

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Public Minutes

November 3, 2025

Present: Mr. Anthony Abrantes, Ms. Mary Comito, Dr. Francis Cuss, Prof. Mary English, Ms. Tracy Higgins, Mr. Jameson Klinsky, President Jonathan Koppell, Mr. Quentin Ocampo, Ms. Shelia Rostiac and Mr. Kent Sluyter

Absent: Mr. Modia Butler, Mr. Marc de Grandpre, and Mr. Sreeni Kutam

By invitation: Dr. Amy Aiello, Ms. Althea Broomfield Michel, Mr. Shawn Connolly, Mr. Benjamin Durant, Ms. Meredith Gatzke, Mr. Adam Rathbun, Mr. James Solodar, Dr. Dawn Meza-Soufleris, Dr. Tara Morlando-Zurlo, Ms. Rita Walters, Mr. Keith Barrack, and Ms. Katie Comanto

Mr. Sluyter called the meeting to order at 10:34 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 — November 3, 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.

RECOGNITION OF PRESTON D. PINKETT III

Mr. Sluyter recognized Trustee Preston Pinkett’s retirement from the Board and expressed gratitude for the significant contributions Mr. Preston has made to the University over the past 25 years.

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Trustees approved the minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting, as distributed.

No. 3551

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIR – MR. KENT SLUYTER

Mr. Sluyter reported that in Closed Session, the Trustees reviewed the minutes from the September 2025 committee meetings, reviewed Committee reports, and reviewed the legal matters report.

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Sluyter moved that the Board of Trustees approve the University Mission Statement and commitments.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3552

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT

President Koppell provided remarks on the recent resignation of Trustee Preston Pinkett and wished him well.

President Koppell shared the University's recent national rankings and highlighted recent grant awards which brought the University's total new research funding to \$19.3M.

The President also thanked the staff volunteers who organized the University's Halloween event for students at Yogi Berra Stadium. President Koppell then recognized the inaugural season of Women's Flag Football starting in Spring 2026 and those student-athletes competing in the Fall NCAA playoffs in Men and Women's Soccer and Volleyball.

The President provided an update on University Police staffing and announced the second lecture in the Montclair250: The American Experiment series, featuring State Attorney General, Matt Platkin. The President closed by thanking the dedicated faculty and staff and wished all the best in preparation for the end of the semester.

UNION REPORT

AFT President Laura Field recognized the efforts of faculty and staff in bringing the University's mission to life by hosting exciting events throughout a busy semester. President Field asked that the Board and University leadership consider ways to support AFT members by training management on the collective bargaining agreement, increasing transparency in decision-making, valuing faculty and staff input, and inviting participation in University planning.

President Field next expressed the AFT's support for the intent and spirit of the University's new Mission Statement and commitments, welcomed the new faculty, and congratulated the professor emeriti.

President Field closed by encouraging people to vote in the upcoming November election and wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

HUMAN CAPITAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Rostiac reported that the Committee met on October 29, 2025 to review the minutes from its September 9, 2025 meeting, received a presentation from Ms. Gatzke on the University's total compensation packages, proposed personnel actions and a list of new hires anticipated before the Board's next meeting.

Personnel Actions

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

- 3 - Managerial Appointments
- 22 - Professional Staff Appointments
- 1 - Leave of Absence without Pay
- 5 - Professor Emeriti

Managerial Staff Appointment (AY 2026)

*Gift Funded, #Grant funded

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Danisha Goodman	Student Accounts	Associate Director of Student Accounts	9/22/25	BS MBA MS EdD	Montclair State University Montclair State University Montclair State University Clark Atlanta University
Laura Ryblewski	College of Communication and Media	Assistant Dean for Student Success	9/22/25	BA MA EdD	Montclair State University Montclair State University Drexel University

John Yi	Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Success and Innovation	Director, Teaching and Learning	10/20/25	BA MA	Brooklyn College Brooklyn College
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Professional Staff Appointment (AY 2026)
***Gift Funded, #Grant funded**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>School Attended</i>
Thomas Barbara	CCHL/Career Services	Career and Internship Advisor	10/6/25	BA BA MA	Ramapo College of New Jersey Ramapo College of New Jersey Ramapo College of New Jersey
Haylee Berry	Associate Director of Graduate Admissions Operations Recruitment	Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment	10/13/25	BA	Montclair State University
Zachary Briewell	CART/Theatre and Dance	Lighting Technician	10/6/25	BFA	Rutgers University
Amanda Caswell	CART/Theatre and Dance	First-Hand/Draper	9/22/25	BFA	Boston University
Amara Copeland	CART/Theatre and Dance	First-Hand/Stitcher	9/22/25	BA MFA	Temple University Louisiana State University
Steven Filippi	Instructional Technology	Multimedia Specialist	9/22/25	BA	Ramapo College
Hiba Hajyasin	Classification and Compensation	Classification and Compensation Analyst	9/20/25	BA MA	Birziet University Birziet University
Emily Jerves	Office of Graduate Admissions/Recruitment	Assistant Director of Graduate Recruitment	10/6/25	BS MS	University of Wisconsin Radford University
Shaheedah Johnson	CCHL/Career Services	Career and Internship Advisor	10/20/25	BA MA	Montclair State University Simmons University
Cyndi Kumor	CART/Theatre and Dance	Production Business Associate	9/22/25	BFA MA	Montclair State University Montclair State University
Kaya Maciak	College of Communication and Media	Digital Media and Communications Specialist	10/6/25	BA	Montclair State University

Alexandra McGinley	Research Compliance and Regulatory Programs	Research Compliance Coordinator	10/13/25	BA MA	Rutgers University Montclair State University
Alison Merrick	CART/Theatre and Dance	Properties Supervisor	9/8/25	BFA	Otterbein University
Jessica Moore Bernatchy	Strategic Sourcing	Strategic Sourcing Specialist	10/6/25	BS	Granite State College
Osman Morales	CART/Theatre and Dance	Lighting Supervisor	9/8/25	BA	Ramapo College of New Jersey
Nikhil Patel	Classification and Compensation	Classification and Compensation Analyst	10/6/25	BA	Rutgers University
Chris Ponce	Enrollment Management	Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Management	9/22/25	BA	Montclair State University
Alan Prieto	College of Communication and Media	Special Assistant to the Dean	10/6/25	BA	Montclair State University
Betsey Rugg-Hinds	CART/Theatre and Dance	Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor/Draper	9/22/25	BA MFA	Keene State College Brooklyn College
Fabio Sadiku	SDCL/Conference Services	Conference Center Coordinator	9/22/25	BS	Rutgers University
Jose Segovia	BC_Creative Arts and Technology	CAT Technical Operations Manager	9/22/25	BS	Montclair State University
Emma Solomon	CART/Theatre and Dance	Sound and Projections Supervisor	11/3/25	BA	Vassar College

Leave of Absence Without Pay

Name	Department	Term of Leave
Wing Shan Ho	World Languages and Cultures	November 28, 2025 – January 15, 2026

Professor Emeriti

Willard Gingerich
Sandra Lewis
Lois Oppenheim
Art Simon
Longxing Wei

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3553

INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Abrantes reported that the Infrastructure and Operations Committee met on October 30, 2025 and reviewed the minutes from the Committee's September 5, 2025 meeting, received a capital project report and reviewed contract awards.

Contract Awards

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

- Credit Card Programs (Bank of America)

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

No. 3554

REPORTS

Student Representative, Quentin Ocampo acknowledged the retirement of Trustee Preston Pinkett and recognized the newly approved professor emeriti. Mr. Ocampo reported on recent feedback from students, with the main concerns being academic stress, space accessibility, and the current block schedule. Mr. Ocampo invited the University leadership, faculty, and staff to engage directly with students and offer support, noting that students would greatly appreciate the assistance.

Faculty Representative Professor Mary English encouraged the Board's Student Success Committee to consider ways to elevate graduate student voices and involvement on campus. Professor English then addressed the restructuring within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and emphasized the importance of involving the Board's Governance Committee in those discussions. She also commented on the start of spring semester registration and called on faculty and staff to support students in their academic progress.

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. 3555

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.


Keith D. Barrack