

**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
*Virtual
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Trustees Present On Zoom	Trustee Nelida Valentin, Chair Trustee Jose Lozano, Vice Chair Trustee Michelle Keates, Secretary Trustee Raymond Ciccone Trustee Collins Days, Sr. Trustee Mady Deininger Trustee Sonia Gonsalves Trustee Kristi Hanselmann (Absent) Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Timothy Lowry Trustee Stephanie Lutz Trustee Mary Maples Trustee Mukesh Roy Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris Trustee Melanie Chin, Student Trustee Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
Call to Order	Chair Valentin called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2025, May 17, 2025 & June 26, 2025, as Consent Agenda.	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lozano and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2025, May 17, 2025, and June 26, 2025, Board of Trustees Open Public Meetings.
Resolution to Meet In Closed Session	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Roy, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 12:44 p.m.
Reconvene the Open Public Meeting	Chair Valentin reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 4:35 p.m.
Chair's Remarks	Chair Valentin opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. She shared that the Trustees had recently received an update on the progress of the University's new Strategic Plan and, before turning the meeting over to President Bertolino for the President's report, extended appreciation to the Stockton community for their engagement in the various forums and surveys as part of the development process.
President's Report	President Bertolino began his report by sharing his excitement about recently celebrating his second anniversary as Stockton's President. He proceeded to highlight several Summer activities and recognitions occurring across campus: New Student Orientation, EOF Summer Institute, the Live, Work, Learn program in Atlantic City, with a participation of over 180 students. The Stockton Circle K International Chapter received several awards at the Kiwanis

	<p>International Convention, including First Place in the Club Single Service category, and the University set a new school record of having 143 student-athletes qualify for the 2024-2025 New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) All-Academic Team for their work inside the classroom.</p> <p>He continued his report by announcing that the state budget for FY26 has been finalized, and the Enrollment outlook looked strong with tuition deposits up 4% over Fall 2024.</p> <p>President Bertolino recognized Academic Affairs for their new certificate program in Public Policy and expanded articulation agreement with Ocean County College.</p> <p>He concluded by reporting that the Final draft of the Strategic Plan will be shared with the campus community later in the Summer and emphasized the over 1000 contributions from various stakeholders.</p>
Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report	<p>Chair Valentin called upon Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves shared highlights from the committee meeting, beginning with the announcement of a new Dean for the William T. Daly School of General Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Throesch. Dr. Throesch will replace Dr. Robert Gregg, who will return to the classroom after serving as the school's Dean for the past 12 years.</p> <p>The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was granted accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Details were provided about the new articulation agreement with Northeast College of Health Sciences in the areas of Chiropractic Sciences and Clinical Nutrition.</p> <p>The committee was also informed that a new standing committee of Chairs has been established in the faculty senate, and the chair of that committee will also serve as a member of the Academic Affairs Council. Drs. Gerry Lorentz and Tina Zappile joined the meeting to provide updates on the SFT Union negotiations, which continue to progress positively.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves ended her report with a mention of Provost Palladino's presentation on the new course scheduling platform that will be rolled out in Fall 2026.</p>
Student Success Committee Report	<p>Committee Vice Chair Trustee Roy began the Student Success report by sharing a few high points from the presentation on a proposed First-Year Student Success Model for the institution, given by the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Bill Latham. The Model centers on a holistic approach to supporting first-year students, such as co-curricular advising and career exploration.</p> <p>Assistant Vice President for Student Transitions, Access and Retention Programs, Dr. Ana Edmondson, and Instructor of Mathematics & First-Year</p>

	<p>Studies Emily Ryan presented the First-Year Experience task force report, which outlines current and in-progress first-year experiences at Stockton.</p> <p>Trustee Roy ended his report by sharing some of the enrollment data presented by Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darren Bush.</p>
Finance and Professional Services Committee Report	<p>Committee Vice Chair Fotios Tjournakaris initiated his report by providing a brief overview of the items discussed in the Finance and Professional Services Committee, including in detail the three resolutions to be presented to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The following resolutions were presented by Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed FY26 Operating & Capital Budget and Adoption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed budget reflects revenue of \$292,574,812 and expenses of \$311,875,231 resulting in a deficit of \$19,300,419. The deficit will be reduced by any cost savings measures implemented throughout the year. The remaining deficit will be covered with available cash and investments. Included in the proposed budget are capital funding requests of \$6,230,000, of which \$5,655,000 will address deferred maintenance and \$575,000 will address health, safety, and ADA concerns and new projects. • FY26-FY28 Bid Waiver Contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AKRF, Inc. (3-year waiver, \$258,600) - Suasion Communications Group LLC (3-year waiver, \$460,000) • FY26 Increase in Bid Waiver Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Niche.com, Inc. (FY26, additional amount requested \$148,500) <p>The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Lozano. There was one Recusal by Trustee Maples for the FY26-FY28 Bid Waiver Contract resolution.</p> <p>Trustee Tjournakaris concluded his report by sharing that the final FY25 year-end results will be available in mid-August after the accrual period ends and required year-end accounting entries are complete. There is an anticipated surplus of approximately \$119,000 based on the forecast through May 31, 2025. The University ended the fiscal year with a cash balance of \$22.9 million. This is \$3.1million more cash than we started the year with and well above the \$10-15 million goal established for fiscal year 2025.</p>
	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee has not met since April 30, 2025.</p> <p>At the last meeting, Grant Thornton presented their 2025 Annual Financial Statement and Uniform Guidance Audit Plan.</p> <p>Audit planning and audit procedures related to Information Technology and Student Financial Aid are underway. Baker Tilly reviewed their current internal audit activities, including reviews of Supplemental Payments and Sponsored</p>

	Research. Final Reports will be presented at the next Audit Committee meeting on August 20, 2025.
Buildings and Grounds Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lozano opened his committee report by sharing that Senior Vice President for Facilities and Operations, Don Hudson, provided a brief overview of the 30+ projects currently underway.</p> <p>Don informed the committee that the Library Learning Commons project is currently on schedule and the project remains within budget.</p> <p>The Water Tank replacement project that was discussed previously is underway and should be completed by the end of the Summer.</p> <p>The Housing I redevelopment project was initiated; more details will be provided in a future meeting.</p> <p>In closing, Trustee Lozano remarked that the committee also reviewed the proposed FY27 State Capital Budget submission, which includes \$250,000 for emergency systems and renovations.</p>
Advancement Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Days began his report by informing the public that the Advancement committee did not meet this cycle but provided an update on the Division's fiscal goals. The University Advancement team exceeded its fiscal year goals by \$1M, reaching a total of \$5.1M</p> <p>A full report will be provided when the committee meets again in September.</p>
Investment Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Keates reported that the Investment Committee has not met since the May 7th Board meeting.</p> <p>She proceeded to highlight the investment results through May 31, 2025, and preliminary fiscal year-end figures.</p> <p>The University's total portfolio balance as of May 31st was \$126,734,010. For the eleven months ending May 31st, the University had a gain on investments of \$7,854,964. Wells Fargo's return for the eleven months was 7.5% and Windmark's return was 6.3%.</p> <p>Results through June 30, 2025, are still preliminary, but the estimated return for the fiscal year was 10.6% for Wells Fargo and 9.3% for Windmark.</p> <p>Trustee Keates concluded her report by sharing that the Investment Committee will meet on August 26, 2025, with the advisors to review investment performance through June 30, 2025.</p>
University Policies	<p>President Bertolino presented the following policy as an informational item for first reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-9.5 University Seal, Colors, Mascot <p>He continued the policy update by presenting the following policy for a second reading and approval by the Board of Trustees:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • II-70 Emeritum Status <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry the board approved the resolution.</p>
Personnel Actions Resolution	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following resolutions for approval by consent agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Actions Resolution • AFT Reclassification Appeal <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Lozano, the Board approved the resolution.</p>
Personnel Action	<p>Chair Valentin presented the board with the following resolution for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Tenure <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the board approved the resolution.</p>
New Business:	
Board Comments and Comments from the Public	<p>Student Alyssa Vilas, provided comments advocating for the re-opening of the on-campus childcare center “Free to Be.” In her remarks, she emphasized the impact on student parents and faculty by the University’s lack of childcare options, suggested that the University look at potential ways to fund reinstating the center with a potential partnership through the School of Education.</p>
Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	<p>The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Event Room of the Galloway Campus.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m.</p>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 10, 2025