

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
September 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cohen at 4:10 pm in the Agile Strategy Lab, Central King Building, NJIT Campus. In attendance were: Chair Cohen, Vice-Chairs Charters, Clayton, DeNichilo, Stamatis and Toft, and Board Members Baynes, Broder, Dahms, Montalto, Shain and Vierheilg. Absent: Vice Chair Shah and Board Members Maser and Profeta.

Senior Administration Present: President Lim, Executive Vice President Pelesko, General Counsel, Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs and Board Secretary Curko, Senior Vice Presidents Christ, Boger, Brady and Kelly, Interim Senior Vice President Kenney, Vice President Golden, Chief of Staff Hageman, Chief of Public and Community Affairs Garretson, Chief of State Government Affairs Matt Bonasia and Chief Campus Culture Officer Jones.

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 September 5, 2025, and posted on the University website. The schedule was also mailed and sent electronically to the County Clerk on September 5, 2025 for filing with that office and posting in such public place as designated by said Clerk.”

2. **Minutes:**

Chair Cohen noted there were three resolutions at the July 17, 2025 meeting that contain corrections of a minor typographical error concerning the date on which the Board approved the FY26 budget.

BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT, SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THOSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THAT MEETING, THE BOARD APPROVED THE PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 17, 2025.

3. **Public Comments:**

Secretary Curko noted Amit Bose and Michael Kehoe registered to speak. Dr. Bose addressed the challenges facing higher education institutions and highlighted the PSA's focus on job preservation, academic freedom, and adherence to core values. He commended the administration for no job losses and successful mitigation of attacks on research funding. Dr. Bose recognized union leaders and emerging leaders across professional staff, lecturers, and faculty, emphasizing the need for salary equity and promotional pathways for continued growth and success at the university.

4. **Presentation:**

The NJIT First Aid Squad presented their work, highlighting their 30 active EMTs who are nationally trained and state certified. They reported responding to over 40 medical emergencies in the past academic year and demonstrated their emergency response procedures, including using a tourniquet and slings to stabilize a patient. The squad works closely with Public Safety and University Hospital, providing immediate on-campus response to medical emergencies while waiting for ambulance transport

when needed.

5. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT AND SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS.
6. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT AND SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO AMEND ARTICLE III OF THE BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
7. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT AND SECONDED BY MS. CHARTERS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZING NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE SUMMER 2025 CYCLE OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FACILITIES PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING FOR ONE OR MORE PROJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION AND AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.
8. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. BAYNES AND SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY INSURANCE PROGRAM.
9. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. TOFT AND SECONDED BY MS. MONTALTO AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTE TO DISTRIBUTE UNALLOCATED BIOCENTRIQ PROCEEDS TO FUND EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO PROJECT SPARK.
10. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. SHAIN AND SECONDED BY MS. CHARTERS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ADOBE ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE LICENSE.
11. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS AND SECONDED BY MS. CHARTERS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED, THE BOARD VOTED TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2024-35 TO APPROVE THE AWARD OF ONLINE VENDOR MARKETING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION SERVICES.
12. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. CLAYTON AND SECONDED BY MR. DAHMS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE EDUCATION.
13. BY A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. DAHMS AND SECONDED BY MS. VIERHEILIGAND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FACULTY SENATE TEACHING, LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.

14. **Chair's Report:**

Chair Cohen reflected on the significant pressures faced by the university community, including challenges with visas, research funding, student recruitment, and budgeting, while emphasizing the resilience and collective efforts of faculty, staff, and administration. He highlighted the emotional impact of witnessing student diversity, engagement, and the commitment of new faculty who chose NJIT during uncertain times.

The groundbreaking of Oak Hall was framed not just as new construction, but as a strategic investment in the university's future and identity. Ultimately, Chair Cohen expressed gratitude for the community's perseverance and optimism, underscoring that NJIT continues to control its own path forward—a privilege that has been rightfully earned.

15. President's Report:

President Lim emphasized that while higher education is evolving rapidly and the path ahead may be challenging, NJIT is progressing with focus, trust, and optimism. Despite ongoing changes, the university continues to build momentum, as reflected in its rising rankings—earning top spots in Best Value, Career Placement, Game Design, and Entrepreneurship from the Princeton Review, and significant jumps in Forbes' lists of top public and national colleges. Anticipating further improvement in upcoming U.S. News rankings, he also highlighted a notable collaboration with the FIFA NY/NJ Host Committee, where NJIT students and faculty are leading the development of a fan sentiment analysis platform for the World Cup. The report concluded with reminders about key upcoming events, including Homecoming (October 16–18) and the annual Celebration fundraiser on November 7.

16. FY26 Fundraising:

SVP Kelly provided an update on fundraising and engagement efforts, highlighting a recent strategic realignment within Development and Alumni Relations, which now includes Strategic Communications under the newly formed University Advancement division. This restructuring aims to create a more integrated and effective approach to fundraising and engagement. A comprehensive 360-degree review of all processes—from staffing to data analytics—is underway to improve efficiency and impact.

17. CFO Report:

Interim Sr. Vice President Kenney shared a positive financial update, noting that NJIT is projected to end FY25 with an \$8 million surplus in its unrestricted operating budget, which can be carried into FY26. Cash balances remain strong at \$130 million, and continued growth in the stock market has led to optimistic endowment performance. He expressed appreciation for the finance team's work and progress.

18. Clery Crime Data:

Senior Vice President Christ highlighted that the university's low crime statistics are a direct reflection of the outstanding and consistent efforts of the Public Safety Department in maintaining a safe campus environment.

19. Chair Cohen announced that the next regularly scheduled Closed Session will be held on November 6, 2025 at 1:00 pm 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, September 18, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Agile Strategy Lab, Central King Building.

The next regularly scheduled Public Session of the Board will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the Agile Strategy Lab, Central King Building.

20. The Public Session was adjourned at 4:55 pm.