and Schedule of Short Term Investments, as set forth in the Board materials. He is pleased to report that based upon a comprehensive mid-year review, our goals have been realized, and Spring enrollment is positive. Details of revenue and expenses are included in the Board book at pages 38-40. With respect to our short term investments (cash and cash equivalents), we have \$4.5 million more than we had the previous December. The trend is moving in a positive direction, and we have sufficient income to support our operations.

14. Vice President Christ gave a report on the Clery Crime Data, which was provided to the Board in the materials. Crimes are down 12% year over year, and he credits these results to proactive patrolling and enforcement. There is nothing significant to report.
15. Chair DePalma called the Board's attention to upcoming events forth in the Board book, particularly Commencement; there will be three events on two separate dates. He encouraged the attendance of the trustees and faculty. Dr. Bloom called the Board's attention to the March 7th event, as well as the Scholarship Brunch on April 12th.
16. The Chair announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session will be convened on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 2 p.m. 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 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall Board Room.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., Eberhardt Hall Board Room, following the Closed Session of the Board.

17. The public session was adjourned at 5:07 p.m., and the Board continued in Closed Executive Session.