



Full Board Meeting Minutes

QCC Board of Trustees

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5:00 PM

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

Trustees Present: Linda Maykel, Max German (remote), Jorgo Gushi, Lynn Keeley (remote), Flo LeClair, Noah MacDonald (remote), Jessica Mandes, Eric Goodwine (remote)

Trustees Absent: Mari Gonzalez, Satya Mitra, Raj Rajeshkumar

Others Present: President Luis Pedraja, Kathy Rentsch, Sean Nelson, John Holloway, Sara Simms, Deb Spotts, Deb LaFlash, Karen Hutner (remote), Jess Ahrens Montecalvo – Board Secretary

Meeting called to order at 5:08 PM by Vice Chair Goodwine and roll call attendance noted.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held at Quinsigamond Community College on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 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 March 11, 2026 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

- Board Chair Linda Maykel welcomed new Elected Alumni Trustee Flo LeClair. Trustee LeClair shared her background as a QCC alumna, retired hospice nurse, and longtime community volunteer.
- Chair Maykel announced that the new Student Trustee, Dawit Quilty, was elected by the student body, and his term will start on July 1, 2026. Trustees thanked outgoing Student Trustee Noah MacDonald for his dedicated service and congratulated him on his acceptance to the University of Michigan.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Audit and Oversight Committee (April 15, 2026)

Trustees: Mitra (Chair), German, Gonzalez, Goodwine, and Gushi

1. FY26 Budget Update

- Associate Vice President Deb LaFlash presented the Trustees' Budget Report through March 2026. Net tuition and fee revenue stood at approximately 103% of the FY26 budget, with total revenue at 92% of the FY26 budget. Expenditures were reported to be approximately 69% of budget, below the expected 75% benchmark at this point in the fiscal year. AVP LaFlash noted that the College is on track to meet or exceed revenue projections while remaining below budgeted expenditures, positioning the College for a favorable year-end outcome and potential reserve contributions.

2. FY27 Budget Development Assumptions

- Interim Vice President Sean Nelson presented an overview of preliminary budget assumptions for the FY27 budget. Revenue assumptions for FY27 include level funding for state appropriations. VP Nelson noted that level funding effectively functions as a cut due to rising personnel and operating costs. The FY27 budget is being developed with the assumption of flat enrollment and flat credit hours compared to FY26. The Board previously approved a 2.76% increase in student fees, which is expected to generate approximately \$1.3 million in additional revenue. Expense assumptions for FY27 include an average 3% salary increase for MCCC, AFSCME, NUPs, and adjuncts. Personnel costs account for approximately 76% of the College's operating budget. Projected benefits costs increases are a concern with an anticipated 22% increase for certain employee groups, creating a potential financial exposure of \$750,000–\$800,000 or more. Fixed costs are expected to increase by approximately \$1 million in FY27, largely due to software licenses, leases, and other contractual obligations. To help offset this, the FY27 budget includes a proposed 50% reduction in contingency and strategic investment allocations, freeing approximately \$1.8 million in the budget. VP Nelson reviewed next steps in the FY27 budget development process, including refining divisional operating budgets, monitoring enrollment, and tracking the legislative budget process. A fully developed FY27 budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the June 10, 2026 Board meeting.
- The Board discussed federal and state budget uncertainty, including potential impacts to Pell Grants, Medicaid, and SUCCESS funding. President Pedraja and VP Nelson emphasized the College's conservative budgeting approach and ongoing monitoring of legislative and enrollment developments.

3. Single Audit Report

- The results of the FY25 Single Audit were presented at the A&O meeting on April 15, 2026 and are available in the Board meeting packet for trustee's review.

B. Strategic Planning, Education, and Student Success Committee (April 15, 2026)

Trustees: Rajeshkumar (Chair), LeClair, MacDonald, Mandes, Maykel, and Keeley

1. Tenure Approval

- The Board considered the recommendation to award tenure to the following members of the college community: Benedicta Aboagye and Caitlin Bogue, effective July 1, 2026, and Professors Crystal Yelle and My Le Huynh Nguyen, effective August 23, 2026.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the tenure recommendations.

2. Professor Emeritus Approval

- The Board considered the recommendation to confer the honorary title of Professor Emerita upon the following faculty member following her retirement from the College: Mary Valentine.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the emeritus recommendation.

3. Trustees' Citizen's Award Nomination

- The Board considered the nomination to award the Trustees' Citizen's Award to State Senator Robyn Kennedy. Senator Kennedy was nominated by a trustee for her continued advocacy and support for public higher education and QCC.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the nomination and award.

4. Proposed Degree Closure

- The Board reviewed a proposal for the closure of a degree program, Early Childhood Education – Associate in Arts (Program Code: EC). Vice President Kathy Rentsch noted that the decision resulted from statewide curriculum alignment efforts, rather than low enrollment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and a vote by roll call, the Board unanimously approved the degree closure.

5. Recap: Update on First Generation Student Support Center and TRIO

- Vice President Kathy Rentsch, Associate Vice President Kevin Li, Director Gabriel Santner, Project Director Peter Munene presented on the First Generation Student Support Center and TRIO SSS STEM Health Sciences Program at the SPESS meeting on April 15, 2026. The presentation slides and meeting minutes are available in OnBoard for trustees' review.

C. Executive Committee (April 15, 2026) – Canceled

Trustees: Maykel, Goodwine, Mitra, and Rajeshkumar

- The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for April 15, 2026 was canceled due to no agenda items.

IV. Other Business

- ### A. ACCT Resources Presentation – Kielo Savilaakso, Director of Member Engagement, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)

- Kielo Savilaakso, Director of Member Engagement at ACCT, provided an overview of ACCT services, including evaluations, retreats, and assessments. She noted that ACCT has a federal advocacy team that provides regular updates through a newsletter as well as a webinar on first Friday of the month. She mentioned the newly developed global workforce initiatives and in-person events, including the Annual Congress in October, the Legislative Summit in February, and the Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) twice per year, as well as virtual learning opportunities. Director Savilaakso provided an overview and demonstration of ACCT Connect, an online learning platform for ACCT members that offers recordings of webinars and meetings and online courses, such as Advocacy 101, Governance 101, and Parliamentary Procedures. She reviewed the ACCT awards, which include five categories. Each institution can submit one nomination per category for no charge, and the deadline is June 22. Director Savilaakso will create ACCT Connect accounts for the trustees and will send an invitation to join the platform.

V. QCC Foundation Report

Jorgo Gushi, QCC Foundation President

A. QCC Foundation YTD Fundraising Report

- Chief Advancement Officer Deb Spotts presented a detailed report on QCC Foundation and Advancement activities. Highlights include: \$7.7 million in grant funding across 32 grant awards, supporting both the College and the QCC Foundation. \$315,000 raised through the Annual Fund to date. Engagement of 283 total donors, including 136 new donors, reflecting significant year-over-year growth. Growth of the QCC Foundation's total endowments to \$7.3 million. Seven total new QCC Foundation Board members this year, with strategic and intentional onboarding of new members. Strong alumni engagement efforts, including programming, newsletters, and events, with the alumni newsletter achieving an open rate exceeding national benchmarks. Strong community engagement efforts as well, including 77 sponsored, tabled, or co-hosted community engagement events this FY. Sean Harris, Director of Community Engagement, was nominated by Representative LeBoeuf for the Massachusetts Black Excellence on the Hill Award in recognition of his outreach and engagement initiatives.

VI. Student Trustee Report

Noah MacDonald, Student Trustee

- Student Trustee Noah MacDonald reported that Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) hosted an accounting workshop designed to help students explore whether accounting is the right career path for them, and that the organization also held an initiation ceremony for new members. He shared that a new student organization, the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), has been established on campus as a chapter-based organization. He reported that Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recently inducted new members, noting that eligibility requires a minimum 3.5 GPA. Student Trustee MacDonald reported that the CORE student club will be transitioned under the leadership of Dewit Quilty, with the organization to be renamed EDM and plans underway to seek additional funding for expanded initiatives.

VII. President's Report

Dr. Luis Pedraja, QCC President

A. Ongoing Initiatives & Campus Updates

- President Pedraja reported on legislative advocacy efforts, including proposed BRIGHT Act earmarks for QCC. The House proposal includes \$22.5M for drainage, resurfacing, and soil mitigation of parking lots and surface roads, filed by Representative Jim O'Day, and the Senate proposal includes \$14.2M for accessibility and life safety upgrades to the Administration Building and Child Study Center and HVAC repairs, filed by Senator Robyn Kennedy. While the Governor's budget proposal level-funded the SUCCESS program at \$14 million, the House budget increased the allocation by an additional \$4 million statewide. He encouraged continued advocacy for SUCCESS funding, as well as for the advancement of the faculty and staff compensation study.
- President Pedraja reported that early indicators for both summer and fall enrollment are positive, with increased early registration and a strong cohort of returning students. He noted that enrollment typically levels later in the cycle and reiterated that the administration remains conservative in its enrollment and budget projections while remaining hopeful that enrollment may exceed projections.
- President Pedraja addressed the recent closure of Anna Maria College and outlined the College's efforts to assist affected students, including coordination with state partners and the creation of a [dedicated webpage](#) to support students seeking information, transfer assistance, and enrollment opportunities at QCC.
- President Pedraja highlighted several institutional initiatives, including early success at the Auxilium Entrepreneurship Center and continued progress in apprenticeship degree programs. He shared that he was invited to present on apprenticeship initiatives at a national conference in Washington, DC in May.
- He concluded his report by sharing the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Survey of Community College Outcomes for QCC. He explained that the Richmond Fed uses more holistic measures of student success than federal methodologies, including part-time students, persistence, credential attainment, and transfer outcomes. Under these measures, QCC demonstrated a 57.4% overall student success rate, placing the College among the top-performing community colleges in Massachusetts. He noted that when viewed through these broader metrics, QCC outperforms many peers and that this data affirms the College's continued focus and progress on student success.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Executive Committee** – Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Zoom
- **Strategic Planning, Education & Student Success Committee** – Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 4:00 PM, Zoom
- **Audit & Oversight Committee** – Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:00 PM, Zoom
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Tuesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:00 PM, Room 107A

Respectfully submitted,

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