



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

Minutes

March 26, 2026

- The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:38 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2026, by Mr. Steven Zabarsky, Chair, in room 102 of the Conference Center on the College campus and via Webex. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present. Call to Order
- The announcement of public meeting was made by Mrs. Connie Bello in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. This meeting was announced on March 18, 2026, as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, by providing adequate notice to the Asbury Park Press, the Atlantic City Press, the Ocean County Clerk, and the College community. The notice indicated this meeting would also be held via Webex, as per New Jersey Public Law 2020, Chapter 11, approved on March 20, 2020, for public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means. Public Meeting Announcement
- Those in attendance were Mr. Zabarsky, Mr. Lynn Canfield, Mr. Frank Dupignac, Ms. DiAnne Gove, Mr. Moshe Bender, Dr. Theresa Kubiel, Mr. Stephan Leone, Ms. Susan Naples, Mr. Hunter Mantz, Mr. Jack Sahradek, Dr. Pamela Monaco, Executive Vice President Sara Winchester, Dr. Jennifer Dellner, Professor of English and Literature and College Senate Chair, and Mrs. Connie Bello. Also in attendance was Commissioner Jennifer Bacchione. Attendance
- The minutes of the February 26, 2026, Board of Trustees closed session and public meetings were unanimously approved by roll call vote. Minutes Approved
- Dr. Monaco introduced Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics, who introduced student athlete Batool Abdelmalak, who was recognized as Ocean County College's Woman Athlete of the Year at the New Jersey Collegiate Athletic Association Region 19 National Girls and Women in Sports Day Reception on February 1, 2026. In addition to receiving the award, Batool was selected to speak on behalf of all award recipients at the event. Batool shared her experience at the event and thanked Ms. Cohen and the Athletics Department for the support she has received during her time at OCC. She also thanked Dr. Monaco and Mr. Donald Kehne for attending the event. Presentations
- Dr. Alexa Beshara-Blauth, Executive Director of Institutional Planning, Effectiveness, and Compliance, and Mr. Joseph Rua, Assistant Director of Institutional Planning, shared an overview of the Economic Impact Study, which was conducted in partnership with Lightcast, to evaluate the overall value of Ocean County College by examining its contributions to the regional economy and benefits generated for key stakeholders, including students, taxpayers, and society.

Dr. Beshara-Blauth shared efforts are underway in order to coordinate outreach of this information to residents of the county. Commissioner Bacchione explained this information is important to convey the importance of the County's investment to residents and is helpful with budget planning.

Upon a request for public comments by Mr. Zabarsky, there were no comments from the public prior to the committee reports. Public Comments

Finance Committee

Mr. Dupignac shared the Investment Committee met yesterday and there continue to be no recommended changes to the College portfolios. The Investment Committee will meet next month for continued portfolio review. Ms. Winchester presented the 2027 OCC Budget. In order to balance the budget, it is recommended that Policy #5300, Tuition and Fees, be revised to increase tuition from \$206 to \$216 per credit, which includes the cost of books. In order to project a balanced budget, Ms. Winchester explained that the College received a very generous 4% increase in the contribution from the County of Ocean, and projects flat enrollment. She explained the largest impact to expenses continues to be increased healthcare premiums and utility costs, with revenue sources remaining steady. Mr. Dupignac then presented the Finance Agenda, which was approved as submitted with an abstention from Mr. Leone upon roll call vote.

- The statement of income and expenditures as of February 28, 2026, was accepted.

Income/Expenditures Accepted

Prior to taking action on the revision to Policy #5300, Tuition and Fees, Mr. Zabarsky called a public hearing in accordance with New Jersey Public Law 94, Chapter 48, for those members of the college community who wished to testify.

Public Hearing

With no comments forthcoming, Mr. Zabarsky closed the public hearing, and the Board approved the revision to Policy #5300, Tuition and Fees, with an abstention from Mr. Leone upon roll call vote.

Policy #5300,
Tuition and Fees,
Revised

- The Ocean County College FY 2027 Budget was approved.

OCC FY 2026
Budget Approved

- The following contracts were awarded:

Contract Awarded

- A maximum of \$150,000 to Pomptonian Food Service, Fairfield, New Jersey, for the third-year contract option with an additional one-year contract option for food service management from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$60,750 to Miner, Ltd., San Antonio, Texas, for a one-year contract with a second-year contract option for automatic door maintenance, replacement, and repair services on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$4,610,000 to Shorelands Construction, Inc., Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, for professional general contractor construction services for the Allied Health Dental and Radiography Program Renovation Project in the H. Hovnanian Health Sciences Building at Ocean County College.

- A maximum of \$19,200 to BKP Architects, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for professional architectural and engineering services for the replacement of several windows in the Library at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$26,815 to BDG Architects, LLP, Princeton, New Jersey, for professional architectural and engineering services for the replacement of the stairway leading to Door M and, if feasible, the installation of an ADA-compliant ramp to the Health and Human Performance Center and the installation of an ADA-compliant ramp providing access to the Conference Center from the adjoining parking lot at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$70,058 to Integrated Systems and Services, Inc., Eatontown, New Jersey, for the second-year contract option for inspection, repair, maintenance, and related activities for the Electronic Access Control and Video Surveillance Systems from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for use by the Security Department at Ocean County College.
- Resolutions were adopted to award the following contracts: Resolutions Adopted
for Contract Awards
 - A maximum of \$60,000 to Henry Schein, Inc., Melville, New York, for the purchase of dental supplies through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program for patient care and student lab courses for the Allied Health Dental Hygiene Program at Ocean County College.
 - A maximum of \$21,900 to Steve Weiss Music, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, for the purchase of various percussion instruments through the TIPS Cooperative Contract for the School of Humanities and Fine Arts at Ocean County College.
- The following contracts were amended: Contract Amended
 - An additional \$680, for a maximum total of \$62,680, to Automated Building Controls, Neptune, New Jersey, to update their Building Management Software (BMS) to the latest version as part of the second-year contract option for the operation and maintenance of the energy management system and certified tridium controls service from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the April 24, 2025, Board meeting).
 - An additional \$25,000, for a maximum total of \$65,000, to Butler Engineering Associates dba Butler Water Corrections, Hamilton, New Jersey, for additional water treatment services for the remainder of the fiscal year at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the June 30, 2025, Board meeting).
 - An additional \$25,000, for a maximum total of \$60,000, to Wawa, Inc., Wawa, Pennsylvania, for the purchase of additional Wawa gift cards for student assistance through grant-funded programs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the remainder of the fiscal year at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the September 4, 2025, Board meeting).

- An additional \$16,028.70, for a maximum total of \$30,271.20, to Data Recognition Corporation, Maple Grove Minnesota, to purchase TABE CLAS-E booklets, answer sheets, resource guides, folios, and manuals for ESL students enrolled in the Adult Education, Civics and Workforce Preparations Program (AECWP) at Ocean County College (initial contract was under threshold and did not require Board approval).
- An additional \$3,650, for a maximum total of \$18,650, to Tri-County Termite and Pest Control, Carney's Point, New Jersey, for additional college-wide pest control services for the remainder of the fiscal year at Ocean County College (initial contract was under threshold and did not require Board approval).
- A resolution was adopted authorizing participation in the NJ Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (CK04), a Cooperative Pricing System offered by the County of Bergen. Resolution Adopted Authorizing Participation in CK04
- The Board accepted an amendment to the FY26 budget application in the amount of \$589,882 for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, otherwise known as Perkins V, from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for the 2025-2026 academic year. The purpose of this grant application is for receiving funds for developing more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of Ocean County College students through instruction, providing equipment and supplies, offering professional development for faculty and students, and curriculum assessment and accreditation, with an emphasis on curricula promoting workforce education and economic development. Project Manager: Ms. Danielle M. Jones, Program Director, Career and Academic Programs. Project Period: July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Grant Amendment Accepted

Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee

Ms. Gove, Chair of the Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee, introduced Ms. Catherine Mancuso, Dean of Academic Affairs Processes and Faculty Development, who provided a detailed explanation of the items included in the agenda this month. In addition to Ms. Mancuso, the Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee met with Senate representative Ms. Janine Emma, Registrar, to review the committee agenda, which was unanimously approved upon roll call vote:

- The following items, as accepted by the College Senate at its meetings on December 18, 2025, and March 19, 2026, were approved: College Senate Items Approved
 - Revised College Senate Bylaws Revised College Senate Bylaws
 - Revised Program with Name Change Revised Program with Name Change
 - Associate in Science Degree, Public Health to Public Health and Human Performance
 - Revised Certificates of Completion Revised Certificates of Completion
 - Certificate of Completion, Environmental Sustainability
 - Certificate of Completion, Industrial Hygiene/Hazardous Materials Management

- Inactivated Program Inactivated Program
 - Associate in Applied Science Degree, Health Science
- Inactivated Program Option Inactivated Program Option
 - Associate in Applied Science Degree, Computer Science/Informational Technology, Option in Artificial Intelligence
- Inactivated Certificate of Completion Inactivated Certificate of Completion
 - Certificate of Completion, Artificial Intelligence
- Inactivated Courses Inactivated Courses
 - ANTH 135, Cultural Anthropology of Africa
 - ARBC 100, Elementary Arabic I
 - ARBC 102, Elementary Arabic II
 - ARTS 191, The Arts of the Islamic World
 - ARTS 206, American Art
 - ARTS 297, Painting IV
 - BUSN 240, Travel Seminar: Marketing Across Cultures
 - BUSN 291, International Business: A Cultural Perspective
 - CHEM 155, Principles of General, Organic, and Biochemistry
 - COMM 272, Public Relations and Publicity
 - CRIM 237, Juvenile Justice
 - CSIT 126, Intermediate Spreadsheets and Database
 - CSIT 146, Introduction to Cybersecurity
 - CSIT 154, After Effects
 - CSIT 160, Introduction to Visual BASIC
 - CSIT 175, Digital Logic & Circuits
 - CSIT 184, Networking Essentials
 - CSIT 192, Introduction to Machine Learning
 - CSIT 210, Cyber Operations
 - CSIT 275, Data Management Analytics
 - CSIT 291, Computer Vision
 - CSIT 292, Natural Language Processing
 - EDUC 140, Mathematics for the Professional Educator
 - ENGL 091, Reading and Writing I
 - ENGL 095, Reading and Writing II
 - ENGL 222, Indigenous American Literature
 - ENGL 225, Chinese Literature in Translation
 - ENGL 226, Arabic Literature in Translation
 - ENGL 228, Indian Literature in Translation
 - ENGL 234, Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature
 - ENGL 235, Literature and Myth
 - ENGL 240, Women in Literature
 - ENGR 124, Engineering Analysis
 - ENGR 255, Digital Circuits
 - ENGR 271, Introduction to Biomechanics

- ENGT 102, Manufacturing Processes
- ENGT 150, Automated Control Systems
- ENGT 191, Design – Technical Projects and Experience
- ENGT 193, Test – Technical Projects and Experience
- ENGT 195, Tools for Technical Communications
- FILM 202, From Literature to Film
- FIRE 255, Fire Inspector I
- FIRE 256, Fire Inspector II
- FIRE 257, Administration for Fire Officials
- HHAW 121, Psychology and Physiology of Stress
- HIST 185, Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization
- HIST 271, History of England
- HIST 275, History and Culture of China
- HIST 278, History of the Arab World Since World War I
- HLSC 170, Introduction to Homeland Security
- HLSC 171, Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- HLSC 172, Domestic and International Terrorism
- HLSC 173, Introduction to Security
- HLSC 174, Introduction to the Intelligence Function
- HLSC 201, Organizational Integration and Management
- HLSC 210, Risk Management and Analysis
- HRTM 124, Quality Guest Customer Service Management
- HRTM 225, Legal Aspects of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism
- HRTM 230, Principles of Food and Beverage Management
- HRTM 240, Travel Seminar International Tourism Management
- IRSH 101, Elementary Irish I
- IRSH 102, Elementary Irish II
- MATH 161, College Algebra
- MATH 165, College Algebra (Accelerated)
- MATH 195, Precalculus (Accelerated)
- MECH 150, Introduction to Hydraulics and Pneumatics
- MUSC 139, Introduction to Jazz Performance
- MUSC 178, Ear Training and Sight Singing II
- PHOT 207, Photojournalism
- PHOT 280, Advanced Digital Photography
- PHYS 181, Astronomy of the Solar System Lecture
- PHYS 181L, Astronomy of the Solar System Lab
- PHYS 182, Astronomy of Stars and Galaxies Lecture
- PHYS 182L, Astronomy of Stars and Galaxies Lab
- PHYS 283, General Physics III Lecture
- PHYS 283L, General Physics III Lab
- POLI 185, Principles of Public Administration
- POLI 268, Women and Politics
- PORT 101, Elementary Portuguese I
- PORT 102, Elementary Portuguese II
- PSYC 240, Travel Seminar the Person and Environment
- PSYC 250, Introduction to Quantitative Analysis in the Social Sciences
- PSYC 270, Psychology of Gender
- PSYC 272, Positive Psychology
- RUSS 101, Elementary Russian I

- RUSS 102, Elementary Russian II
- SOCI 182, Death and Dying
- SOCI 240, Travel Seminar: The Immigrant Experience
- SOCI 285, Drugs and Society
- SOWK 191, Foundations of the Community Health Worker
- SOWK 192, Introduction to Community Healthcare Practice
- SOWK 200, Gerontology: The Study of Aging
- SOWK 207, Group Dynamics
- THTR 101, Voice and Diction

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Dr. Kubiel, Chair, introduced Mr. Jim Calamia, Assistant Vice President of Facilities, who introduced Mr. David Hinchler, Colliers Engineering and Design, and Ms. Donna Zalecky, DMZ Planners, who shared the Ocean County College Facilities Master Plan which include comprehensive building assessments of the Administration, Information Technology, Health and Human Performance Buildings, and Instructional Computer Center, classroom and lab utilization review, future site initiatives, and continuity of operations review. Mr. Calamia then shared an update on several ongoing projects, including the new Administration Building, Grunin Center Lobby Extension, Health and Human Performance Center stair replacement, Conference Center ADA Ramp, Planetarium Roof Replacement, and Allied Health Programs. He then noted that the new grounds contractor is off to a great start. The Buildings and Grounds Agenda was then unanimously accepted as submitted upon roll call vote.

Building/Grounds
Committee Report
Accepted

Personnel Committee

Mr. Leone, Chair, recognized the retirements on today's Personnel Report, thanking all retirees for their dedicated service to the College. Mr. Zabarsky noted the appointment of Mr. Timothy Landers as Interim Dean of Social Science, and expressed appreciation to Mr. Landers, who brings a great deal of experience to the role. Mr. Leone then presented the Personnel Report, which was unanimously approved as submitted.

Personnel Report
Approved

Student Experience Committee

In the absence of Ms. Naples, Ms. Gove introduced Mr. Mantz, who reported on behalf of Ms. Ellie Dowek, Student Government President, student appreciation of Administration's response to the recent legal issues involving the former Dean of Social Science and support offered to students. In addition, there is still student concern regarding false AI flags. Dr. Monaco explained that Administration is aware of these concerns and several groups on campus are working towards a establishing a process to bring forward and will report back once information is available.

Student Experience
Committee Report

Miscellaneous

Upon unanimous roll call vote, a resolution was adopted to provide for a closed meeting to be held on April 23, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel action, collective bargaining, and pending and anticipated litigation.

Resolution Adopted
for a Closed Meeting
April 23, 2026

The following meetings were scheduled:

Meetings
Scheduled

Thursday, April 23, 2026	1:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
	1:30 p.m.	Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee
	2:00 p.m.	Buildings and Grounds Committee
	2:30 p.m.	Student Experience Committee
	2:30 p.m.	Personnel Committee
	3:00 p.m.	Closed Session
	3:30 p.m.	Regular Public Monthly Meeting

The trustees adopted, upon unanimous roll call vote, a resolution in recognition of the outstanding dedication and commitment from 2004-2026 of Mr. Stephan Leone upon his retirement from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Leone shared it's been an honor and a pleasure to serve and leaves the College in good hands with Dr. Monaco and the trustees.

Resolution Adopted
for Mr. Stephan
Leone

President's Report

Dr. Monaco shared the following:

President's Report

- Mr. Lincoln Simmons, College Lecturer II in Biology, hosted the 2026 Environmental Sciences Technical Conference on Thursday, March 26, 2026, jointly with Kean Ocean. Guest speakers included Dr. Vandana Saini, Dean of the School of STEM. Mr. Philip Brilliant, Owner of Brilliant Environmental Services, LLC, shared with Dr. Monaco that he hired OCC's 2025 Commencement Speaker, Elizabeth Macchioni as a summer intern.
- The President's Cabinet membership has been updated to include representatives from IT, Student Services, and Academic Affairs.
- The Internal Revenue Service is on campus today performing a site visit for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center, which reopened on campus for its second year with 148 returns having been filed to date. Thanks to Mr. Timothy Landers, Interim Dean of the School of Social Science, Ms. Patricia Archimbaud, Vita Site Coordinator, and Ms. Mary Lancaster, Controller.
- Dr. Madison Peschock, College Lecturer II in English and Literature, submitted the paper "Teaching Thru the Archives and the Value of Using Primary Sources in the Undergraduate Classroom," at the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) conference. In addition, she authored an encyclopedia entry on *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, which will be published by Gale Publishing.
- Dr. Mark Westmoreland, College Lecturer II in Philosophy, also presented the paper, "Bergsonian Pedagogy in Mexico," at the NeMLA conference as part of a panel titled "Identity Musings in Latinx Cultural Production."
- Congratulations to Dr. Christopher Brittain, Academic Administrator for the Early College Program, who successfully defended his dissertation on March 19, 2026, earning a Doctorate of Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University.
- The new College Pathways Program will be ready for the opening of Fall semester registration. The new marketing plan is exciting and will ensure the program information will be received by students and the entire college community. Appreciation is expressed to all involved for their diligence in making this happen in a short time with special thanks to Mr. Kenneth Malagiere, Executive Director of the College Foundation, and the Foundation for financial support of the campaign by Design 446.

- Dr. Monaco commended Dr. Stan Hales, Director of the Barnegat Bay Partnership, upon his retirement after 19 years of service.

Dr. Sheenah Hartigan, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Services, provided the following enrollment update and shared Spring 2026 enrollment currently has 5,810 unique students (-3.2% as compared to last year) and 56,637 credits (-4.56%). Early College enrollment is at 2,471 unique students (+8.9%) as compared to last year and 19,443 credits (+4.72%). Summer enrollment is at 1,212 unique students registered for 6,660 credits. Fiscal year enrollment is ahead 1.14% over last year in students and behind 1.64% in credits. Dr. Hartigan shared upcoming April events include the opening of Fall registration, two Poverty Simulations, seven Express Enrollment Days, one ESL Information Session, Clubs for a Cause, EOF Medallion Ceremony, and the NJCCC Student Leaders Summit. Dr. Hartigan notes this semester the Success Coaches received 486 total alerts, representing 399 unique students with 2,469 low course alerts to date resulting in 4,620 calls to students.

Dr. Joseph Konopka, Vice President, Workforce Development and Strategic Partners, highlighted Career Services collaborated with Kean Ocean to participate in Career Day at Kean University, Union Campus. A Spring 2026 job fair will be held on campus on April 7, 2026, for students to meet face-to-face with local employers in business, healthcare, hospitality, and criminal justice. Dr. Konopka then thanked Mr. Leone for the kind comments during the Personnel Report, and the trustees for their support over the last nine years.

Dr. Jennifer Dellner, Professor of English and Literature and College Senate Chair, reported the College Senate met during Spring Break in order to approve 107 agenda items. She thanked all Senate members who attended and the Deans, Assistant Deans, and Program Chairs for their work in getting the items to the Senate.

Mr. Ken Malagiere, Executive Director, OCC Foundation, reported the following:

- The Foundation is proud to support the College partnering with Design 446 for the new Pathways Program initiative.
- The scholarship application period for graduating awards is open through April 22, 2026.
- The fund request period is open through April 30, 2026, with thanks to Ms. Lisa Hussain, Foundation Advancement and Database Coordinator, and Ms. Kimberly Malony, Director of Advancement and Community Impact.
- The Grunin Center Expansion reopening celebration is scheduled for October 15, 2026.

The 2025-26 Blauvelt Speaker Series concludes with acclaimed Canadian novelist, poet, literary critic, and inventor Margaret Atwood, April 23, 2026.

The 2026-27 lineup includes:

- Laurie Hernandez, Olympic gold and silver medalist
- Travis Mills, retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant, quadruple amputee and motivational speaker
- Nolan Gasser, architect of Pandora's Music Genome Project
- Katty Kay, international journalist and author
- Ricky Riccardi, two-time Grammy award-winning OCC alumnus and Louis Armstrong scholar

Upcoming Foundation events include the 2026 Scholarship Celebration to be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026, honoring Mrs. Linda Novak, Mr. Paul Chalakani, and Kean University and the Kean Ocean Partnership.

Upon a request for public comments, Mr. Zabarsky and Commissioner Bacchione thanked Mr. Leone for 22 years of service to the College.

Public Comments

With no further comments from the Board members or the public, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

DiAnne C. Gove
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann
Special Assistant, Operations
Office of the President