



**Monroe Community College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**MCC VALUES:**

COMMUNITY.  
INCLUSIVENESS.  
INTEGRITY.  
EXCELLENCE.  
EMPOWERMENT.  
STEWARDSHIP.

# Monroe Community College Board of Trustees Minutes

Monday, March 3, 2025

MCC Downtown Campus, High Falls A/B

4:00 PM

Present: Allen K. Williams, Chair  
Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres, Secretary  
John B. Baynes  
Joseph Leichtner, Student Trustee  
Gladys Pedraza-Burgos  
Angelica Perez-Delgado  
Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee  
Grace S. Tillinghast  
Connie O. Walker, Esq., Chair, Risk Management Committee

Dr. DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna, President  
Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant, Board of Trustees

Excused: Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice Chair and Chair, Personnel and Programs Committee

Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

*Mission: Monroe Community College transforms lives and communities, fostering the success of diverse students through affordable and innovative academic, career, technical, and workforce development programs. Our shared work inspires and champions excellence in higher education and builds global engagement and understanding.*

## Introduction and Opening Remarks

Allen K. Williams, Chair, Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and quorum was established at 4:00 pm.

## Consent Agenda

The following items were proposed to be adopted and approved by consent:

### ***Board of Trustees***

- Minutes of the February 3 Executive Session and Board Meeting

### ***Finance & Facilities***

- Operating disbursements totaled \$8,153,452.51 for the month of January 2025, subject to final audit. (A detailed listing is available upon request.)
- Accept the Interim Financial Report as of January 31, 2025.
- Purchases of items over \$20,000 as listed for the month of January 2025.

### ***Personnel & Programs***

- Adopts the “Copyright and Faculty Ownership of Intellectual Property Policy”
- Approves the reappointment of Non-Contract, Professional Staff, Faculty, and Technical Assistants/Advisors as listed at the ranks and titles indicated for the 2025-2026 academic year or, for 12 month employees, beginning September 1, 2025 and ending August 31, 2026.
- Approves the Consent Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College adopt the consent agenda effective March 3, 2025. (T04-2025)

**MOTION** was made and seconded that the above resolution be adopted.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

## Student Success

- Student Testimonial by Arabella Hartino
- Student Government Association Update
- Student Trustee Update
- Student Success Dashboard with Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Measurements
  - William Dixon, Director, Research

## College Updates

- Monroe Community College Foundation Report
- Shared Governance Updates
  - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the shared governance groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
    - Faculty Senate – Becky Babcock
    - Support Staff Planning Council – No report
- MCC Middle States Accreditation Self-Study Update
  - Dr. Natasha Chen, Co-Chair, Middle States Reaccreditation
  - Dr. Susan Hall, Accreditation Liaison Officer
- Selected Executive Leadership Team Updates
  - Dr. Robin Cole Jr., Economic & Workforce Development & Career Technical Education
  - Dr. Calvin Gantt, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Belonging and Executive Director, Downtown Campus
  - Greg Hinton, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
  - Dr. Michael Jacobs, Provost & Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
  - Gretchen Wood, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, MCC Foundation
- Joint Finance and Operations Report
  - Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
  - Greg Hinton, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
- President's Update
  - Administrative Shared Governance Update
- Union Updates
  - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the union groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
    - Faculty Association – Bethany Gizzi
    - CSEA – written report

Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

**Information Items**

*Finance and Facilities*

- CIP Status Report as of February 10, 2025
- Grants Report from January 10 to March 3, 2025

*Personnel and Programs*

- None

*Board of Trustees*

- Biographies
- Staff Recognition

Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

## *Summary*

- Chair Williams gavelled in the meeting at 4:00 pm.
- Student Arabella Hartino provided her testimonial. The Board of Trustees and President Burt-Nanna thanked Arabella for sharing her story.
- Student Government Association President Angelo Romero presented on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA). SUNY Advocacy Day was held on February 12<sup>th</sup> and ten SGA members attended the event held in Albany to advocate for more funding for SUNY schools. There was a press conference on the Million Dollar Staircase in the State Capital. SUNY Student Assembly President and Trustee Giovanni Harvey asked President Romero to speak about why community colleges needed more funding and how MCC has changed his life and he was able to represent community colleges at the press conference. After the press conference, the attendees were split into two groups to meet with elected officials, which focused on how community colleges changed their lives and specific areas in need of funding, including food pantries, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), tutoring centers, and veteran aid. A video was played highlighting President Romero's speech at the press conference.
- Student Trustee Joseph Leichtner gave his report. Trustee Leichtner highlighted his attendance at the ACCT National Legislative Summit February 9-12 in Washington DC. The conference brought together community college leaders, trustees, and students from across the country to discuss policy issues, engage in advocacy, and gain valuable insight into the legislative process. Trustee Leichtner had the opportunity to meet with Representatives Mannion, Tenney, and Morelle and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer to advocate for increasing PELL grant funding, workforce Pell initiatives, and expanding SNAP benefits.
- Trustee Gladys Pedraza-Burgos added her highlights from the conference, including meeting with Government Relations Liaison Andres Pazmino, who was instrumental in scheduling the appointments with the elected officials. Discussions took place around trying to encourage the congressional members in the House to join a community college caucus. In addition to supporting the Farmer Bill and improving SNAP access for students, there were also discussions around the executive orders in regard to ideology; diversity, equity and inclusion; and merit-based opportunities. One of the things to emphasize is the importance of addressing student food insecurity and workforce development and the critical role the College plays in the community.
- William Dixon, Director of Research, provided an update on the Student Success Dashboard and Key Performance Indicator Measurements. Highlighted at this meeting was Student Outcomes: 3-Year Graduation Rate.
- Gretchen Wood, VP of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the MCC Foundation, gave the MCC Foundation report. The Foundation has transferred \$2.6M for program and scholarship support to the College from September – December 2024 and are currently on track to double the amount transferred of \$2.7M last fiscal year. The Foundation received a planned gift from the estate of Dr. Alice Holloway Young in December which will support an endowed scholarship fund and an endowed academic innovation fund to support MCC's education department. The Scholarship Open will be held on Monday, June 23, and the Gold Star Gala on Saturday, April 26, both being held at the Country Club of Rochester.
- Faculty Senate President Becky Babcock reported on the activities of the Faculty Senate (FS). President Babcock highlighted a visit by Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) President Candice Vacin on March 5 to MCC. Her visit is focused on getting to know MCC and identifying ways she can support MCC's shared governance in her work at the state level. President Babcock will be attending the FCCC

Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

Spring Plenary and will provide updates at the next meeting. Faculty Senate is actively seeking candidates for many positions including the president and secretary positions. SCAA is holding department chairperson elections next week for the 2025-2028 terms and is also engaged in several searches for college leaders. Other committees are working with applicants on applications for Strategic Planning initiatives, reviewing policies, and assisting in the development of future academic calendars. With Dana Voldan-Curry's new appointment as Assistant to the Provost and VP Academic and Student Affairs, she will no longer be able to serve as the Senator and Chair of the Professional Development Committee. Eric Wheeler, Assistant Director of Veterans Services, has agreed to step in as chair.

- Support Staff Planning Council had no report for this meeting.
- Valarie Avalone, Middle States Liaison to the Executive Leadership Team, provided an update on the Middle States Accreditation Self-Study. Dr. Susan Hall, Middle States Accreditation Liaison Officer, was congratulated on her new position as Assistant Provost for Academic Programs at SUNY.
- Divisional highlights were shared with the Board and delivered by selected members of the President's Executive Leadership Team.
- Trustee Dale Rehkopf and Associate Vice President Administrative Services Darrell Jachim-Moore gave the Joint Finance and Operations Report. Associate VP Jachim-Moore highlighted the Healthcare Committee which is a collaborative committee with faculty and administration participation along with healthcare consultant Lawley. This committee is instrumental in making recommendations to the college. Going self-funded resulted in significant savings but benefits continue to increase. The healthcare committee is meeting actively to identify other strategies for reducing costs. An update was also provided on the downtown campus pedestrian safety improvements and the innovative field parking agreement.
- President Burt-Nanna provided an update on the Federal executive orders. MCC has entered into a Common Interest Agreement so that the College's legal counsel can consult with the SUNY Office of General Counsel on matters of shared interest regarding the Federal executive orders. Recognition was given to Trustee Angelica Perez-Delgado on being named to the 2025 Rochester Business Journal Power100 list along with six of the MCC Foundation Board of Directors. President Burt-Nanna gave recognition to Chair Williams and Trustees Pedraza-Burgos and Leichtner for joining her in Washington, DC, at the ACCT National Legislative Summit, where trustees from across the State and nation advocated for programs and funding vital to the populations served by MCC. Trustee Dale Rehkopf has accepted Dr. Burt-Nanna's invitation to serve in an ex officio role as a presidential appointee to the College's Facilities Master Plan Committee. Trustee Rehkopf will provide regular updates to the President and the Board. Dr. Burt-Nanna thanked all of the employees who received appointments, title changes, promotions, and retirements. The President congratulated Dr. Susan Hall on her transition from MCC to SUNY System Office and gave special thanks to Dr. Terry Keys, Dr. Holly Wheeler, and Valarie Avalone for stepping up their level of engagement to ensure MCC remains on track for a successful reaffirmation of its accreditation in 2026. This year's budget advocacy includes \$100M in operating aid for SUNY community colleges to stabilize the faculty and staff, address student success initiatives, reduce the financial impact of high-cost programs, and invest in scaling high-need programs aligned with the Governor's priorities. SUNY community colleges support the Governor's proposal for Free Tuition at community colleges. MCC has been designated as one of only three new ON-RAMP sites, with one in Rochester to be housed at the MCC Downtown Campus. Thanks was given to Chair Williams for accompanying the President and Vice President Cole to Albany for the Governor's ON-RAMP announcement. Meetings with MCC's local sponsor, Monroe County, will advocate for the addition of \$533,000, representing a 2.5% increase in additional sponsor support. Thanks were given to the Student Government Association for their support of a three percent tuition increase or

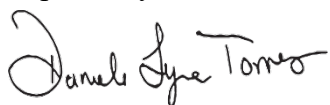
Monroe Community College  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
March 3, 2025

\$150 per full-time enrolled student for the 2025-2026 academic year. SUNY has approved MCC's proposal to participate in the "SUNY Community College for ALL: Adult Learner Leadership Initiative" along with \$50K in funding to support the initiative. Appreciation was given to the Academic and Student Affairs and EDIWS leadership teams, particularly Christine Casalnuovo-Adams and Carolyn Hunt, for their efforts in developing the successful proposal and action plan.

Acknowledgment was given to those who serve on all of the College's shared governance bodies for lending their expertise to carry out the College's mission every day.

- Faculty Association President Bethany Gizzi thanked the Board for reaffirming their commitment to the Academic Freedom and Student Success policies at the February meeting. President Gizzi is a member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Higher Education Policy Council and has been asked to serve as a member of a national academic freedom task force. They met in Washington DC and are jointly working to gather and share resources to assist higher education faculty, staff and leaders defend academic freedom and respond to the attacks on education and on diversity, equity and inclusion. As part of that visit, President Gizzi participated in lobbying efforts organized by the AFT. President Gizzi and members of the FA Legislative Committee will be meeting with state senators and assembly members thanking them for their support of MCC and asking them to prioritize funding for community college's in the state budget. The FA Scholarship committee raised over \$1500 for their scholarships this year. They have currently received 18 applications and the recipients will be announced in May. March 4 is a national day of solidarity and action in support of public education, organized by American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association (NEA). Members of the MCC community were encouraged to wear "red for ed" to show support for public education. Congratulations was given to faculty and staff whose promotions were approved.
- CSEA provided a written report.
- Chair Williams noted there was no feedback on the Board Action Plan so it is now considered final. The Board again reaffirmed its commitment to Academic Freedom and the core values outlined in MCC's strategic plan, Vision2027, and supported the statements made by Dr. Michael Jacobs on December 19, 2024, and Dr. DeAnna Burt-Nanna and Dr. Calvin Gantt on January 29, 2025.
- Chair Williams expressed his gratitude in recognition of the work being done every day by MCC employees. Chair Williams announced there will be College Forums held on March 13 and May 14. The Board looks forward to these opportunities to hear from college employees.
- The board meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniele Lyman-Torres, Ed.D.  
Secretary, Board of Trustees