



The State University
of New York

**Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee
of the Board of Trustees
of the State University of New York
December 16, 2025**

Pursuant to a notice of a meeting duly given on December 11, 2025, a meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York was held on December 16, 2025 at the SUNY Global Center, 116 E. 55th Street New York, New York with video conferencing from SUNY System Administration 353 Broadway, Albany, New York.

Committee Members Present:

Stanley Litow, *Chair*
Trustee Crespo
Trustee Lewin
Trustee Simon
Trustee Staller
Trustee Vacin
Trustee Varlack

Other Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch
Vice Chairman Perales
Trustee Belluck
Trustee Burke
Trustee Corngold
Trustee Duffy
Trustee Haddon
Trustee Katz
Trustee Rallis
Trustee Spiro

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Ram Ramasubramanian, **Committee Liaison**, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Rich Agnello, General Counsel, SUNY Research Foundation
Nisha Atre, Executive Director, SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Baron, Assistant Secretary of the University
Beth Berlin, Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management and Chief Operating Officer
Kaitlyn Bertleff, Director of Healthcare Workforce and Strategic Initiatives
Lisa Castillo Richmond, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Deputy for Student Success
Bess Chiu, Deputy General Counsel and Chief of Staff
Ailayia Demand, Assistant Director for Presidential Searches

Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
Jamie Frank, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Access Initiatives
Gary Ginsburg, Chief Communications Officer
Aarron Gladd, Chief Strategy Office and Senior Advisor for Operations and Management
Bart Grachan, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
Christa Grant, Interim Chief Diversity Officer
Valerie Grey, Senior Vice Chancellor of Health and Hospital Affairs
Robert Haelen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities
Cheryl Hamilton, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Opportunity Programs and Student Advocate
Adam Haney, Deputy General Counsel
Julie Hartley-Moore, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Juliana Hernandez-Commisso, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Donna Linderman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Kapil Longani, Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Jeff McGrath, University Controller
Jennifer Mero, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Amy Montalbano, University Auditor
Zulaika Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Executive Recruitment
Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff
Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer
Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Economic Development
Cara Palumbo Schrantz, Deputy General Counsel
Will Schwartz, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations
Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action
Lourdes Thebaud, Director of Student Development
Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

MEETING CONVENED

Trustee Litow convened the meeting at 2:40 p.m., confirming a quorum of members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Trustee Litow called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Committee's September 16, 2025 meeting.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simon and seconded by Trustee Crespo. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR LITOW'S REPORT

Trustee Litow opened by sharing an overview of the committee meeting's agenda. Before starting the agenda, Trustee Litow shared updates on new data on the value of a college degree.

Trustee Litow turned the meeting over for the Provost's report.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Provost Ramasubramanian greeted the Committee and opened with a Master Plan amendment for the State University of New York at Oswego—Metro Center. The request was approved unanimously, moving the request to the full Board.

Moving on to an update on the Science of Reading, Trustee Litow began the update with an overview of Governor Hochul's "Back to Basics Reading Plan" and an overview of its need and relevance to SUNY.

Provost Ramasubramanian provided an overview of the Science of Reading and its proven effectiveness. He shared how implementation of Science of Reading techniques can improve literacy. The Provost explained how SUNY will play a crucial role in preparing teachers in this method under the Governor's "Back to Basics" plan.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Julie Hartley-Moore provided an implementation update, sharing that SUNY has:

- Established a Science of Reading Center at SUNY New Paltz.
- Established a faculty advisory group that has produced a white paper to provide a foundation for curriculum reform.
- Drafted a SUNY-wide policy around the Science of Reading to be presented to the board in January, following receipt of input from the field.

Trustee Litow thanked Senior Vice Chancellor Hartley-Moore for her updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Litow adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.