



Board of Trustees
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

January 27, 2026 | 4:30 PM

Smith Hall – Main Campus

I. Call to Order/Roll Call	Chair, A. Lewis
II. Open Public Meetings Act Announcement	Mrs. J. Grimes
III. Minutes	Mrs. J. Grimes
IV. Communications.....	Mrs. J. Grimes
V. Public Comments on Agenda Items.....	TBD
VI. Finance Committee Report.....	Mr. J. Zarra

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

3-1.1/Jan-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Workforce Development Training RampUp America Corporation , Newark, NJ NJDOL Pace Grant Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$180,000.00
3-1.2/Jan-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Removal, Installation, and Fabrication of College Signs American Woodcarving , Wayne, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$50,000.00
3-1.3/Jan-2026	Resolution Authorizing the Contract Award for Architecture and Engineering Services for the One Stop Center Project DMR Architects , Hasbrouck Heights, NJ Chapter 12 Funded – Capital Expense	Amount not to exceed \$338,900.00
3-2.1/Jan-2026	Operating Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026-2027	
3-2.2/Jan-2026	Chapter 12 Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026-2027	
3-2.3/Jan-2026	Fixing Date for Board of School Estimate Public Hearing	
VII. Personnel Committee Report.....	Ms. B. Robinson	

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

A. Appointment

4-1/Jan-2026	Ketan Gandhi Chief Financial Officer/Senior Comptroller Finance Effective Date: February 2, 2026 Salary \$150,000
4-2/Jan-2026	Eunice Osei-Wusu Legal Assistant / Paralegal Compliance, Equity and Legal Affairs Effective Date: February 2, 2026 Salary \$60,000

4-3/Jan-2026 Dani Ramos
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary \$33,475

4-4/Jan-2026 Danny Valladares
Security Officer
Public Safety
Effective Date: February 2, 2026
Salary \$33,475

B. Retirement

4-5/Jan-2026 Howard Bouie
Programmer – Financial & Student System
Information Technology
Effective Date: July 1, 2026

C. Resignation

4-6/Jan-2026 Deirdre Mackin
Athletic Coordinator
Athletic Department
Effective Date: January 2, 2026

Gretchen Solar
Student Service Representative – International Specialist
Enrollment Services
Effective Date: January 23, 2026

VIII. Educational Programs Committee Report.....Dr. A. Lewis

Actions – Submitted for Recommendation for the Board’s Approval

7-1.1/Jan-2026 Acceptance of Funds: Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Program for
\$360,000

IX. Site, Facilities and Equipment Committee Report.....Ms. C. Martinez

X. Policy and Governance Committee Report.....Ms. I. Cruz

XI. Community Relations Committee Report.....Ms. J. Wright

XII. Alumni Association Report.....Ms. S. Robinson

XIII. Student Government Association Report.....Mr. J. Johnson

XIV. Faculty Association Report.....Prof. J. Alexandre

XV. President’s Report.....Dr. A. Boakye, President

XVI. New Business.....TBD

XVII. Public Comments.....TBD

XVIII. Notice of Executive Session.....Mrs. J. Grimes

XIX. Adjournment.....Chair, A. Lewis

***Note:** Public meeting agenda is subject to change*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Finance: RampUp America Corporation
Contact:	Dr. Elvira Vieira/ Dean of Community, Continuing Education and Workforce
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-1.1/Jan-2026
	Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Workforce Development Training

WHEREAS, Essex County College needs the Board's approval to award a two-year contract for workforce development training in the total amount not to exceed **\$180,000.00** to **RampUp America Corporation**, 59 Market St, Newark, NJ 07102 from January 28, 2026 through January 27, 2028; and

WHEREAS, RFQ # 8231 Workforce Development Training was advertised in The Star-Ledger November 13, 2025. There were one hundred (100) vendors solicited. Five (5) responses were received on December 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Comptroller of Essex County College has done an assessment and indicated that money will be available for this purpose; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby approve a two-year contract for Workforce Development Training in the total amount not to exceed **\$180,000.00** to **RampUp America Corporation**, 59 Market St, Newark, NJ 07102, January 28, 2026 through January 27, 2028;

2. The specific line item against which this contract is to be charged is as follows:
29408-9408-7184 NJDOL Pace Grant/Training
FY 2026/2027

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Finance: American Woodcarving, LLC
Contact:	Mohamed Seddiki / Executive Dean of Administrative & Learning Technology/CIO
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-1.2/Jan-2026
Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Two-Year Contract for Removal, Installation, and Fabrication of College Signs	

WHEREAS, Essex County College needs the Board's approval to award a two year contract in the total amount not to exceed **\$50,000.00** on an as-needed basis to **American Woodcarving**, 1123 Route 23 South, Wayne, New Jersey 07470, for the Removal, Installation, and Fabrication of College Signs at the Newark Campus from January 28, 2026 through January 27, 2028. In which contract goods are exempt from bidding pursuant to the provisions of County College Contracts Law N.J.S.A.18A:64A-25.5a(24C) The county college has advertised for bids pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 1982, c.189 (C.18A:64A-25.4) on two occasions and (i) has received no bids on both occasions in response to its advertisement, or (ii) has rejected such bids on two occasions because the county college has determined that they are not resonable, as to price, on the basis of cost estimates prepared for or by the county college prior to the advertising therefor, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition or (iii) on one occasion no bids were received pursuant to (i) and on one occasion all bids were rejected pursuant to (ii), in whatever sequence; any such contract or agreement may then be negotiated by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the board of trustees authorizing such contract or agreement; and

WHEREAS, RFQ # 8229 was advertised in The Star-Ledger on October 17, 2025. There were two (2) bids solicited. One (1) response was received on November 6, 2025, and was disqualified; and

WHEREAS, RFQ # 8232 was advertised in The Star-Ledger on December 9, 2025, and submissions were due on January 6, 2026. There were fourteen (14) bids solicited and zero (0) responses; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller of Essex County College has done an assessment and indicated that money will be available for this purpose; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby approves the change order in the total amount not to exceed **\$50,000.00** on an as-needed basis to **American Woodcarving**, for the Removal, Installation, and Fabrication of College Signs at the Newark Campus from January 28, 2026, through January 27, 2028.
2. The specific line item against which this contract is to be charged is as follows:
9021A2-3126-7938A Chapter XII funds/Signage
FY 2026/2027

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Finance: DMR Architects
Contact:	Mohamed Seddiki / Executive Dean of Administrative & Learning Technology/CIO
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-1.3/Jan-2026
Resolution Authorizing the Contract Award for Architecture and Engineering Services for the One Stop Center Project	

WHEREAS, Essex County College needs the Board's approval to award a contract for architecture and engineering services for the One Stop Center Project in the total amount not to exceed **\$338,900.00** to **DMR Architects**, 777 Terrace Avenue, Suite 607, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604 from January 28, 2026 through September 16, 2027; and

WHEREAS, RFQ # 8217 architectural services was advertised in The Star-Ledger June 18, 2025. There were twenty-seven (27) vendors invited to participate. Twenty (20) responses were received on July 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2025 (3-1.5/SEP-2025) the Board of Trustees awarded RFQ# 8217; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller of Essex County College has done an assessment and indicated that money will be available for this purpose; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby approve the contract in the total amount not to exceed **\$338,900.00** to **DMR Architects**, for architecture and engineering services for the One Stop Center Project from January 28, 2026 through September 16, 2027.
2. The specific line item against which this contract is to be charged is as follows:
#902206-3126-7952A-60 Chapter XII Ordinance/Architect
FY 2026/2027

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Finance: Operating Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Contact:	Mr. J. Green, Comptroller/ Deputy CFO
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-2.1/Jan-2026

WHEREAS: State Statute 18A-64A-16 requires the Administration of the College to adopt a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS: The Budget Planning Committee developed a FY 2027 credit hours projection based on a linear trend line from the two most recent post-pandemic fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: Those considerations and other pertinent metrics were analyzed and utilized by the budget committee to present a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS: The College's operating budget is funded through tuition and fees, governmental appropriations, and other income sources;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees approves the College Operating Budget in the amount of **\$59,396,294** for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Finance: Chapter XII Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Contact:	Mr. J. Green, Comptroller/ Deputy CFO
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-2.2/Jan-2026

WHEREAS: The State of New Jersey provides funding for major capital renewal and replacement (CRR) programs known as Chapter XII, and Essex County College has received a minimum allocation of \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS: Essex County College is requesting its full allocation of \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year 2026-2027 to commence on July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS: The County is a funding partner and is required to share 50% of the CRR cost approved by the State for the College, and at this date, Chapter XII capital funds are included in the Governor's budget; and

WHEREAS: The County is expected to appropriate a minimum amount of \$2,000,000 for the College's fiscal year 2026-2027 Chapter XII request; and

WHEREAS: The College will use its fiscal year 2026-2027 Chapter XII allocation to complete infrastructure projects as outlined in the College's redeveloped facilities master plan; and

WHEREAS: The College's Chapter XII Capital Fund Budget request of a minimum allocation of \$4,000,000 will be submitted to the Board of School Estimates for approval at its next meeting; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The Essex County College Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the College's Chapter XII Capital Funds request in a minimum amount of \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year 2026-2027 to commence on July 1, 2026.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Resolution Fixing Date for Board of School Estimate Public Hearing
Contact:	Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.:	3-2.3/Jan-2026

WHEREAS: N.J.S.A. 18A:64A-17 requires Essex County College to prepare and deliver to each member of the Board of School Estimate an itemized statement of the amount of money estimated to be necessary for the operation and capital outlay expenses for the ensuing year and that, at the same time, fix a date, place, and time for the holding of a public hearing by the Board of School Estimate with respect to said itemized statement; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College has approved a budget including an itemized statement of the amount of money estimated to be necessary for the operation and capital outlay expenses for the fiscal year ending 2027.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County College Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The President of Essex County College shall ensure that a copy of the itemized statement of the amount of money estimated to be necessary for the operation and capital outlay expenses for the fiscal year ending 2027 be delivered to each member of the Board of School Estimate as soon as practicable;
2. The President of Essex County College shall ensure that appropriate notice of a public hearing by the Board of School Estimate be provided.
3. A copy of the itemized statement shall be placed on file and open to examination of the public on the College's website: www.essex.edu.
4. The Essex County College Board of School Estimate shall hold a public hearing with respect to the itemized statements on February 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in Smith Hall, 303 University Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Appointment, Ketan Gandhi
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-1/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Ketan Gandhi to the position of Chief Financial Officer/Senior Comptroller, for the Finance Division, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$150,000.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AE guidelines. A total of 4 applications were received, and 1 applicant was interviewed. Ketan Gandhi is the recommended candidate.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS: (DOCTORATE DEGREE REQUIRED)

<u>Degree of Certification</u>	<u>Institution Name, Location</u>	<u>Major Area of Study</u>
Doctorate	Rowan University Glassboro, NJ	Educational & Transformational Leadership
Masters	Indiana University of Pennsylvania Indiana, PA	Business Administration

FISCAL NOTES: The recommended salary of \$150,000 is included in the department's annual budget. The salary will be prorated for employees hired after the beginning of the fiscal year.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Ketan Gandhi, at the annual salary of \$150,000 to the position of Chief Financial Officer/Senior Comptroller, for the Finance Division, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Appointment, Eunice Osei-Wusu
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-2/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Eunice Osei-Wusu to the position of Legal Assistant / Paralegal, for the Compliance, Equity and Legal Affairs Division, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$60,000.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AA guidelines. A total of 18 applications were received, and 7 applicants were interviewed. Eunice Osei-Wusu is the recommended candidate.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS: (ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIRED)

<u>Degree of Certification</u>	<u>Institution Name, Location</u>	<u>Major Area of Study</u>
Doctorate	Mississippi College School of Law Jackson, MS	Jurisprudence
Bachelors	Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ	Planning & Public Policy and Africana Studies
Associates	Essex County College Newark, NJ	Business Administration

FISCAL NOTES: The recommended salary of \$60,000 is included in the department's annual budget. The salary will be prorated for employees hired after the beginning of the fiscal year.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Eunice Osei-Wusu at the annual salary of \$60,000 to the position of Legal Assistant / Paralegal, for the Compliance, Equity and Legal Affairs Division, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Appointment, Dani Ramos
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-3/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dani Ramos to the position of Security Officer, for Public Safety, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$33,475.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AA guidelines. A total of 18 applications were received, and 3 were interviewed. Dani Ramos is the recommended candidate.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS: (NO DEGREE REQUIRED)

FISCAL NOTES: The recommended salary of \$33,475 is included in the department's annual budget. The salary will be prorated for employees hired after the beginning of the fiscal year.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Dani Ramos at the annual salary of \$33,475 to the position of Security Officer, for Public Safety, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Appointment, Danny Valladares
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-4/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Danny Valladares to the position of Security Officer, for Public Safety, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026. The recommended annual salary for the position is \$33,475.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: This position vacancy was posted in accordance with College policy and EEO/AA guidelines. A total of 18 applications were received, and 3 were interviewed. Danny Valladares is the recommended candidate.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS: (NO DEGREE REQUIRED)

FISCAL NOTES: The recommended salary of \$33,475 is included in the department's annual budget. The salary will be prorated for employees hired after the beginning of the fiscal year.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the appointment of Danny Valladares at the annual salary of \$33,475 to the position of Security Officer, for Public Safety, for the period February 2, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Retirement
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-5/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the resignation of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
	<u>Department</u>			
Howard Bouie	Programmer – Financial & Student System Information Technology	Professional	10/01/1984	07/01/2026

FISCAL NOTES: The impact of this recommendation is undetermined at this time.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the resignation of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	Personnel: Resignation
Contact:	Shunda Williams, Executive Director of Human Resources
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No.	4-6/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the resignation of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>Department</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Deirdre Mackin	Athletic Coordinator Athletic	Professional	10/28/2024	12/19/2025
Gretchen Solar	Student Services Representative – International Specialist Enrollment Services	Professional	03/28/2022	01/23/2026

FISCAL NOTES: The impact of this recommendation is undetermined at this time.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the resignation of the individual(s) listed, effective on the date indicated.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
BOARD APPROVAL DATE January 27, 2026	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Subject:	FY 2026 Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Program
Contact:	Dr. Elvy Vieira, Dean, Community, Cont. Ed & Workforce Dev.
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2026
Agenda Item No:	7-1.1/Jan-2026

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of Essex County College approves the Notice of Award (NOA) from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development to Essex County College, hereinafter referred to as "Essex", for the purpose of implementing a Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Program from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$360,000.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: Essex's PACE Project, *Advancing Cabling Careers for Equitable Skills and Support (ACCESS)*, will establish a Low Voltage Network Cable Installer Pre-Apprenticeship Program with pathways leading to industry credentials, further apprenticeship training with recruitment into a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program, employment in low voltage cabling industries, as well as post-secondary education. Essex is partnering with a Newark-based subject matter expert and the USDOL Register Apprenticeship Program, RampUP America, Inc., to ensure **ACCESS** nurtures and prepares a diverse, skilled talent pipeline and an industry-trained workforce that equips trainees with a solid transition into the rapidly expanding fields of telecommunications, broadband, and construction trades, particularly the Fiber Optics and Data Cabling industries.

FISCAL NOTES: There is no fiscal impact to Essex.

RESOLUTION: The Board of Trustees of Essex County College accepts the Notice of Award (NOA) from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development to Essex County College for the purpose of implementing a Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Program from January 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$360,000.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOMMENDATION Dr. Augustine A. Boakye, President	FINAL DISPOSITION
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