

SUNY Adirondack
Board of Trustees
762nd Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Bishop Community Conference Center

640 Bay Road

Queensbury, NY 12804

101840 Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. Chair Amie Gonzales called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

101841 Roll Call

Trustees Present:

Amie Gonzales, Chair

E. Fitzgerald

D. Palmer

B. Judge

J. Nolan

C. McDonald

J. Camarena, Student Trustee

Trustee Remote:

T. Collins

Trustee Absent:

M. Davidson

College Administration and Staff Present:

Anastasia Urtz, President

Keith Kaplan, Vice President

Diane Wildey, Associate Vice President

Mary Hand, Chief Information Officer

Laura Lincoln, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director, SUNY Adirondack Foundation

Marc Guise, Faculty Representative
Eric Conduzio, Budget Analyst
Marc Morin, Executive Director of Facilities
Larry Paltrowitz, College Attorney
Jennifer Chase, Recording Secretary

Remote Staff:

R. Triller, Director of Marketing and Communications

[101842](#) [Public Comment](#)

No public comment was received.

[101843](#) [SUNY Adirondack Academic Momentum Plan, Diane Wildey, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs](#)

Diane Wildey, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the SUNY Adirondack Academic Momentum Plan, a SUNY-wide initiative focused on improving student retention and completion rates, particularly among first-time, full-time students.

The plan establishes institutional targets aligned with SUNY system goals and focuses on key performance indicators, including graduation rates, fall-to-fall retention, completion of gateway English and mathematics courses, completion of 30 credits in the first year, and FAFSA completion.

The Board was informed that SUNY Adirondack's plan was approved on March 17, 2026, following campus-wide collaboration and review. The initiative includes targeted strategies such as enhanced use of student success tools, development of individualized student educational plans, expanded co-requisite instruction in mathematics, and increased coordination across academic and student support areas.

Funding has been allocated to support implementation, including strengthening institutional research capacity and supporting curriculum redesign efforts in mathematics.

Discussion included questions related to student retention challenges, particularly financial barriers, and the need for innovative approaches to improve student success outcomes.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

[101844](#) [Middle States Self-Study Design Update – Jeannie Brown Leonard, Director of Assessment and Wendy Johnston, Associate Professor of Political Science](#)

Jeannie Brown Leonard, Director of Assessment, and Wendy Johnston, Associate Professor of Political Science, provided an update on the Middle States Self-Study process.

The self-study, themed “*Rooted and Rising: Strength in Transition*,” focuses on institutional reflection, continuous improvement, and alignment with the Middle States Standards for Accreditation.

The Board was informed that the Self-Study Design was submitted on January 30, 2026, and that a Self-Study Preparation Visit by MSCHE Vice President Dr. Suzan Harkness is scheduled for April 13, 2026. Trustees will participate in a dedicated session as part of that visit.

The presentation emphasized the Board’s role in governance, policy oversight, financial stewardship, and ensuring institutional integrity in alignment with Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration.

Trustees were encouraged to review materials in advance of the visit, engage in discussion, and support the ongoing self-study process leading to the final report and evaluation visit in 2028.

A complete copy of the presentation is available in the office file.

101845 Chair’s Report

Chair Gonzales provided updates on upcoming events and Board activities, including:

- Middle States liaison visit scheduled for April 13
- NYCCT Spring Convening on April 24
- Suicide Prevention Walk on April 25
- Next Board of Trustees meeting on April 30
- Board self-evaluation progress

Chair Gonzales also reported on the Board Innovation Fund and recommended pausing the fund for the current year to allow completion of ongoing projects, including the e-Sports Gaming Room.

Upon motion by Trustee B. Judge and seconded by Trustee J. Nolan, the Board of Trustees approved allocating funds from the Board Innovation Fund in an additional sum not to exceed \$26,400 to support completion of the e-Sports Gaming Room project. The motion carried unanimously.

101846 Consent Agenda

6.1 Adoption of Minutes

- 6.1.1 Adoption of March 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
- 6.1.2 Adoption of February 26, 2026 761st Regular Meeting Minutes

6.2 Personnel Committee

- 6.2.1 March 2026 Committee Report

6.3 Audit & Finance Committee

- 6.3.1 March 2026 Committee Report

6.3.2 FSA Amendment to current contract **(Action Item)**

6.4 Academic and Student Affairs Committee

6.4.1 March 2026 Committee report

6.4.2 Program Modification Recommendations **(Action Items -5 Total)**

6.4.3 Section 6 Board of Trustees Policy Manual **(Review)**

6.5 By-Laws, Policy and ERM Committee

6.5.1 January and February 2026 Committee Reports

6.5.2 Sections 2 and 5 Board of Trustees Policy Manual **(Review)**

6.5.3 Annual ERM Report **(Review)**

6.6 Student Trustee Report

Modification to the Agenda:

Item 6.4.3 (Section 6 of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual) was removed from the consent agenda prior to approval and will be brought forward at a future meeting following review by the By-Laws, Policy and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Committee.

Discussion:

The Board discussed the proposed discontinuance of the Hospitality Management degree program, Hospitality Certificate and Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Associate microcredential. Administration provided an overview of the degree program history, including prior efforts to revise the degree, establish a certificate and add a microcredential. Courses in the Hospitality (HOS) discipline will still be offered as supported by enrollments and are eligible to be taken by Business and Culinary students.

It was noted that enrollment and completion rates have remained low, and that recent determinations by the Department of Labor do not support financial aid eligibility for the microcredential as it does not increase employment outcomes (e.g., job attainment, wages). Based on these factors, the recommendation was made to discontinue the three hospitality credentials.

Trustees asked questions regarding program sustainability and future options. Discussion included maintaining hospitality courses as electives within the Business program and exploring alternative pathways, including the potential development of an apprenticeship model aligned with workforce needs.

J. Camarena, Student Trustee, extended an invitation for Board members to attend PackFest on April 20 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. in the Upper Quad.

Action:

Upon motion by Trustee J. Nolan and seconded by Trustee D. Palmer, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as amended.

101847 Governance and Faculty Update

Faculty Representative Marc Guise provided an update on governance-related activities, including Middle States self-study efforts, campus initiatives, and faculty accomplishments.

101848 President's Report

President Urtz provided an update on:

- The New York State budget process and advocacy efforts
 - Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)
 - Empire State Service Corps

101849 Old Business

There was no old business.

101850 New Business

There was no new business.

101851 Executive Session

Upon motion by Trustee E. Fitzgerald and seconded by Trustee B. Judge, the Board of Trustees entered Executive Session at 4:57 p.m. to discuss contracts and personnel matters as permitted under New York State Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 5.

101852 Return to Regular Session

Upon motion by Trustee B. Judge and seconded by Trustee C. McDonald, the Board returned to Regular Session at 5:23 p.m.

101853 Authorization of Contract – Facilities Master Plan (JMZ)

Upon motion by Trustee J. Nolan and seconded by Trustee E. Fitzgerald, the Board of Trustees authorized the College to enter into an agreement with JMZ to refresh the College's Facilities Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$82,200, with final updates to be delivered no later than August 31, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

101854 Adjournment

There being no further business, upon motion by Trustee C. McDonald and seconded by Student Trustee J. Camarena, the Board of Trustees adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Chase
Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees