



The State University
of New York

**Minutes of the Research and Economic Development Committee
of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York
December 16, 2025**

Pursuant to a notice of meeting duly given on December 12, 2025, the Audit Committee and the Research and Economic Development Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York held a joint meeting on December 16, 2025, at 10:45 a.m. at SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, New York, New York.

Committee Members Present:

Courtney Burke, Chair
Trustee Crespo
Trustee Katz
Trustee Litow
Trustee Staller

Other Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch
Vice Chairman Perales
Trustee Belluck
Trustee Corngold
Trustee Haddon
Trustee Lewin
Trustee Rallis
Trustee Simon
Trustee Spiro
Trustee Vacin
Trustee Varlack

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Shadi Sandvik, **Committee Liaison**, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Economic Development
Kyle Adams, Associate Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Creative Strategy
Nisha Atre, Executive Director, SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Barron, 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
Ben Friedman, Research Foundation Chief Operating Officer
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 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
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
Robert Megna, President, Rockefeller Institute of Government
Jennifer Mero, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Amy Montalblano, University Auditor
Melur K. "Ram" Ramasubramanian, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost
Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff
Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer
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
Jay Urwitz, Senior Deputy General Counsel for Special Projects
Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

A joint meeting of the Audit and Research and Economic Development Committees was called to order at 10:27 a.m. by Trustee Burke and Trustee Spiro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regarding approval of Minutes of the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees of The State University of New York from April 29, 2025, Trustee Burke asked the Committee if there were any changes or amendments to the minutes.

Trustee Burke asked for a motion to approve

Trustee Burke declared that the minutes are approved.

Trustee Burke then acknowledged Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Economic Development Shadi Sandvik to highlight STRIVE Taskforce progress.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Chief Sustainability Officer Carter Strickland then provided a mid-year update on the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan, which was adopted less than one year ago. The plan reflects a systemwide, collaborative effort shaped by the Sustainability Advisory Council, campus engagement, and public input, and advances a comprehensive vision of sustainability across operations, academics, and student life. To date, approximately 50% of action items have been launched. Key highlights include the initiation of a systemwide resiliency study to assess climate risks, the launch of the first cohort of Sustainability Fellows to integrate sustainability into curricula, and strong participation in student engagement grants supporting experiential learning. SUNY's efforts have received recognition at both the state and national levels, with multiple campuses earning sustainability distinctions. Sustainability was also framed as a critical risk management strategy, addressing student success, financial and energy costs, operational

compliance, and institutional reputation, with additional updates expected in a forthcoming phase two report in late Spring.

RESEARCH FOUNDATION UPDATE

Research Foundation Chief Operating Officer Ben Friedman highlighted the RF's role, history, and impact. COO Friedman emphasized key administrative and support services, including grant management, streamlined hiring and procurement, centralized shared services, and deep subject-matter expertise. Provost Ramasubramanian then provided an overview of the grant lifecycle, outlining pre-award support, rapid post-award setup, financial management on a reimbursement basis, and ongoing regulatory compliance, intellectual property protection, and commercialization support. The RF also plays a key role in managing complex federal requirements and enabling timely research execution. RF Board Chair Dan Tomson addressed the governance of the RF, noting the RF operates under a fiduciary board aligned with SUNY leadership. The presentation underscored the RF's essential role in advancing SUNY's research enterprise through operational efficiency, compliance support, and strategic infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Burke then called for an Executive Session at 11:08 a.m. for purposes of discussing matters related to the financial history of particular corporations pursuant to Public Officers Law §105(1)(f), and to obtain legal advice and other matters made confidential by state or federal law pursuant to Public Officers Law § 108(3).

It was unanimously agreed to convene an Executive Session for the purpose specified by Trustee Burke.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Trustee Burke recessed the Executive Session at 11:58 a.m. and declared that the Trustees took no action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 a.m.