



NSSC

Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Lynn Campus, Community Board Room LS 328

In Person Attendees- President Bill Heineman, BOT Chair Maria Vega Arias, Trustee Andrea Gayle Bennett, Trustee Barbara Heinemann, Student Trustee Dominic Tolentino, VP of Administration and Finance Jan Forsstrom, Senior Executive Officer Kathryn Nielsen, Provost Chris Bednar, Dean of Enrollment Jason Marsala, Strategic Project Manager for the President Kristine Goodwin, Dean of Academic and Student Development Amanda Dooling, Director of SUCCESS Initiatives Rhian Waterberg, Staff Associate to the President/Board Liaison Jill Palermo, Media Technical Support Josiah Bourgeois, Registrar Alex Wolniak, Assistant Coordinator of Student Activities Justin Terlisner, Coordinator of Transfer Services James Cristiano

Zoom Attendees- Trustee AnhDao Tran-Moseman, Trustee Christine Danjou, Trustee Michael Pollack, BOT Vice Chair Francesca Purcell, Trustee Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, AVP of Strategic Employer Relations Jenn Price, AVP of Institutional Belonging & Employee Development Nikki Pelonia, AVP of Human Resources Loyce Brown, AVP of Strategic Finance Eileen Gerenz, Simulation Manager Jennifer Nofle, Recruitment Outreach Specialist (Staff Asst) Jamie Satter, Corporate & Professional Education Jamie Satter, Business Intelligence Architect Jainab Khanam, Chris Becker-DCAMM, Margit Liander-Sasaki, Ilka Lin-Sasaki

1. 5:00pm Call to Order

- Chari Vega Arias called the meeting to order at 5:02pm

2. 5:05pm Introduction of New Members of the North Shore Community

- President Heineman introduced the new members of the North Shore Community

3. 5:10pm Public Comments

- No Public Comments

4. 5:20pm Student Trustee Report

Trustee Tolentino gave the Board the following Student Government Update

- The “March Mania” basketball tournament was successful.
- A Fireside Chat with SGA President Mina Merere and President Heineman is scheduled for March 26.
- SGA elections will occur at the end of April; campaigning runs through April 10.
- “Arts in April” is forthcoming.
- SGA is developing a community service initiative addressing food insecurity in Lynn.
- Advocacy efforts include pursuing transportation funding support from the MBTA.

5. 5:30pm Education Report: Helping Students RISE: A Program Specific Pursuit of BNE

- Dean Dooling introduced Director Rhian Waterberg, who presented on the RISE program:
- RISE is NSCC’s implementation of the statewide SUCCESS initiative, funded through legislative appropriation.
- The program aligns with institutional goals and the Department of Higher Education’s equity agenda.
- Many students are automatically enrolled.
- Annual reporting (September–January) tracks effectiveness and benchmarks statewide data.
- Transition to SUCCESS 2.0 will align metrics and enhance program evaluation; compliance is expected by Fall 2026.

Outcomes:

- Students with fewer than three interactions: 65% one-year persistence.
- Students with three or more interactions: 81% persistence.
- Overall RISE persistence increased from 60% to 68% (AY24–AY25).

Discussion Highlights:

- Program is fully appropriation-funded; funding outlook appears stable.
- Enrollment is intentionally overestimated to account for non-participation.
- Engagement strategies include workshops, field trips, and professional development.

6. 5:55pm Chair's Report

a. Review minutes of 11/18/25 meeting and 2/17/26 meeting

Chair Vega Arias asked if there were any edits or corrections to the meeting notes from 11/17/25 or 2/18/26.

There were no edits.

Motion 26:19 – Approve November 18, 2025 minutes

Moved: Trustee Heinemann | Seconded: Trustee Danjou

Passed

Motion 26:20 – Approve February 17, 2026 minutes

Moved: Trustee Danjou | Seconded: Trustee Purcell

Passed

b. Advocacy Committee Discussion

- Trustee Yagjian and Trustee Danjou had shown interest in forming this committee.
- This committee will start shortly.
- Please inform President Heineman, Chair Vega Arias, Board Liaison Jill Palermo or Senior Executive Officer Kathryn Nielsen if you are interested in serving on this committee.

7. 6:15pm President's Report

a. Facilities Master Plan Presentation

- VP Forsstrom introduced architects from SASAKI to present the NSCC 10 Year Master Plan Road Map
- This road map allows for changes to be made along the way
- Jan acknowledged Jamie Wicks and Alex Wolniak for their hard work on the plan
- Margit Liander from the planning and design firm Sasaki presented the plan to the board
- The plan is a flexible, long-term vision aligned with state and regional priorities.
- The guiding principles of the plan were reviewed
 - Create Welcoming & Inclusive Campuses
 - Student Centered Academic Experience
 - Equity Between Campuses
 - Optimization of existing physical resources
 - Alignment with regional needs and state goals
- SASAKI reviewed the Campus Plan Recommendations with the Board.
- The recommendations for each building was reviewed floor by floor
- Making improvements to the Lynn campus and its outdoor space aims to invite the community in and really turn NSCC into a community hub. Noting the Lynn campus will

become a vibrant beacon of student success and community connection, integrating seamlessly with its surroundings and organized around an activated ground floor with dedicated academic and student support hubs above.

- The Lynn Program Priorities noted were:
 - New Center for Multilingual Excellence
 - Updated and Expanded Science and Engineering Hub
 - Reimagined Academic Support Hub
 - Enhanced Arts Hub
 - New Dental Hygiene Program
 - The College also requests improved, more visible spaces for the following programs:
 - Wellness, Accessibility, and Basic Needs
 - Advising, Career, and Transfer
 - Student Engagement
- The Danvers program priorities were reviewed
 - The College identified five priority programs to guide recommendations for the Danvers Campus:
 - Enhanced STEM Center for Excellence
 - Enhanced Enrollment Service Hub
 - Reimagined Academic Support Hub
 - Relocated Student Engagement Suite
 - Improved EMS, Nutritional Science and Diet Technology Program
- Implementation will be phased and dependent on funding.
- Approximately 26 preliminary cost estimates have been developed.
- The plan aligns with City of Lynn and state initiatives and considers future needs, including AI.

b. Spring 2026 Enrollment Update

Dean Marsala provided an enrollment overview:

- Dean Marsala noted that the numbers being presented are a snapshot in time
- Growth continues but is stabilizing following recent increases.
- Female enrollment is increasing at a higher rate than male enrollment.
- Key Trends:
 - Continuing students increased significantly (Fall 2024–Fall 2025: +27.19%).
 - Early College enrollment grew substantially (Fall 2022–Fall 2025: +323.55%).
 - New student enrollment increased overall but declined in Spring 2026 after peaking in 2025.
- Strategies:
 - Rebranding events as Accepted Student Days
 - Revamping information sessions
 - Integrating career exploration and FAFSA literacy
 - Expanding joint admissions partnerships

c. Impact of Federal Actions on NSCC Update

- President Heineman noted that there is no new news on funding to report
- Strategic Project Manager Kristine Goodwin joined President Heineman to talk about the NSCC scenario planning
 - If the TRiO funding is cut NSCC would need to support the students in this program differently. What would this look like?
 - Grant funded positions would be jeopardized
 - The financial implications need to be considered
 - The Board will need to scenario plan around these issues as well
 - If NSCC considers using reserves to make up the funding shortfall the Board needs to consider if it is a long term solution it can support or a short term solution

8. 6:55pm Other Business

There was no other business

9. 7:00pm Adjournment

Chair Vega Arias adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm