

**SUNY NIAGARA**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MAY 20, 2025**

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**A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held  
on May 20, 2025, at 4:30 PM  
in person, and live streaming**

**Board Members Present**

Ms. Katherine Alexander, Chairperson  
Mr. Kevin Clark, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Gail Tylec, Financial Secretary  
Ms. Sheila Smith, Secretary  
Ms. Gina Virtuoso  
Mr. Lee Wallace (Zoom)  
Mr. William Ross  
Mr. E. Bryan DalPorto  
Mr. Jacob Joseph Fleming, Jr.

**Board Members Excused**

Mr. David Haylett, Jr.

**Administration Present**

Lloyd A. Holmes, Ph.D., President  
Maher Ghalayini, Ed.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs  
John Delate, Ph.D., Vice President of Student Services  
Barbara DeSimone, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Catherine Brown, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources  
John Eichner, Director of Business Services  
Fabio Escobar, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness  
Harold Legg, Director of Public Relations  
Courtney Helinski, Interim Director, NCCC Foundation  
Kelsey Kraft, Controller  
Jesse Goldberg, Chief Information Officer  
Alexey Postrigan, Assistant Director of IT Security  
Kristin Leszkowicz, Assistant to the President

Chairperson Alexander called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM. and stated the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

A roll call of board members present (in person) was taken: Trustee Alexander, Trustee Clark, Trustee Virtuoso, Trustee Smith, Trustee Ross, Trustee Tylec, Trustee DalPorto, and Student Trustee Fleming , Jr.

A roll call of board members present via ZOOM: Trustee Wallace

Student Trustee Fleming led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was followed by a moment of silence to thank and honor our first responders, women and men in the military, and those that serve domestically and abroad.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**WELCOME**

Dr. Holmes introduced Alexey Postrigan, the new Assistant Director of IT Security to the board. Mr. Postrigan thanked the board and provided a short professional background summary and some goals he would like to accomplish in his new role at SUNY Niagara.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Chairperson Alexander introduced Dr. Maher Ghalayini, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Ghalayini, presented to the board the ongoing planning process and development of the new strategic plan. He provided updates on the process since its launch on April 23. Thus far, 7 sessions have been held with the college community engaging 20-30 people at each session. The feedback collected from these sessions will guide the themes working groups will use to shape and draft the new strategic plan. The working groups will begin meeting 5/30-6/27 and work on the mission, vision, and values. Faculty members from the English department are currently drafting statements using the feedback and themes gathered. An opportunity for the external community to provide feedback will take place in July. The feedback gathered will be used to further refine and guide the plan. Faculty will have an opportunity in the fall to review the work that has been done over the summer and provide more feedback. Dr. Ghalayini asked for board member representation on the working groups. Chairperson Alexander will gather volunteers and provide that information back to Dr. Ghalayini. Final board approval of the new strategic plan is slated for November 2025.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Alexander asked if any Board members had any questions regarding the Consent Agenda items. There were no questions. Chairperson Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 board meeting, the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, and Grant Activities. The motion was seconded by Trustee Clark. The motion carried.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairperson Alexander asked board members if there were any questions regarding the Information Items. The following items were received and filed: Grant Tracking Chart, Personnel Status Chart, Foundation Report, Facilities Update, and Prospective Requests for Proposals (RFP#R202425-03). There were no questions.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Alexander recognized Student Trustee Fleming, Jr. and thanked him for his service on the board. Chairperson Alexander discussed the following:

- The next board meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 4:30 PM.
- Slate of Officers – Chairperson Alexander asked for board members to present a slate of officers for the following year; Trustee Virtuoso provided a proposal for 2025-2026 officers as follows:  
Chairperson – Katherine Alexander  
Vice Chairperson – Kevin Clark  
Secretary – Sheila Smith  
Financial Secretary – Gail Tylec
- Presidential Evaluation- Chairperson Alexander will provide copies of the evaluation to the board members. The board's presidential evaluation is due by the end of June.
- Strategic Plan Working Group Volunteers- Chairperson Alexander reiterated the need for board member volunteers to sit on the working groups for the strategic plan.

## **President's Report**

Dr. Holmes discussed the following:

- Dr. Holmes's thanked the board for their participation and support during his inauguration in April. He also thanked the board for participation in the commencement ceremony which took place on Saturday, May 17.
- Dr. Holmes's recognized the SUNY Niagara baseball team, who are currently competing in Auburn, to play in the World Series. The team is currently 49-0.
- The new Vice President of Administration, Salvatore Durante, will begin on June 2.
- SUNY Niagara has begun the 4-day work week for the summer. The college is closed on Fridays through the end of July.
- Dr. Brian Michel will be attending the State of the University in Albany on May 21. This is the first time the college will participate and will showcase the new and exciting activities that are taking place at SUNY Niagara.
- Dr. Holmes discussed the passing of the NYS budget, highlighting the SUNY Re-Connect program, which offers free tuition to individuals 25-55 years of age. A list of specific programs offered at SUNY Niagara was provided to the board. The program covers tuition, fees and books for students who qualify starting in fall 2025.
- Copies of the spring literary magazine was provided to the board members. The magazine is comprised of students' readings and work. An event was hosted during inauguration week to showcase the magazine.

## **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

Student Trustee Fleming, Jr., thanked the board members for their support and the opportunity to serve as student trustee. He provided his report with an overview of campus activities and highlighted the awards recently presented to individual athletes.

## **FACULTY OBSERVER REPORT**

The Faculty Observer Report was provided by Dr. Elizabeth Sachs. A summary of the report was provided in board materials. Faculty has been busy with advisement and preparation for summer classes to begin. Dr. Sachs highlighted the *Writer's Review*, which was released during inauguration week, the musical *Lizzie*, and the Film and Animation Festival. Faculty members have been involved in the strategic plan process and there is ongoing participation for the review and revision of the promotion and tenure process.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC/STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Smith stated the Academic/Student Life Committee met on May 7, 2025, and the minutes were included in the materials. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

The next Academic/Student Life Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 8:00 AM.

### **FISCAL COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Tylec stated the Fiscal Committee met on May 7, 2025, and the minutes were included in the materials. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

Committee Chairperson Tylec asked if there were any questions on the Business and Finance Report. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Committee Chairperson Tylec and seconded by Student Trustee Fleming to accept the 2025-2026 Student Government Association Programming Budget as presented. There were no questions. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Kraft presented a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2025-26 Budget for approval by the board and thanked the board for their contribution and work done to finalize the budget. Chairperson Alexander made a motion to approve the FY 2025-26 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Virtuoso and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Committee Chairperson Tylec and seconded by Trustee DalPorto to approve the 2025-2026 Tuition and Fee Schedule as presented. There were no questions. Motion carried unanimously.

The signing of the ESPA CBA Contract took place. Chairperson Alexander, Dr. Holmes, and ESPA President, Robert McCartney signed the contract effective September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027.

The next fiscal committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairperson Ross stated the Awards Committee met on May 7, 2025, and the minutes were included in the materials. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

A motion was made by Committee Chairperson Ross to approve the Trustee Emeritus rubric as presented. A copy of the rubric was included in the materials. The motion was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Tylec. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution- A resolution to nominate Trustee Kevin Clark for the NYCCT Marvin A. Rapp Award was read by Committee Chairperson Ross. A copy of the resolution and nomination form was included for board review.

#### **BOARD RESOLUTION**

##### **NYCCT Board of Trustees Award Nomination**

**WHEREAS**, the SUNY Niagara Board of Trustees wishes to recognize the service of Trustee Kevin Clark at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual NYCCT Awards Reception on Friday, September 12, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the SUNY Niagara Board of Trustees approves the nomination of Kevin Clark for the New York Community College Trustees “Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service”; and

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of SUNY Niagara approves this nomination effective May 20, 2025.

A motion was made by Committee Chairperson Ross to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alexander. The motion carried.

The Awards Committee will meet Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

A motion was made by Chairperson Alexander and seconded by Student Trustee Fleming to go into executive session at 6:11 PM.

A motion was made by Chairperson Alexander and seconded by Trustee Smith to come out of executive session at 7:03 PM.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**GOOD & WELFARE**

None at this time.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 4:30 PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairperson Alexander. It was moved by Trustee Virtuoso and seconded by Student Trustee Fleming. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Kristin Leszkowicz  
Assistant to the President