

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

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Trustees Present On Zoom	Trustee Jose Lozano, Chair Trustee Timothy Lowry, Vice Chair Trustee Mary Maples, Secretary Trustee Raymond Ciccone Trustee Collins Days, Sr. Trustee Mady Deininger Trustee Sonia Gonsalves Trustee Kristi Hanselmann Trustee Michelle Keates (Absent) Trustee Amy Kennedy Trustee Stephanie Lutz Trustee Mukesh Roy Trustee Fotios Tjoumakaris Trustee Nelida Valentin Trustee Melanie Chin, Student Trustee Trustee Najmah Laing, Student Trustee Alternate Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, and Ex Officio
Call to Order	Chair Lozano called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m.
Approval of Open Public Regular Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2025, and Special Meeting Minutes of July 29, 2025, as Consent Agenda.	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lowry, the Board voted to approve the minutes of July 16, 2025, Board of Trustees Open Public Meeting, and the minutes of July 29, 2025, special meeting of the Board.
Resolution to Meet In Closed Session	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Deininger and seconded by Trustee Kennedy, the Board voted to meet in closed session at 11:44 a.m.
Reconvene the Open Public Meeting	Chair Lozano reconvened the Open Public Meeting at 3:59 p.m.
Chair's Remarks	Chair Lozano opened the meeting by welcoming the Trustees and Stockton Community to the first Board meeting of the Academic year. He reflected on his journey from Student Trustee to Chair. He expressed his commitment to respect Stockton's history, adapt to present challenges, and prepare for the future.
President's Report	President Bertolino opened his report by introducing the Mission Moment, presented by Karen Alton (Foundation Board Member, Donor and Granddaughter of Stockton Founder Elizabeth Alton) and Dr. Zupenda Davis, Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellness. Ms. Alton provided an overview of the Alton Mental Health Initiative Fund which was established post-pandemic to support student mental health. Initiatives include cultural competency training, the "I am Alive" Fair, and the ongoing distribution of funds for other campus-related events. Ms. Alton closed by mentioning the fundraiser that she would be hosting

	<p>later in the evening, in which the proceeds raised will continue to support the initiative.</p> <p>President Bertolino continued his report by providing an update on enrollment and student success. Over 2500 new students were welcomed to the Stockton community: the students in the incoming class hail from 14 different states and 5 different countries. More than half are first-generation students, and many are also Pell Grant recipients.</p> <p>He gave a shout-out to Student Trustee Melanie Chin, who passed her MCATs over the summer and will attend medical school in Fall 2026. He continued by mentioning highlights from the various welcome week events.</p> <p>President Bertolino spoke about the completion of the Strategic Plan and next steps toward implementation, the expanded articulation agreements with our New Jersey community colleges, Bucks County Community College, and Northeast College of Health Sciences. The University Dual Credit program also expanded to an additional 7 New Jersey high schools.</p> <p>Over the Summer, the Campus Safety department swore in nine new police officers, and President Bertolino welcomed ACE Presidential Fellow Dr. Eric Smaw from Rollins College.</p> <p>He shared dates for several key upcoming events: Constitution Day, Ospreys Give Annual Day of Giving, University Weekend, and the State of the University Address.</p> <p>He concluded his report by reiterating the University values with emphasis on the ethic of care, academic freedom, and making sure Stockton remains a community of opportunity.</p>
Information Item: Recognition of Outgoing Board Chair	Chair Lozano and President Bertolino thanked Trustee Nelida Valentin for her leadership as Chair over the past two years. She was presented with a plaque and commemorative photo collage.
Information Item: Oath of Office	Chair Lozano and President Bertolino swore in new Student Trustee Alternate, Najmah Laing.
Academic Affairs & Planning Committee Report	<p>Chair Lozano called upon Committee Chair Trustee Gonsalves to provide the Academic Affairs and Planning Committee Report.</p> <p>Trustee Gonsalves opened her report by presenting two resolutions for Board Approval by consent agenda: Academic Year calendars for Summer 2026 through Spring 2028 and the Endorsement of the University's new Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Lowry and seconded by Trustee Roy.</p> <p>She continued her report by welcoming the new deans who joined academic affairs. Dr. Elizabeth Throesch, Dean of the William T. Daly School of General Studies, Dr. Ali Moradi, Interim Dean for the School of Health Sciences, and Dr. William Minnis, Interim Dean for the School of Business. The committee spoke about the success of the redesigned Fall Faculty Conference, which featured professional development components and individual school welcome sessions.</p>

	<p>The committee was provided with an introduction of the GrayDi Platform which will be instrumental in evaluating current programs. Students Sage Rosenberg and Richard Bellmont also attended the committee meeting and presented on the Asia Minor Travel Seminar that they participated in.</p>
Student Success Committee Report	<p>Trustee Hanselmann shared that the Student Success Committee was provided with an overview of the Division of Student Affairs priorities centered around the student success framework, campus culture, the divisional strategic plan, and providing a dynamic student experience. Updates were shared on Ospreys Navigate, which launched on September 2, 2025, on the implementation of the First Year Experience Task Force recommendations and the completion of the Residential Life Strategic Plan, which includes KPIs for 2025-2026 in the areas of academic support and professional development.</p> <p>During the committee meeting, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Darren Bush, also went over some of the early Fall enrollment numbers, including the increase in first-year undergraduate students and noting a slight decline in transfer students.</p>
Finance and Professional Services Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lowry initiated his report by providing a brief overview of the items discussed in the Finance and Professional Services Committee, including in detail the four 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"> ● Resolution Authorizing Stockton University to Submit a Grant Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution authorizes submission of the grant application to OSHA for the following projects: Roofing & Waterproofing system replacement (Construction Improvement Fund Grant Request of \$7,923,000), Mechanical/Air Quality Ventilation Equipment Renovation (Higher Education Trust Fund Grant Request of \$5,200,000), and Campus Emergency Technology & Fire Alarm System Replacement (Construction Improvement Fund Grant Request of \$4,875,000). ● FY27 Capital Budget Request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FY27 Capital Budget Request has been prepared for submission to the New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning in accordance with State guidelines. The request identifies capital priorities totaling \$246,763,167. Of this amount, the University is requesting \$185,072,375 in new State capital funding. ● FY26-FY30 Bid Waiver Contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EBH 18 LLC dba Hilton East Brunswick. (1-year waiver, \$200,000) - Degy Booking International Inc. (1-year waiver, \$200,000) - Garrison Printing Co Inc. (1-year waiver, \$125,000) - Gray Decision Intelligence, Inc. FKA Gray Associates Inc. (5-year waiver, \$474,125) - MediaNews Group Inc. dba AdTaxi (3-year bid waiver, \$395,000) ● FY26-FY29 Increase in Bid Waiver Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ellucian Company LLC (additional amount requested \$104,909) <p>The board approved the resolutions upon a motion made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Valentin. There was one Recusal by Trustee Maples for the Grant Application to the NJ Office of Higher Education Capital Facilities Program resolution.</p>

	<p>Trustee Lowry ended his report by sharing the discussion items reviewed by the Committee. The University ended fiscal year 2025 with a surplus of \$255,994, which was in line with the last update to the Board at the July meeting. As of July 31, 2025, the FY26 operating revenue forecast was 31% realized and the operating expense forecast was 44% realized. Capital expenditures to date, including encumbrances, totaled \$3.5M.</p>
Audit Committee	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Ciccone reported that the Audit Committee met with external and internal auditors on August 20, 2025.</p> <p>Grant Thornton provided a brief update on the Fiscal Year 2025 audit, noting that interim fieldwork was underway. Baker Tilly reviewed the results of two audits – Supplemental Payments and Sponsored Research. Audit recommendations and management’s action plans were shared with the Committee. Additionally, Baker Tilly reviewed their proposed FY 2026 internal audit plan, which included the following areas of review: 1) Gender Equity in Athletics and 2) Americans with Disabilities Act 508 – Technology Accessibility. Risk Manager, Regina Rosenello, provided a brief update on the University’s Enterprise Risk Management Program.</p>
Buildings and Grounds Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Lozano opened his committee report by sharing brief details on the items discussed during the meeting: The University Library construction project is currently on schedule and on budget with an anticipated Fall 2026 opening. Additional updates were provided on campus maintenance projects, water tank updates, athletic campus improvements, and the Housing I study. An overview of the capital project submissions for state funding was also reviewed.</p>
Advancement Committee Report	<p>Committee Chair Trustee Days reported that the University fundraising goal for FY25 was exceeded by \$1M, with new gifts totally over \$5.2M. He spoke of the success of the University Advancements planned giving program and alumni engagement events.</p> <p>The current marketing campaign is showing strong engagement, with expansions to streaming TV platforms and transit advertising planned. Trustee Days closed his report by reminding meeting attendees about the upcoming Osprey’s Give Annual Day of Giving, which kicks off on October 8, 2025..</p>
Investment Committee Report	<p>Committee Vice Chair Trustee Deininger reported that the Investment Committee met on August 26, 2025, with Investment Advisors – Wells Fargo and Windmark – to review investment performance through June 30, 2025. The University’s total portfolio balance as of June 30, 2025 was \$130,303,021. For the twelve months ending June 30th, the University had a gain on investments of \$11,461,523.</p> <p>Wells Fargo’s return for the year was 10.65% and Windmark’s return was 9.29%. Both Advisors reported that investment objectives and asset allocations were within the guidelines set forth in the University’s Investment Policy Statement. During the meeting, the advisors addressed Committee questions related to the impact of the current tariff situation, market concentration, the threat to the independence of the Fed under the current administration, anticipated interest rate cuts, and the White House’s stake in corporate America and its impact on free markets.</p>

	The University's total portfolio balance as of August 31, 2025 was \$132,820,878. Investment gains for the first two months of FY26 totaled \$2,480,683.
University Policies	<p>President Bertolino presented the following policy as an informational item for first reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-3 Authorizations in Absence of the President • II-3 Academic Calendar <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"> • I-9.5 University Seal, Colors, and Mascot <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Gonsalves and seconded by Trustee Tjoumakaris, the board approved the resolution.</p>
Personnel Actions Resolution	<p>President Bertolino presented the Board with the following resolution for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Actions Resolution <p>Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Gonsalves, the Board approved the resolution.</p>
Board Comments and Comments from the Public	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.
Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting	The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Event Room of the Galloway Campus.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made by Trustee Days and seconded by Trustee Lutz, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on December 3, 2025