



Meeting Minutes

NSCC

Board of Trustees

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Danvers Campus, Berry Building, Room DB 103

In Person Attendees- Vice Chair Maria Vega-Viera, Trustee Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Trustee AnhDao Tran-Moseman, President William Heineman, VP Jan Forsstrom, SEO Kathryn Nielsen, CDEO Nikki Pelonia, AVP Loyce Brown, Dean Jason Marsala, Provost Chris Bednar, Dean Lori Vinci, AVP Jamie Wicks, NSCC Chief of Police Dave Cook, Deputy Chief Kevin Marshall, AVP Tim Johnson, AVP Eileen Gerenz, Special Program Coordinator Amy Sarofian-Butin, Department Chair Ginny King, Donor Relations Officer Keith D'Entremont, NSCC Student Isha Aher, Board Liaison Jill Palermo

Remote Attendees-Chair J.D. LaRock, Trustee Barbara Heinemann, Trustee Michael Pollack, Trustee Christine Danjou, Trustee Francesca Purcell, Trustee Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, Student Trustee Gianna Lang, Executive Director of IR Melissa Christensen, NSCC Student Isha Aher, MCCC Chapter President Torrey Dukes

Not in Attendance- Trustee Richard Yagjian

1. 5:00pm Call to Order
Chair LaRock Called the meeting at 5:00pm
2. 5:05pm Introduction of New Members of the North Shore Community
President Heineman read the names and titles of new employees at the college
Keith D'Entremont and Amy Saofian-Butin were in attendance
 - Keith D'Entremont introduced himself to the Board and expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Development Team as the new Donor Relations Officer.
 - Amy Saofian-Butin introduced herself as the new Senior Special Programs Coordinator in the STEM Starter Academy.
3. 5:10pm Public Comments
 - MCCC Chapter President Torrey Dukes requested the Board's support as the union prepares to advocate for a significant salary increase for faculty and professional staff in the legislature. Chapter President Dukes emphasized that competitive wages would help sustain the growing number of faculty and staff, driven by MassEducate.Chair LaRock, Vice Chair Vega-Viera, and Trustees Heinemann and Purcell all expressed their

support for the request.

- Chair LaRock noted that how the Board demonstrates its support will be important.
- The Board acknowledged the ongoing impact bargaining process and agreed that expressing their support within the next month would be appropriate.
- Chair LaRock and President Heineman will draft a letter of support for review.

4. 5:20pm Student Trustee Report

- Trustee Lang provided an update on her current classes and transfer applications. She noted that next month, she will report on the ACCT Legislative Summit and provide an update from the Student Government Association (SGA).
- Chair LaRock offered Trustee Lang any support she may need during the transfer process.
- President Heineman gave a brief summary of the ACCT Legislative Summit, which was attended by himself, Vice Chair Vega-Viera, Trustee Lang, and Director of Student Engagement Frederic MacDonald-Dennis.
- During the summit, the trustees met with Congressman Seth Moulton, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Senator Ed Markey.
- Vice Chair Vega-Viera highlighted key issues discussed during their meetings, including student food insecurity and workforce development.

5. 5:30pm Education Report

- Professor Ginny King provided a review of the HSI Grant and the Nutrition Program.
- The grant is funded by NIFA and aims to advance Hispanic students in food and agriculture-related academia through graduate-level education.
- A key goal is to bridge the gap in education required to become a registered dietitian.
- The program has been integrated into the health SIM Lab and includes partnerships and articulation agreements with various hospitals and organizations in the region.
- Currently, 40 students are enrolled in the program.
- There is a long-term goal to incorporate a home economics lab into the Master Plan.
- Trustee Vega-Viera offered to assist in establishing a partnership with the Lynn Community Health Center.
- Once accredited, NSCC would be the only institution in Massachusetts to offer this program and the second in the Northeast.

6. 5:45pm Chair's Report

- a. Review minutes of 11/26/24 meeting
Chair LaRock asked if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes
Hearing none Chair LaRock asked for a motion to accept the minutes

*Motion 25:12 to accept the minutes of 11/26/24

Motion-Trustee Vega-Viera Second-Trustee Tran-Moseman
Motion Passed

- b. Finance Committee: FY26 Fee Discussion and Proposal

Vice President Forsstrom, AVP Gerenz and AVP Johnson presented on the proposal to raise student fees, citing the evolving financial landscape due to MassEducate.

- The proposed fee increase aims to support the institution's efforts to accommodate the enrollment growth driven by MassEducate.
- The state mandates limits on how much fees can be increased.
- The increase is necessary to keep pace with inflation and sustain student support services.
- NSCC currently has the lowest fees among comparable institutions.
- The expectation is that small fee increases will be requested over the next few years to avoid drawing from reserves.

Trustee Purcell inquired about the number of students who do not benefit from MassEducate and MassReconnect.

- VP Forsstrom noted that Early College students and certain programs are not covered, but Early College students already come for free. Thus the number students who would be affected by fee increases is limited.
- NSCC is working with the Foundation to help offset costs for these students.

*Motion 25:13 to adjust student fees in FY26

Motion: Trustee Gayle-Bennett Second: Trustee Vega-Viera

Motion Passed

FY25 Q2 Report

- AVP Johnson reviewed the Q2 Report for approval by the Board
- There were no questions or concerns

*Motion 25:14 to accept Q2 Report

Motion: Trustee Heinemann Second: Trustee Purcell

Motion Passed

- c. Policy Committee: NSCC Police Department Accreditation Process Update
CDEO Pelonia, Chief Cook, and Deputy Chief Marshall presented an update

- The department is working with the vendor Lexipol to assist in the accreditation process.
- 60 of the 150 total required policies have already been approved, and the team is seeking Board approval to implement them.
- The goal is to have all 150 policies approved before the grant expires in late September.

Chair LaRock inquired about any recent campus incidents or protests.

- The Policy Committee responded that the college has experienced few to no incidents, but emphasized the importance of being prepared.

*Motion 25:15 to approve the Policy Committee's Police Department Accreditation Process

Motion: Trustee Gayle-Bennett Second: Trustee Tran-Moseman

Motion Passed

- d. Call for Expression of Interest in Nomination for NSCC Board of Trustees Chair
Chair LaRock's term will conclude in October.
- The Board aims to establish a succession plan in advance.
 - In Massachusetts, the Governor appoints the Board Chair, considering recommendations from both the Board and the college.
 - Expressions of interest should be submitted to Jill Palermo and President Heineman by March 7th.

Trustee Vega-Viera expressed interest in the Chair position, emphasizing her commitment to moving the Board forward as a team.

7. 6:35pm President's Report

Enrollment Update

- Positive trends in enrollment continue.
- Current enrollment levels are above pre-COVID numbers and up 50 percent from the lowest point recorded.
- Enrollment has increased across all demographics.
- Early College, MassReconnect, and MassEducate have all contributed to enrollment growth.

Fall Academic Outcomes Update / Stretch Goal for President's Annual Evaluation

- Student success rates are improving but still show equity gaps.
- The Cabinet will continue to monitor capacity and make adjustments as needed.

Trustee Discussions:

- Trustee Heinemann inquired about how the equity gaps might look if Early College students were excluded from the data. President Heineman will analyze this and report back.
- Trustee Gayle Bennett asked if there is an effort to understand why and how these gaps have grown. President Heineman confirmed that a plan is in place to investigate the root causes.
- Trustee Vega-Viera asked what factors may contribute to these gaps. President Heineman pointed to socioeconomic factors, while Chris Bednar highlighted the need to examine student preparedness.

Presidential Goals Update

- President Heineman reviewed the updated Presidential Goals, which have been adjusted to set more ambitious targets for the number of degrees and certificates awarded.

*Motion 25:16 to accept President's proposed amended FY26 goals

Motion: Trustee Vega-Viera

Second: Trustee Heinemann

Motion Passed

c. NECHE Interim Report Update

Favorable response was received to NSCC's Interim Report. This is as good as it gets. Sometimes a progress report is requested at the 5 year point. We were not asked to submit a progress report

d. Impact of Federal Actions on NSCC

- Pell Grant funding has not been paused.
- The pace of the new administration's policy pronouncement is fast-paced and potentially quite challenging for NSCC
- College leadership is working closely with legal counsel to monitor and navigate ongoing federal policy changes.
- Immigration policies remain a key focus of the college's advocacy efforts.
- President Heineman highlighted NSCC's ongoing support initiatives and reaffirmed the college's commitment to equity as outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- Candid discussions among the Board regarding these issues will continue.

Chair LaRock expressed gratitude for the Board's ongoing support in these efforts and to continue the college's commitment to achieving equity for all students.

8. 6:55pm Other Business

a. Motion 25:17 on Alcohol Policy Waiver for ECCF Event

Motion to approve a one-day waiver of its policy that prohibits the use or serving of alcohol on campus, at the Essex County Community Foundation Biannual Committee Meeting on Thursday February 27, 2025

Motion: Trustee Heinemann
Motion Passed

Second: Trustee Vega-Viera

9. 7:00pm Adjournment

Chair LaRock adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm