



Minutes of Meetings
The Board of Trustees of The State University of New York
April 28, 2026

Pursuant to a notice of a meeting duly given on April 23, 2026, by the Office of the Secretary of the University, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York met on April 28, 2026, at SUNY System Administration, 353 Broadway, Albany, New York, and via videoconference.

April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch
Vice Chairman Perales
Trustee Corngold
Trustee Crespo
Trustee Duffy
Trustee Haddon
Trustee Katz
Trustee Lewin
Trustee Litow
Trustee Rallis
Trustee Simon
Trustee Spiro
Trustee Staller
Trustee Vacin
Trustee Varlack

Trustees Not Present:

Trustee Belluck
Trustee Burke

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Aisha Adam Bechir, President of the Student Association, State University of New York at Buffalo
Kyle Adams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Creative Strategy
Francisco Araiza, Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation
Nisha Atre, Executive Director, SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Barron, Assistant Secretary of the University

Anne Bink, Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management & Chief Operating Officer
Lisa Castillo Richmond, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Deputy for Student Success
Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
Bonnie Durand, Interim President-SUNY Buffalo State College
Darryl Epps, Deputy Director, Office of Higher Education in Prison
Jamie Frank, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Access Initiatives
Spencer Freedman, Chief Officer for Risk and Compliance and Special Counsel
Gary Ginsburg, Chief Communications Officer
Aaron Gladd, Chief Strategy Officer 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 for Academic Health and Hospital Affairs
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
Giovanni "Gio" Harvey, Press Assistant to Governor Kathy Hochul and Former Student Trustee
Juliana Hernandez-Commisso, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Policy Implementation & Deputy Chief of Staff
Donna Linderman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Kapil Longani, Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Pam McCall, Director of University Life Operations
Robert Megna, President, Rockefeller Institute of Government
Jennifer Mero, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Amy Montalbano, University Auditor
Casey O'Brien, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Melur K. "Ram" Ramasubramanian, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Jessica Robin, Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs
Zulaika Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Executive Recruitment & Leadership Development
Juan Rosales, Chief of Staff to the Chief Operating Officer
Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff
Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Sander, Executive Director, Office of Higher Education in Prison
Shadi Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development
Cara Palumbo Schrantz, Deputy General Counsel
Will Schwartz, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action
Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

CONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

Vice Chairman Perales convened the Public Meeting at 10:00 a.m., held on April 28, 2026, at SUNY System Administration, 353 Broadway, Albany, New York, and via videoconference. The Vice Chairman asked the Secretary of the Board, Jennifer Mero, to call the roll of the Board members at which time a quorum was confirmed.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Chancellor King highlighted SUNY's continued statewide visibility and momentum through media coverage focused on student success, economic impact, research innovation, and campus initiatives. Updates included recognition of SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), expanded paid internship and workforce development efforts, new honors transfer pathways, expanded childcare services, and SUNY Mascot Madness. The Chancellor also emphasized SUNY's growing research prominence, including advancements in AI, quantum science, virtual reality applications in healthcare, and the successful second annual SUNY Research Expo, which showcased groundbreaking work from campuses across the system to state leaders and legislators.

Chancellor King's report summarized extensive campus visits and statewide engagement activities, including meetings with students participating in SUNY Reconnect, EOP, workforce development, and student support programs; celebrations of campus partnerships and inaugurations; and participation in conferences, FAFSA outreach events, and statewide educational initiatives.

Chancellor King reaffirmed SUNY's commitment to shared governance, highlighting partnerships with faculty and student leadership organizations and recognizing award recipients for faculty scholarship and student excellence.

He highlighted SUNY's evolving AI leadership strategy, including integrating AI literacy into general education, supporting faculty development, expanding AI research and workforce preparation initiatives, and developing guidance for responsible AI use.

Chancellor King concluded by highlighting additional systemwide progress in mental health support, inclusive campus initiatives, the expansion of Higher Education in Prison programs, and ongoing efforts to ensure access, belonging, and upward mobility for all New Yorkers.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY REPORT

Trustee Rallis provided an overview of the Student Assembly's activities, advocacy efforts, and student engagement initiatives during this past academic year. He highlighted the success of the Spring Conference and General Assembly in Albany, which brought together nearly 300 students from approximately 50 campuses. He also recognized the newly elected Executive Board. Trustee Rallis report emphasized the Student Assembly's ongoing role in shared governance and statewide advocacy, including support for increased capital funding, expansion of EOP, SUNY Reconnect,

and Higher Education in Prison programs, as well as student participation in Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, where more than 100 students met with nearly 100 legislative offices.

Trustee Rallis also discussed continuing advocacy related to federal higher education funding concerns, immigration-related student support, and student activity fee flexibility for campus governance organizations. He noted the Student Assembly's testimony at legislative budget hearings, collaboration with faculty governance groups, and ongoing engagement with state leaders.

Trustee Rallis then introduced Aisha Adam Bechir, the incoming Student Assembly President and Student Trustee, to the Board.

SPECIAL SERVICE COMMENDATION FOR TRUSTEE RALLIS

Trustee Lewin presented the following resolution commending Trustee Rallis:

Resolution: Special Service Commendation of Trustee and President of the Student Assembly, Luca Rallis

Whereas Luca Rallis has served as Trustee and President of the Student Assembly since June 1, 2025; and

Whereas Trustee Rallis has been an active student leader, serving on the State University of New York at Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Senate for two terms before joining USG's Office of University Affairs; and

Whereas Trustee Rallis was also a member of the University Senate Executive Committee, the Board of Directors of the campus's auxiliary services corporation, and several other campus governance organizations; and

Whereas While serving Stony Brook University, Trustee Rallis co-authored a transformative course retake policy, a change lauded by university leadership as a model for shared governance and student engagement; and

Whereas prior to serving as President, Trustee Rallis was SUNY SA's Executive Director of Policy and Government Relations. In this role and as President, he organized and led student delegations to meet with state legislators and executive branch officials during the legislative session, communicating student perspectives on critical issues such as cost of attendance, capital funding, and access to support services; and

Whereas during his tenure as Student Assembly President, Trustee Rallis's resolve and advocacy on behalf of all students have earned the utmost respect of his peers and activated an engaged SUNY student body. Trustee Rallis has also demonstrated exceptional leadership, namely in organizing and executing the annual Advocacy Day Conference, empowering SUNY student leaders to engage directly through over 90

legislative meetings with 100+ students in attendance where they worked to advance critical student priorities; and

Whereas Trustee Rallis's contributions as a Trustee have established a strong foundation that positions the next administration to achieve meaningful and effective policy change; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York recognizes the valuable contributions to the State University by Trustee Rallis and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

(2026-21)

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to approve the resolution

Upon motion by Trustee Litow

Seconded by Trustee Crespo

Vice Chairman Perales declared the resolution approved

CEREMONIAL APPOINTMENT OF DR. DURAND AS PRESIDENT OF BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Trustee Lewin presented the following resolution:

Resolution: Reappointment of Dr. Bonita R. Durand as President of SUNY Buffalo State University

Whereas Interim President Durand retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to SUNY Buffalo State University, where she served under five presidents, including as Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Buffalo State Council; and

Whereas Interim President Durand also served as a member of the graduate faculty in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration Department, teaching courses on the history of American higher education and on strategic planning and finance in higher education; and

Whereas Interim President Durand was appointed interim president of SUNY Buffalo State University in June 2023, and her tenure has been characterized by an urgent commitment to SUNY Buffalo State University's future; deep collaboration with students, faculty, and staff; and service to the Buffalo State and broader Western New York communities; and

Whereas during the search for the next permanent president, Interim President Durand has provided strong and stable leadership for SUNY Buffalo State University, focused on recognizing the importance of improving enrollment, retention, and completion and achieving operational sustainability to ensure the long-term success of SUNY Buffalo State University; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York recognizes the valuable contributions to SUNY Buffalo State University by Interim President Durand, and thanks her for her service; and, be it further,

(2026-22)

Trustee Lewin asked for a motion to approve the resolution
Upon motion by Trustee Duffy
Seconded by Vice Chair Perales
Trustee Lewin declared the resolution approved

Interim President Durand thanked all her family for their support. She noted how she owes a lot to SUNY Buffalo State University and the SUNY System for who she is today. She thanked the Chancellor for providing her the opportunity to serve the citizens of New York through Buffalo State University. Dr. Durand thanked Chairman Tisch, the SUNY Board of Trustees, legislative leaders and Buffalo State's faculty and staff for continuing to see the importance and worth of SUNY Buffalo State University. Interim President Durand is also very proud of each and every student at SUNY Buffalo State.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to adjourn
Upon motion by Trustee Spiro
Seconded by Trustee Staller
Vice Chairman Perales declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

April 28, 2026, at 12:49 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch
Vice Chairman Perales
Trustee Corngold
Trustee Crespo
Trustee Duffy
Trustee Haddon
Trustee Katz
Trustee Lewin
Trustee Rallis
Trustee Simon
Trustee Spiro
Trustee Staller
Trustee Vacin
Trustee Varlack

Trustees Not Present:

Trustee Belluck
Trustee Burke
Trustee Litow

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Aisha Adam Bechir, President of the Student Association, SUNY University at Buffalo
Kyle Adams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Creative Strategy
Francisco Araiza, Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation
Nisha Atre, Executive Director, SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Barron, Assistant Secretary of the University
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Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
Jamie Frank, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Access Initiatives
Spencer Freedman, Chief Officer for Risk and Compliance and Special Counsel
Gary Ginsburg, Chief Communications Officer
Aaron Gladd, Chief Strategy Officer 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 for Academic Health and Hospital Affairs
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 of Policy Implementation & Deputy Chief of Staff
Donna Linderman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Kapil Longani, Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Robert Megna, President, Rockefeller Institute of Government
Jennifer Mero, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Amy Montalbano, University Auditor
Melur K. "Ram" Ramasubramanian, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Jessica Robin, Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs
Juan Rosales, Chief of Staff to the Chief Operating Officer
Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff
Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer
Shadi Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development
Cara Palumbo Schrantz, Deputy General Counsel
Will Schwartz, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations

Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action
Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

CONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

Vice Chairman Perales convened the Public Meeting at 12:49 p.m., held on April 28, 2026, at SUNY System Administration, 353 Broadway, Albany, New York, and via videoconference. The Vice Chairman noted that the Secretary confirmed that there is a quorum and the meeting can proceed.

CONVENING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:02 p.m., Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to convene an executive session under the provisions of Section 105(1)(f) of the Public Officers Law for the purpose of discussing the financial and employment history of particular persons related to pending and current litigation pursuant to 105(1)(d); and to obtain legal advice pursuant to 108(3) of the Public Officers Law.

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to convene an executive session

Motion by Trustee Varlack

Seconded by Trustee Lewin

It was unanimously agreed upon to convene an executive session

RECONVENING OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Vice Chairman Perales reconvened into the Public Meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Vice Chairman Perales noted that the Trustees took actions that will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The below are the actions which the Chancellor first reviewed for consideration followed by Secretary Mero reading these resolutions in one consent agenda.

Resolution: Naming of an Athletic Fund at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas Burt H. Rubin, BA '74 (Anthropology), has been a dedicated and engaged supporter of the State University of New York at Buffalo's Division of Athletics for more than four decades; and

Whereas while an undergraduate, Dr. Rubin played an integral role in the men's hockey program by serving as manager, trainer, and assistant coach during the era when the team first achieved varsity status, and credits this experience for providing a "family" atmosphere that shaped his time at the university; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Dr. Rubin, the Dr. Burt H. Rubin Fund for Athletics is hereby named.

(2026-23)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Scholarship at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas Dr. Svein Øie earned his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from UB in 1975 and went on to devote 22 years as a faculty member at the University of California, San Francisco, where he held leadership roles in the School of Pharmacy and achieved national recognition for his research in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics;

Whereas in 2000, Dr. Øie was appointed the 10th Dean of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, where he had a transformative tenure that expanded the College's statewide presence and strengthened its academic reputation; and

Whereas Dr. Øie was recognized in the U.S. Congressional Record in 2018 for his service and contributions to the University of Georgia and the pharmacy profession; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Svein Øie and Barbara Woodruff, the Svein Øie and Barbara Woodruff Scholarship at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is hereby named.

(2026-24)

Resolution: Naming of a Nursing Scholarship at the School of Nursing at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation is removing financial impediments to a rigorous, high-quality nursing education and strengthening the capacity of nursing programs to address the critical regional and national nursing workforce shortage;

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation recognizes that a well-educated nursing workforce is essential to ensuring safe, effective, and equitable patient care, and therefore prioritizes investments that expand access to accredited nursing education and clinical training; and

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation's investment in the University at Buffalo School of Nursing reflects its commitment to preparing future nurses with the knowledge, skills, and clinical competencies required to meet evolving health-care demands, while empowering students to focus fully on their academic and experiential learning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by the Bedford Falls Foundation, the Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship is hereby named.

(2026-25)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Scholarship at the School of Dental Medicine at the

State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas upon earning his BA in Psychology in 1965 and his DDS in 1969 from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg pursued advanced medical and surgical training, earning his medical degree from the University of Health Sciences and completing his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas over the course of a 50-year career, Dr. Guttenberg became a nationally recognized leader in oral and maxillofacial surgery and founded The Washington Institute for Mouth, Face and Jaw Surgery, a premier center offering a full spectrum of surgical, reconstructive, and cosmetic services; and

Whereas Dr. Guttenberg has been honored for his professional excellence and service, including receiving the School of Dental Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2022 and the Continuing Dental Education Award from the District of Columbia Dental Society; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the support and philanthropic commitment by Dr. Guttenberg, the Dr. Steven A. Guttenberg Scholarship is hereby named.

(2026-26)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Chair in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas upon earning his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970, Dr. Angelo A. Montagna began a career as a researcher at Exxon Research and Engineering Company;

Whereas over his decades-long career at Exxon, Dr. Montagna became a prolific inventor, specializing in catalyst development and process engineering; and

Whereas Dr. Montagna's work was awarded several patents for innovations in catalysis, chemical processes and materials science, particularly in refining and petrochemical applications; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Dr. Montagna, the Dr. Angelo A. Montagna Chair in Chemical Engineering is hereby named.

(2026-27)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Chair at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook

Whereas Mr. Jack Strausman earned his bachelor's degree in 1982 from the State University of New York at Stony Brook's College of Arts and Sciences;

Whereas upon graduation, Mr. Strausman had a distinguished career in law; and

Whereas Mr. Strausman demonstrated his enduring commitment to Stony Brook University through his philanthropic support over more than 30 years and his invaluable guidance to the pre-law program, sharing how the logical and critical reasoning skills he cultivated at SBU served as an essential foundation for his successful legal and business career; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Mr. Strausman, the Jack Strausman Endowed Chair of Political Science at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is hereby named.

(2026-28)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Chair at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook

Whereas Before her death in 2011, Dr. Michelle Millar was a faculty member in the State University of New York at Stony Brook's Department of Chemistry for over 25 years. She was one of the first women in the country to be a chemistry professor at a research university and the first to be hired at Stony Brook University; and

Whereas Dr. Millar was a premier synthetic inorganic chemist and one of the most inspiring and impactful inorganic chemists of her generation; and

Whereas Dr. Millar was beloved by Stony Brook students, who presented her with the Most Outstanding Advisor Award in 2003; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Dr. Stephen Koch, the Michelle Millar Endowed Chair of Molecular Inorganic Chemistry at the College of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is hereby named.

(2026-29)

Resolution: Naming of an Endowed Chair at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook

Whereas Mr. Derek Peterson earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1988; and

Whereas upon graduation Mr. Peterson established himself as a successful entrepreneur in the fields of engineering and technology; and

Whereas Mr. Peterson has demonstrated his enduring commitment to Stony Brook University through his philanthropic support and professional and mentoring efforts over the last decade; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Mr. Peterson, the Peterson-Sanabria Family Endowed Chair of Engineering and Applied Science at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is hereby named.

(2026-30)

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to approve the naming resolutions on the consent agenda

Upon motion by Trustee Duffy

Seconded by Trustee Haddon

Vice Chairman Perales declared the resolutions approved

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to adjourn

Upon motion by Trustee Corngold

Seconded by Trustee Katz

Vice Chairman Perales declared the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

April 28, 2026, at 4:15 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch

Vice Chairman Perales

Trustee Corngold

Trustee Crespo

Trustee Duffy

Trustee Haddon

Trustee Katz

Trustee Lewin

Trustee Rallis

Trustee Simon

Trustee Spiro

Trustee Staller

Trustee Vacin

Trustee Varlack

Trustees Not Present:

Trustee Belluck

Trustee Burke

Trustee Litow

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Aisha Adam Bechir, President of the Student Association, SUNY University at Buffalo
Kyle Adams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Creative Strategy
Justin Allen, Guest of Jennifer Burris
Francisco Araiza, Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation
Nisha Atre, Executive Director, SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Barron, Assistant Secretary of the University
Anne Bink, Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management & Chief Operating Officer
Ann Flemming Brown, Chair of the Board, Schenectady County Community College
Jennifer Burris, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lisa Castillo Richmond, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Deputy for Student Success
Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
Linda Dobmeier, Chair, SUNY Buffalo State University Council
Tiombe Farley, Chief of Staff, Schenectady County Community College
Jamie Frank, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Access Initiatives
Spencer Freedman, Chief Officer for Risk and Compliance and Special Counsel
Gary Ginsburg, Chief Communications Officer
Aaron Gladd, Chief Strategy Officer 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 for Academic Health and Hospital Affairs
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
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Amy Montalbano, University Auditor
Paula Ohlhous, Executive Director for Human Resources
Melur K. "Ram" Ramasubramanian, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Zulaika Rodriguez, Associate Vice Chancellor for Executive Recruitment & Leadership Development
Lennon Reaves, Guest of Nicole Reaves
Nicole Reaves, Executive Vice President and Chief Programs Officer, Wake Technical Community College

Rebecca Reaves, Guest of Nicole Reaves
Jessica Robin, Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs
Juan Rosales, Chief of Staff to the Chief Operating Officer
Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff
Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer
Shadi Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development
Cara Palumbo Schrantz, Deputy General Counsel
Will Schwartz, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action
Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

CONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

Vice Chairman Perales convened the Public Meeting at 4:15 p.m., held on April 28, 2026, at SUNY System Administration, 353 Broadway, Albany, New York, and via videoconference. The Vice Chairman asked the Secretary of the Board, Jennifer Mero, if there was a quorum, at which time a quorum was confirmed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Vice Chairman asked the Secretary to present the minutes from the last Board meeting for approval. Secretary Mero noted that the Trustees were presented with the minutes from the March 10, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting. The Secretary asked if any of the board members had edits or corrections to the minutes, and none were made.

The Secretary asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Upon motion by Trustee Duffy, the Vice Chairman declared that the minutes were approved

The Vice Chairman asked the Secretary to read the names of the resolutions on the consent agenda. The following resolutions were read:

Resolution: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York at Buffalo

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York at Buffalo to confer the Doctor of Business Administration degree.

(2026-31)

Resolution: Appointment of Distinguished Professors

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow systemwide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor at the State-operated campus indicated, effective April 28, 2026:

Professor Jeanette Altarriba, State University of New York at Albany;

Professor Gustavo Arango, State University of New York at Oneonta;

Professor Joseph Balthasar, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Alan Belasen, Empire State University;

Professor Mark Andrea de Cataldo, State University of New York at Stony Brook;

Professor Suzanne Dickerson, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Leonard Egede, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Carvin Eison, State University of New York Brockport;

Professor Thomas Hugh Feeley, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Brandon Gibb, State University of New York at Binghamton;

Professor Melanie Green, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Brian Haley, State University of New York at Oneonta;

Professor Agnes Weiyun He, State University of New York at Stony Brook;

Professor Youqin Huang, State University of New York at Albany;

Professor Vladimir Korepin, State University of New York at Stony Brook;

Professor Maria Kraimer, State University of New York at Buffalo;

Professor Melinda Larsen, State University of New York at Albany;

Professor Shao Lin, State University of New York at Albany;

Professor Stewart Loh, State University of New York Upstate Medical University;

Professor Juan Andrés Melendez, State University of New York at Albany;
Professor Pauline Mendola, State University of New York at Buffalo;
Professor Sriram Neelamegham, State University of New York at Buffalo;
Professor Sherard Tatum, State University of New York Upstate Medical University;
Professor Joe Verghese, State University of New York at Stony Brook;
Professor Oleg Viro, State University of New York at Stony Brook; and
Professor Thomas Wilson, State University of New York at Binghamton.

(2026-32)

Resolution: Appointment of Distinguished Teaching Professors

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow system-wide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State-operated campus indicated, effective April 28, 2026:

Professor William Dean, State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred;
Professor Sarah Lam, State University of New York at Binghamton;
Professor James Spiller, State University of New York Brockport; and
Professor Aaron Steinhauer, State University College at Geneseo.

(2026-34)

Resolution: Appointment of Distinguished Service Professors

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow systemwide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Service Professor at the State-operated campus indicated, effective April 28, 2026:

Professor Gregory Connors, State University of New York Upstate Medical University;

Professor Robert Doggett, State University College at Geneseo;

Professor Marjaneh Issapour, State University of New York College of Technology at Farmingdale;

Professor Jonathan Krasno, State University of New York at Binghamton;

Professor Apostolos Tassiopoulos, State University at New York at Stony Brook; and

Professor Jeffrey Weiss, State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University.

(2026-33)

Resolution: Appointment of Distinguished Librarians

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a systemwide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow systemwide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, appointed to the rank of Distinguished Librarian at the State-operated campus indicated, effective April 28, 2026:

Professor Holly Heller-Ross, State University of New York at Plattsburgh; and

Professor Christopher Hollister, State University of New York at Buffalo.

(2026-35)

Resolution: Initial Approval 2025-2026 Honorary Degree Nominee

Resolved that the honorary degree candidate approved by the University-wide Honorary Degree Committee (“Committee”) and supported by the Chancellor, as set forth in a document on file with the Office of the Secretary of the University, be, and hereby is, initially approved, allowing an invitation for the receipt of an honorary degree to be extended to this individual on behalf of the Chancellor and SUNY Trustees, consistent with the *Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees*, as amended June 2018.

Resolution: Naming of a Nursing Scholarship at the School of Nursing at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation is removing financial impediments to a rigorous, high-quality nursing education and strengthening the capacity of nursing programs to address the critical regional and national nursing workforce shortage;

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation recognizes that a well-educated nursing workforce is essential to ensuring safe, effective, and equitable patient care, and therefore prioritizes investments that expand access to accredited nursing education and clinical training; and

Whereas the Bedford Falls Foundation’s investment in the University at Buffalo School of Nursing reflects its commitment to preparing future nurses with the knowledge, skills, and clinical competencies required to meet evolving health-care demands, while empowering students to focus fully on their academic and experiential learning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by the Bedford Falls Foundation, the Joanne and William Conway Nursing Scholarship is hereby named.

(2026-36)

Resolution: Regulatory Update for Tuition Liability

Whereas Part 302.2 of Title 8 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations sets forth tuition liability and refund requirements for students at State-operated campuses of the State University of New York; and

Whereas current regulations authorize State-operated campus presidents to waive tuition liability when a student has withdrawn through circumstances beyond the student’s control in the case of undue hardship, but only if the student left the course within the first half of the semester; and

Whereas in the State of the State policy agenda outlined on January 10, 2026, Governor Hochul introduced and championed efforts “to permit tuition liability to be

waived over a broader period of time, understanding that emergencies can occur at any time”; and

Whereas this recommendation was supported by the New York State Office of the Attorney General as a way to lower student debt; and

Whereas the State University of New York Board of Trustees is committed to increasing the affordability and accessibility of higher education for all New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Chancellor or designee is authorized and directed to prepare, in accordance with the provisions of the State Administrative Procedure Act, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and, if no comments are received during the requisite public comment period, a Notice of Adoption, to amend 8 NYCRR Part 302.2(b)(6) to read as follows (brackets denote old material to be deleted; underlining denotes new material to be added); and, be it further

Resolved that if any comments are received during the requisite public comment period, the Chancellor shall bring any recommendations for final adoption of this Rulemaking before this Board for approval.

Section 302.2 – Tuition liability; refunds for cancelling registration

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(b) Exceptions.

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(6) Notwithstanding any other provisions for refund, when a student has withdrawn through circumstances beyond the student's control, under conditions in which the denial of refund would cause undue hardship, the chief administrative officer of the unit may, in his or her discretion, determine that no liability for tuition has been incurred by the student, provided the student [has not completed more than one half of the term,] has not received or will not receive academic credit for the term, and provided further that the request for refund is made within one year after the end of the term in question. Such action, including the reason therefor, shall be in writing.

(2026-37)

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to approve the resolutions on the consent agenda

Upon motion by Trustee Duffy

Seconded by Trustee Haddon

Vice Chairman Perales declared the resolutions approved

The Chancellor then brought forth the presidential candidates for SUNY Schenectady County Community College and SUNY Buffalo State University to the Board for their consideration. The following presidential appointment resolutions were presented:

Resolution: Appointment of Dr. Nicole Reaves as President of SUNY Schenectady Community College

Resolved that the appointment of Dr. Nicole Reaves as President of SUNY Schenectady Community College, by the SUNY Schenectady Community College Board of Trustees, at a salary of \$230,000, effective July 1, 2026, be, and hereby is, approved.

(2026-38)

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to approve the resolutions on the consent agenda

Upon motion by Trustee Duffy

Seconded by Trustee Varlack

Vice Chairman Perales declared the resolution approved

Ann Flemming Brown, Chair of Schenectady County Community College Board of Trustees, stated that they have found a candidate whose skills have been honed across multiple campus settings and that their board is delighted with her focus on student success and strategic planning. She also noted that Dr. Reaves is ready to join SUNY Schenectady and the SUNY family. Chair Brown welcomes Dr. Reaves with open arms, and trusts in her leadership to advance the mission of Schenectady County Community College. Dr. Reaves thanked Chair Brown and SUNY Schenectady Board of Trustees for selecting her as president and their confidence in her leadership. She also thanked the SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King for their approval, and the SUNY faculty, staff and students in making SUNY Schenectady a great place to work and learn.

Resolution: Appointment of Dr. Jennifer Burriss as President of SUNY Buffalo State University

Resolved that the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Burriss as President of SUNY Buffalo State University, at a salary of \$325,000, effective July 1, 2026, be, and hereby is, approved.

(2026-39)

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to approve the resolution

Upon motion by Trustee Lewin

Seconded by Trustee Haddon

Vice Chairman Perales declared the resolution approved

Linda Dobmeier, Chair, SUNY Buffalo State University Council, commended Dr. Burris' accomplishments of over two decades and being recognized nationally and internationally for her leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Burris thanked Chancellor King, Chairman Tisch, SUNY's Board of Trustees, SUNY Buffalo State University Council and the entire Buffalo State community. She said she is truly honored to be selected as SUNY Buffalo State University's 11th president and that SUNY Buffalo State's students will be at the heart of every decision she will make as president.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Perales asked for a motion to adjourn

Motion by Trustee Spiro

Seconded by Trustee Duffy

Vice Chairman Perales declared the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.