STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

OPEN PUBLIC MINUTES

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

T	Tourster Malida Walandin Oberin
Trustees Present	Trustee Nelida Valentin, Chair
(*via Zoom)	Trustee Nancy Davis, Co-Vice Chair
	Trustee Jose Lozano, Co-Vice Chair (Absent)
	Trustee Michelle Keates, Secretary
	Trustee Raymond Ciccone
	Trustee Collins Days, Sr.
	Trustee Mady Deininger*
	Trustee Stan Ellis
	Trustee Sonia Gonsalves
	Trustee Kristi Hanselmann
	Trustee Amy Kennedy
	Trustee Timothy Lowry
	Trustee Stephanie Lutz-Koch (Absent)
	Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris
	Trustee Shalayby Parsons, Student Trustee
	Trustee Juan Diego Chaparro Villarreal, Student Trustee Alternate
	Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
Call to Order	Chair Valentin called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.
Approval of Open	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee
Public Regular	Days, the Board voted to approve the revised minutes of the
Meeting Minutes of	December 6 th Board of Trustees Special Open Public Meetings.
December 6, 2023	Boothist of Board of Tractices openial Openia ability Moothings.
Resolution to Meet	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee
in Closed Session	Lowry, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 12:51 p.m.
III Globba Goodion	Lowry, the Board voted to most in closed ecosion at 12.01 p.m.
Reconvene of Open Public Meeting	Trustee Valentin reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 4:38 p.m.
Chair's Remarks	Trustee Valentin opened the meeting with a warm welcome to new community members, faculty, students, and guests. She expressed excitement for the ongoing Spring Semester and mentioned several anticipated events, including President Joe's upcoming inauguration, the Foundation Scholarship Gala in April, and the rapidly approaching commencement. Trustee Valentin highlighted the hard work of everyone involved, acknowledging their crucial role in the success of these events.
	She then took a moment to acknowledge the trustees present, emphasizing their dedication and commitment to Stockton University's future and their support for President Joe and the university staff. Trustee Valentin reflected on the importance of the

Board's recent discussions, all of which aim to advance the university's mission.

In addition, she pointed out the Board's Statement of Commitments, which is displayed in the boardroom and underscores the values of mutual respect and diversity at the university. To close her remarks, Trustee Valentin emphasized that these commitments are not just formalities but are deeply integrated into the Board's core values and the university culture, and she encouraged everyone to read these commitments, displayed on the boardroom walls, to understand the Board's principles better.

President's Report

President Joe welcomed faculty, staff, and community members. He also recognized the Student Ambassadors in attendance and thanked them for their contributions.

President Joe highlighted a few campus events that took place on campus. He first recognized the 20th Annual MLK Day of Service, which took place on January 15th. The Day of Service had 500 members of the Stockton Community in attendance. The event had over 30 projects throughout Galloway, Atlantic City, Hammonton, and Woodbine. The Day of Service provided support to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, neighbors at local nursing homes, pediatric patients at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, and many more. President Joe also highlighted the kickoff of Stockton Maple Project's fourth season with a tree-tapping event. Additionally, President Joe touched on Black History Month, its annual flag-raising ceremony, and the various events and activities that took place throughout February.

President Joe celebrated the success of the men's and women's basketball teams for their participation in the NJAC tournament. He recognizes student-athletes DJ Campbell, Eric Akerman, and Kayla Kass for their outstanding athletic achievements.

President Joe shared that the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program was recognized as one of the top programs in the country by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a national scientific and educational organization. The program is one of two in the state, with only 101 programs nationwide.

President Joe invited the audience to his Spring Town Hall, which will take place on Tuesday, February 27th. He also encourages attendance at Discover Stockton Day, which takes place on Saturday, March 23rd. The last event President Joe highlights is his inauguration, which will take place on Friday, April 12th.

Finally, President Joe recognized the incoming Provost, Dr. Michael Palladino. He highlighted his experience in higher education and his enthusiasm to have Dr. Palladino join the Stockton community. President Joe invited Dr. Palladino to say a few words.

Dr. Palladino thanked President Joe and the Board and provided insights into his professional journey, emphasizing the milestones that have prepared him for the role. After sharing his priorities for his transition period, Dr. Palladino expressed gratitude to the Stockton community. This concluded the President's report.

Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report

Chair Valentin called upon Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.

Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves began the report by presenting three resolutions for Board approval by consent agenda.

- Academic Year Calendar Fall 24 and Spring 2025
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship

The consent agenda resolutions were unanimously approved by the board upon a motion made by Trustee Ciccone and seconded by Trustee Days.

Trustee Gonsalves continued her report by acknowledging the overview provided to the committee members by Interim Provost Dr. Marissa Levy on the vital role of faculty service within the University and the community during the committee meeting. Trustee Gonsalves shared insights into the "Get FIT @ Stockton" initiative, introduced to the committee by Dr. Alysia Mastrangelo and Dr. Mary Kientz, along with Graduate Assistants Kalyn Conway and Kayla Singer. This community-based health and wellness program aims to educate and engage community partners, focusing particularly on individuals with developmental disabilities. The initiative adopts an interprofessional education model involving Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, and Health Sciences students who work directly with clients. Following this, Trustee Gonsalves invited Interim Provost Levy to present a posthumous award for the title of Distinguished Professor to Dr. Anne Pomeroy, Professor of Philosophy.

During her presentation, Interim Provost Levy praised Dr. Pomeroy's deep involvement at Stockton University, notably as a union leader and mentor, and her contributions to the Faculty Band. She expressed pride in recommending Dr. Pomeroy for a distinguished title, highlighting her significant impact on the community.

Continuing her report, under the umbrella of service, Trustee Gonsalves transitioned to Dr. Norma Boakes, a professor of education, who introduced her innovative approach to integrating origami and math education during a brief presentation to the committee. This project, which she has initiated since 2007, merges arts, mathematics, and cultural history into a course that concludes with an event called the Origami Showcase. This event, scheduled for April 24th at noon in the Campus Center, will display student origami creations reflecting various thematic concepts.

Additionally, Trustee Gonsalves reported on three new MBA pathways programs: Bachelor of Science in eSports to the MBA in eSports Management, Bachelor of Science in Public Health to the MBA in Healthcare Administration and Leadership, and Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences to the MBA in Healthcare Administration and Leadership.

Lastly, two new Master of Public Health pathway programs were announced: Bachelor of Science in Public Health to Master in Public Health and Bachelor of Science and Health Sciences to the Masters in Public Health. A new minor in Archaeology was also introduced. Trustee Gonsalves concluded her report by expressing enthusiasm for these initiatives and looks forward to sharing further updates at the May meeting.

Student Success Committee Report

Committee Chair Trustee Davis began her report by extending her gratitude to the Board, as well as members of the Stockton Community. She shared the discussions that took place at the Student Success meeting, which focused on maintaining good retention of Stockton Students. Trustee Davis made note of the different readings discussed, which included the different strategies the University of South Florida practices to improve its Student Affairs and Student Success record.

Student Trustee Juan Chaparro and three other students attended the committee meeting to share their experiences at Stockton and their love for Stockton. Trustee Davis discussed the importance of maintaining this energy. Finally, she invited Dr. Catching to elaborate on her points and share information regarding the partnership with the EAB Navigate360.

Dr. Catching echoed Trustee Davis' thanks to participants in the Student Student Success Committee's conversation. And followed with information regarding EAB Navigate, a student success management system. Dr. Edmondson, Assistant Vice President for Student Transitions, Access and Retention Programs, and Elvis Gyan, Director of the Center for Academic Advising, were acknowledged for their efforts to implement the initiative, which will take place in the coming months.

EAB Navigate is significant because its data analytics technology allows for the creation of different strategies to support students. Dr. Catching concluded his report and invited Dr. Robert Heinrich, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to present a spring enrollment update.

Dr. Heinrich presented the final enrollment report for the Spring 2024 semester. He began by thanking the partners who have contributed to the achievements for the Spring 2024 semester.

Dr. Heinrich reported a 3% increase in new students overall compared to the Spring of 2023. There was a decline in new transfer

students, but there was strong growth in first-year students by 50, which is doubled from last year. Dr. Heinrich also celebrated the surpassing of the goal of 423 students by 12, which was a significant milestone for the University.

Dr. Heinrich also addressed the decline in overall student numbers but highlighted a positive trend in the transition ratio for continuing students from Fall to Spring. During the last three years, both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the fall returned for the spring. Dr. Heinrich shares that Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will be working to ensure students persist and return in the Fall.

Dr. Heinrich informed those in attendance about upcoming events. These include the Dual-Credit Recognition Dinner, Sneak Peek Stockton Week, Discover Stockton Day, and Experience Stockton Day. Finally, Dr. Heinrich recognized Dr. Michael Law and the Faculty Senate for their support in gathering several courses from faculty members, allowing students to shadow courses during Sneak Peek Stockton Week.

Finance and Professional Services Committee Report

Committee Chair Trustee Ellis initiated his report by outlining three resolutions for Board consideration.

Trustee Ellis presented the first resolution:

- Amendment to FY24 Operating & Capital Budget
 - Housing 4 Geothermal Project, \$2,400,000
 - Academic Classroom Technology Project, \$554,917

The board unanimously approved the resolution upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Davis.

Trustee Ellis presented the second resolution:

- FY25-FY27 Bid Waiver Contract
 - o OCLC Inc. (3-year waiver, \$185,000)

The board unanimously approved the resolution upon a motion made by Trustee Ciccone and seconded by Trustee Lowry.

Trustee Ellis presented the third and final resolution for Board consideration:

- FY24 Increase in Bid Waiver Contracts
 - o Trane US, Inc. (FY24, \$40,000)
 - o PCK Media (FY24, \$22,500)

The board unanimously approved the resolution upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Tjoumakaris.

Continuing his report, Trustee Ellis reviewed the FY24 operational and capital spend through January 31, 2024, noting that as of January 31st, 84% of the operating revenue forecast was realized, while 76% of the operating expense forecast was realized. The capital expenditures, including encumbrances, totaled \$4.1 million. There was a projected operating and capital deficit of \$11.6 million;

however, there is cash available to cover the forecasted deficit without needing to tap into the investment reserve.

Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 25, the Committee's preliminary discussions highlighted several challenges, including enrollment both recruitment and retention, state support, and macroeconomic factors such as inflation and interest rates. The ongoing needs for physical infrastructure and deferred maintenance were also emphasized. The Chief Financial Officer has already begun developing the FY25 budget, exploring cost saving strategies and alternative revenue streams.

The university community will be kept informed through ongoing communications and presentations to the Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates. Additionally, President Joe will provide further insights at a town hall meeting scheduled for February 27th.

Trustee Ellis also announced that the 2024 Annual Tuition Hearing will be held on April 17th. This hearing, which will be spearheaded by the Finance and Professional Services Committee, will allow the Board of Trustees to gather feedback directly from the community regarding changes to tuition and fee rates. The proposed tuition, fees, room, and board increases will be presented for Board approval at a special meeting on June 26th.

Audit Committee Report

Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee last met in November. He explained that the Committee oversees matters related to both external and internal audits.

Baker Tilly, the University's outsourced internal audit function, continues to make progress on the current internal audits and the Enterprise Risk Management project. Grant Thornton, the external auditor, completed the University's FY2023 Financial Statement and Uniform Guidance audits. The statements were issued on February 8th and included a clean or unmodified audit opinion.

Finally, Trustee Ciccone thanked Jennifer Potter, Vice President for Administration & Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and her department for maintaining the University's financial records.

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

As Committee Chair Trustee Lozano was not in attendance, Trustee Hanselmann, Vice-Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, shared the report.

Trustee Hanselmann summarized the key points during the last Building and Grounds Committee meeting. She first addressed the replacement of the water tank, which is an essential project because it provides about 300,000 gallons of potable water for the campus. The budget for the project is between \$1 and \$1.2 million, and it hopes to be completed over the summer.

Trustee Hanselmann transitioned to the Atlantic City Feasibility Study and shared the \$1 million grant acquired to explore Phase III in

Atlantic City. The task force is collaborating with consulting forms Elysian, Brailsford and Dunlavey to assess the feasibility of expanding the Atlantic City campus.

Trustee Hanselmann discussed the next major project: the Library Learning Commons expansion, which is being funded by a bond from the state at about \$19.5 million. The project is set to begin in January 2025 and is intended to reopen in September 2026. During this time, the University plans to place study spaces throughout the academic spine and quiet spaces in vacant classrooms during certain times. Library services will be available in the C/D atrium.

Finally, Trustee Hanselmann shared the \$1.8 million grant received to provide technology upgrades to classrooms in A, B, C, and D wings, as well as the Alton Auditorium and the C/D Wing Atrium. Trustee Hanselmann calls on Don Hudson, Senior Vice President for Facilities and Operations, to elaborate on the details shared.

Mr. Hudson shared that the Building and Grounds Committee meeting was great. He dives into the discussion regarding the library and highlights the collaborative efforts of faculty, staff, students, and community members. Mr. Hudson also shares information on how to receive activity regarding the project, which can be accessed through the Facilities and Operations, Library, and Provost's website. Finally, Hudson reiterates the timeline of the project and thanks the audience.

Advancement Committee Report

Committee Chair Trustee Days called on Dan Nugent, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the University Foundation, to provide the Advancement Committee report.

Mr. Nugent reflected on the success of the recent Advancement Committee meeting and expressed gratitude to key participants: Sue Werner, Executive Director of Development; Geoff Pettifer, AVP for University Relations and Marketing; and Craig Stambaugh from Student Affairs. The meeting highlighted collaborative efforts across university departments to dismantle barriers to student success, focusing on initiatives like the Student Relief Fund, housing essentials, and food security programs.

A standout moment from the meeting, according to Mr. Nugent, was the testimony of a young alumna who benefited from the Student Relief Fund. She was identified proactively by Student Affairs after reaching the requisite number of credits but not filing for graduation due to a financial barrier. After applying for and receiving aid from the Student Relief Fund, she shared her transformative experience with the committee, highlighting how the fund significantly altered her life. She was initially skeptical about the assistance being offered but came to realize the impact of such support on her academic journey.

Mr. Nugent thanked the alumna for her heartfelt presentation and acknowledged the contributions of all who support these vital efforts,

	whether through their roles within the university or as donors. Concluding the report, Dan took the opportunity to mention the upcoming benefit gala on April 20th at the Hard Rock, another significant initiative by the Foundation to support students through scholarships.
Investment Committee Report	Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported that the Investment Committee last met on February 6 th with Wells Fargo and Windmark to review investment performance through December 31, 2023. Trustee Keates shared that the University's total portfolio balance was \$111,844,507, with a gain on investments totaling \$5,053,894. Wells Fargo reported a return of 4.89%, while Windmark reported a return of 4.68%.
	Trustee Keates highlighted the growth of the University's investment portfolio, homing in on its increase from \$48M in January 2016 to \$112,311,628 by the end of January 2024. The increase was achieved all while completing Phase I and II in Atlantic City, adding 2 additional buildings to the academic quad, and the various capital projects on the Galloway campus, including the Multi-Cultural Center.
	Trustee Keates described the Committee's in-depth review of the University's existing investment policy and procedure. She shared that the updated investment policy statement being presented today for the Board's first reading includes all elements of a clearly defined investment policy for nonprofits. She explained that the policy was expanded to address the following key areas: rebalancing, spending policy, risk management, monitoring and review, environmental, social, and governance and socially responsible investing considerations, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. Trustee Keates thanked everyone involved in the collaborative process, particularly the contributions of Jennifer Potter, Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Offer, Trustee Stan Ellis, Chair of the Finance and Professional Services Committee, and Jon Heckscher, SVP, Director of Fixed Income and Institutional Strategy of Fiduciary Trust International.
University Policies	President Bertolino presented the Board with the following policy as an informational item for a first reading: • VI-56 Investment Policy
	President Bertolino presented the Board with the following policies for second reading and Board approval: • VI-57.5 Post-Issuance Tax Exempt Bond Compliance • VI-100 Protection of Minors Policy The board upon mously approved the resolution upon a motion
	The board unanimously approved the resolution upon a motion made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Davis.
Personnel Actions Resolution	President Bertolino presented the Board with the Personnel Actions Resolution.

The Personnel Actions Resolution was unanimously adopted	
the board upon a motion duly made by Trustee Ciccone and	1
seconded by Trustee Days.	

Board Comments and Comments from the Public

Dr. Arnaldo Cordero-Roman, Associate Professor Emeritus of Spanish, representing Unidos, shared an overview of Unidos' journey. It highlighted its establishment in 2018, which garnered exposure with well-attended panel discussions and lectures, as well as the publication of Palante, the Unideos newsletter. He retired in 2022, serving as the last elected president of Unidos.

Dr. Cordero-Roman shared Unidos's relaunch efforts, which are comprised of three founding members and three original affiliated associates: Yubi Peña from Student Affairs, Madeline Perez from Arts and Humanities, Roberto Castillo from the Center of Teaching and Learning Design, Rosa Perez-Maldonado, the Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Merydawilda Colon, the Executive Director of the Office of Student Engagement. Dr. Cordero-Roman recognized the diversity of the Board of Trustees and thanked them for their support.

Finally, Dr. Cordero-Roman shared Unidos' immediate goals, which include revising its constitution and enhancing its logo. He also shared Unidos' core mission, which revolves around recruitment, retention, mentorship, networking, leadership, and professional advancement. Dr. Cordero-Roman concluded his public comment by expressing gratitude to members of the Board for their contributions and support.

Following Dr. Cordero-Roman's public comment, Trustee Chaparro shared his experience of meeting Dr. Cordero-Roman while searching for a speaker for the Hispanic Heritage Month Flag Raising ceremony. Prior to meeting Dr. Cordero-Roman, he was unaware of Unidos and its mission. Trustee Chaparro shared that Dr. Cordero-Roman introduced him to the various faculty and staff members at the University. He emphasized the work of Unidos and its benefits for students who have similar backgrounds. Trustee Chaparro recognizes Unidos for their dedication to maintaining an environment for Hispanic workers at Stockton.

Interim Provost Levy reports new hires and title changes in the Division of Academic Affairs:

- Dr. Kimberly Dickerson, Interim Dean, School of Education
- Roland Regos, Interim Assistant Dean, School of Education
- Dr. Alfred Mueller, Assistant Dean, William T. Daly School of General Studies
- Michael Palladino, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Michael Angulo, Vice President for Personnel, Labor & Government Relations, introduced and welcomed Amy Swan, Director of Government Relations. Miss Swan has over 20 years of experience in

the legislature, working on policy, legislation, community outreach, and government relations.

Dr. Peter Baratta, Chief Officer for Strategic Planning and Effectiveness, welcomed Jenny McNamara to the Institutional Research team as an Institutional Research Specialist.

Dr. Michael Law, Associate Professor of Biology and Faculty Senate President, welcomed Dr. Michael Palladino on behalf of the faculty. He also thanks President Joe and Dr. Sass for working with faculty to foster a culture of dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, and civility.

Dr. Monica Amadio and Dr. Christy Goodnight thanked the Board for encouraging the entrepreneurship program. Dr. Amadio recognized three outstanding students in the program: Jaylen Newton, Raheem Brown, and Gia Taylor.

New Business: Mission Moment

President Joe highlighted the Mission Moment, honoring the late Dr. Juanita High, who was deeply connected to Stockton University for over 40 years in roles such as Affirmative Action Director and Special Assistant to the President. Dr. High also contributed to the Foundation Board of Directors and the Council of Black Faculty and Staff and established the Dr. Juanita High Distinguished Student Book Award. She was recognized as a Trailblazer by the Stockton University Black Alumni Association and featured in a public mural titled Education Trailblazers by the Atlantic City Arts Foundation Mural Arts Project. President Joe invited Detty Maidanove-Exantus, a Stockton University junior majoring in political science, to provide remarks on how Dr. High's lasting impact has affected her Stockton Journey.

In her remarks, Ms. Maidanove-Exantus reflected on Dr. Juanita High's significant contributions to education and social equity. Highlighting her role as the first Executive Director of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund, Dr. High is celebrated for her commitment to making education accessible to underrepresented students. In closing, Detty highlighted how Dr. High's work helped her, a first-generation college student, overcome educational barriers and how every individual should commit themselves to carrying forth her legacy of empowerment and inclusion.

Following Detty, Dr. Beverly Vaughn, Professor of Music, delivered an emotional tribute to Dr. Juanita High, affectionately referred to as Jua. She drew a parallel between her father, a bricklayer, and Dr. High's foundational role at Stockton University, emphasizing her profound influence on the institution's growth. Reflecting on her impact, particularly in Atlantic City and New Jersey, Dr. Vaughn highlighted her lasting contributions to the community.

In closing her remarks, Dr. Vaughn presented a resolution authored by Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, on behalf of the Council of Black Faculty and Staff to the Campus Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Excellence. Dr. Vaughn movingly quoted lyrics thought to be Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite, symbolizing Dr. High's lasting legacy of aiding others and creating significant positive change. The mission moment concluded with committee members receiving the resolution amidst applause, celebrating Dr. High's significant and lasting impact. The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. at the Galloway Campus in the Campus Center Event Room.
Adjournment	Trustee Valentin thanked everyone for their attendance. Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Gonsalves, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on May 1, 2024