

EXHIBIT B
Settlement Agreement &
Release

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This Settlement Agreement is entered into between Plaintiff Jennifer Croce ("Plaintiff", "Named Plaintiff", or "Class Representative"), individually, and on behalf of a class of individuals (the "Class", "Settlement Class", or "Class Members", as defined below), and Defendant St. Joseph's College of New York ("SJC" or "Defendant"). Plaintiff, Class Members, and Defendant are referred to individually as "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS AND BACKGROUND

A. On August 18, 2020, Plaintiff Jennifer Croce commenced a putative class action (as defined below) in New York State Supreme Court, Suffolk County (the "Court"), alleging breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and conversion claims as a result of SJC's transition of in-person instruction and other educational services to a virtual environment during a portion of the Spring 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related state and local public health mandates and orders.

B. Defendant vigorously contested each and every claim in the Action and denies all material allegations of the Action and would continue to assert numerous defenses if this matter proceeded further.

C. On January 26, 2021, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss the complaint.

D. On April 4, 2021, Plaintiff filed an amended complaint in the Action. The amended complaint also alleged breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and conversion claims as a result of SJC's transition of in-person instruction and other educational services to a virtual environment during a portion of the Spring 2020 semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related state and local public health mandates and orders.

E. On May 17, 2021, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss the amended complaint. Plaintiff opposed this motion, and the motion was fully briefed on July 16, 2021.

F. On October 1, 2021, the Court granted in part and denied in part Defendant's motion to dismiss the amended complaint, (the "Decision") in particular, the Court dismissed the unjust enrichment and conversion claims. The Court went on to state in the Decision that "plaintiff's breach of contract claim related to the Student Activity Fee (\$75) survives, but not claims related to the College Fee (\$125) or the Technology Fee (\$100)" and Plaintiff's breach of contract claim related to tuition was dismissed.

G. On October 14, 2021 Defendant filed its answer to the amended complaint.

H. On November 4, 2021, Plaintiff appealed the Court's decision to the Appellate Division, Second Department. This appeal was fully briefed and argued on March 14, 2023.

I. Also on November 4, 2021, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to reargue Pursuant to CPLR 2221(d).

J. On August 26, 2022 the Court denied the motion for leave to reargue and further denied Plaintiff's request to amend her complaint.

K. On August 17, 2023, the Appellate Division, Second Department affirmed the Decision of the Supreme Court, Suffolk County. The Appellate Division also denied Plaintiff's request to amend her complaint.

L. Subsequently, Plaintiff and Defendant participated in a private mediation session on December 9, 2024 before the Hon. Suzanne Segal (Ret.) of Signature Resolution. During the first session, the Parties did not ultimately come to a resolution; they continued their negotiations and discussions through counsel, facilitated by the Hon. Suzanne Segal (Ret.), before ultimately reaching a resolution as to the surviving claim for the Student Activity Fee only, which is further memorialized and expanded upon here.

M. The Settlement was reached as a result of extensive arms-length negotiations between the Parties and counsel. Before and during these settlement discussions and mediation, the Parties had arms-length exchange of sufficient information to permit Plaintiff and Class Counsel to evaluate the claims and potential defenses and to meaningfully conduct informed settlement discussions.

N. On April 17, 2025, the Parties advised the Court that they had settled the Action and the motion for preliminary approval was forthcoming.

O. Defendant, without admitting any wrongdoing or liability, has agreed to enter into this Agreement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, and the distraction of burdensome and protracted litigation, and to be completely free of any further controversy with respect to the claims that were asserted or could have been asserted in, or relate in any way whatsoever to the Student Activity Fee.

P. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this Action, including an extensive review of relevant documents, and has diligently pursued an investigation of the claims of the Class against Defendant. Based on its own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms set forth herein is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, and the impact of this Agreement on Named Plaintiff and the Settlement Class. Based upon their analysis and evaluation of a number of factors, Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the risks of litigation, including the possibility that the Action, if not settled now, might not result in any recovery whatsoever, or might result in a recovery that is less favorable and that would not occur for several years.

Q. Class Counsel and Named Plaintiff, after taking into account the foregoing, along with the risks and costs of further litigation, are satisfied that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are fair, reasonable, adequate, and equitable, and that a settlement of the Action and the prompt provision of effective relief to the Class are in the best interests of the Class Members.

R. NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth in this Agreement, (as defined below) as well as the good and valuable consideration provided for herein, the Parties agree to a full and complete settlement of the Action.

1. DEFINITIONS

The defined terms set forth in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them below.

- 1.1. **Action** means Jennifer Croce, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, vs. St. Joseph's College of New York, Index No. 610886/2020, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Suffolk County.
- 1.2. **Acceptance Period** means the thirty (30) day period beginning from the date of the mailing and/or e-mailing of the Notice and Election Form, during which a Class Member can submit an Election Form as to the method they would prefer to receive a settlement payment.
- 1.3. **Agreement** means this Settlement Agreement and Release.
- 1.4. **Attorneys' Fees and Costs** means such funds as may be awarded by the Court consistent with the terms of this Agreement to Class Counsel for their past, present, and future work, efforts, and expenditures in connection with this Action and settlement, including fees, costs, and expenses of any co-counsel, local counsel, experts, consultants, or other individuals retained by, or who assisted Class Counsel in connection with this Action and settlement.
- 1.5. **Class Counsel** means Michael Tompkins and Anthony Alesandro of Leeds Brown Law, P.C., One Old Country Road, Suite 347, Carle Place, New York 11514 and Nicholas Collela of Lynch Carpenter LLP, 1133 Pennsylvania Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
- 1.6. **Class List** means a list in electronic format, preferably Excel, that includes, for each respective Class Member, name, last known address, last known e-mail address, last known telephone number, along with Student Activity Fee payment total, the amount of SJC-based scholarships/grants received, present enrollment status, and other information related to the calculations and distribution of settlement proceeds as set forth below. The Class List shall be provided and maintained in a confidential fashion.
- 1.7. **Costs and Fees** means Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses; costs and fees associated with the Settlement Claims Administrator; and Service Award to be paid to Named Plaintiff in accordance herewith.
- 1.8. **Court** means the Supreme Court of New York State, Suffolk County.
- 1.9. **Days** means business days if the specified number is ten (10) days or fewer, and calendar days if the specified number is greater than ten (10) days.
- 1.10. **Defendant** means St. Joseph's College of New York.
- 1.11. **Defendant's Counsel** means Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan, LLP.
- 1.12. **Election Form** means the form, a copy of which is attached to the Notice of Settlement of Class Action Lawsuit, or as otherwise approved by the Court, that Class Members may

return to designate which method for receiving the funds would be preferred, including physical check, Venmo, Paypal, or other reasonable available options. In the absence of a Class Member returning an Election Form, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall mail a physical check.

- 1.13. **Final Approval** means issuance of an Order: granting final approval of this Agreement as binding upon the Parties; holding this Agreement to be final, fair, reasonable, adequate, and binding on all Class Members who have not excluded themselves as provided below; ordering that the settlement relief be provided as set forth in this Agreement; ordering the releases as set forth in this Agreement; entering judgment in this case; and retaining continuing jurisdiction over the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the settlement.
- 1.14. **Final Approval Order** means an Order entered by the Court granting Final Approval.
- 1.15. **Final Effective Date** means (i) if no appeal is timely filed, thirty (30) days after the Court has entered a Final Approval Order, or (ii) if an appeal is timely filed, the latest of the following, if applicable: (1) any appeal from the Final Approval Order has been finally dismissed; (2) the Final Approval Order has been affirmed on appeal in a form substantially identical to the form of the Final Approval Order entered by the Court; (3) the time to petition for review with respect to any appellate decision affirming the Final Approval Order has expired; or (4) if a petition for review of an appellate decision is filed, the petition has been denied or dismissed, or, if granted, has resulted in affirmance of the Final Approval Order in a form substantially identical to the form of the Final Approval Order entered by the Court.
- 1.16. **Gross Settlement Fund** means the sum of the New Cash Settlement Fund (\$193,200.00).
- 1.17. **Named Plaintiff** means Jennifer Croce.
- 1.18. **Net Settlement Fund** means the New Cash Settlement Fund minus Court-approved Costs and Fees.
- 1.19. **Notice(s)** means the Court-approved form of notice to Class Members to advise them of the terms of this settlement, their rights, their availability options, and remedies.
- 1.20. **Notice Response Deadline** means (i) thirty (30) days from the date of the initial mailing and/or e-mailing of the Notice or as otherwise set by the Court, and (ii) an additional fifteen (15) days later for any Class Members who were unable to file a timely Election Form, due to factors such as change of address, military service, hospitalization, or other extraordinary circumstances.
- 1.21. **Objector** means an individual Class Member who properly files an objection to this Agreement.
- 1.22. **Opt-out Deadline** means on or before the Notice Response Deadline.

- 1.23. **Opt-out Statement** means the written, signed statement that an individual Class Member submits indicating he or she has elected to exclude him or herself ("opt-out") from the settlement.
- 1.24. **Preliminary Approval Order** means an Order entered by the Court, (i) granting preliminary approval to this Agreement as within the range of possible Final Approval; (ii) approving the procedures for effectuating notice to Class Members; (iii) approving the Notice and Election Form for publication; and (iv) setting dates by which Final Approval should be sought or obtained.
- 1.25. **Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF")** means the account established and controlled by the Settlement Claims Administrator for the purposes of retaining and distributing the Gross Settlement Fund in accordance with this Agreement and any Court order. The QSF will be controlled by the Settlement Claims Administrator subject to the terms of this Agreement, and the Final Approval Order. Interest, if any, earned in the QSF will become part of the Net Settlement Fund to be distributed to the Class Members.
- 1.26. **Released Claims** means any and all actual, potential, filed, known or unknown, fixed or contingent, claimed or unclaimed, suspected or unsuspected, claims, demands, liabilities, rights, causes of action, contracts or agreements, extra contractual claims, damages, punitive, exemplary or multiplied damages, expenses, costs, attorneys' fees and or obligations related to the Student Activity Fee (including "Unknown Claims," as defined below), whether in law or in equity, accrued or un-accrued, direct, individual or representative, of every nature and description whatsoever, whether based on state, federal, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, against the Released Parties, or any of them, arising out of any facts, transactions, events, matters, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, representations, omissions or failures to act regarding SJC's actions and/or decisions with respect to COVID-19 policies and procedures for the Student Activity Fee during the Spring 2020 Semester, including transitioning in-person Student Activity Fee services to a remote format during the Spring 2020 Semester.
- 1.27. **Released Parties** means SJC as well as any and all of its respective present or past heirs, executors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, licensors, licensees, associates, affiliates, employers, agents, consultants, independent contractors, insurers, including without limitation employees of the foregoing, directors, trustees, board members, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, corporations, and all third party service providers or entities identified as SJC's agents and/or independent contractors in this Action.
- 1.28. **Releasing Parties** means Named Plaintiff, those Class Members who do not timely opt-out of the Settlement Class, and all of their respective present or past heirs, executors, family members, lenders, funders, payors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, associates, affiliates, employers, employees, agents, consultants, independent contractors, insurers, directors, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and

other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, limited liability companies, partnerships and corporations.

- 1.29. **Service Award** means the portion of the Gross Settlement Fund, if any, requested by Named Plaintiff who actively participated in the Action and approved by the Court as a reasonable award to the Named Plaintiff for representing the interests of the Settlement Class and/or actively participating in the Action.
- 1.30. **Settlement Claims Administrator** means, a qualified settlement administrator retained by Plaintiff but agreeable to Defendant, including Apex Class Action, unless another third-party administrator is later agreed to be the Parties in writing.
- 1.31. **Settlement Class, Class, or Class Members** means: all enrolled students during the Spring 2020 semester at SJC who paid the Student Activity Fee but had the related services cancelled or moved to a remote format. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (1) any Suffolk County Supreme Court Justice presiding over this Action and members of their families; (2) the Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parent companies, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and their current or former officers, directors, agents, attorneys, and employees; (3) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the class; and (4) the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons.
- 1.32. **Settlement Proceeds** means checks issued to Class Members.
- 1.33. **Settlement Website** means the website established by the Settlement Claims Administrator to aid in administering the settlement.
- 1.34. **Spring 2020 Semester** means the Spring 2020 academic term at SJC, which began on approximately January 21, 2020 and ended on or before May 5, 2020.

2. APPROVAL AND PROCEDURE

2.1. Settlement Claims Administrator.

- 2.1.1. **Funding Settlement Claims Administrator.** The Settlement Claims Administrator shall be paid out of the QSF.
- 2.1.2. **Responsibilities of Settlement Claims Administrator.** The Settlement Claims Administrator shall be responsible for: (i) printing and disseminating, via mail and/or e-mail, the Notice and Election Forms to the Settlement Class; (ii) performing a skip trace and resending, within one (1) day of receipt, any Notice and Election Form returned without a forwarding address, or resending to those with a new forwarding address and monitoring email open receipts; (iii) responding to inquiries from the Parties; (iv) monitoring and maintaining a telephone number with telephone answerers until the Final Effective Date or the termination of this Agreement, whichever comes first; (v) promptly furnishing to counsel for the Parties copies of any requests for exclusion, objections or other written or electronic

communications from each Class Member that the Settlement Claims Administrator receives; (vi) receiving, retaining and reviewing the Election Forms submitted by each Class Member; (vii) keeping track of requests for exclusion or objection, including maintaining the original envelope in which the request or objection was mailed; (viii) distributing the Settlement Checks to Class Members and/or Court-approved Costs and Fees, as necessary; (ix) preparing, sending and/or wire-transferring Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Costs; (x) mailing Service Award and Settlement Checks in accordance with this Agreement and the Final Approval Order; (xii) responding to inquiries of Class Members regarding procedures for filing objections, Opt-out Statements, and Election Forms; (xiii) referring to Class Counsel all inquiries by Class Members regarding matters not within the Settlement Claim Administrator's duties specified herein; (xiv) responding to inquiries of counsel for the Parties relating to the Settlement Claims Administrator's duties specified herein; (xv) promptly apprising counsel for the Parties of the activities of the Settlement Claims Administrator; (xvi) maintaining adequate records of its activities, including the dates of the mailing of Notices and mailing and receipt of Election Forms, returned mail and any and all other actual or attempted written or electronic communications with the Settlement Class; (xvii) confirming in writing to counsel for the Parties and the Court its completion of the administration of the settlement; (xviii) timely responding to communications from the Parties and their counsel; (xix) providing all information, documents, and calculations necessary to confirm the Gross Settlement Fund to the Parties' counsel; (xx) obtaining, administering, and maintaining the Settlement Website; and (xxi) such other tasks as the Parties mutually agree.

- 2.1.3. **Weekly Reporting Requirements.** Throughout the period of claims administration, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall provide reports to the Parties upon their request regarding (i) the status of the emailing and physical mailing of the Notices and Election Forms to Class Members, (ii) the status or progress of the claims administration process, (iii) anticipated or expected distribution of the Settlement Checks, and (iv) any other aspect of the claims administration process. Beginning the second Friday after Notice is mailed to Class Members, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties weekly updates on the number of Class Members, Objectors, and Opt-outs.
- 2.1.4. **Access to the Settlement Claims Administrator.** The Parties will have equal access to the Settlement Claims Administrator. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel agree to use their best efforts to cooperate with the Settlement Claims Administrator and provide reasonable assistance in administering the settlement.

2.2. **Preliminary Approval Motion.**

- 2.2.1. Within forty-five (45) days of complete execution of this Agreement or in accordance with any orders set by the Court, Class Counsel shall file a Motion for Preliminary Approval ("Preliminary Approval Motion"). In connection with the Preliminary Approval Motion, Class Counsel will submit to the Court: (1) the proposed Notice; (2) the proposed Election Form; (3) the proposed Preliminary

Approval Order; (4) an executed version of this Agreement; and (5) the necessary documents, memorandum, affidavits and exhibits for the purposes of approving the settlement. The Preliminary Approval Motion also will seek the setting of a date for individuals to submit Election Forms, Opt-out Statements, and/or object to this Agreement.

- 2.2.2. In the Preliminary Approval Motion, Class Counsel shall inform the Court of the intended process to obtain a Final Approval Order in accordance with the Court-approved schedule, so that the Court may, among other things: (1) approve the settlement as fair, adequate and reasonable; (2) incorporate the terms of the Agreement, as described herein; (3) dismiss the Action with prejudice; (4) award Costs and Fees, including any Service Award; and (5) authorize distribution and payment to the Class Members.

2.3. Notice and Election Forms to Class Members.

- 2.3.1. **Class List.** Within ten (10) days of the Preliminary Approval Order being signed by the Court, Defendant's Counsel shall provide the Settlement Claims Administrator with the Class List.
- 2.3.2. **Notice.** The Notice will inform the Settlement Class about this settlement, and will also advise them of their rights, including their ability to object to, opt-out of, or participate in the settlement. Additionally, the Notice will advise them of (1) their Student Activity Fee total and (2) any scholarships/grants that may potentially offset a claim.
- 2.3.3. **Notice Process.** Within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the Class List, or as otherwise ordered by the Court, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall (1) email a copy of the Notice to all Class Members for whom the Settlement Claims Administrator has a valid email address, and (2) mail a copy of the Notice and Election Form to all Class Members not presently enrolled at SJC for whom the Settlement Claims Administrator does not have a valid email address through regular U.S. Mail to such students' last known mailing address as listed in SJC's records.
- 2.3.4. **Skip Trace and Remailing.** If a Notice is returned as undeliverable via email, then the Settlement Claims Administrator shall take all reasonable steps to obtain a mailing address, including performing a skip trace, and shall email the Notice to any other email address obtained or mail Notice to any physical address. If a Notice is returned as undeliverable via mail, then the Settlement Claims Administrator shall take all reasonable steps to obtain a mailing address, including requesting such information from Defendant, performing a skip trace, and/or remailing the Notice to any address. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall also mail a Notice and Election Form to any Class Member who requests them after the initial mailing of Notice and before the Notice Response Deadline. The Settlement Claims Administrator will notify Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel of any Notices and Election Forms returned as undeliverable after the first mailing, including those

returned as undeliverable after any subsequent mailing. All costs of locating Class Members will be paid from the QSF. To assist in obtaining a more accurate email or physical address for any Class Member, Class Counsel may provide such to the Settlement Claims Administrator to be used for the purposes of mailing of Notice.

- 2.3.5. **Notice Response Deadline.** Class Members are not required to take any affirmative steps to participate in this Action and upon Final Approval settlement checks will be mailed to all Class Members by the dates set forth in this Agreement or in the Final Approval Order. However, Class Members shall be given the opportunity via the Election Form to decide upon a reasonably convenient method for them to receive their settlement proceeds among several reasonable options (i.e., mailing of checks, Venmo, PayPal, etc.). Class Members may submit their Election Forms via first class mail, fax, email, or through the Settlement Website, as defined below, by the Notice Response Deadline. The Notice Response Deadline for Election Forms shall be (i) thirty (30) days from the date of the initial mailing or as otherwise set by the Court, and (ii) an additional fifteen (15) days later for any Class Members who were unable to file a timely Election Form due to factors such as change of address, military service, hospitalization, or other extraordinary circumstances. If an envelope does not contain a postmark, it shall be deemed received on the date that the Settlement Claims Administrator stamps the envelope or Election Form as "received."
- 2.3.6. **Settlement Website.** On the same date as initial mailing and/or e-mailing of Notices, notice shall also be provided on a website at an available settlement URL including <https://www.stjosephscollegerefundlawsuit.com/>, or other mutually agreeable and available URL, which shall be obtained, administered, and maintained by the Settlement Claims Administrator. Copies of this Settlement Agreement, the Notice, Election Form, and other pertinent documents and Court filings pertaining to the Settlement shall be provided on the Settlement Website.

2.4. Opt-outs: Class Members Who Opt-out of the Settlement.

- 2.4.1. Class Members who elect to opt-out of the settlement as set forth in this Agreement must mail, via First Class United States Mail, postage prepaid, a written, signed statement to the Settlement Claims Administrator that states he or she is opting out of the settlement ("Opt-out Statement"). In order to be valid, the Opt-out Statement must include the name, address, and telephone number of the Class Member, and a statement indicating his or her intention to opt-out. To be effective, an Opt-out Statement must be signed by the Class Member and postmarked by the United States Postal Service or submitted via the Settlement Website on or before the Notice Response Deadline.
- 2.4.2. The time period to opt-out of the settlement shall be on or before the Notice Response Deadline.
- 2.4.3. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall stamp the received date on the original of each Opt-out Statement and send copies of each Opt-out Statement to Class

Counsel and Defendant's Counsel not later than three (3) days after receipt. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the opt-out period, send a final list of all Opt-out Statements to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel by both email and overnight delivery. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall retain the stamped originals of all Opt-out Statements and originals of all envelopes accompanying Opt-out Statements in its files until such time as the Settlement Claims Administrator is relieved of its duties and responsibilities in connection with this Agreement.

- 2.4.4. Any Class Member who does not timely submit an Opt-out Statement pursuant to this Agreement will be deemed to have accepted the settlement and the terms of this Agreement, will be bound by the Final Approval Order, and will have any and all Released Claims released and dismissed with prejudice.
- 2.4.5. The Parties agree that, if the number of persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Settlement reaches ten percent (10%) of the Class Members, Defendant has the unilateral right, in its sole discretion, to declare this Agreement void in its entirety upon notice to Class Counsel.
 - 2.4.5.1. If Defendant intends to exercise its unilateral right of termination as set forth herein, written notice of such intent must be provided to Class Counsel at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Within five (5) days of such notice, Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel shall meet and confer concerning the potential termination of the Agreement and arrange a mediation with Judge Segal (Ret.) for a recommendation. Following the meet and confer, and at least seven (7) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing and after the recommendation is made by Judge Segal (Ret.), Defendant shall provide Class Counsel with written notice that Defendant is exercising its unilateral right of termination. Defendant may withdraw its termination by providing written notice of such withdrawal to Class Counsel no later than one (1) business day prior to the scheduled Final Approval Hearing.
 - 2.4.5.2. If Defendant elects to terminate the Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth herein, the Settlement shall be deemed terminated and cancelled, and the provisions of paragraph 2.4.6. shall apply, but Defendant shall be required to pay the costs of notice and claims administration to date.
- 2.4.6. Termination of this Agreement
 - 2.4.6.1. If (i) Defendant exercises its right to terminate this Agreement in accordance with paragraph 2.4.5; (ii) the Court disapproves the Settlement; or (iii) the Effective Date as to the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, then:
 - 2.4.6.1.1. The Settlement shall be cancelled and terminated;
 - 2.4.6.1.2. The terms and provisions of the Settlement shall have no further force and effect whatsoever;

2.4.6.1.3. Within ten (10) business days after written notice is sent by Defendant or its counsel to the Settlement Administrator and Class Counsel, the Settlement Administrator shall cause the Settlement Fund and all interest earned thereon to be refunded to Defendant, less any costs paid or incurred in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

2.4.6.1.4. The Parties shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective statuses as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of the Agreement, and they shall proceed in all respects as if the Settlement, its exhibits and any related agreements or orders, had never been executed. In such event, the Parties jointly will seek to vacate any order entered or actions taken in connection with the Settlement.

2.5. Objectors: Class Members Who Object to the Settlement.

2.5.1. Class Members who wish to present objections to the proposed settlement must do so in writing by the Notice Response Deadline. To be considered, such statement must be mailed to the Settlement Claims Administrator via First Class Mail, postage pre-paid, and postmarked by the United States Postal Service on or before the Notice Response Deadline. The statement must include: (1) the objector's name, address and telephone number; (2) an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member; (3) all grounds for the objection, including all citations to legal authority and evidence supporting the objection; (4) the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection with the preparation or submission of the objection or who may profit from the pursuit of the objection; (5) a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval hearing (either personally or through counsel who files an appearance with the Court in accordance with the appropriate rules); (6) copies of any papers, briefs, declarations, affidavits or other documents upon which the objection is based; (7) a detailed list of any other objections submitted by the Class Member, or his/her counsel, to any class actions submitted in any state or federal court in the United States in the previous five years (or affirmatively stating that no such prior objection has been made); and (8) the objector's signature, in addition to the signature of the objector's attorney (if any) – an attorney's signature alone shall not be deemed sufficient to satisfy this requirement. Failure to include any of the information or documentation set forth in this paragraph shall be grounds for overruling and/or striking the objection. The Settlement Claims Administrator will stamp the date received on the original and send copies of each objection, supporting documents, as well as a copy of the Notice mailed to the Objector, to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel by email delivery no later than three (3) days after receipt of the objection.

- 2.5.2. An Objector may withdraw his or her objections at any time. Any Class Member who has elected to opt-out may not submit objections to the settlement.
- 2.5.3. To the extent that the issue raised by the Objector has not been resolved, the

Objector or either Party may seek relief from the Court including declaring that the Objector has opted-out or that her/his objection has been overruled.

2.6. Final List of Class Members, Objectors and Opt-Outs.

- 2.6.1. No later than thirty (30) days after the Notice Response Deadline, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall certify jointly to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel: (a) a list of all Class Members; (b) a list of all Objectors; (c) a list of all Class Members who timely submitted an Opt-out Statement; and (d) an estimated calculation of the settlement proceeds to Class Members in accordance with the formulas and allocation amounts discussed below.
- 2.6.2. To the extent that any issues arise, they should be addressed by the Parties. If the issues cannot be resolved, they should be submitted to the Court via the application for Final Approval with designated paragraphs concerning the respective position of the Parties.

2.7. Final Approval Motion.

- 2.7.1. No later than forty-five (45) days after the Notice Response Deadline, or in accordance with any orders set by the Court, Plaintiff shall move for Final Approval of the settlement, including dismissal of the claims with prejudice and approval of all procedures for effectuating the terms of the settlement.
- 2.7.2. Within 15 days after Final Approval Order from the Court, Defendant shall provide Class Counsel and the Settlement Claims Administrator an updated Class List, including any information required by the Settlement Claims Administrator to process payment and perform the necessary reporting.
- 2.7.3. Within 15 days after Final Approval Order from the Court, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall finalize calculations for allocation of the Settlement proceeds and provide a version to the Parties. To the extent any issues arise from the calculations, the Parties shall convene a meet and confer. To the extent that the Parties are unable to resolve the disputes concerning the calculations, the Parties shall submit the settlement to the Court for final resolution of the calculations and distributions.

3. Settlement Terms

- 3.1. **Cash Benefits.** Defendant agrees to pay One Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$193,200.00) to fully satisfy any and all current cash benefits to be paid to all Class Members, any Court-approved Costs and Fees, including but not limited to Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Service Award for Named Plaintiff, and all costs and fees associated with the Settlement Claims Administrator.
 - 3.1.1. **Funding the QSF.** Defendant shall make payments up to the total of the New Cash Settlement Fund as follows: (i) on or before 14 days after the Preliminary Approval

Order, Defendant shall pay \$35,000.00 for the primary purpose of funding the Settlement Claims Administrator and paying the costs associated with effectuating notice; (ii) on or before 14 days after the Preliminary Approval Order an amount equal to the Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Service Award, to be paid as described below; (iii) on or before 10 days after the Final Effective Date, Defendant shall fund the remainder of the New Cash Settlement Fund into the QSF.

- 3.1.2. **Uncashed and Unclaimed Funds.** After 270 days have passed from the mailing of Settlement Proceeds all outstanding issues are resolved, and 60% or more of the funds are claimed or cashed by Class Members, any amounts remaining in the QSF shall be distributed to SJC's endowment for scholarships. However, if less than 60% of Class Members cash checks or claim their funds the parties will convene with the Hon. Suzanne Segal (Ret.) to agree upon a reasonable remedy including a distribution to class members, reversion to a scholarship fund, and/or other equitable remedies designed to protect the interest of the class members.
- 3.1.3. To the extent that the parties cannot agree, the Hon. Suzanne Segal (Ret.) shall have binding authority to resolve disputes regarding funding amounts, the reversion process, and/or the reallocation of uncashed or unclaimed funds, subject to the ultimate authority of the Court.

3.2. Payments to Class Members and Others. Funds shall be disbursed by the Settlement Claims Administrator as follows:

- 3.2.1. Within 30 days after the Final Effective Date, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall mail all Settlement Proceeds to Class Members or distribute funds to Class Members in accordance with method selected on Election Form.
- 3.2.2. The Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Service Award granted by the Court shall be paid to Class Counsel out of the QSF within ten (10) days after the Court issues the Final Approval Order that includes an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel and/or Service Award to Named Plaintiff.
- 3.2.3. The Court shall have binding authority to resolve disputes regarding payments to Class Members, and distribution of settlement proceeds.

3.3. Amounts Payable as Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Expenses.

- 3.3.1. In connection with the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Class Counsel will petition the Court for an award of no more than Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred dollars (\$64,400) for attorneys' fees and will additionally petition the Court for reimbursement of reasonable litigation costs, and expenses not expected to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), other than costs associated with the Settlement Claims Administrator incurred in connection with the Action.
- 3.3.2. The substance of Class Counsel's application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs is to be considered separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness,

reasonableness, adequacy, and good faith of the settlement of the Action. The outcome of any proceeding related to Class Counsel's application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall not terminate this Agreement or otherwise affect the Court's ruling on the Motion for Preliminary Approval.

- 3.5.3 Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall be paid from the QSF.

3.4. Service Award for Named Plaintiff.

- 3.4.1. In return for services rendered to the Settlement Class, Named Plaintiff may apply to the Court to receive a Service Award of no more than Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).
- 3.4.2. The application for a Service Award is to be considered separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, adequacy, and good faith of the settlement of the Action. The outcome of the Court's ruling on the application for the Service Award will not terminate this Agreement or otherwise affect the Court's ruling on the Motion for Preliminary Approval.
- 3.6.3. Service Award for Named Plaintiff shall be paid from the QSF.

3.5. Settlement Fund and Allocation to Class Members.

- 3.5.1. **Allocation.** The Settlement Claims Administrator shall prepare calculations to be approved by the Parties, and the Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed proportionately to all Class Members based on the following terms and criteria, after allocations for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Service Award, and the costs of the Settlement Claims Administrator:
 - I. Class Members who enrolled for online only classes at the beginning of the Spring 2020 Semester, who paid no Student Activity Fee, or who left SJC prior to March 16, 2020, are not eligible to collect any proceeds.
 - II. The Net Settlement Fund shall be allocated to Class Members on a prorated basis based on a percentage of the Student Activity Fee paid to SJC during the Spring 2020 Semester. Specifically, undergraduate students shall receive a proportionate and prorated distribution of proceeds based on the amount of the Student Activity Fee they paid for the Spring 2020 semester, taking into account any SJC-funded amounts that did not require repayment. The Parties shall endeavor to ensure that minimum payments are made to Class Members such that it is administratively reasonable.
 - III. To the extent that the Parties have any disputes about calculations, including de minimis payments, the Hon. Suzanne Segal (Ret.) shall have authority to make a determination, subject to the ultimate discretion of the Court.

3.6. Release of Claims.

- 3.6.1. Upon the Final Effective Date, the Releasing Parties, and each of them, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Approval Order shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims.
- 3.6.2. Except as provided in this Agreement, upon payment of all Costs and Fees as approved by the Court, Class Counsel, on behalf of the Class Members, irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit, and forever discharge any claim that he, she, or they may have against the Released Parties for attorneys' fees, expenses, disbursements and all other costs and fees associated with Class Counsel's representation of the Class. Class Counsel further understands and agrees that any fee payments approved by the Court will be the full, final, and complete payment of all attorneys' fees, expenses, disbursements and all other costs and fees associated with Class Counsel's representation in the Action related to the claims for refunds of the Student Activity Fee.

3.7. **Non-Admission of Liability.** By entering this Agreement, Defendant in no way admits any violation of law or any liability whatsoever to Named Plaintiff and/or the Class Members, individually or collectively, and all such liability is expressly denied. Rather, Defendant enters into this Agreement to avoid further protracted litigation and to fully and finally resolve and settle disputes related to the Student Activity Fee with the Named Plaintiff and Class Members. Settlement of the Action, negotiation and execution of this Agreement, and all acts performed and documents executed pursuant to or in furtherance of this Agreement or the settlement: (1) are not, shall not be deemed to be, and may not be used as an admission or evidence of any wrongdoing or liability on the part of Defendant or of the truth of any of the factual allegations in any and all complaints or other papers filed by Plaintiff in the Action; and (2) are not, shall not be deemed to be, and may not be used as an admission or evidence of fault or omission on the part of Defendant in any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding. The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement is a settlement document and shall be inadmissible in evidence in any proceeding, except an action or proceeding to approve, interpret, or enforce the terms of the Agreement.

4. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- 4.1. **Cooperation Between the Parties; Further Acts.** The Parties shall reasonably cooperate with each other and shall use their reasonable best efforts to obtain the Court's approval of this Agreement and all of its terms. Each Party, upon the request of any other Party, agrees to perform such further acts and to execute and deliver such other documents as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this Agreement.
- 4.2. **No Assignment.** Class Counsel and Named Plaintiff, on behalf of the individual Class Members, represent and warrant that they have not assigned or transferred, or purported to assign or transfer, to any person or entity, any claim or any portion thereof or interest therein, including, but not limited to, any interest in the Action, or any related action.
- 4.3. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with regard to the subject matter contained herein, and all prior and contemporaneous

negotiations and understandings between the Parties shall be deemed merged into this Agreement.

- 4.4. **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and, with respect to Named Plaintiff and all Class Members, their spouses, children, representatives, heirs, administrators, executors, beneficiaries, conservators, attorneys and assigns. Notwithstanding the passage of any legislation, bill, regulation, or other change in the law that may materially affect the rights of Named Plaintiff and all Class Members in the Action, this Agreement is binding.
- 4.5. **Arms' Length Transaction; Materiality of Terms.** The Parties have negotiated all the terms and conditions of this Agreement at arms' length. All terms and conditions of this Agreement in the exact form set forth in this Agreement are material to this Agreement and have been relied upon by the Parties in entering into this Agreement, unless otherwise expressly stated.
- 4.6. **Captions.** The captions or headings of the sections and paragraphs of this Agreement have been inserted for convenience of reference only and shall have no effect upon the construction or interpretation of any part of this Agreement.
- 4.7. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall in all respects be interpreted, enforced and governed by and under the laws of the State of New York, without regard to choice-of-law principles.
- 4.8. **Continuing Jurisdiction.** The Parties shall request the Court to retain jurisdiction over the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement as well as any and all matters arising out of, or related to, the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement and of the settlement contemplated thereby. The Parties may not unilaterally petition the Court to modify this Agreement or to increase the Defendant's payment obligations, except to the extent provided in this Agreement.
- 4.9. **Waivers, Modifications, and Amendments to Be in Writing.** No waiver, modification, or amendment of the terms of this Agreement, whether purportedly made before or after the Court's approval of this Agreement, shall be valid or binding unless in writing and signed by or on behalf of all Parties, and then only to the extent set forth in such written waiver, modification, or amendment, subject to any required Court approval. Any failure by any Party to insist upon the strict performance by the other Party of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of future performance of the same provisions or of any of the other provisions of this Agreement, and such Party, notwithstanding such failure, shall have the right thereafter to insist upon the specific performance of any and all of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 4.10. **When Agreement Becomes Effective; Counterparts.** This Agreement shall become effective upon its full execution. The Parties may execute this Agreement in counterparts, and execution in counterparts shall have the same force and effect as if all Parties had signed the same instrument.
- 4.11. **Facsimile, Email and Electronic Signatures.** Any Party may execute this Agreement by

electronic signature and/or by causing its counsel to sign on the designated signature block below and transmitting that signature page via facsimile or email to counsel for the other Party. Any signature made and transmitted by facsimile or email for the purpose of executing this Agreement shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of this Agreement and shall be binding upon the Party whose counsel transmits the signature page by facsimile or email.

4.12. Enforcement Actions. In the event that one or more of the Parties to this Agreement institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Agreement, the successful Party or Parties shall be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

4.13. Construction. The determination of the terms and conditions of this Agreement has been by mutual agreement of the Parties. Each Party participated jointly in the drafting of this Agreement, and therefore the terms and conditions of this Agreement are not intended to be, and shall not be, construed against any Party by virtue of draftsmanship.

WE AGREE TO THESE TERMS,

FOR DEFENDANT:

St. Joseph's College of New York

Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.

By: Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.

Date: 2025-09-05

FOR PLAINTIFFS AND THE
SETTLEMENT CLASS:

Jennifer Croce

Jennifer Croce

Date: 2025-09-03

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