

**WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, January 8, 2026
2:00 P.M.
Sheehan Hall, Semi-Private Dining Hall**

Meeting Called By: Dr. Lisa Colombo (Chair)

Minutes: Nikki Kapurch

Board Members: Dr. Lisa Colombo (Chair); Monica Aryitey, Esq; Kelly Brissette; Darnell Dunn; Maureen Power (Vice Chair); Kristen Garvey; Amy Peterson; Brandol Ogando Saladin, Jake Sanders; Dr. Lawrence Sasso (Vice Chair), David Tuttle

WSU Staff: Barry Maloney; Ashlynn Allain; Kathy Eichelroth; Ryan Forsythe; Carl Herrin; Nikki Kapurch; Tom McNamara; Edgar Moros; Lois Wims

All documents are considered to be **drafts** until discussed and/or approved by the Board

AGENDA		
ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	ACTION
1. <i>Administrative Business</i> A. Call to Order B. Approval of the Minutes: 1. Academic & Student Development Committee- November 20, 2025* 2. Full Board Meeting- November 20, 2025*	Dr. Lisa Colombo	 1. vote required 2. vote required
2. <i>Administrative Updates</i> A. Report of the Chair a. Next meeting: April 9, 2026 B. Report of the Student Trustee C. Report of the President a. President Maloney's Memo to Trustees re: Speaker & Awards* o Approval of Nominees for Speaker /Awards Pool	Dr. Lisa Colombo Brandol Ogando Saladin Barry Maloney	 a. Informational o vote required
3. <i>Adjournment</i>	Dr. Lisa Colombo	3. vote required

* Attachments

**WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

CHAIR:	Maureen Power (Chair)	DATE:	November 20, 2025
LOCATION:	Wellness Center, Room 204	MINUTES BY:	Nikki Kapurch
TIME:	3:00 PM		
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Maureen Power (Chair), Kelly Brissette (Vice Chair), Kristen Garvey, Brandol Ogando Saladin		
WSU STAFF:	Ashlynn Allain; Ryan Forsythe; Nikki Kapurch; Josh Katz; Barry Maloney; Tom McNamara; HenryTheriault; Lois Wims		

The provisions of General Laws, Chapter 30A, having been complied with and a quorum present, a meeting of the Academic and Student Development Committee of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, in room 204 of the Wellness Center. Chair Power called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Administrative Business

Sabbaticals

- Trustee Power noted that the packet included a memo from the President to the board, along with the sabbatical proposals for sixteen candidates.
- President Maloney agreed with Provost Wims' recommendation to submit these 17 proposals for sabbatical leave consideration.
- Provost Wims provided a detailed presentation outlining the sabbatical process and each recommended candidate. She presented the reasons and requests for each sabbatical leave for 2026-2027.
- Department chairs have affirmed that each candidate's study will contribute to the respective department's course offerings.
- Faculty on sabbatical leave for one semester receive full salary during the period of the leave, and those on a full-year sabbatical receive one-half salary for the full year.
- Recipients of a sabbatical commit in writing to return to the institution for at least one academic year following the sabbatical and to be responsible for reimbursing the university should they not return for the required timeframe.
- Sabbaticals provide significant professional opportunities for the faculty.
- The sabbatical presentation included the budget for allowing candidates to take sabbaticals.
- The cost to the institution for awarding sabbatical leave is for hiring part-time, adjunct faculty to teach some of the courses that the faculty member on leave would have taught. Typically, not every course that would have been taught is offered during the sabbatical semester because some elective type courses can be postponed and taught during a later semester. Chairs are asked to certify that the department can sustain the courses needed in the absence of the faculty member.
- A conservative average cost of 6K per section, which equals \$360,000.
- Funds to cover this expense will be included in the adjunct line of the FY27 budget.
- Provost Wims stated that an additional, appropriate sabbatical application was submitted on time but

was overlooked during the electronic and email submissions to the board. As a result, we have received a total of 17 proposals. Provost Wims provided an amended memo to the President indicating this.

- Trustee Power thanked the Provost for all her hard work.

Following the presentation and review of all proposed sabbaticals, a motion was made by Trustee Brissette and seconded by Trustee Garvey. It was unanimously

VOTED: **to recommend to the full Board the approval of the AY 2026-2027 slate of Sabbatical Leave proposals as presented.**

Full Year Fall and Spring 2026-2027:

Nada Al Sallami	Computer Science
Laura Reynolds	Earth and Environmental Science
Ian Stephens	Earth and Environmental Science

Fall Semester 2026:

Jeremy Andreatta	Chemistry
Robert Brooks	Criminal Justice
Bo Fan	Business Administration/Economics
Laura Kane	Philosophy
Luis Rosado	Biology
John Tahiliani	Criminal Justice
Randall Tracy	Biology

Spring Semester 2027


Daron Barnard	Biology
Frank Boardman	Philosophy
Antonio Guijarro-Donadiós	World Languages
Charlotte Haller	History and Political Science
Jeffry Nichols	Chemistry
Colleen Sullivan	Psychology
Michael Winders	Mathematics

With there being no further business, the WSU Board of Trustees committee meeting was adjourned.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Brissette and seconded by Trustee Garvey, it was unanimously.

VOTED: **to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,


Barry M. Maloney
Secretary, Board of Trustees

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Meeting Minutes

CHAIR:	Dr. Lawrence Sasso (Vice-Chair)	DATE: November 20, 2025
LOCATION:	Wellness Center, Room 204	MINUTES BY: Nikki Kapurch
TIME:	4:00 p.m.	
BOARD MEMBERS:	Monica Aryitey, Esq; Kelly Brissette; Darnell Dunn; Maureen Power (Vice Chair); Kristen Garvey; Amy Peterson; Brandol Ogando Saladin, Dr. Lawrence Sasso (Vice Chair); Jake Sanders	
MEMBER ABSENT:	Dr. Lisa Colombo (Chair); David Tuttle	
WSU STAFF:	Barry Maloney; Ashlynn Allain; Kathy Eichelroth; Ryan Forsythe; Carl Herrin; Nikki Kapurch; Julie Kazarian; Josh Katz; Tom McNamara; Sathi Mitra; Edgar Moros, Deborah Alvarez O'Neil; Lois Wims	

The provisions of General Laws, Chapter 30A, having been complied with and a quorum present, a meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, in room 204 of the Wellness Center. Vice-Chair Sasso called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. He said he would be filling in for Chair Colombo this evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting -October 23, 2025

Upon a motion made by Trustee Dunn and seconded by Trustee Garvey, it was unanimously,

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2025, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Full Board Meeting - October 23, 2025

Upon a motion made by Trustee Brissette and seconded by Trustee Peterson, with 8 in favor and one abstention, it was

VOTED: to approve the October 23, 2025, minutes of the full Board meeting as presented.

Inclusive Excellence & Belonging Presentation

TRIO Student Support Services Grant Presentation

- Vice Chair Sasso introduced Dr. Edgar Moros, the Executive Director for Inclusive Excellence and Belonging, who introduced Mary Jo Marion, Associate Vice President of University and Community Engagement, and Laxmi Bissoondial, Director for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- Included in the packet are the TRIO Student Support Services Grant Presentation and the WSU TRIO grant announcement.

- Ms. Bissoondial and AVP Marion guided the board through the PowerPoint presentation.
- The federal TRIO Programs are educational opportunity programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds through academic support from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

SABBATICAL PRESENTATION - Susan Monaghan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Education Department

- Susan Monaghan, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Education Department.
- Sabbatical presentation, Estonia: Future Curriculum Reform
- Prof. Monaghan went through the PowerPoint presentation that was included in the packet, presenting an overview of her recent sabbatical work. Her research is one of several notable projects emerging from last year's sabbatical round.
- Prof. Monaghan's work highlights the valuable contributions that sabbatical research brings to our academic community, serving as a testament to the innovation and scholarly excellence fostered at Worcester State.
- During her sabbatical in Spring 2024, Prof. Monaghan focused on reforming the National Mathematics Standards in Estonia and creating National Standards for STEAM Education.

Human Resources Update

Appointment of the Associate Vice President (AVP)/ Chief Information Officer (CIO):

- Since we couldn't hold the Human Resources subcommittee meeting, we're bringing this agenda item to the full board.
- Provost Wims reported that the search committee consisted of five dedicated staff and faculty members who worked on a reasonably tight timeline, with assistance from Academic Search for candidate screening.
- There were a total of 80-81 applicants for the CIO position, demonstrating a very deep pool of qualified candidates.
- The search committee interviewed 10 candidates from the initial applicant pool via Zoom before selecting three finalists for campus visits.
- Three finalists visited campus in the latter part of the first week of November, with each spending a full day meeting various constituencies that would be impacted by the CIO role.
- Between 20 to 25 people provided written feedback on the finalists, in addition to the search committee's evaluation.
- Anupam Singh was recommended for appointment as CIO, bringing more than two decades of progressive experience in information technology, particularly in higher education at Suffolk University.
- Singh's qualifications include leading enterprise-wide AI governance strategies, documenting cost savings, and proven success in business continuity and disaster planning during the COVID pandemic.
- Administrative positions at the rank of Dean or above require board approval.
- The aggressive timeline for the search was necessary because interim CIO Dr. Taggart had notified the university that he would be leaving at the end of December.
- The board officially approved Anupam Singh to serve as Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer under the terms outlined in the appointment letter dated November 10, 2025.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Dunn and seconded by Trustee Garvey, it was unanimously

VOTED: **to approve the appointment of Anupam Singh as the Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) under the terms outlined in the letter of appointment dated**

November 10, 2025.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- Trustee Power reported that the committee met earlier today before the full Board meeting to review and discuss the AY 2026-2027 slate of sabbatical leave proposals.
- Provost Wims presented a PowerPoint during the committee meeting that included an overview of the sabbatical process, eligibility determination, and review of sabbatical applications.
- President Maloney concurred with the recommendation of Provost Wims, forwarding seventeen (17) proposals for sabbatical leave for the Board's consideration.
- The sabbatical presentation included the budget for allowing candidates to take sabbatical leave and the reasoning for requesting each sabbatical. A conservative average cost of 6K per section, which equals \$360,000.
- Sabbaticals provide significant professional opportunities for the faculty.
- Trustee Power presented the slate of AY 2026-2027 sabbatical leave proposals for approval.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Peterson and seconded by Trustee Sanders, it was unanimously,

VOTE: to accept the recommendation of the Academic and Student Development Committee and approve the AY 2026-2027 slate of Sabbatical Leave proposals as presented.

Full Year Fall and Spring 2026-2027:

Nada Alsallami	Computer Science
Laura Reynolds	Earth and Environmental Science
Ian Stephens	Earth and Environmental Science

Fall Semester 2026:

Jeremy Andreatta	Chemistry
Robert Brooks	Criminal Justice
Bo Fan	Business Administration/Economics
Laura Kane	Philosophy
Luis Rosado	Biology
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Spring Semester 2027

Daron Barnard	Biology
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Charlotte Haller	History and Political Science
Jeffry Nichols	Chemistry
Colleen Sullivan	Psychology
Michael Winders	Mathematics

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- Introduced Jake Sanders, who provided a brief introduction. A Worcester native who grew up in the

neighborhood and is currently working to save the Worcester Memorial Auditorium.

- Next meeting: Thursday, January 08, 2026.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Trustee Ogando Saladin reported that a new campus engagement event, Proud Lancers' Day, is being planned for spring to increase campus pride and will involve residence life, athletics, departments, and faculty. Mentioned some of the new student clubs that were approved. The newly opened LGBTQ+ center has received over 400 visits this semester from students, faculty, and community members, demonstrating strong utilization of the space. Thea's Pantry, our food pantry, reported 737 visits in October, up from approximately 432 last month. They collected 3,445 pounds of food and donated 4,792 pounds, showing increased activity and maintaining adequate inventory levels.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The President's Update was provided in the packet.
- President Maloney announced that the master plan process is underway with DCAMM and Jones consultants, focusing on campus core identity, commuter-residential balance, space modernization, and revenue generation possibilities. VP Eichelroth provided an update on Task 1 and the process for transitioning to Task 2. Trustee Dunn offered some feedback on the meeting he attended. Campus engagement will commence in January.
- The BRIGHT Act bond authorization proposal of \$2.6 billion for higher education capital projects would be funded by fair share amendment revenues, with Worcester State requesting an increase to \$4 billion and an equal three-way split among UMass, State Universities, and Community Colleges. Worcester State received a \$20 million earmark from the House for the BRIGHT Act, with language stating "no less than \$20 million," and our efforts are now focused on increasing this amount through Senate advocacy.
- Governor Healey released an earnings outcomes report showing that Worcester State graduates earn approximately \$30,000 more annually and over \$1 million additional lifetime earnings compared to high school diploma holders.
- Vice President Ryan Forsythe provided an enrollment update.
- Board retreat is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th, from 2-7 PM and will cover higher education trends, enrollment deep dive, capital campaign discussion, and legal primer on board member responsibilities.
- *President Maloney Memo to Trustees*
 - Approval of Nominees For Speaker/Awards Pool
 - Nominees for commencement speaker, honorary degree recipients, and community service awards are accepted throughout the year. They are evaluated by the Speakers and Awards Committee on a rolling basis; applications are reviewed during both the Fall and Spring semesters. The committee then creates a list of nominees to recommend to the All-University Committee, which forwards all finalists to the president. The Board of Trustees grants final approval upon the president's recommendation.
 - Attached is a list of President Maloney's recommendations for commencement speaker, honorary degree, and community service award recipients, for inclusion in the pool of approved speakers and award recipients.
 - The Board of Trustees voted to approve nominees for the speaker awards pool,

including commencement speakers, multiple honorary degree candidates, and community service award candidates.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Dunn and seconded by Trustee Aryitey, it was unanimously,

VOTED: **to approve the following nominees for inclusion in the Speaker/Awards pool:**

Commencement Speaker Candidates

1. Fraidy Reiss
2. Chelsea Page Moses

Honorary Degree Candidates

1. Herb Alexander
2. Michael Angelini
3. Diane Aramony
4. David Bedard
5. Craig Bovaird
6. David Cawley
7. Thomas and Claudia Corcoran
8. Mark and Jan Fuller
9. Lionel Lamoureux
10. Dr. Dale Magee
11. Ruth Rubin
12. Dr. GB & Lexi Singh
13. George and Sheila Tetler

Community Service Award Candidates

1. Joshua Croke
2. Barbara Kirklauskas
3. William Murphy

With there being no further business, the WSU Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Garvey and seconded by Trustee Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: **to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

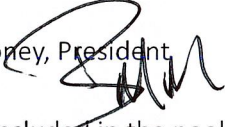


Barry M. Maloney
Secretary, Board of Trustees



WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

TO: Members, WSU Board of Trustees

FROM: Barry M. Maloney, President 

RE: Names to be included in the pool of approved speakers, honorary degree, and award recipients

DATE: December 17, 2025

At its December meeting, the Speakers and Awards Committee approved several recommendations for inclusion on the University's standing list of approved commencement speakers and award recipients. Those names were submitted to the All University Committee (AUC) and approved at their December 16 meeting. I am seeking your approval for the speakers/awardees indicated below. Their biographical information, as provided by those who nominated each of them, is included to support their inclusion on the list.

By way of background on the process, I'll note that a call is sent to the campus community at the beginning of each academic year to solicit nominations for commencement speaker, honorary degree recipients, and community service awardees. Nominations can be made by direct submission to the Speakers and Awards Committee through the [Call for Speakers and Awards](#), which are accepted throughout the year. They are evaluated by the Speakers and Awards Committee during both the fall and spring semesters. That committee then develops a list to recommend to the All University Committee, which then forwards all finalists as recommendations to the President. The Board of Trustees grants final approval, upon the President's recommendation.

Please find below my recommendations for commencement speaker, honorary degree recipients, and community service awardees for inclusion in the pool of approved speakers, degree recipients, and awardees, followed by summary biographical information for each.

Commencement Speaker Candidates

1. Ken Carter
2. Deborah Hall
3. Jerome Hewlett
4. James Robilotta

Honorary Degree Candidates

1. John & Jeanne Esler
2. Deborah Hall

Biographical Summaries - Speakers & Awards Committee recommended candidates

Ken Carter

In 1997, Mr. Carter assumed the head coaching role at Richmond High School in California, where both academics and athletics had struggled. He enforced strict academic and behavioral standards including higher GPA standards, professional attire for games, mandatory class participation and consequences for violating academic contracts. This bold decision sent a nationwide message about the importance of character and accountability beyond sports.

Coach Carter left a transformative legacy. His no-excuses approach led to a complete cultural shift. The team returned stronger both academically and athletically, eventually achieving playoff success. Every one of his players graduated, and their stories inspired the 2005 film *Coach Carter*, starring Samuel L. Jackson.

Beyond coaching, Mr. Carter is a beacon of empowerment. He built several small businesses and authored books such as *Yes Ma'am, No Si*, *The 12 Essential Steps for Success in Life*, *Success Uncomplicated*, and others, emphasizing leadership, accountability, and personal growth. He founded and chairs the Coach Ken Carter Foundation, offering mentoring and educational programs for minority youth. In 2009, he established the Coach Carter Impact Academy, a boarding school in Texas focused on academic and personal development alongside athletics. His accomplishments and commitment to empowerment stand out as a symbol that serves as motivation for all kinds of people.

This nominee is the number one choice of the 2026 Class Committee for commencement speaker.

John & Jeanne Esler

John Esler and Jeanne Lawton Esler embody visionary philanthropy, entrepreneurial leadership, and unwavering dedication to expanding economic opportunity and innovation—both on the Worcester State campus and throughout the Worcester community.

Mr. Esler, founder of Esler Companies in 2004, and Ms. Esler have made their mark as dynamic business leaders with a passion for empowering others. Together, they are the driving force behind the Esler Family Foundation, which is rooted in a mission to support economic development and mental health advocacy in under-resourced communities. Through this work, they exemplify values that align closely with Worcester State's own—access, equity, and impact.

Their extraordinary generosity has made a lasting difference at Worcester State University. Their contributions have significantly strengthened Business Administration and Entrepreneurial programming, supporting a curriculum that nurtures student innovation and prepares aspiring entrepreneurs to lead with creativity and purpose. Their commitment goes beyond funding—John and Jeanne Esler have invested in students as mentors and champions of inclusive entrepreneurship.

Their philanthropic leadership was instrumental in launching Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) Greater Worcester, a transformative initiative that equips under-resourced individuals with the tools, mentorship, and networks to launch successful ventures. Since EforAll's arrival in Worcester, dozens of new businesses have emerged—many led by women, immigrants, and people of color—creating jobs, fostering economic mobility, and revitalizing local neighborhoods.

As Mr. Esler noted at the program's launch, the timing was critical: "COVID-19 was just beginning to have a devastating impact on many businesses... We have no doubt that the lives of all supporters and beneficiaries will immediately be enriched through EforAll." Their foresight and commitment turned a moment of economic uncertainty into a catalyst for growth and resilience.

The Eslers' belief in democratizing access to opportunity is evident not only through EforAll but also through their support for Entrepreneurs Forever (eforever)—a peer-to-peer learning model that provides small business owners with long-term guidance and community. Their efforts have ensured that entrepreneurship is not limited by background or access to capital, but instead fueled by passion, perseverance, and inclusive support.

Beyond the business world, John and Jeanne are passionate advocates for mental health and global democratic engagement. Their leadership of the Esler Family Foundation reflects a deep commitment to fostering ethical, sustainable, and community-centered growth at all levels of society.

Deborah Hall '17

As an alumna of our institution and a tireless leader dedicated to social justice, Ms. Hall embodies the very best of Worcester State's values and mission.

Ms. Hall's commitment to service is rooted in a lifetime of professional advocacy and leadership. Her Master of Science (MS) in Nonprofit Management from Worcester State University helped pave the way for her historic ascent to the role of CEO of YWCA Central Massachusetts in July 2021, making her the first Black CEO in the organization's 135-year history. This built upon her foundation of a Bachelor of Science (BS) from Washington University.

Ms. Hall has dedicated over 30 years of her career to serving marginalized communities. Her extensive professional experience spans three states (MA, RI, and MO), where she has held leadership positions addressing critical social issues, including homelessness, substance abuse, and community violence. She led the YWCA's vital domestic violence services and consistently works at the intersection of race, gender, and violence, driving the YWCA's mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Ms. Hall is a true social justice advocate whose influence extends far beyond her organizational role. She is the founder of the Worcester Black History Project, which is crucial for honoring the legacies of Black individuals in Worcester. She is a frequent and insightful speaker on gendered violence and the unique challenges faced by Black women. Her efforts have been formally recognized with a Black Excellence Award and a key to the city of Worcester. Her commitment to civic life is demonstrated by her extensive service on numerous influential boards, including the Worcester Education Collaborative, MassHumanities, and Jane Doe, Inc. She was also appointed to the state's Cultural Economy Advisory Council.

As a Worcester State alumna, Ms. Hall is uniquely positioned to inspire our community. Her leadership encourages students to break glass ceilings, fight for social justice, and validates each and every person's identity. She is a perfect embodiment of Worcester State's core value of Engaged Citizenship, which promotes community service and social justice.

Jerome Hewlett '87

Mr. Hewlett's professional journey, philanthropic spirit, and lifelong dedication to excellence embody the Lancer spirit and serve as a remarkable example for Worcester State graduates. As an alum who was actively engaged in student leadership—as a member of the Student Voice (1984–1985) and a Class Officer (1986–1987)—Jerome laid the foundation early for a career defined by strategic thinking, community impact, and visionary leadership.

Professionally, Mr. Hewlett has distinguished himself across a range of high-level roles in innovative sectors. His entrepreneurial vision has led to him starting his own firm, Zentari Consulting, where he advises companies on new market penetration, operational transformation, and fundraising. He brings decades of global experience, having previously led business development at Intellectual Ventures and served on boards and advisory roles for firms such as Sax Capital Partners, Virtuosity Consulting, and MetaPower, LLC. His leadership has spanned continents, including time spent living and working in Luxembourg, Germany, and Asia, equipping him with a unique, global perspective that would resonate deeply with our graduates as they prepare to step into an interconnected world.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Mr. Hewlett is a committed supporter of Worcester State University. His creation of the Jerome Hewlett Scholarship for Entrepreneurial Excellence demonstrates a powerful commitment to uplifting future generations of Lancers. His consistent philanthropic support and engagement, including his feature in WSU's 150th anniversary magazine under "Outstanding Alumni Making a Difference," make clear his lasting impact on our community.

Mr. Hewlett's life story is characterized by a commitment to service, mentorship, and lasting legacy. Through his continued professional achievement and philanthropic dedication, he embodies a profound, enduring commitment to education and progress. His personal and professional narrative exemplifies the values of leadership, resilience, and giving back—values we strive to instill in every Worcester State graduate.

Mr. Hewlett is recommended as a candidate who is superbly suited to address the graduating class and receive this distinguished honor. He would not only honor the ceremony with his presence but would offer a message that is deeply relevant, genuinely motivating, and uniquely Lancer.

James Robilotta

James Robilotta is an award-winning leadership author, professional speaker, and coach with a foundation in stand-up and improv comedy. Since launching his speaking career in 2009, he has captivated over 700 international audiences through humor-infused storytelling that builds trust, sparks insight, and motivates change.

Formerly a student-affairs professional at universities and colleges, Mr. Robilotta spent over a decade training and leading teams before following his entrepreneurial dream blending his many styles and experiences while remaining focused on authentic leadership. A central message of his work: we can't

learn from people who are perfect, only from the imperfect. This belief inspired his book *Leading Imperfectly: The Value of Being Authentic for Leaders, Professionals, and Human Beings*. His research and personal case studies inform his keynote topics, which include communication, psychological safety, feedback that sticks, retention, and life balance.

Mr. Robilotta's mission is to show how being more authentic actually inspires open communication, forms tighter bonds, discovers the importance of being a leader who is purposeful, empowering, real and moral and recognizes the power of an individual's story in their leadership style.

This nominee is supported by the 2026 Class Committee.

