

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY  
Montclair, New Jersey

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
October 30, 2020

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

Absent: Ms. Mary Comito and Mr. Lawrence Inserra, Jr.

Present by invitation: Dr. Joseph Brennan, Mr. Shawn Connolly, Ms. Wendy Lin Cook, 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 11:30 am.

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 —October 30, 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.”

Roll call — As reported above.

Matters Presented by the Chair – Dr. Francis Cuss

Dr. Cuss reported that in Closed Session the Trustees reviewed the minutes from September 11<sup>th</sup> and October 19, 2020, reviewed legal matters, and discussed the Presidential Search. Dr. Cuss announced that the University had retained Witt Keiffer as its’ presidential search consultant firm.

Minutes from the meeting of September 11, 2020

Trustees approved the minutes from September 11, 2020 as distributed.

No. 3299

Minutes from the meeting of October 19, 2020

Trustees approved the minutes from October 19, 2020 as distributed.

No. 3300

Matters Presented By The President

President Cole reported that the University community was doing well in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of positive cases on campus remained low, surveillance testing had been increased, and there was a low positivity rate amongst those tested. There will be a campus wide get-out-the vote effort in advance of

the November 3<sup>rd</sup> presidential election. College Hall is now open and serves as the home to the student services one-stop Red Hawk Central. President Cole saluted the women’s basketball team for taking the initiative to build an outdoor basketball court to practice on while the indoor facilities remain closed to team activities. President Cole also highlighted Professors Pascale LaFountain and Thomas Herold for their work resulting in the University’s German program being declared a Center of Excellence in German. The University has also received extensive recognition regarding its choral program, which turned the Red Hawk Deck into a performance space and was recently featured on the nationally televised Kelly Clarkson Show. President Cole recognized Professor Mayida Zaal, who received \$500,000 from the Spencer Foundation’s Large Research Grant on Education for her study “Teacher Diversity, Retention, and Muslim-American Teachers”.

Union Report

Professor Richard Wolfson spoke on behalf of AFT Local 1904. Professor Wolfson congratulated all those receiving emeritus recognition and thanked them for their decades of service to the University. He then urged the Board to reconsider not having a formal AFT representative on the presidential search committee.

Academic Affairs and Facilities

Mr. LaRossa reported that the Academic Affairs and Facilities Committee reviewed the minutes from its September 11, 2020 meeting, received a capital project report, reviewed the Clery report, and heard an update regarding the University’s new branding campaign.

Personnel, Nominations, Compensation and Governance Committee

Mr. Sluyter reported that the Personnel, Compensation, Nominations and Governance Committee reviewed the minutes from its September 11, 2020, meeting, proposed personnel actions and a list of new hires anticipated before the Board’s next meeting.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. Sluyter moved that the Board of Trustees approve the following personnel actions:

- 1- Faculty appointment
- 8 - Professors Emeriti
  - Faculty Appointment: Non Tenure Track (AY21)
  - <sup>1</sup>one-semester, temporary, non-tenure track appointment

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>
Rui Li <sup>1</sup>	Computer Science	Assistant Professor	01/19/21	BS Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, China MS University of Science/Technology of China, Hefei, China

PhD University of  
Science/Technol  
ogy of China,  
Hefei, China

Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to

PROFESSOR NEIL BALDWIN

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emeritus status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Neil Baldwin has retired from Montclair State University, College of the Arts, Department of Theatre and Dance, and

Whereas: Professor Baldwin served the University for fourteen years, and

Whereas: He served as the Director of the Creative Research Center, Distinguished Visiting Professor in History, and Professor in Theatre and Dance; he taught a generation of theatre and dance students in the creative principles of performance, and

Whereas: He is the author of numerous books, including biographies of Thomas Edison, Man Ray, William Carlos Williams and Martha Graham; wrote the screenplay for the documentary "[Man Ray: Prophet of the Avant-Garde](#)," which appeared on Public Television as part of the "American Masters" series, was nominated for an Emmy Award and also received a Gold Hugo Award at the Chicago Film Festival; was founding Executive Director of the National Book Foundation, sponsor of the prestigious National Book Awards, and promoted educational outreach efforts in New York City and across America.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Neil Baldwin be designated Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR JOHN LEONARD ISIDOR

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emeritus status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor John Leonard Isidor has retired from Montclair State University, College of Science and Mathematics, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and

Whereas: Professor Isidor served the University for forty-six years, and

Whereas: He taught many courses in the chemistry curriculum, was named a Montclair State Distinguished Scholar in 1990; played a major role in acquiring and maintaining important analytical instruments in the department; served the department with distinction in all committees, as the undergraduate advisor, and chair, and

Whereas: He contributed broadly to chemistry education, and particularly organic chemistry, in publications in prestigious journals and presentations to the American Chemical Society.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That John Leonard Isidor be designated Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

#### PROFESSOR MARY JO JOHN

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emerita status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Mary Jo John has retired from Montclair State University, College of Education and Human Services, Department of Public Health, and

Whereas: Professor John served the University for thirty-six years, and

Whereas: Professor John sparked a passion for public health and education among many students who are now members of the public health workforce; provided foundational knowledge to generations of allied health, health education, and public health students; advocated for, and educated students about, healthy aging and gerontology; contributed to the community's public health through professional development, guidance, and mentorship of students throughout their field and practicum experiences, and

Whereas: Professor John was recognized on multiple occasions for her commitment to service learning, creating mutually beneficial experiences for students who assessed and met the needs of elderly community members.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Mary Jo John be designated Professor Emerita of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR MARC LAURENCE KASNER

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emeritus status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Marc Laurence Kasner has retired from Montclair State University, College of Science and Mathematics, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and

Whereas: Professor Kasner served the University for forty-six years, and

Whereas: He taught many courses in the chemistry curriculum including General Chemistry and Physical Chemistry, served the department with distinction as the undergraduate advisor, graduate program coordinator, associate chair, and chair, and

Whereas: Professor Kasner contributed broadly to chemistry education, and particularly physical chemistry and computational chemistry, in publications in prestigious journals including the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, the *Journal of Chemical Education* and the *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, and presentations to the American Chemical Society.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Marc Laurence Kasner be designated Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR DEBORAH FISH RAGIN

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emerita status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Deborah Fish Ragin has retired from Montclair State University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology, and

Whereas: Professor Ragin served the University for seventeen years, and

Whereas: She served as an outstanding educator of generations of students in the University's largest department, which she served on many committees, and

Whereas: She served in professional committees and organizations of the American Psychological Association in many important capacities, and

Whereas: Professor Ragin’s scholarship includes the widely used flagship textbook in her field, *Health Psychology: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, and a new textbook, *Handbook of Research Methods in Health Psychology*; numerous articles in peer-reviewed publications that were notably cited; and service as an editorial board member for the *American Journal of Nursing*, and as a reviewer for the international journal *Social Science & Medicine*.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Deborah Fish Ragin be designated Professor Emerita of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR FRANCES ROTHSTEIN

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emerita status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Frances Rothstein has retired from Montclair State University, College of Humanities of Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, and

Whereas: Professor Rothstein served the University for thirteen years, and

Whereas: She served as Chair of the Department of Anthropology, contributing to numerous committees, developing new courses, and monitoring and advising students, and

Whereas: She wrote or edited five books ranging topically from migrations and life in rural Mexico to globalization and industrialization in the twentieth century and issues in political economy, published numerous journal articles and chapters in edited volumes, was awarded external funding from prestigious organizations, including the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Fulbright fellowships. In 2012, she received the Conrad Arensberg Award from the Society for the Anthropology of Work in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Frances Rothstein be designated Professor Emerita of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR IRA SOHN

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emeritus status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Ira Sohn has retired from Montclair State University, School of Business, Department of Economics, and

Whereas: Professor Sohn served the University for thirty-six years, and

Whereas: Professor Sohn played an important role in the areas of scholarship and teaching in the Department of Economics, and its predecessor, the Department of Economics and Finance, where he developed and taught courses that broadened and deepened the Department's curriculum, and

Whereas: He is recognized as an outstanding scholar, who has made significant contributions in the form of numerous journal articles and presentations at international conferences on economic and financial reform in Latin America, globalizing national economies, international financial crime, and resource economics, and has made contributions to the leading business and economics newspapers in the world, including the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and serves on the Board of Editors of peer-reviewed Journals.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Ira Sohn be designated Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

PROFESSOR VINCE WALENCIK

Whereas: Pursuant to Montclair State University personnel policies, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of the President, may provide emeritus status for a retired professor should it desire to recognize meritorious performance, and

Whereas: Professor Vince Walencik has retired from Montclair State University, College of Education and Human Services, Department of Teaching and Learning, and

Whereas: Professor Walencik served the University for forty-nine years, and

Whereas: He served as Professor of Technology and teacher educator in the departments of Industrial Arts, Industrial Technology Education, Curriculum and Teaching, and Teaching and Learning, partnered with schools and other institutions of higher education spearheading the integration of Children's Engineering into the science methods courses for early childhood and elementary education, and

Whereas: Professor Walencik was a leading technology education scholar who actively contributed to the Technology Education Association of New Jersey, consulting on Technology Education with numerous school districts throughout New Jersey and internationally.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Vince Walencik be designated Professor Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3301

Audit, Finance, and Investment Committee

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee reviewed the minutes from its meeting on September 11, 2020, reviewed contract awards, reviewed the University's FY 2020 year end budget, received and update regarding the University's first quarter 2021 budget, and met with University's external auditors.

CONTRACT AWARD AUTHORIZATIONS

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

- Covid-19 Student Testing Increase (Atlantic Diagnostic Laboratories) - \$540,000

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3302

YEAR END CLOSING AUDIT

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board of Trustees adopts the 2019-20 financial statements and audit report, as presented to the Finance, Audit, and Investment Committee, and subject to further revisions to be made by the Vice President for Finance & Treasurer in consultation with PFK O'Connor Davies LLP, to reflect GASB No. 75. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3303

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 12:15 p.m.



Keith D. Barrack