

FULL BOARD MEETING – Administration Building, Room 107A**February 26, 2025 – 5:00pm****SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Linda Maykel, Jorgo Gushi, Satya Mitra, Lori Jones, Raj Rajeshkumar, Christian Bowlin, Liz Pape, Mariyam Bhatti (Zoom), Lynn Keeley

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Eric Goodwine

CABINET PRESENT: President Pedraja, VP Steve Marini, VP Michelle Tufau, VP Kathy Rentsch, ED John Holloway, CAO/ED Deb Spotts, AVP Deb LaFlash, Jess Ahrens and Lu Costa-Board Secretaries

Meeting commenced at 5:05pm by Chair Linda Maykel and roll call attendance noted. Chair Maykel introduced Deb Spotts, Chief Advancement Officer & Executive Director of Development, and John Holloway, Executive Director of Access and Opportunity. They introduced themselves to the Board.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held at Quinsigamond Community College on Wednesday February 26, 2025 took the following actions:

Consent Agenda: *The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping routine agenda items together to be dealt with by one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board or staff may ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed and placed later on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.*

If any item is not removed from the Consent Agenda, the action on the agenda is approved/accepted by single Board action adopting the Consent Agenda.

1. Minutes from the December 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (approve)
2. Trust Fund Report – FY25 through current period (accept)
3. Informational Personnel Items (accept)
4. President's Out-of-State Travel (accept)
5. President's Leave Time (accept)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Consent Agenda was approved/accepted by the Board.

CHAIR REPORT:

Chair Maykel discussed the following:

- Chair Maykel attended the ACCT Massachusetts Governance Leadership Institute at College of the Holy Cross in December 2024. ACCT offers a series of lectures and courses, and Chair Maykel will share the information as she gets it.
- She also attended the Black History Month Luncheon and Panel, The Legacy of Labor: Black Leadership in the Modern Workplace, last week with panel of local Black leaders and keynote speaker, Dr. Antia Veal, who spoke about her career in STEM.
- QCC Legislative Breakfast was held by the President's Office. Chair Maykel enjoyed the program. There were student speakers from MassEducate, MassReconnect, and SUCCESS Scholars, as well

as staff and faculty speakers from those areas.

- With federal changes, there is a lot to discuss and plan for.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Audit and Oversight (2/19/25) Trustees Mitra (Chair), Goodwine, Gushi, Jones, Pape

1. Fee Increase Information – VP Marini & AVP Deb LaFlash

VP Marini and AVP LaFlash joined the meeting to provide preliminary information on upcoming fee increase requests. He discussed the history of fees and fee increases. When the DHE implemented MassEducate, they put a limit on how much we can increase our fees. Each year, they come out with guidelines based on inflation. We are unsure of the guidelines at this time. VP Marini discussed a 2.06% increase and said it will not be more than 4.5%. President Pedraja explained that we have kept our fee increases at a reasonable rate in recent years. He explained that we are waiting for the state to tell us how much we can increase.

VP Marini went over a list of fee increases since 2001 and explained the fees – educational fees, support fees, and program fees. He discussed what things would look like with the 2.06% increase. We do not know yet what the increase will be. President Pedraja suggested we would request an increase at whatever rate is allowable

B. Strategic Planning, Education, and Student Success (2/19/25) Trustees Rajeshkumar (Chair), Basim Bhatti, Keeley, Maykel, Bowlin

1. Enrollment Update

VP Tufau presented the enrollment report to the Board. She displayed PowerBI, a college generated report, and went over the data with the Board. Today, we froze enrollment for the semester – total headcount 7522. The freeze allows for clean up of students who are not attending and is the final number. We are 19.3% higher in credits than last year. VP Tufau discussed the number of students who filed FAFSA, received Pell funding, etc.

C. Executive Committee (2/14/25) Trustees Maykel (Chair), Goodwine, Rajeshkumar, and Mitra

Chair Maykel said the Executive Committee is looking into the past year with MassEducate and what we have learned – successes and challenges. She asked the Vice Presidents for 10 bullet points each about their goals and accomplishments by the June SPESS meeting. The Executive Committee wants to do the best they can in following the new rules, being careful not to offend anyone, and will keep the Board informed as they can.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board made a formal request for information: 10 bullet points from each VP stating FY25 accomplishments with metrics and FY26 goals presented to the June SPESS Committee.

Chair Maykel announced that the committee voted to return to the old meeting times – evening.

Other Business

A. QCC Foundation Report – Jorgo Gushi, QCC Foundation President

Foundation President/Trustee Gushi discussed the following:

- They've had a busy few months.
- Introduced and welcomed Deb Spotts.
- Fundraising thus far is at \$640k of \$800k goal for this fiscal year. Unrestricted revenue has increased to \$872k. Raised \$13k YTD for student emergency funding. Spring 2025 Scholarship Applications received 202 applicants, 41 scholarships were awarded to 35 students - \$29,311 was awarded.
- The Foundation donated to the Healthcare pinning ceremonies so the students do not have to raise funds themselves.
- The Foundation is getting ready for their spring appeal and the mailing will go to Trustees as well.

- They are hearing concerns from donors about free community college and the need for scholarships. They are educating current and future donors about this.
- Mr. Gushi announced new Foundation Director – Jared Madison.
- The Foundation is working on the Gonser Gerber recommendations.

B. Programs – New and Closing – VP Kathy Rentsch

VP Rentsch discussed the new programs and closing programs and provided great detail for the Board.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the new and closing programs were approved/accepted by the Board.

C. Changes to Student Directory Information

Chair Maykel explained that the College will remove the home addresses from the student directory.

President Pedraja explained further.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the changes to the student directory were approved/accepted by the Board.

Student Trustee Report (*Christian Bowlin*)

Trustee Bowlin discussed the following:

- Student Trustee Bowlin discussed his attendance at the recent ACCT National Legislative Summit in DC. He met with legislators and had the opportunity to advocate for the College.
- Student Government Association has had a hard time getting people to run for offices. They are fundraising for a plaque for the Administration Building and other items.
- Student Trustee Bowlin is going to work with student life to survey the students to see how they are feeling. He is passionate about the importance of this role and support for students.
- He has heard from people that these are thankless jobs and he thanked everyone and said the students really do appreciate the College, staff and faculty.
- Trustee Gushi recommended that Trustee Bowlin attend all SGA meetings. He also suggested that Trustee Bowlin talk to the students and encourage them to attend these meetings.

President's Report

A. Ongoing Initiatives/Campus Updates

- President Pedraja discussed the ACCT National Legislative Summit. They had productive meetings and talked to other colleges about strategies.
- We are advocating for an increase in SUCCESS funding.
- We are getting into the budget cycles and being careful not to get ahead of ourselves. This includes looking at how much money we are expecting in next year's budget. There are some vacant positions that we don't need to replace. We will have those discussions and bring the budget when it is ready.
- Hoping to break ground soon to start demolition of the Athletic Center. We hope to raise funds to offset the commitments from reserves.
- There is a \$2.5 billion allotment for higher education. We might have some of that funding for the equipment, but we don't know how it will pan out.
- Tomorrow, President Pedraja has meetings with legislators in Boston to discuss this and higher education salaries. There are a lot of unknowns, but we are increasing our advocacy.
- The big issue is what we are hearing from the Federal government. There is a Dear Colleague Letter circulating from the DoE about hiring practices and affirmative action. Discrimination is not legal and will be investigated. We are committed to the work of access and opportunity for all, and we will continue to move forward with that commitment. At the same time, we will work to ensure that we

reduce and eliminate the attainment gaps that we see. The President wants to encourage and facilitate respectful dialogue. The Governor is putting out a press release about the letter and we will follow the Governor's lead on this. The President's Council is discussing and meeting on this. There are protocols in place on campus for visitors who want to disrupt. We will take things as they come.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

Executive Committee – Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – **4:00pm**

Strategic Planning, Education & Student Success Committee – Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - **4:00pm**

Audit & Oversight Committee - Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - **5:00pm**

Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 16, 2025 - **5:00pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Costa
QCC Board Secretary