

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
April 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cohen at 4:37 p.m. at the Administrative Center, 494 Broad St, NJIT Campus. In attendance were: Chair Cohen, Vice-Chairs Clayton, DeNichilo, Shah, and Toft, and Board Members Dahms, Montalto, Maser. Absent: Vice Chair Stamatis and Board Members Baynes, Charters, Profeta, and Vierheilig.

Senior Administration Present: In attendance, President Lim, Sr. Vice Presidents Pelesko, Christ and Brennan, NJIT President Johnson, General Counsel and Vice President of Legal Affairs and Board Secretary Curko, Vice Presidents Boger, Brady, Golden and Wozencroft, Interim Vice President Kornstein, Chief of Staff Hageman, Chief of Public and Community Affairs Garretson, Chief Diversity Officer Jones, and Chief of State Government Affairs Matt Bonasia.

1. In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chair Cohen 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 sent electronically to the Star Ledger, the Herald News and the Vector on March 11, 2025 , and posted on the University website on March 11, 2025 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. **Minutes:**

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS, SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THOSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THAT MEETING, THE BOARD APPROVED THE PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025.

Chair Cohen took a moment to recognize the passing of former NJIT President Saul Fenster and asked for a moment of silence.

3. **Presentation:**

Mr. Angelo Geneva and Mr. Jim Burns welcomed the Board and NJIT to 494 Broad Street. They expressed their enthusiasm for NJIT's presence in the area and discussed the positive impact on the neighborhood's development.

Dr. Atam Dhawan and Dr. Som Mitra presented on the incredible work in the translational research space. Today's academic research and innovation enterprise is supported by the fundamental applied and translational research which are need driven towards strategic innovation partnerships to make the impact.

4. **Public Comments:**

Secretary Curko noted Dr. Yoshua Perl registered to speak. He raised concerns about the university's financial situation, the need for more labs and classrooms, and the potential impact of tuition being too expensive.

5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT AND SECONDED BY MR. SHAH AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE 2025 HONORARY DOCTORATES RECIPIENTS: DENNIS BONE, KEVIN O'TOOLE AND JENNIFER TAUBERT.
6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. SHAH AND SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF NJII VENTURE STUDIO AND FUND I OPERATING AGREEMENTS
7. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MONTALTO AND SECONDED BY MR. COHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH DEPARTMENTS IN THE HILLIER COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN.
8. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. SHAH AND SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN BUSINESS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
9. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS AND SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY SENTATE.
10. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON AND SECONDED MR. COHEN TO ALLOW FOR NON-SUBSTNATIVE EDITORIAL CHANGES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NJIT PRESIDENT AND PROVOST WITHOUT THE NEED FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES RATIFICATION.
11. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. COHEN AND SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSTIY SENATE.
12. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON AND SECONDED BY MR. COHEN AND UNANINOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE PLANNED AUDIO-VISUAL CONTRACTING SERVICES.
13. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS AND SECONDED BY MR. COHEN, AND UNANINOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE LENGTH OF TERMS FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRS APPOINTED UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.
14. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MASER AND SECONDED BY MR. COHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AWARD OF THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS OF GUTTENBERG INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER LECTURE HALL # 1100.

15. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON AND SECONDED BY MR. COHEN AND APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TERMINATION OF THE CONDITIONAL DESIGNATION OF PRC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MLK GATEWAY BLOCK 2857 AND BLOCK 2858 ("WEST SIDE") AND BLOCK 43 LOTS 38, 39, 40, 41, 46, 48 ("EAST SIDE") WITH ABSECTIONS FROM MR. DAHMS AND MR. MASER. THIS RESOLUITON WAS MOVED TO THE APRIL 21 DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

16. **Chair's Report:**

Chair Cohen expressed frustration and uncertainty about the university's future due to recent changes in immigration policies, federal orders, and funding decisions. He emphasized the importance of academic freedom and the university's role in preparing students for the modern workforce. Mr. Cohen also highlighted the need to protect the university's research and intellectual property, as well as its commitment to diversity and inclusion. He reassured the faculty and students that the university's mission and sense of purpose would not change, and that the Board would continue to engage and support them.

17. **President's Report:**

President Lim acknowledged the support of Chair Cohen and the moment of silence for President Saul Fenster. He shared positive news about NJIT's prestigious R1 designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutional Higher Education and its economic impact on New Jersey. He also highlighted the achievements of NJIT students, including two Goldwater Scholars.

18. **Alumni Association Report:**

Alumni Association Alfred Martinez discussed the engagement of the Alumni Board and student engagement. Event attendance increased by almost 50%, indicating the Alumni Association's responsiveness to alumni needs. Notable events included the Cherry Blossom Festival, Golden Highlanders and AI lectures. Student engagement initiatives included dinners with the Center for Student Entrepreneurship and alumni panels for student audiences. The Alumni Board plans to host student networking events in the Fall.

19. **FY25 Engagement and Fundraising Progress to Date:**

Interim VP Kornstein reported on the fundraising and discussed the challenges faced due to the absence of two key team members and the impact on fundraising. They also discussed the creation of a new committee for Corporate and Industry Relations, which aims to leverage existing relationships to increase revenue. The team acknowledged the need for better coordination between different departments to avoid confusion and ensure a cohesive strategy. The conversation ended with a discussion on the role of the office of corporate engagement and its potential impact on fundraising and alumni engagement.

20. **CFO Report:**

Sr.Vice President Brennan reported on the budget, cash, and endowment, with a focus on the February snapshot. It was noted there was robust discussion in Closed Session and FY26 Budget is in development.

21. **Clery Crime Data:**

Sr. Vice President Christ reported a 65% reduction in year-over-year in Clery statistics, attributing the success to the Public Safety team. NJIT's Public Safety Department was featured on CBS News for the 48 hours of shifts consisting of just women.

22. Chair Cohen announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session will be held on June 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. 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, June 12 , 2025 at the Central King Building, Agile Strategy Lab.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m at the Central King Building, Agile Strategy Lab.

23. The Public Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.