

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Minutes

April 11, 2025

Present: Mr. Artem Beliaevsky, Mr. Anthony Abrantes, Mr. Modia Butler, Ms. Mary Comito, Dr. Francis Cuss, Prof. Mary English, Ms. Tracy Higgins, President Jonathan Koppell, Mr. Quentin Ocampo, and Mr. Kent Sluyter

Absent: Mr. Marc de Grandpre, Mr. Sreeni Kutam, Mr. Preston Pinkett and Ms. Sheila Rostiac

Present by invitation: Dr. Joseph Brennan, Ms. Althea Broomfeld-Michel, Mr. David Michael Chun, Mr. Shawn Connolly, Mr. Benjamin Durant, Ms. Meredith Gatzke, Dr. Junius Gonzales, Ms. Wendy Lin Cook, Dr. Dawn Meza Soufleris, Mr. James Solodar, Ms. Rita Walters and Mr. Keith Barrack

Mr. Sluyter called the meeting to order at 11:25 am.

Statement regarding manner of public notice of meeting

Mr. Sluyter 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 — April 11, 2025 — 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.

Minutes from the meeting of February 5, 2025

Trustees approved the minutes from February 5, 2025, as distributed.

No. 3518

Tuition Hearing

President Koppell presented the factors impacting the University’s decision regarding budgeting and tuition rates. The following students addressed the Board: Aldo Cruz and Ximena Garza Flores.

Student Trustees Artem Beliaevski and Quentin Ocampo commented on the feedback from their student listening session regarding tuition.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIR – MR. KENT SLUYTER

Mr. Sluyter reported that in Closed Session the Trustees reviewed the minutes from its February 5, 2025 meeting, reviewed the legal matters report, and discussed contract negotiations. Mr. Sluyter announced the Board’s decision to restructure its committees, which will allow for a more robust and transparent dialogue with the public. The updated new committees are: Audit and Risk Management; Governance; Human Capital; Infrastructure and Operations; and Student Success.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT

President Koppell commended the Office of Inclusive Excellence and the work they are doing to advance the University’s commitment to staff and faculty belonging. The President highlighted the upcoming One Day for Montclair fundraiser and encouraged all to participate. President Koppell also highlighted the upcoming Commencement ceremonies on May 7 and 8, when over 4,000 degrees will be conferred.

UNION REPORT

Professor Laura Field, AFT President, commented on the upcoming end of the spring semester. Professor Field welcomed new staff, Marc Austin, Vice Provost and Managing Director of Montclair Unbound and Shea Scruggs, Director of the Cali School. Professor Field commented on the administration's continued transparency and communication with the University community.

HUMAN CAPITAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Sluyter reported that the Human Capital Committee reviewed the minutes from the Academic Affairs and Personnel Committee's February 5, 2025 meeting, proposed personnel actions and a list of new hires anticipated before the Board's next meeting. Mr. Sluyter highlighted the recent new hire of Dr. Marc Austin as the University's inaugural Vice Provost and Managing Director for Montclair Unbound.

Personnel Actions

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

- 2 - Faculty Tenure Appointment
- 1 - Assistant / Associate Teaching Professor Appointment
- 30 - Faculty Reappointments
- 17 - Sabbaticals
- 4 - Managerial Staff Appointments
- 18 - Professional Staff Appointments
- 4 - Professional Staff Reappointments
- 2 - Professor Emeriti
- 1 - Rescinded Professional Staff Reappointment

Mr. Sluyter commented that after the February 5, 2025 Board meeting, it was discovered that an administrative error was made. To clarify the record, the Board rescinded the reappointment of Employee #50094711.

Faculty Appointment: Tenure, Tenure Track (AY26) **+Contingent upon competition of doctoral degree by August 1, 2025**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Jason Abbott	Political Science and Law	Professor	9/1/25	BA PhD	University of New Castle Nottingham Trent University
Cheng Lu	Accounting and Finance	Assistant Professor	9/1/25	BE MS PhD	China University of Petroleum Stevens Institute of Technology Stevens Institute of Technology

Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor (AY2025)

***10 month, ^12 month**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Joshina Johnson*	BC Nursing	Lecturer, Maternity and Pediatrics	9/1/25	BS MS	Ramapo College of New Jersey Ramapo College of New Jersey

Faculty reappointment (AY2025-26)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Highest Degree</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Year of Current Appoint.</i>
College for Community Health				
Robyn Becker	SLP.D.	Communication Sciences/Disorders	Assistant	2
Kate Nealon	Ph.D.	Communication Sciences/Disorders	Assistant	2
Clewiston Challenger	Ph.D.	Counseling	Assistant	2
Bisola Duyile	Ph.D.	Counseling	Assistant	2
Sei Eun Kim	Ph.D.	Family Science/Human Dev.	Assistant	2
Eunice Park	Ph.D.	Public Health	Assistant	2
College for Education and Engaged Learning				
Minkyung Choi	Ph.D.	Teaching and Learning	Assistant	2
Jesse Ha	Ph.D.	Teaching and Learning	Assistant	2
William Proffitt	Ph.D.	Teaching and Learning	Assistant	2
College of Humanities and Social Sciences				
Libby Barak	Ph.D.	Linguistics	Assistant	2
Alexandra Gaynor	Ph.D.	Psychology	Assistant	2
Manuel Gonzalez	Ph.D.	Psychology	Assistant	2
Akina Umamoto	Ph.D.	Psychology	Assistant	2
College of Science and Mathematics				
Alexis Khursigara	Ph.D.	Biology	Assistant	2
Thomas Mueller	Ph.D.	Biology	Assistant	2
Wanlu Li	Ph.D.	Chemistry/Biochemistry	Assistant	2
Nina Bailey	Ph.D.	Mathematics	Assistant	2
Elliot Hu-Au	Ed.D.	School of Computing	Assistant	2
Hao Liu	Ph.D.	School of Computing	Assistant	2
College of the Arts				
Sandra Eula Lee	M.F.A.	Art and Design	Assistant	2
Alan Blanco	M.F.A.	School of Communication/Media	Assistant	2
Chloe Sarbib	M.F.A.	School of Communication/Media	Assistant	2
Charles Burks	M.F.A.	Theatre/Dance	Associate	2
marcus harvey	M.F.A.	Theatre/Dance	Assistant	2
Feliciano School of Business				
Yaou Zhou	Ph.D.	Accounting and Finance	Assistant	2
Ozlem Cosgun	Ph.D.	Info. Management/Bus. Analytics	Associate	2
Yiying Zhu	Ph.D.	Management	Assistant	2

School of Nursing

Veronica Betts	D.N.P.	Nursing	Assistant	2
Elizabeth Fitzgerald	Ph.D.	Nursing	Assistant	2

Sprague Library

Jacob Bilek*	M.S.I.S.	Research and Reference Services	Librarian III	2
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* reappointment effective July 2025

Sabbatical (AY26)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Period of Leave</i>
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College for Community Health

Michael Boyle	Communication Sciences/Dis.	Fall 2025
Elaine Hitchcock	Communication Sciences/Dis.	Spring 2026

College for Education and Engaged Learning

Blanca Vega	Educational Leadership	Spring 2026
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College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Jeffrey Miller	English	Fall 2025
Benjamin Lapp	History	Fall 2025
Tarika Daftary Kapur	Justice Studies	Fall 2025
Lauren Covey	Linguistics	Spring 2026
Jazmin Reyes-Portillo	Psychology	Fall 2025
Yasemin Besen	Sociology	Fall 2025
Timothy Gorman	Sociology	Spring 2026
Teresa Fiore	World Languages and Cultures	AY 2025-2026
Caroline Dadas	Writing Studies	Spring 2026

College of Science and Mathematics

Sandra Passchier	Earth and Environmental Studies	AY 2025-2026
Marc Favata	Physics and Astronomy	AY 2025-2026
Jiayin Wang	School of Computing	Spring 2026

College of the Arts

Christopher Kaczmarek	Art and Design	Fall 2025
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Feliciano School of Business

Ethne Swartz	Management	Spring 2026
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Managerial Staff Appointment (AY 2025)

***Tenure on Appointment**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Marc Austin	Academic Affairs	Vice Provost and Managing Director, Montclair Unbound	4/21/25	BA MsC MA PhD	University of Pennsylvania London School of Economics Columbia University Columbia University

James Conlon	Academic Affairs	Senior Director for Operations and Online Program Development	4/14/25	BS MA	Rider University The College of New Jersey
Maruice Mangum*	Bloomfield College	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	5/5/25	BS MA PhD	University of Iowa The Ohio State University Louisiana State University
Shea Scruggs	Dean's Office, College of the Arts	Director, John J. Cali School of Music	7/1/25	BA MBA	Swarthmore College Cornell University

Professional Staff Appointment (AY 2025)

***Workday Student Project, #Grant funded**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Arely Ayala	BC Student Success Programs	Academic Coach	2/24/25	BS MSW	Montclair State University Fordham University
Roshani Bharati	Institutional Research and Effectiveness	Institutional Research Analyst	3/10/25	MIS PhD	University of Nevada Las Vegas New Jersey Institute of Technology
Delaney Butler [#]	Center for Cooperative Media	Assistant Director, Collaborative Journalism	2/24/25	BA	New York University
Jennifer Cichino	Residential Life	Assistant to Executive Director of Residence Life	3/17/25	BS	Montclair State University
Izabella Ecurra	Undergraduate Admissions/Recruitment	Admissions Counselor	4/7/25	BA	Montclair State University
Kahleilah Foster	Undergraduate Admissions/Recruitment	Admissions Counselor	4/7/25	BA	Montclair State University
Chelsea Grant [#]	College for Education and Engage Learning	Project Coordinator for EPIC-MHP	3/24/25	BA MEd MEd PhD	University of Pennsylvania Lehigh University Lehigh University

Hiba Khalil	College for Education and Engage Learning	Pre-Program Advisor	3/10/25	MA	Lehigh University Montclair State University
Grace Kim [#]	College for Education and Engage Learning	Research Assistant	4/7/25	BA MA	Arizona State University Columbia University
Kayla Lauricella	College of Science and Mathematics	Assistant Director, Operations and Analysis	3/24/25	BA MEd	Ramapo College of New Jersey Teachers College at Columbia University
Kathryn McCune [*]	Registrar	Workday Registrar Lead, Workday Student Project	3/31/25	BS MBA	Ohio University University of Phoenix
Rogel Nuguid	Academic Affairs	Grants Manager	3/10/25	MS	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Janelle Pyar	BC Student Success Programs	Career Services Specialist	3/17/25	BA MBA	Moravian University Moravian University
Letitia Stancu	Cali School of Music	Academic Advisor	3/10/25	BM	Oberlin College
Julimer Rodriguez [*]	Registrar	Workday Registrar Lead, Workday Student Project	3/31/25	BS	Felician University
Sarah Velasquez	BC Director of Athletics/Sr. Associate Dean of Students	Office Coordinator, Bloomfield Dean of Student's Office	3/31/25	BA	Arcadia University
Gregory Ventura	Information Technology	Quality Assurance Manager	2/24/25	BA	Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Geoffrey Quist	Director of Student Conduct	Assistant Director of Student Conduct	5/27/25	BA MA	Mount Saint Mary College Centenary University

**Professional Staff Annual Reappointments
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

***Academic Affairs
1 - year contract***

Employee

Jake Hutchinson
Cristina Latino

Department

College for Community
Coccia Institute

Title

Program Associate
Program Coordinator

Student Life and Campus Development
1 - year contract

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>
Taylor Risley	Residential Life	Community Director

Marketing and Communication
1 - year contract

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>
Carolina Mario	Communication and Marketing	Senior Producer, Strategic Content

Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to
PROFESSOR JOHN JAMES GAYNOR

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 James Gaynor has retired from Montclair State University, College of Science and Mathematics, Department of Biology, and

Whereas: Professor Gaynor served the University for thirty-three years, and

Whereas: Professor Gaynor served five years as the inaugural director of the University's Molecular Biology undergraduate program at Montclair; initiated and received license for usage of radioisotopes for research; initiated and chaired the Darwin Day Symposium; trained and directed research projects of numerous students; served as President of Montclair's Chapter of Sigma Xi and the Montclair chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; and received a research funding award from Montclair State Sokol Institute for Pharmaceutical Life Sciences, and

Whereas: Professor Gaynor published thirty-seven peer review articles; in recent years, he presented at seventy local, national, and international research conferences with his students; served as member of the Genetics Society of America's Education Subcommittee; and received awards from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and National Science Foundation.

Now, therefore, be it

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

Resolution to Grant Adjunct Emeritus Status to
ARNOLD KOROTKIN

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

Whereas: Adjunct Arnold Korotkin has retired from Montclair State University, College of Humanities of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, and

Whereas: Adjunct Korotkin served the University for thirty-seven years, and

Whereas: He joined the Department of Sociology in the Fall of 1987 and taught many Sociology courses, and served as the inaugural Adjunct voting member of the University Senate and served on the Administrative Affairs,

Council, the Administrative Performance Feedback Committee, and the Constitution Committee; and served as liaison to the Montclair Vote Coalition and the MSU Safety Committee, and

Whereas: He was a member of the American Federation of Teachers Adjunct Local 6025 Executive Committee, serving as Secretary, Grievance Committee Chair, Committee on Political Education coordinator, as well as a member of the Local's State and University contract negotiation teams, and served as an Executive Board member of the American Federation of Teachers Adjunct/Contingent Faculty Caucus.

Whereas: He was the recipient of The American Federation of Teachers "Everyday Hero Award," The National Air Disaster Foundations' "Humanitarian Award," NYU's Silver School of Social Work's Distinguished Alumnus Award, Voices of September 11th "Building Bridges Award," NYC Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Investigation "Certificate of Appreciation," among others.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Arnold Korotkin be designated Adjunct Emeritus of Montclair State University with all the rights, duties, and privileges thereunto appertaining.

**Rescind Professional Staff Annual Reappointments
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**

Employee

Rescind the reappointment of Employee #50094711

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3519

STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Butler reported that the Student Success Committee received the Clery reports for the Montclair and Bloomfield campuses and reviewed new degree programs.

The Committee also learned that four international students have had their visas revoked. Our University Counsel reported that she speaks with the other state university counsel's offices on a weekly basis to keep up to date on issues impacting our students. There was also a lengthy discussion regarding student mental health.

Approval of New Graduate Certificate – Certificate in Spanish Health Professions

Mr. Butler moved for the Board of Trustees approve the development of a new Graduate certificate – Certificate in Spanish Health Professions, effective Fall 2025.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3520

Approval of New Doctoral Degree – Doctor of Nursing Practice

Mr. Butler moved for the Board of Trustees approve the development of a new Doctoral Degree – Doctor of Nursing Practice, effective Fall 2025.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3521

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Abrantes reported that the Infrastructure and Operations Committee reviewed the minutes from the Infrastructure Committee's February 5, 2025 meeting, received a capital project report and FY24 University Facilities report and reviewed contract awards.

Contract Awards

Mr. Abrantes moved that the following contract awards be approved.

- Student Center Roof Replacement (Galia Construction, Inc.) - \$724,350
- On Call General Painting Services Increase # 2 (Onpoint Service Group) – increase of \$400,000 to include painting on both the Montclair and Bloomfield Campuses.
- Parking Deck Fencing (Guardian Fence Co. Inc.) – increase of \$624,089, total of \$986,669 to fence additional floors on both the Red Hawk and Car Parc Diem decks.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3522

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Comito reported that the Audit and Risk Management Committee reviewed the minutes from the Audit, Finance and Development committee's February 5, 2025 meeting, received a quarterly budget update, discussed tuition and fees and reviewed the Student Government Association's audit with student and external audit representatives.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIR – MR. KENT SLUYTER

Mr. Sluyter presented a resolution to honor members of the Community who have dedicated their lives to the University.

- Whereas: On February 3, 2025, an individual went into cardiac arrest while playing hockey at the Montclair State University Ice Arena, and
- Whereas: Three of his teammates immediately initiated CPR and the Montclair State University student-led Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team and Police officers arrived on the scene and seamlessly continued life-saving efforts, and
- Whereas: Montclair State University EMS transported the patient to St. Joseph's Hospital where he subsequently made a full recovery, which was only possible because of the swift and precise work of those on the scene, and
- Whereas: The Board of Trustees is exceptionally proud of the University's EMS and Police for acting with such compassion and professionalism as to save the patient's life, and
- Whereas: These extraordinary actions serve as an inspiration to the Montclair State University community and beyond, reinforcing the vital role that trained responders play in saving lives and working together for continuous care, and
- Now, therefore, be it
- Resolved: That the Montclair State University Board of Trustees does hereby honor the brave and exemplary service provided on February 3, 2025 by the following individuals:

Montclair EMS team members: Tyler Weinmann, Kaitlyn DeLaro, Darina Korneeva, Sophia Huisacayna, Brandon Collins, and Nicolas Gomez Restrepo
Montclair State University Police Officers Thomas Dugan and Amanda Rusticus
Weehawkin Police Officer Daryl Pizzolato
Doctor Jeffrey Shrensel
Chatham Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Hunter Novello, and
St. Joseph's Hospital Paramedics Wesley Rusk and Shreya Kachroo

REPORTS

Professor Mary English reported on various department updates, specifically the Department of Mathematics.

AFT Adjunct Local 6025 President, Mary Wallace, commented on the uncertainty of higher education and supported the administration's efforts to address these important matters.

Students Chelsea Stack and Robby Friz, representing the Women's and Men's Lacrosse teams, thanked the Board, President Koppell, Vice President Meza Soufleris and Robert Chesey for reinstating Lacrosse to NCAA status.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Sluyter moved that 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 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 motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3523

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.


Keith D. Barrack