



Full Board Meeting Minutes

QCC Board of Trustees

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Administration Building Room 107A, 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606

Trustees Present: Linda Maykel, Eric Goodwine (remote), Lynn Keeley, Noah MacDonald, Satya Mitra (remote), Raj Rajeshkumar (remote)

Trustees Absent: Jorgo Gushi

Others Present: President Luis Pedraja, Michelle Tufau Afriyie, Kathy Rentsch, Sean Nelson, John Holloway, Sara Simms, Deb Spotts, Karen Hutner (remote), Deb LaFlash, Becky Lindley, Leigh Woodruff, Jess Ahrens Montecalvo – Board Secretary, Auditors from Withum: Brian Page (remote), Amy Both (remote), Jess Davis (remote)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM by Chair Maykel and roll call attendance noted.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held at the Worcester Senior Center on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, took the following actions:

- I. **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.

- A. Minutes from the September 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (approve)
- B. Trust Fund Report – FY26 (accept)
- C. Informational Personnel Items (accept)
- D. President's Out-of-State Travel (accept)
- E. President's Leave Time (accept)

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

II. Chair Updates

Dr. Linda Maykel, Board Chair

- Chair Maykel congratulated Student Trustee Noah MacDonald on his appointment to the ACCT Student Trustee Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Chair Maykel reminded trustees about the upcoming donor reception, sponsored by President Pedraja and the QCC Foundation. The Donor Reception will take place on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 5:30–7:30 PM at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC), located at 20B Franklin Street, Worcester.

- Chair Maykel encouraged full board participation in annual giving and emphasized that any amount would be appreciated.
- Chair Maykel shared that she was interviewed by President Pedraja for the November edition of *Campus Communications*, where she discussed the role of the Board of Trustees and its relationship with the College.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Audit and Oversight Committee (October 8, 2025)

Trustees: Mitra (Chair), Goodwine, and Gushi

1. FY25 Audit

- Brian Page, Partner at Withum, presented the results of the annual audit. He reported that the College received a clean, unmodified opinion on its financial statements. He commended management for their cooperation and timely submission of materials. He noted that one control issue was identified related to the QCC Foundation's recording of contributions.
- Amy Both, Manager at Withum, provided a high-level overview of the financial statements. She noted that total assets increased by approximately \$10.6 million. Accounts receivable increased due to a 12% rise in enrollment. The College experienced an operating loss of \$41 million, which is consistent with trends in community colleges. The net position increased by approximately \$12 million compared to the previous year, and the College maintained a positive cash flow of \$3.9 million.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the FY25 audit was approved/accepted by the Board.

2. Budget Update

- Interim Vice President Sean Nelson presented an overview of the College's operating budget. The operating budget has increased by approximately 25% since FY23 due to MassReconnect and MassEducate, reaching \$76.3 million for FY26. Enrollment increased by 34% from Fall 2022 (FY23) to Fall 2025 (FY26). Approximately 90% of the operating budget is publicly funded in the form of appropriations and financial aid, and about 78% of expenses (\$56.2M) is for personnel salaries.
- The College's operating budget does not include employee fringe benefits, state and federal grants, state capital investments, and philanthropic contributions. QCC received over \$26 million in FY25 in additional funding outside the operating budget.
- Fall 2026 revenues are projected to exceed budget by about \$2 million due to increased enrollment. Strategic investments from FY26 operating budget surplus includes restoring a student accessibility position, expanding professional development for faculty and staff, initiating a Campus Master Plan, and upgrading audiovisual equipment in the Hebert Auditorium with a \$800,000 investment over two years.

- The College maintains a strategic reserve of approximately \$12.7 million, which is equivalent to 60 days of operating expenses. Interim VP Nelson explained the purpose of maintaining a contingency reserve and noted that a contingency reserve policy is being discussed, which would require Board approval.

B. Strategic Planning, Education, and Student Success Committee (October 8, 2025)

Trustees: Rajeshkumar (Chair), Bhatti, MacDonald, Maykel, and Keeley

1. Fall 2025 Enrollment Update

- Vice President Michelle Tufau Afriyie presented an enrollment update for Fall 2025. She reported that enrollment increased by 11.6% in headcount and 12.3% in credit hours from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. Interest in the College reached an all-time high, with nearly 10,000 inquiries. While conversion rates were strong, Michelle noted that there is room for improvement in converting inquiries into enrolled students. Latinx student enrollment reached 27.4%, surpassing the strategic goal of 25% to achieve Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation. Orientation participation improved significantly, and retention efforts are being strengthened across departments.
- Financial aid saw a 33% increase in Pell Grants and a 40% growth in overall awards, totaling \$17.9 million. FAFSA submissions increased by 26%. The College achieved an 81% reduction in the drop-for-non-payment list, saving 1,661 students from being dropped. This effort resulted in an 82% reduction in receivables, equating to over \$7 million in savings. VP Tufau Afriyie emphasized the unprecedented level of collaboration across departments.

2. TRIO Update

- President Pedraja reported that the TRIO program was not renewed this year due to changes in federal criteria. The College transitioned the program into a First-Generation Center to continue supporting students.
- Recently, the College was notified that it has been awarded a new TRIO grant focused on STEM and healthcare preparation. The grant totals approximately \$275,000 annually for five years. Planning is underway including hiring for two new positions, but the College is waiting for confirmation of funds before making final commitments.

C. Executive Committee (September 17, 2025)

Trustees: Maykel, Goodwine, Mitra, and Rajeshkumar

- Chair Maykel reported that the Executive Committee coordinated presentations for the committee meetings and discussed trustee appointments. The Public Education Nominating Council (PENC) postponed their meeting until later this month, so new trustees are expected to be announced by the end of October or early November.

IV. QCC Foundation Report

Jorgo Gushi, QCC Foundation President

Trustee Gushi was not present, so the Foundation Report was not presented.

V. Student Trustee Report

Noah MacDonald, Student Trustee

Student Trustee Noah MacDonald reported increased student engagement. The Student Government Association (SGA) is more active than last year, with new clubs forming. Noah is working with PTK and student government to launch initiatives such as QR codes for student feedback and a podcast series titled “Trustee on the Quad.” These efforts aim to improve direct communication between students and trustees.

VI. President's Report

Dr. Luis Pedraja, QCC President

A. Ongoing Initiatives & Campus Updates

- President Pedraja shared that the College is making strategic investments in professional development and student support.
- Trustees are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC on Thursday, November 13, 2025, from 3:00–4:30 PM in Room 271A in the Administration Building at 670 West Boylston Street, Worcester.
- President Pedraja congratulated Student Trustee Noah MacDonald on his appointment to the ACCT Student Trustee Advisory Committee. President Pedraja will be attending the ACCT Leadership Congress next week in New Orleans with Trustee Rajeshkumar and Student Trustee MacDonald. President Pedraja will be presenting on a panel at an ACCT pre-conference session on strategies to support child care for student parents.
- President Pedraja discussed federal funding uncertainties, SNAP cuts, and increased food pantry usage. The College is monitoring proposed increases to H1 visa fees and their potential impact on faculty and staff. Despite these challenges, the President emphasized the importance of maintaining focus on student success and using strategic reserves to navigate potential financial disruptions.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Executive Committee** – Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Strategic Planning, Education & Student Success Committee** – Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Audit & Oversight Committee** – Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM, Zoom
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:00 PM, Room 107A

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Ahrens Montecalvo, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board