NOCCA
Board of Directors Meeting
May 28, 2025

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley
Mr. Wood Delahoussaye
Ms. Janice R. Manuel
Dr. Joe Ricks
Mr. Gary Solomon
Mr. Mark-Anthony Thomas
Mr. Stephen Weber
Ms. Robin Williams
Mr. Carlos Zervigon

EXCUSED:
Ms. Rhenea Carter
Ms. Beth Scioneaux

EX-OFFICIO:
Mr. Silas Cooper

CALL TO ORDER
Board President, Mr. Gary Solomon, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL
The roll was taken. There were nine members present. A quorum was present.

Mr. Carlos Zervigon made a motion to amend the agenda to add an action item on the Board Chair report dealing with the President/CEO compensation based on the Personnel Committee report. Ms. Janice Manuel seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Wood Delahoussaye moved to approve the NOCCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2025. Ms. Manuel seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT SERVICES
Ms. Prinsey Walker, Director of Community Engagement, described the success of Senior Saturday, Homecoming, Graduation and Celebration. The Homecoming event was the first ever. Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Student Services and Admissions, shared a breakdown of how the required days in the school calendar are calculated, including the built-in margin of days to put back on the calendar if we lose days to weather, etc. Mr. Coheley also provided the 2024-25 EOY Enrollment Statistics showing that NOCCA was able to serve a total of 2,497 students in the following programs: Auditioned Students, 2024 Summer Off Campus Enrollment, Off-Campus Non-Credit Workshop Enrollment, and On Campus Non-Credit Workshop Enrollment. Dr. Joe Ricks asked if the Board could also see the parish-by-parish breakdown of all those programs in future presentations.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Anna Schwab, Deputy CFO, reported that the budget was on pace for this time of year. Ms. Schwab also spoke of Operations Goals in the newly purchased Chevron Forum such as upgrading security to match the main campus, upgrading hardware and software in the HVAC systems, improvements in Science classrooms venting, and considering roll-down gating.

ARTS AND ACADEMICS (Dr. Kit Nelson and Ms. Kesha McKey)

Dr. Kit Nelson and Ms. Kesha McKey presented the Student and Parent Handbook for 2025-26. The Board was guided to the pages with updates from the previously approved handbook for review.

- Discussion ensued regarding wording of the dress code updates. Dr. Nelson and Ms. McKey agreed to update the verbiage being discussed.
- Mr. Solomon asked for the NOCCA Policy on Interactions with Law Enforcement and Immigration Authorities to be sent to the Board.
- Much discussion ensued regarding the updates to the Process for Reentry after a student has been recommended for expulsion. The board asked to revert to the prior, previously approved Process for Reentry to replace the updates, with the understanding that more time was needed to review the process.

Dr. Ricks made a motion to move to Executive Session. Mr. Mark-Anthony Thomas seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Executive Session started at 6:14 p.m. Mr. Delahoussaye motioned to return to Regular Session. Dr. Ricks seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Board moved back to Regular Session at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Student and Parent Handbook for 2025-26 with the following exceptions: 1) Give staff the prerogative to edit the second bullet to clarify the wording, and 2) the Process of Reentry will revert to current version prior to the updates. Ms. Robin Williams seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Nelson reported 100% graduation rate of NOCCA Academic Studio students and Ms. McKey reported a total of $47 million in gift aid offers to NOCCA seniors.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Mr. Adonis Rose was unable to attend.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Ms. Janice Manuel reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held just prior to this board meeting. The Committee met with Mr. Cooper to review the annual President/CEO Evaluations. They agreed to continue the conversation into the following year to develop some actionable steps.

Mr. Solomon explained that the President/CEO contract allows for adjustment to the compensation annually at the discretion of the Personnel Committee and the Board. following the President/CEO Evaluation review. The Personnel Committee recommended that Mr. Cooper's salary is increased by 3%, commensurate with the salary increases of the full time faculty. Ms. Rachel Davis-Haley made a motion to increase Mr. Cooper's salary by 3% effective August 4, 2025. Dr. Ricks seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Solomon asked for a motion to approve the Board Resolution authorizing NOCCA to enter into a contract with Adams & Reese for legal services. Compensation for these services not to exceed $50,000 for the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Mr. Delahoussaye motioned to authorize Mr. Solomon to enter into this contract with Adams & Reese. Ms. Davis-Haley seconded the motion. A vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT/CEO
Mr. Cooper spoke of the testimony he and Ms. Schwab made to Senate Finance and House Appropriations that was received very well by these committees. They received much positive feedback after the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mr. Solomon asked for public comment. There was none.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS
Mr. Solomon asked for any closing remarks or other business. None was offered.

ADJOURN
Dr. Ricks made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Delahoussaye seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at p.m.

Submitted by:	Reviewed by:	Attest:
Leigh Traylor		
Leigh Traylor	Silas Cooper	Gary Solomon
Recording Secretary	Secretary to the Board	President of the Board

Date Approved: 11/12/2025