



NSCC

Board of Trustees

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Danvers Campus, Berry Building, Room LS 103

In Person Attendance-Chair Vega, Trustee Yagjian, Trustee Purcell, Trustee Heinemann, Trustee Lang, President Heineman, SEO Nielsen, VP Forsstrom, Provost Bednar, CDEO Pelonia, Dean Marsala, AVP Gerenz, Professor Priest, Coordinator Abajue-Umeh, Incoming Student Trustee Tolentino, Director Paz, Nickolaos Giokas, Staff Associate/Board Liaison Palermo, J.D. LaRock

Zoom Attendees-Trustee Gayle-Bennett, Trustee Tran-Moseman, Trustee Ubier-Minaya, Trustee Danjou, Interim Assistant Provost Goodwin, Executive Director Christensen, Professor Fernandez, Merari Estrada, Ronaldo Gonzaez,

5:00 PM – Call to Order

Chair Maria Vega called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

5:05 PM – Introduction of New Members

President Heineman introduced the new employees at the college.

Somvathana Seng attended the meeting. She let the board know she is excited to join the community at North Shore and is excited to be working in the Marketing and Communications department.

5:10 PM – Public Comments

Chair Vega asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

No public comments were received.

5:20 PM – Student Trustee Report

Trustee Gianna Lang introduced Student Trustee Dominic Tolentino, who expressed enthusiasm about serving on the Board next year and advocating for the students at North Shore Community College.

- **Student Survey Overview:**

Trustee Lang presented the results of a student survey with a 5% response rate, highlighting:

- **Concerns:**

- Professor attentiveness
- Enhanced tutoring services
- Transportation issues
- Clarification of Free Community College
- Improved food services during the day and evening
- Mental health services, including increased therapy dog visits
- Desire for greater student connections

- **Positive Feedback:**

- Overall satisfaction and happiness at NSCC

- **Discussion:**

- Trustee Tran-Moseman suggested utilizing AI to analyze survey responses.
- Trustee Heinemann inquired about follow-up actions; Trustee Lang noted the anonymous nature of the survey but encouraged Trustee Tolentino to consider

follow-up in the upcoming semester.

- Trustee Purcell asked Trustee Lang to identify the top three concerns. Noted were;
 - transportation, increased club participation/awareness, and fostering community among evening students.
- Trustee Tran-Moseman emphasized the ongoing transportation issue and the need for resolution.

5:30 PM – Education Report: Horticulture Program Update

- **Presentation by Professor Mark Priest:**

Professor Priest proposed introducing a Sustainable Agriculture Certificate program as part of the Horticulture Degree offerings. Key points included:

- Alignment with the Massachusetts agriculture economy and NSCC's strategic plan.
- Support for regional workforce demands and students from historically underserved backgrounds.
- Utilization of federal and state Beginner Farmer initiatives.
- Partnership with New Entry Farm for hands-on experiential learning.
- Incorporation of business classes for a well-rounded curriculum.

- **Student Success Story:**

Emily Fenton's experience at New Entry Farm was highlighted as a success story.

- **Motion 25:20:**

To approve the new Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture.

Moved: Trustee Heinemann

Seconded: Trustee Purcell

Motion Passed.

5:55 PM – Chair's Report

- **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Vega asked if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes from the April 15, 2025 meeting. Hearing none, a motion to approve was called.

- **Motion 25:21:**

To accept the minutes of April 15, 2025.

Moved: Trustee Yagjian

Seconded: Trustee Heinemann

Motion Passed.

- **Finance Committee Update:**

- **Q3 Budget Review:**

VP Forsstrom presented the FY25 Third Quarter Budget Status. Projections indicate revenues are on target, with potential surplus due to vacant full-time positions.

- **Motion 25:22:**

To accept the Third Quarter Review.

Moved: Trustee Heinemann

Seconded: Trustee Purcell

Motion Passed.

- **FY26 Preliminary Budget:**

VP Forsstrom reviewed the proposed FY26 Budget, emphasizing a conservative, balanced approach with contingencies. New position requests were approved based on critical need.

- **Motion 25:23:**

To accept the FY26 Preliminary Budget.

Moved: Trustee Gayle-Bennett

Seconded: Trustee Yagjian

Motion Passed.

- **Follow-up Requests:**

- Trustee Heinemann requested updates on new position requests.

- Trustee Purcell requested updates on any new budget developments at the Board Retreat.

- **Board Operations Discussion:**

Chair Vega invited expressions of interest for the Board of Trustees Vice Chair

role, highlighting its importance in advancing NSCC's mission.

6:25 PM – President's Report

- **Global Voices Ambassadors Peer Interpreter Program:**

- **Introduction:**

- Coordinator Kenechukwu Abajue-Umeh introduced Professor Irene Fernandez and students Merari Estrada and Ronaldo Gonzalez, who helped develop the Global Voices Peer Interpreter Program.

- **Program Highlights:**

- Trained students have provided interpreting services at 16 campus events, including Open Houses and Commencement Ceremonies.
 - Over 50 families utilized the service at Commencement.
 - Student interpreters receive 6 credits and can be paid for up to 10 hours per week.
 - The program aligns with NSCC's HSI designation and offers experiential learning opportunities.

- **Future Goals:**

- Expand services to include more high-demand languages and develop an Interpreting program.

- **Impact of Federal Actions on NSCC:**

- **Reconciliation Bill:**

- Potential changes to Pell Grant eligibility may require NSCC to assist students in managing these adjustments.

- **TRiO Program Cuts:**

- Proposed federal cuts could negatively impact NSCC's TRiO Program.

- **Immigration Activities:**

- Ongoing federal actions have affected students and staff; NSCC is collaborating with sister institutions to address these challenges.

- **Financial Status:**
NSCC's strong financial position provides reassurance amid economic uncertainties.
 - **Summer Retreat Preview:**
The Board of Trustees Annual Summer Retreat is scheduled for June 25, 2025, at the Wylie Center at Endicott. An agenda will be forthcoming.
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6:55 PM – Other Business

- **Acknowledgments:**
 - President Heineman presented Chair Vega with a bouquet of congratulatory flowers for her appointment as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees.
 - Gianna Lang was presented with a thank-you gift for her service as Student Trustee.
 - Former Chair LaRock reflected on his 10-year tenure, expressing gratitude to the Board and staff, and endorsed Chair Vega-Viera's leadership.
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7:00 PM – Adjournment

Chair Vega adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.