

DRAFT
759th Regular Meeting Minutes of the
SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees
Thursday, October 30, 2025
Bishop Community Conference Center
640 Bay Road
Queensbury, NY 12804

A Regular Meeting of the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 3:30 pm. Chair A. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Gonzales welcomed attendees and recognized College faculty and staff in attendance.

Other Board members present were: E. Fitzgerald, D. Palmer, B. Judge, J. Nolan, T. Collins and C. McDonald. Also, in attendance were President A. Urtz, VP K. Kaplan, Associate AVP D. Wildey, CIO M. Hand, Chief HR Officer M. Wilson, Faculty Representative M. Guise, Budget Analyst E. Conduzio, Executive Director of Facilities M. Morin, Attorney L. Paltrowicz, and Recording Secretary J. Chase.

Remote attendees: R. Triller, Director of Marketing & Communications

Absent: Trustee M. Davidson, Student Trustee M. Langford

101805 Public Comment

No public comment was received.

101806 Chair's Report

L. Paltrowicz, Counsel to the College, administered the Oath of Office to Trustee J. Nolan. Chair Gonzales then presented the resolution to reappoint Trustee Nolan as a voting member of the SUNY Adirondack Foundation Board of Directors, recognizing his leadership and service to the College.

Additional remarks included:

- Reminder for trustees to complete sexual harassment prevention training.
- Encouragement to participate in the 2026 ACCT National Legislative Summit (February 8–11, 2026), with registration by December 19; Trustee Palmer shared positive feedback on past attendance.

- Compliments on the success of the Trunk-or-Treat campus event and the strong level of student engagement. The photos were greatly appreciated and captured the spirit of the day.
- Mention of the “*Essence of SUNY Adirondack in One Word*” campaign — students’ responses included *inclusive, welcoming, family, and inspirational*; Trustee McDonald suggested creating a word cloud for promotion.
- Acknowledgement of the Inside Higher Ed article highlighting SUNY Adirondack and featuring quotes from Kate O’Sick, Dean of Student Affairs, about TRIO programs.
- Recognition that the Cathy Wright-Williams Scholarship was established in memory of a former dining-services employee, supporting students who uplift the spirits of others. The first recipient was Elijah Cullen, a former Student Trustee.
- Reminder of the Board Work Session on November 20 at 8:30 a.m., with encouragement for full trustee attendance.

101807 Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Adoption of Minutes
 - 5.1.1 Adoption of September 25, 2025, 758th Regular Meeting Minutes
- 5.2 Personnel Committee
 - 5.2.1 October 2025 Committee Report
- 5.3 Audit & Finance Committee
 - 5.3.1 October 2025 Committee Report
 - Section 5 Board of Trustees Policy Manual(**Review**)
- 5.4 Academic and Student Affairs Committee
 - 5.4.1 October 2025 Committee report
 - Program Modification Recommendation (**Action – 1 Total**)
- 5.5 By-Laws, Policy and ERM Committee
 - 5.5.1 October Committee Report
- 5.6 Student Trustee Report

There being no additional items requested to move to the floor, a motion was made by Trustee Palmer and seconded by Trustee Nolan to approve the consent agenda.

Faculty Recognitions:

M. Guise recognized several faculty achievements:

Dr. Jessica Best, Professor of English and Diversity Initiatives Coordinator, was selected as one of only ten SUNY Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DEISJ) Fellows for the 2025–2026 academic year, out of more than 200 applicants.

Dr. Lale Davidson, Professor of English, continues to earn literary distinction with the audiobook release of her novel *Blue Woman Burning* in December 2025. She also moderated the YA Fantasy panel at the Saratoga Book Festival, performed her short story “*The Haunting of Zelda*” at multiple venues this fall, and had her first two novels featured by her publisher, Red Penguin, at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany.

Dr. Evan Sullivan, Assistant Professor of History, published *Constructing Disability after the Great War: Blind Veterans in the Progressive Era* through the University of Illinois Press (October 2024). The book explores the lives of blind soldiers and veterans as they navigated barriers to education, employment, and social perception in early twentieth-century America.

Professor Mary McDermott, Nursing faculty, was selected for the 2025–2026 cohort of SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellows, recognizing her leadership and innovation in simulation-based nursing education.

101808 President’s Report

President Urtz, joined by Associate Vice President Diane Wildey, presented updates on enrollment, program viability, and financial strategy.

Key Topics:

- **SUNY Academic Momentum Project:** Targets to improve completion, retention, and FAFSA submission rates. Included discussion of the challenges associated with metrics focused solely on full-time students and the importance of recognizing part-time and Reconnect students, as well as microcredential and certificate completions
- **NYS Budget Outlook and Shared Services:** Flat state funding is expected for the coming fiscal year. The New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP), received a \$10,000 grant to support strategic planning for shared services initiatives among New York State community colleges. Additionally, SUNY Adirondack is co-leading a statewide inquiry into a pooled risk insurance partnership among SUNY community colleges as an opportunity for significant cost savings.
- **Enrollment and Employment Trends:** President Urtz shared comparative data showing a 48 percent enrollment decline since 2014 (from 3,698 to 1,915 students), contrasted with only a 3.5 percent reduction in employment. This imbalance underscores the need for continued right-sizing through attrition and realignment to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Program Review:** Academic programs under review for low enrollment and completion rates focused on potential discontinuance of the *Hospitality Management and Outdoor*

Education programs which have demonstrated falling enrollment and credential completion over time.

- **Teaching Assistant Program:** The College is exploring an opportunity to align the existing Teaching Assistant certificate with a SUNY Reconnect-eligible degree pathway. Apprenticeship to build regional teacher education pipelines also may be possible.
- **Student Support:** Anticipated reductions in SNAP and WIC benefits has prompted expanded efforts to strengthen the College's student food pantry, emergency funds, and basic needs support programs.

President Urtz also highlighted internal reassignments, vacancies for Chief Advancement Officer and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and plans for the November 14 All-College Meeting to discuss enrollment and financial planning.

A full copy of the President's presentation is on file.

101809 New Business

On a motion made by Trustee McDonald and seconded by Trustee Judge, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution to reappoint Trustee Nolan to the SUNY Adirondack Foundation Board of Directors.

101810 Executive Session

On a motion made by Trustee Fitzgerald and seconded by Trustee Judge, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to move into Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the real estate matters and personnel issues as specified under New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 5.

101811 Return to Regular Session

On a motion by Trustee Nolan, seconded by Trustee Judge, the Board voted unanimously to conclude its Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 6:03 p.m. Trustee Palmer did not return to Public Session due to another engagement and, therefore, did not vote on either of the motions that followed.

101812 Authorization for Sale of Crockwell Pond to the City of Glens Falls

On a motion by Trustee McDonald, seconded by Trustee Collins, the Board unanimously adopted a Resolution approving sale of Crockwell Pond to the City of Glens Falls for \$18,500 and further authorized either the Board Chair, Amie Gonzales, or the College President, Anastasia Urtz, to execute all required documents associated with this transfer of real property.

**101813 Authorization for the College President to Make an Offer of Employment for
the Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the SUNY Adirondack
Foundation**

On a motion by Trustee Nolan, seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, the Board unanimously authorized the College President to make an offer of employment to a finalist candidate for the position of Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the SUNY Adirondack Foundation.

101814 Adjournment

On a motion made by Trustee Collins and seconded by Trustee Fitzgerald, the Board of Trustees moved to adjourn the October 30, 2025, 759th Regular Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Chase

Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees