



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AGENDA**

**MAY 30, 2024  
3:30 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**
- III. **ROLL CALL**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- V. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2024,  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CLOSED SESSION AND PUBLIC MEETINGS** ***Bd. Action***
- VI. **PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS**
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (prior to committee reports)**

VIII. **COMMITTEES**A. **Finance Committee**

***(Mr. Frank Dupignac, Chairperson)***

*(Ms. Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration)*

1. **Recommend approval of business/finance actions as presented (Exhibit A)**

**Bd. Action**

B. **Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee**

***(Mrs. Joanne Pehlivanian, Chairperson)***

*(Dr. Eileen Garcia, Vice President of Academic Affairs)*

1. **Recommend approval of bylaw, policy, and curriculum actions as presented (Exhibit B)**

**Bd. Action**

C. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

***(Mrs. Linda Novak, Chairperson)***

*(Mr. James Calamia, Assistant Vice President of Facilities)*

1. **Recommend approval of buildings and grounds items as presented (Exhibit C)**

**Bd. Action**

D. **Personnel Committee**

***(Mr. Stephan Leone, Chairperson)***

*(Ms. Sara Winchester, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration)*

1. **Recommend approval of personnel actions as presented**

**Bd. Action**

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Recommend adoption of a resolution providing for a closed meeting to be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel action, collective bargaining, and pending and anticipated litigation, the results of which will be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists Bd. Action

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORTXI. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON**THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <b>Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee</b><br>(as needed) | Time: 2:00 p.m.<br>Place: Conference Room A&B and<br>via Webex |
| 2. <b>Finance Committee</b>                                      | Time: 2:00 p.m.<br>Place: Conference Room A&B and<br>via Webex |
| 3. <b>Buildings and Grounds Committee</b>                        | Time: 2:30 p.m.<br>Place: Conference Room A&B and<br>via Webex |
| 4. <b>Personnel Committee</b>                                    | Time: 2:30 p.m.<br>Place: Conference Room A&B and<br>via Webex |

5. **Entire Board**

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Center and  
via Webex

Purpose: Caucus Meeting—Personnel,  
Pending Litigation, and  
Collective Bargaining

6. **Entire Board**

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Center and  
via Webex

Purpose: **Regular Public Monthly Meeting**

XII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

This agenda includes all items that are known at this time.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Regular Meeting

### Minutes

April 25, 2024

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Ocean County College Board of Trustees was called to order at 11:06 a.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, by Mr. Jerry Dasti, Chair, in room 102 of the Conference Center on the College campus and via Webex.</p>  | Call to Order                         |
| <p>The announcement of public meeting was made by Mrs. Connie Bello in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975. This meeting was announced on April 18, 2024, as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, by providing adequate notice to the Asbury Park Press, the Atlantic City Press, the Ocean County Clerk, and the College community. The notice indicated this meeting would also be held via Webex, as per New Jersey Public Law 2020, Chapter 11, approved on March 20, 2020, for public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means.</p> | Public Meeting Announcement           |
| <p>Those in attendance were Mr. Dasti, Mrs. Linda Novak, Mr. Stephan Leone, Mr. Frank Dupignac, Mr. Robert Fall, Ms. DiAnne Gove, Mr. Joseph Teichman, Mr. Steven Zabarsky, Mr. Jack Sahradnik, Dr. Pamela Monaco, Executive Vice President Sara Winchester, Vice President Eileen Garcia, Vice President Joseph Konopka, Vice President Gerald Racioppi, Ms. Donna Rosinski-Kauz, Director of Library Services and College Senate Chair, and Mrs. Connie Bello. Also in attendance was Commissioner Virginia Haines.</p>   | Attendance                            |
| <p>A resolution was introduced and adopted upon unanimous roll call vote to move into a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel action, collective bargaining, and pending and anticipated litigation, the results of which will be released to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.</p>   | Resolution Adopted for Closed Meeting |
| <p>At 11:09 a.m., the trustees moved to a closed session; at 12:02 p.m., the closed session ended, and the public meeting resumed with the absence of Mr. Dupignac. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.</p>  | Public Meeting Resumed                |
| <p>Mr. Sahradnik administered the trustee oath of office to Ms. DiAnne C. Gove, who was appointed by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders to serve the remainder of the term of Mr. Carl Van Thulin, who resigned from the Board in December 2023, through December 19, 2024. The trustees welcomed Ms. Gove to the Board.</p>  | Swearing-In of Ms. DiAnne C. Gove     |



The minutes of the March 28, 2024, Board of Trustees closed session and public meetings were approved by roll call vote with an abstention from Ms. Gove.

Minutes Approved

Dr. Monaco introduced Dr. Joseph Konopka and Dr. Meredith Riddle, Assistant Dean, e-Learning, who shared with the Trustees details on the application submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education for OCC to offer the Alternate Route Educator Preparation Program, an alternative pathway to teacher education. Megan Scheffler and Liam Cox, two New Jersey teachers who completed OCC's 50-hour pre-service teaching program, shared their positive experiences from the program and under the direction of Dr. Carol D'Zio.

Presentations

Mr. Kenneth Michalek, College Lecturer II, Computer Science, introduced the OCC Computer Science students currently working with Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) on a software internship program with the JB MDL Spark Innovation Lab; Marco Ferreira, Max Kripinski, Chris Mata, Victoria Collazo, Evan Hilla, and Peter (Phuc) Nguyen shared a presentation on the project, and mentioned Skylar Wianecki, who also worked on the program, but was unable to attend.

Upon a request for public comments by Mr. Dasti, Dr. Ali Botein-Furrevig, Director of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education, shared a prepared statement prior to the committee reports. She commented on the renewal of her employment contract as Director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education Center; her presentations on behalf of the Center; a new process for reviewing the content of her presentations in advance to ensure it is fair and balanced; and the obstacles she has met over the past three semesters preventing her from pursuing her initiatives. Dr. Botein-Furrevig continued that she is being specifically targeted by Ms. Donna Rosinski-Kauz, Director of Library Services and her supervisor, and Dr. Pamela Monaco, President, because she is Jewish and because of the topics she discusses, which she characterized as anti-Jewish, anti-Israel, and a violation of her academic freedom and her right to free speech. A copy of Dr. Botein-Furrevig's statement is attached to these minutes.

Public Comments

#### Finance Committee

In the absence of Mr. Dupignac, Ms. Winchester presented the Finance Agenda, which was approved unanimously as submitted.

- The statement of income and expenditures as of March 31, 2024, was accepted.
- The following contracts were awarded:
  - A maximum of \$30,036.06 to Watermark Insights, LLC, Austin, Texas, for the first year of a two-year contract for a course evaluation software system from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, at Ocean County College.
  - A maximum of \$119,448 to Integrated Systems and Services, Inc., Eatontown, New Jersey, for the second-year contract option for inspection, repair, maintenance, and related activities for the Electronic Access Control and Video Surveillance Systems from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for use by the Security Department at Ocean County College.

Income/Expenditures Accepted

Contracts Awarded

- A maximum of \$104,280 to Allied Fire and Safety Equipment Company, Inc., Neptune, New Jersey, for the second-year contract option for maintenance and repair services of fire prevention and fire control equipment from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at Ocean County College.
  - A maximum of \$26,780 to SEE Projects, LLC, Brooklyn, New York, for the design of a web portal for monitoring environmental projects in the Barnegat Bay Watershed through the federal award titled “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)” at Ocean County College.
  - A maximum of \$346,775 to BKP Architects, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for professional architectural and engineering design services for the Novins Planetarium renovation project at Ocean County College.
  - A maximum of \$298,450 to Forge Signworks, LLC, Farmingdale, New Jersey, for the purchase and installation of a replacement electronic sign and technology upgrade for the sign software for use at Ocean County College.
  - Resolutions were adopted to award the following contracts:
    - A maximum of \$120,000 to Amazon Services, LLC, Seattle, Washington, for a one-year contract for the purchase of online marketplace products from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program for various departments at Ocean County College.
    - A maximum of \$30,000 to Scientific Boiler Water Conditioning Company, Inc., Linden, New Jersey, for a one-year contract for water treatment services from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at Ocean County College.
    - A maximum of \$45,972.80 to CollegeNET, Inc., Portland, Oregon, for a one-year renewal of the annual licensing fee for the 25Live Software System from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at Ocean County College.
    - A maximum of \$60,000 to Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, for a one-year contract for the purchase of miscellaneous supplies, tools, materials, and custodial items through the Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, on an as-needed basis at Ocean County College.
    - A maximum of \$18,000 to Cintas Corporation No. 2, Mason, Ohio, for a one-year contract for the rental of floor mats for campus building entrances from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, on an as-needed basis through the Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program at Ocean County College.
    - A maximum of \$110,000 to Office Depot, Inc., Boca Raton, Florida, for a one-year contract for the purchase of office supplies from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program for use at Ocean County College.
- Resolutions Adopted for Contract Awards



- A maximum of \$58,793.04 to Krueger International, Inc., Green Bay, Wisconsin, for the purchase and installation of classroom furniture in the Instructional Building through the Education Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Contract at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$82,842 to Ellucian Company, L.P., Fairfax, Virginia, for a one-year subscription renewal of the Recruit SaaS software for the recruitment of prospective students and MT Synoptix financial reporting software from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$60,000 to B&H Photo Video Pro Audio, Inc., New York, New York, for a one-year contract for the purchase of audio video equipment and peripherals on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) Cooperative Contract for use at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$40,000 to CDW Government, Inc., Vernon Hills, Illinois, for a one-year contract for the purchase of audio visual equipment on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) Cooperative Contract for use at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$60,000 to Apple Computer, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, for a one-year contract for the purchase of Apple computers and accessories on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the PEPPM Cooperative Purchasing Contract for use at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$30,000 to Penn Jersey Paper Company (part of BradyPLUS), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for a one-year contract for the purchase of campus-wide custodial paper products on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$75,000 to Core Mechanical, Inc., Pennsauken, New Jersey, for a one-year contract for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance services on an as-needed basis from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$22,453.78 to SHI International Corporation, Somerset, New Jersey, for a one-year renewal of the campus-wide digital signage software subscription license from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, through the NJEdge.NET Consortium at Ocean County College.
- A maximum of \$22,907.96 to Aspire Technology Partners, LLC, Eatontown, New Jersey, for the purchase of various Cisco equipment to support the transition to a new telecommunications service provider through the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) at Ocean County College.



- To identify a qualified pool of consultants for professional mechanical, electrical, and plumbing and building envelope commissioning services from April 25, 2024, through April 24, 2025, at Ocean County College.

➤ The following contracts were amended:

Contracts Amended

- An additional \$22,032.50, for a maximum total of \$62,032.50, to Bahr and Sons Electrical Contractors, Inc., Bayville, New Jersey, for additional electrician services for the remainder of the fiscal year at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the March 16, 2023, Board meeting).
- An additional \$10,000, for a maximum total of \$38,000, to FM Generator, Inc., Canton, Massachusetts, for additional generator preventative and maintenance services for the remainder of the fiscal year at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the June 29, 2023, Board meeting).
- An additional \$5,000, for a maximum total of \$25,819, to Jay Hill Repairs, Fairfield, New Jersey, for anticipated additional appliance repairs at Ocean County College (contract originally awarded at the December 7, 2023, Board meeting).
- An additional \$16,058.81, for a maximum total of \$29,222.67, to Aspire Technology Partners, LLC, Eatontown, New Jersey, for the purchase of additional audio and visual equipment for the Conference Center at Ocean County College (initial contract was under threshold and did not require Board approval).

Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee

Dr. Garcia presented the Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Agenda, which was approved upon unanimous roll call vote, as recommended by the Bylaw, Policy, and Curriculum Committee:

- The following items, as accepted by the College Senate at its meetings on April 4, and 18, 2024, were approved unanimously upon roll call vote:

College Senate Items Approved

- Revised Policy

Revised Policy

- Policy #5156, Students, Academic Standards, Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

- Revised Courses

Revised Courses

- MATH 191, Precalculus I
  - MATH 192, Precalculus II

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Mrs. Novak introduced Mr. James Calamia, Assistant Vice President of Facilities, who provided an update on the Grunin Center Lobby Extension, Library Renovation, and New Administration Building projects. The Buildings and Grounds Report for April 25, 2024, was then unanimously accepted as amended upon roll call vote.

Building/Grounds Committee Report Accepted



Dr. Monaco introduced a recommendation to adopt a resolution proclaiming May 2024 as Displaced Homemakers Awareness Month at Ocean County College. The resolution was adopted upon unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Monaco shared a presentation by Ms. Carmen Mora, Coordinator, Community and Displaced Homemakers Program, on the Displaced Homemaker's Program will take place at the May 30, 2024, Board meeting.

Resolution  
Adopted to  
Proclaim May  
2024 as Displaced  
Homemakers  
Awareness Month

Dr. Monaco thanked the trustees and campus community for accommodating an earlier meeting time for today's meeting in order to allow her to attend the New Jersey Community College Scholars celebration. Dr. Monaco then shared the following:

- On Monday, April 15, 2024, students Hunter Mantz, Cheyenne Severin, Eileen Morrison, and Sabrina Gleason, in addition to Director of Student Life Jen Fazio and Assistant Director of Student Life Michelle Youngs attended the New Jersey Community College Trenton Legislative Day at the Trenton Statehouse, organized by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC). OCC students, along with delegations from several other community colleges, met with 30 legislative members to discuss the importance of community colleges and to request restoration of the \$20 million in operating aid to the colleges. The Asbury Park Press interviewed veteran student Hunter Mantz about his experiences at OCC.
- On May 3, 2024, piano students will present their final recital of the Spring Semester at 12:00 noon in the Bosendorfer room.
- Dr. Monaco thanked all who participated in the very successful Conversation with the Trustees event on April 24, 2024. The items brought forward will be prioritized by the President's Cabinet and a report will be provided at a future meeting.
- Dr. Monaco visited Kean University at the invitation of Dr. Lamont Repollet, President, where the importance of the Kean/OCC partnership was discussed. Dr. Monaco was also invited by Dr. Repollet to attend the Kean University Commencement on May 16, 2024, as a member of the platform party.

Dr. Konopka shared Workforce and Professional Education hosted a career fair where local employers had the opportunity to discuss job opportunities, providing students exposure to different career paths.

Dr. Garcia referred to the President's Report, which reports on the great work by faculty and students this month.

Dr. Racioppi presented the enrollment update, sharing FY 2024 enrollment is currently ahead 1.3% in headcount and unduplicated students and 1.95% in credits registered. Summer 2024 enrollment is ahead by 6.82% for students and 6.32% for credits. Fall 2024 enrollment has begun and is currently behind in students and credits, likely due to the FAFSA delays mentioned at previous Board of Trustee meetings and the modified process for enrolling new students. Dr. Racioppi thanked Institutional Research and the IT department for providing the information for this report.



Dr. Monaco introduced Dr. Jessica Adams, Dean of Kean Ocean, who shared Camp Abilities, the educational sports camp, will return this summer at the New Jersey Field of Dreams in Toms River. Dr. Adams invited OCC faculty, staff, and student volunteers to join in this wonderful event.

Dr. Adams thanked all who participated in Kean Ocean Research Day on April 15, 2024, and again expressed appreciation to Dr. Stan Hales, Director, Barnegat Bay Partnership, and Mr. Lincoln Simmons, College Lecturer, Biology, for their time, effort, and contributions towards this event.

Lastly, Dr. Adams reported 42 Kean Ocean students were referred back to OCC to complete OCC requirements.

Ms. Donna Rosinski-Kauz, College Senate Chair, shared the Senate Bylaw Revision Committee continues to revise Bylaws utilizing inclusive language. They will be shared with Trustees prior to seeking approval in August.

Mr. Ken Malagiere, Executive Director, OCC Foundation, reported the following:

- The Graduating Award applications for students who graduated in December 2023 and this spring are being reviewed by the Student Life Committee.
- The Fall semester scholarship application period will open May 30, 2024, and remain open through August 14, 2024.
- The Foundation's Fund Distribution Committee will review all applications and votes on funding decisions are expected at the May and June meetings.
- The Perry-Applegate Decoy Collection is scheduled for installation in the main lobby of the Conference Center in early May as part of the Foundation Art Collection.
- This year's Annual Summer Scholarship Celebration will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024, and has currently raised \$90,000. Honorees will be the Citta Foundation, Ms. Ilene Cohen, Executive Director of Athletics, and Mr. Lincoln Simmons.
- The New Jersey Symphony will visit OCC on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, for the annual Concert under the Stars.
- Planning continues on both the Grunin Center Lobby expansion and the Novins Planetarium gathering space and science center.

With no further comments from the Board members or the public, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Stephan R. Leone  
Secretary

Jodi Heitmann  
Special Assistant, Operations  
Office of the President



## Statement to BOT April 25 2024 For Public Record

Thank you, Chairman Dasti. Members of the Board:

I hope that after hearing the facts I am presenting today, you see fit to reject Dr. Monaco's recommendation that my FY 2025 contract not be renewed and subsequently, that our Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education continues to be a valuable educational resource for our college and community.

In November 2023, I gave a timely and important presentation entitled, "Israel and Hamas at War: People and Places, Facts and Lies, and the Rise of Antisemitism since October 7." My lecture followed the events in the early hours of October 7<sup>th</sup>, when the terrorist group Hamas launched an unprovoked land and air attack on Israel. They massacred over 1200 innocent Israeli citizens. They brutally raped women, burned families alive in their homes, beheaded babies in front of parents, and murdered parents in front of children. They kidnapped over 250 hostages including infants, some Americans, and elderly Holocaust survivors. We still do not know, today, how many are alive.

Beginning with an overview of Israel, Palestine, and Hamas, my lecture addressed the unprecedented surge in antisemitism and violent anti-Israel and pro-Hamas rallies on college campuses and in public spaces. I refuted decades of false claims about Israel made by her detractors, including Hamas, countering each lie with historical facts. I concluded with explaining various radical anti-Israel movements on campuses and discussed the role of college Presidents and administrators in condemning hatred and holding those who spew it accountable.

With the exception of President Monaco and the Director of Library Services, Donna Rosinski-Kauz, to whom I report both found the presentation "hard to follow" and not "fair and balanced," the lecture was well received and praised by the audience which included 2 Trustees.

On February 28, 2024, I received an email from Ms. Rosinski-Kauz announcing a new process/directive she was putting into place. Among other absurdities, it requires that all my presentation content (that is, what I was going to say) be "reviewed," possibly edited, and approved by her. This process is targeted specifically to me because I am Jewish and because of the topics I discuss. It is, without question, anti-Jewish, anti-Israel, and a violation of my Academic Freedom and my constitutional right to free speech. It is also, according to EEOC Title VII, religious harassment.

The directive further stated that I had to explain, in writing, how future presentations were not one sided, but "fair and balanced." Dr. Monaco: In the case of Israel and Hamas, there are no sides; anyone who believes there is some justifiable rationale to Hamas' barbaric atrocities on October 7 is failing to take a position on a clear moral issue.

"Fair and balanced" when discussing the extermination of 6 million innocent Jews in Hitler's Final Solution? For over 20 years, most lectures I give on any aspect of the Holocaust summarizes how, in the aftermath of Germany's loss and humiliation after WWI, an evil dictator with grandiose dreams of a greater Germany where Jews were the root cause of all chaos and corruption, fed on pre-existing prejudices against the Jewish people to carry out, in stages, a government sanctioned murder, extermination of the Jewish people he saw as a cancer on the purity and superiority of the German race, and 5 million others who were "inferior" and not fit to exist. Those are the two sides.

The new process further dictates that I must document how I will provide a "safe" environment for students to ask questions or challenge my facts which I've always done. Sometimes, however it can be a matter of disruption or it is just not possible to have a rational conversation with an uninformed misguided young student with a pro-Hamas agenda who refuses to consider facts about the "other side."

The directive concluded that until I complied with all 3 stipulations, which I did, all of my upcoming events would be removed from the Academic calendar including those for Yom HaShoah, the week of May 6. They were not put back until this week which leaves a small window to advertise the program internally and externally.

I was not permitted to put out a rewritten blurb for a second presentation of the Israel-Hamas war this semester because it "too graphically detailed" Hamas' brutal and sadistic atrocities. Unfortunately, that's the reality of October 7. I will never whitewash facts. To do so is akin to killing victims a second time.

I have encountered one obstacle after another that prevents me from doing most of my initiatives for three semesters that I've always done and which are part of my performance goals including teaching popular one day non-credit classes to



our community. This micromanagement is an attempt to control, intimidate, and bully. Is this what constitutes inspirational management at OCC now-- because in the words of management guru, Peter Drucker, "it is a lousy leadership trait."

I sent my response to the directive both to Ms. Rosinski-Kauz and Dr. Garcia. In the copies I sent to our Trustees, I included samples of my slides and six pages of my qualifications: Participation in coursework, workshops and seminars, and publications, all of which equal or rival anyone with a general history degree. Giving *anyone* in academia, nonetheless someone with no content knowledge, the power and authority to change or censor a colleague's scholarship is demeaning. My reputation and my scholarship have been sullied and this situation has impacted my health. It is insult to my over 20 years of running the Center with a track record of excellence which, until you became President, Dr. Monaco, was never in question.

On March 18, HR notified me that Dr. Monaco was recommending that the Board not renew my contract for the upcoming fiscal year; that my position was "no longer needed." The Center was being dissolved. Neither of these biased recommendations can be spun as budgetary cuts or reorganization. I've been part-time for three years, earning less than when I was a full-time tenured professor. Undoubtedly, the nature and timeline of events say otherwise. This is pure retaliation, as is the directive, for bravely speaking out against a targeted antisemitic and unconstitutional procedure in a *college*—the so called bastion of free speech.

I am respected by our Jewish and the Orthodox communities, specifically the religious leaders in Lakewood who know me as an advocate and author of an award-winning book about their lifestyle, history, and beliefs. Understandably, they are outraged since this censorship only targets issues about Jewish and Israeli topics. Articles about this matter appeared in Jewish publications that reach over 20,000 homes weekly.

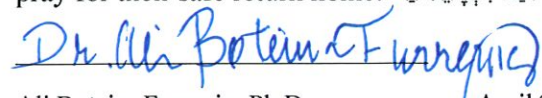
Dr. Monaco: I mayn't check the identity boxes fashionable in academia these days, but Centers across NJ colleges are run by Jewish Directors. A moot point, given you do not even think it necessary to have a Center for Holocaust Education in the county with the highest Jewish population in the country and the highest number of antisemitic incidents in the state. Such action would violate the NJ Mandate for Holocaust Education and is an affront to the entire Jewish community, and disrespectful to the many Holocaust survivors and families of those killed in the Holocaust who reside here and with whom I have long established relationships. The Jewish Federation of Ocean County with whom we have a partnership is very troubled by all of this. As we all should be.

What I do is more than just teaching Holocaust history. History professors can certainly do that as a course. But I don't teach it in a vacuum. I teach it along with its relevance and legacy today. It must be connected to the historical spike in antisemitic rhetoric and violence in our country, state, and in our county. I do that. To understand antisemitism, one has to know its 2000-year history. I do. To fight antisemitism, one has to intimately know and teach Jewish history and culture. I do.

Respected Members of the Board: The antisemitic label on a college is an indelible mark that never goes away. It impacts our reputation, enrollment, and financial donations. I have already cancelled two personally sponsored Foundation scholarships until the climate here changes dramatically, and for the better.

I have known most of you professionally for many years and have developed personal relationships with some of you. I am grateful for the unwavering support and friendship you have shown me over the years. I ask that you support me today by rejecting Dr. Monaco's proposal. That I be allowed to continue to serve as Center Director and that the current directives which violate academic freedom and are both personally and academically antisemitic given what I discuss be immediately removed. I ask that you not cave to the disturbing trend on college campuses which embrace radical socialist platforms that are divisive, racist, and undeniably antisemitic. I respectfully ask that you stand up for what I know **you** know is right.

To all of you here today, I ask that you keep the Israeli hostages held in Gaza in intolerable conditions in your hearts, and pray for their safe return home. עם ישראל חי. The Jewish nation and people live. Thank you.



Ali Botein -Furrevig, Ph.D.

April 25, 2024