

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY  
Montclair, New Jersey

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 3, 2020

Present: Ms. Fathia Balgahoom, Ms. Rose Cali, Dr. Susan A. Cole, Ms. Mary Comito, Dr. Francis Cuss, Mr. George J. Hiltzik, Mr. Lawrence Inserra, Jr., Mr. Douglas Kennedy, Mr. Ralph LaRossa, Mr. William Mullen, Mr. Preston Pinkett, Mr. Kent Sluyter, and Ms. Faith Victor

Absent: Mr. Marc de Grandpre, and Mr. John McGoldrick

Present by invitation: Dr. Joseph Brennan, Ms. Colleen Coppla, Ms. Candace Fleming, Hon. Mark Fleming, Dr. Willard Gingerich, Mr. David Josephson, Ms. Donna McMonagle, Dr. Karen Pennington, Mr. David Vernon, Ms. Maria Anderson, Mr. Keith Barrack, and Ms. Shante Palmer

Dr. Cuss called the meeting to order via video conference at 11:45 am. Over 171 members of the public attended the meeting by telephonic participations.

Statement regarding manner of public notice of meeting

Dr. Cuss read the following statement regarding the public notice of the meeting: “Please be advised that in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting — June 3, 2020 — has been provided by distributing notices as required, properly posting 48-hour notice, and forwarding notices to designated newspapers and to persons requesting such notification.”

Oath of Office – Ms. Faith Victor

University Counsel Mark Fleming administered the oath of office to student trustee, Faith Victor.

Roll call — As reported above.

Minutes from the meeting of April 3, 2020

Trustees approved the minutes from April 3, 2020 as distributed.

No. 3281

Matters Presented by the Chair – Dr. Francis Cuss

Dr. Cuss reported that in closed session the Trustees reviewed the minutes from April 3, 2020, reviewed legal matters, discussed real estate matters, and heard updates regarding the Foundation and planning for the Fall semester. Dr. Cuss announced that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees will meet weekly through the Summer to ensure that the Board is actively engaged and able to make decisions regarding University governance in a timely fashion. Dr. Cuss then made the following statement:

I would also like to this opportunity to mention how proud I am of our students. The University traditionally holds an in-person annual tuition hearing during which students have the opportunity to speak directly to the Board of Trustees in advance of the tuition, fees, and room and board rates for the upcoming year being determined. This year, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, the University provided an opportunity over several weeks for students to submit their testimony via email. We received over 130 student submissions, which represents a 10 fold increase in student participation over last year. The major themes in the letters,

which were both thoughtful and touching, are student concerns about their ability to pay and a desire for tuition not to be increased. All of the student submissions have been distributed to and reviewed by the Board. I want to assure the students that you have been heard.

#### Matters Presented by the President – Dr. Susan A. Cole

Dr. Cole welcomed new student trustee Faith Victor to the Board. Dr. Cole then highlighted several key appointments. Associate Vice President for Finance Donna McMonagle has been promoted to Vice President for Finance and Treasurer. Dr. Cole thanked Trustees Kennedy and Slutyer for their participation in the final candidate interviews. Dr. Wendy Lin-Cook joins the University as the first Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Dr. Kimberly Kilmer Hollister has been appointed as Dean of the Felicano School of Business. President Cole stated it was the University's intention to bring students back to campus for the Fall 2020 semester and enable the faculty to continue their important research. President Cole announced the establishment of the Covid-19 Planning Group headed by Dean of the School of Nursing Janice Smolowitz and Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics Lora Billings. The group will provide advice and recommendations to the President in regard to the University's safe reopening for both faculty and students. Dr. Cole acknowledged the social unrest seen across the country as a result of George Floyd's death and noted the important role that education plays in addressing the causes of social disparities.

#### Union Report

Professor Richard Wolfson spoke on behalf of AFT Local 1904. Professor Wolfson spoke of the tragic death of George Floyd and the social unrest that it prompted. He urged the entire university community to engage itself in the fight to end systemic racism. Professor Wolfson asked that the University extend a greater show of support for the employees during the uncertain times resulting from the global pandemic. He also urged the University to furlough managers in an equivalent manner as the unions are negotiating. Professor Wolfson requested that there be greater communications regarding the plans for the remainder of the Summer and the Fall 2020 semester.

#### Personnel, Compensation, Nominations and Governance Committee

Ms. Cali reported that the Personnel, Compensation, Nominations and Governance Committee reviewed the minutes from its June 3, 2020, meeting, proposed personnel actions and a list of new hires anticipated before the Board's next meeting.

#### Personnel Actions

Ms. Cali moved that the Board of Trustees approve the following personnel actions:

- 24 - Faculty appointments
- 7 - Professional/managerial staff appointments
- 15 - Faculty Promotions
- 1 - Rank Reinstatement
- 1 - Administrative Leave

Faculty Appointment: Tenure Track (AY20-21)

<sup>1</sup>contract begins 09/01/21

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Degrees</i>
Stephen Andon	School of Communication/Media	Associate Professor	BA Boston College MA Florida State University PhD Florida State University
Kent Leung <sup>1</sup>	Physics/Astronomy Department	Assistant Professor	BS University of Auckland MS University of Auckland PhD Technical University of Munich
Rosita Rodriguez	School of Nursing	Associate Professor	BS William Paterson University MS Rutgers School of Nursing DNP Rutgers School of Nursing

Clinical Specialist/Instructional Specialist (AY20-21)

One-year, non-tenure-track appointments

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Rajoshree Bandyopadhyay	Chemistry/ Biochem	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Charles Belunis	Chemistry/ Biochem	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Bridget Brown	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Richard DeLuca	IMBA	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Gregory Dlugos	Theatre and Dance	Clinical Specialist	7/1/20
Herman Dolezal	Computer Science	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Laura Field	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Sharon Gaglione	IMBA	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Sarah Ghoshal	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Christine Giancatarino	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20

Kathleen Mangano	Counseling	Clinical Specialist	7/1/20
Victor Metallo	Accounting/Finance	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Jeffrey Monacelli	Management	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Maria Montaperto	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Jennifer Perlis	Linguistics	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Jacqueline Regan	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Richard Reid	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Mazooz Sehwait	Modern Lang./Lit.	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Melanie Shefchik	Public Health	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Frances Stromsland	Ed Leadership	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20
Christa (Setteducati) Verem	Writing Studies	Instructional Specialist	7/1/20

Professional/Managerial Staff Appointment (AY20-21)  
<sup>^</sup>two year contract, <sup>2</sup>concurrent appointment

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>
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**Academic Affairs**

Karen Richards	Accounting/ Finance	Department Administrator	07/01/20	Experience in Lieu of degree
Allison Smagin	Graduate School/Online Programs	Online Graduate Programs Coordinator	06/15/20	BM University of Hartford BM Stony Brook University MA Stony Brook University
Robert Washington	Technology Services	CEHS Technology Services Associate	04/27/20	BS University of Pittsburgh

Elizabeth Zweighaft <sup>2</sup>	School of Nursing	Undergraduate Nursing Program Director	07/01/20	BS MA MSN EdD	Vanderbilt University Columbia University Columbia University Fielding Graduate University
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**Office of the President**

Wendy Lin-Cook <sup>^</sup>	Office of the President	VP for Enrollment Management	06/01/20	BBA MA PhD	Hofstra University Hofstra University Seton Hall University
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Professional/Managerial Staff Appointment (AY20-21)  
<sup>^</sup>two year contract, <sup>2</sup>concurrent appointment

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>
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**Student - Development and Campus Life**

Mukund Gopalakrishnan	Undergraduate Admissions	Assistant Director for CRM Data Analytics and Technology	05/26/20	BA MBA	Visveswaraya Technological University University of Central Oklahoma
Ed Midgley	Student Development	AVP for Campus Business Services	06/01/20	BS MA	Fairleigh Dickinson University Kean University

Faculty promotion (effective AY21)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Highest Degree</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<b>College of Education and Human Services</b>			
Zoe Burkholder	PhD	Educational Foundations	Professor
Sara Goldstein	PhD	Family Science/Human Dev.	Professor
Susan Baglieri	PhD	Teaching and Learning	Professor
Priya Lalvani	PhD	Teaching and Learning	Professor
Douglas Larkin	PhD	Teaching and Learning	Professor

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Sulochana Asirvatham	PhD	Classics and General Humanities	Professor
Shannan Clark	PhD	History	Associate
Jessica Henry	JD	Justice Studies	Professor
Dorothy Rogers	PhD	Religion	Professor

**College of Science and Mathematics**

Michelle Zhu	PhD	Computer Science	Professor
Eileen Fernandez	PhD	Mathematics	Professor

**College of the Arts**

Scott Richards	MFA	Cali School of Music	Professor
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**Feliciano School of Business**

Ronald Strauss	PhD	Accounting and Finance	Professor
Yam Limbu	PhD	Marketing	Professor

**Sprague Library**

Paul Martinez                      MLIS                      Cataloging Services                      Librarian I

Reinstatement to Rank of Professor (effective AY21)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Highest Degree</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<b>Feliciano School of Business</b>			
John Wang	PhD	Info. Mgmt./Business Analytics	Professor

**Leave of Absence Without Pay**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Term of Leave</b>
Patricia Matthew	English	September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3282

Academic Affairs and Facilities Committee

Mr. LaRossa reported that the Academic Affairs and Facilities Committee reviewed the minutes from its April 3, 2020 meeting, received a capital project report, reviewed the Clery report, and discussed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on planning for the upcoming Fall semester

BA IN LIBERAL STUDIES

Mr. LaRossa moved that the Montclair State University Board of Trustees approve the creation of a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Liberal Studies, effective Spring 2021. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

School of Conservation

Mr. LaRossa moved that Board of Trustees hereby delegate authority to the President and University Counsel to take such actions as may be necessary, appropriate or required for the closure, cessation and/or suspension of education programs at the New Jersey School of Conservation, and to transfer and/or dispose of any interest the University may have in the New Jersey School of Conservation in any manner deemed appropriate, reasonable or as permitted by applicable law. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Audit, Finance and Investment Committee

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee reviewed the minutes from its meeting on April 3, 2020, reviewed contract awards, and discussed the financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the University's response.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board of Trustees approve the following contract awards:

- Library Materials (Various) - \$2,085,750
- New Jersey's Higher Education Network Services (NJEdge.net) - \$700,000
- Student Health Insurance (Aetna Student Health)
- Insurance and Risk Management Services (The College of New Jersey) - \$1,247,000
- Public Utilities (Various) - \$4,475,000
- Legal Services (Various) - \$500,000
- Transact Campus (Transact Campus Inc.) - \$1,181,324

Dr. Cuss noted his recusal from the purchase of Apple products and Mr. LaRossa recused himself from the public utilities award. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously with the noted recusals.

Reports

Student Representative

Student Representative Fathia Balgahoom stated her intention to continue to promote and increase student engagement, whether it be regarding social justice issues, political awareness, or matters within the University community. Ms. Balgahoom hopes to promote the role of the Student Representative so that the students she represents will have their voices heard and impact the manner in which the University is run.

University Senate President

Professor Trubatch addressed the extraordinary work of the front-line Faculty and Staff for their work bringing the University online this past semester during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed



his hope that we have the opportunity to plan for the future challenges facing the University as a result of the pandemic. The concept of shared governance will be key as we create procedures and protocols that will impact all aspects of the University, especially the manner in which courses are delivered. The faculty has the expertise the University will need to answer these new and yet unknown challenges. Professor Trubatch noted this would be his last report to the Board and thanked them for their engagement and dedication to the University.

Motion to enter closed session: Dr. Cuss made the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously:

Be it hereby further moved pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 that the Montclair State University Board of Trustees shall enter into Closed Session prior to the next scheduled Public Session to discuss the following pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b: 1) pending litigation filed against the University; 2) personnel matters; and 3) other matters which may arise consistent with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

  
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Keith D. Barrack