

**APPROVED**

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**KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL**

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**PRESENT:** Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean, Bertha Little-Mathews, Ada Morell, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, David Spevack, Rick Torres, Jeremiah Monteiro, Student Trustee; Danielle Brathwaite, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** A. Todd Mayo

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Maris Henson, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Joe Youngblood

The meeting began at @ 4 p.m.

1. **INSTALLATION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE JEREMIAH MONTEIRO**  
Chair Fastook administered the oath of office to Jeremiah Monteiro, student trustee, and the Board welcomed him.
2. **ROLL CALL**  
Ms. Kelly called the roll and reported a quorum present.
3. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**  
Ms. Kelly read the statement of compliance and reported the meeting was properly advertised and in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
4. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS**  
Chair Fastook thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted the excitement of a new academic year. The chair said he was happy to see so many people at the President’s Opening Day address, and that he had the benefit of meeting Kean’s 2023-24 Artist-in-Residence Robert Roig. A Kean alum, the artist is developing new art in the Human Rights Institute for the opening, which takes place in mid-October. The chair also reminded everyone that Homecoming Weekend takes place October 13-15, and invited everyone to take part in the many planned festivities.
5. **PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**  
The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new academic year. He noted the top news of the day: U.S. News and World Report released its new rankings of U.S. universities and Kean University is ranked number 26 nationally for advancing the social mobility of our students. Last year,

Kean University ranked 46<sup>th</sup> out of 439 national universities in this category. The university also received its highest national ranking among public universities in history, coming in at 172. He thanked the Kean University team for all its hard work which contributed to these rankings.

The President also reported that, for the first time in history, Forbes named Kean University one of America's best-in-state employers. He said this ranking was based in part on recommendations from Kean employees. He said the University's investment in well-being of employees and students alike plays a role in good news like this. He also noted that a resolution on today's agenda regarding tuition waivers for the spouses of Kean employees is another step the University can take to support the well-being of its employees, noting "you can't uplift employees without uplifting their families."

The President then introduced Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Salvatore, who gave a presentation on the development of Kean's new mission statement and supporting core values. He also reviewed the fall enrollment data with the Board and the public, noting the University is hitting its largest enrollment number (17,500) including all campuses in its history. A copy of his presentation will be filed with the board's minutes.

The President then introduced Dr. Joseph Youngblood, Senior Vice President for Transformational Learning, and his colleagues Kean Online COO Jay O'Callaghan and Associate Vice President Charles Campbell for a presentation on the growth and expansion of Kean Online and other initiatives undertaken by the division that will expand the university's reach and enhance enrollment initiatives. A copy of their presentation will be filed with the board's minutes.

The President then asked Senior Vice President for Planning Felice Vazquez to share with the Board and the audience a presentation on a new partnership between Kean University and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey related to a summer program for area high school students. Ms. Vazquez introduced Jenny Davis from the PANYNJ; together they shared the results of a summer program that brought 23 high school students to campus to study in programs that could lead to careers with the PANYNJ. Jeremiah Sullivan, Associate Director in Career Services, presented on the impact of the program based on post-program surveys completed by the students. A copy of this presentation will be filed with the board's minutes.

President Repollet said the university continues to elevate its profile on a national level, and reported on two delegations he is sending to Washington, D.C. this week. First, a group of Kean employees will attend the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Leadership Conference. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, Kean is proud to send this delegation, led by Vice President for Administration Dr. Carlos

Rodriguez, to attend meet with lawmakers as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, he said.

The second delegation includes the President; who will travel to D.C. to speak on an American Federation of Teachers panel as well as a Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity panel during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference. Kean will host a reception during the conference to engage with policymakers and connect with friends of Kean during A Day of Healing, formerly known as the National Prayer Breakfast. Trustee Little-Mathews will join the president in Washington for these national events.

In closing, the President encouraged everyone to attend Kean’s Third Annual Jazz & Roots Music Festival on the lawn at Enlow Hall. The free event, open to the public, takes place on Saturday afternoon starting around 3 p.m.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Kelly noted there were no public speakers for today’s meeting.

7. **ITEMS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell noted the committee met and reviewed nominations. The committee recommends the following Board officers for the 2023-2024 academic year: Steve Fastook, chair; Linda Lewis, vice chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary. The resolution also appoints all three of these officers plus alternate Ed Oatman to the Board’s Executive Committee. The chair asked if the Board had any questions or comments, then moved the resolution:

7.1 Resolution of the Board of Trustees Appointing Officers and Executive Committee Members for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

8. **ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Lewis, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss a number of items now on the Board’s agenda and to receive updates on various student affairs, athletics and enrollment matters. Trustee Lewis moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

8.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Advertising and Recruitment Services in FY24

<b><u>Advertising, Recruitment</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
SWISH LLC	\$1,100,000
Art Guild	\$275,000

8.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising

for Advertising and Recruitment Services with the NJ Devils in  
FY24-FY26

**Advertising, Recruitment**

New Jersey Devils LLC

**Not to Exceed**

\$500,000 (total for fy24-fy26)

- 8.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising  
for Information Technology in FY24

**Information Technology**

EAB

**Not to Exceed**

\$482,500

The Chair opened the floor for questions on the resolutions. The resolutions were moved and seconded, and approved by the full Board.

9. **ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Chair Fastook noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions and bid waiver now before the board for consideration. He then moved the following item:

- 9.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions. The items were seconded and approved by the Board.

10. **ITEMS OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Bistocchi, Committee Chair, noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action items now before the Board for consideration. He moved each of the following resolutions:

- 10.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 10.2 President’s Nomination for Continuation of At-Will Administrative Appointment with Faculty Rank
- 10.3 Resolution Honoring Dr. Sylvio Codella and Bestowing the Honor of Professor Emeritus
- 10.4 Resolution Honoring Dr. Terry Fung and Bestowing the Honor of Professor Emerita
- 10.5 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY24

<b><u>Information Technology</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
CAYUSE	\$128,200

- 10.6 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for DECA, FBLA and HOSA Programming in FY24

<b><u>DECA, FBLA, HOSA Programming</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Caesars Entertainment Properties LLC	\$990,000
Sheraton Anaheim	\$550,000
DECA, Inc.	\$200,000
Future Business Leaders of America, Inc.	\$200,000
Vista Convention Services, Inc.	\$170,000
M&M Productions USA	\$140,000
HOSA-Future Health Professionals	\$125,000

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the Board.

**11. ITEMS OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND AUDIT COMMITTEES**

Trustee Bistocchi reported the committees to discuss various items related to university finances. He moved each of the following items to the full Board for consideration:

- 11.1 Resolution Adopting a Centralized Cash Management and Investment Policy for Investment Purposes
- 11.2 Resolution Updating and Expanding the Kean University Tuition Waiver Program
- 11.3 Resolution Authorizing the President to Accept a Partnership Agreement Between Kean University and PSEG for the Clean Energy Efficiency Program
- 11.4 Resolution Authorizing the Student Government Association to Transfer Funds to the Kean University Foundation, Inc. to Establish Scholarships
- 11.5 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Items

<b><u>Professional Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Cenergistic LLC	\$470,000
Baldwin Fine Art & Residential	\$130,000
ProEducation Solutions, LLC	\$185,000

<b><u>Information Technology</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Richard M. Loalbo, LLC	\$300,000 (annually fy24-fy25)
<b><u>Food Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Tastefully Yours	\$200,000
<b><u>Collection Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Heartland ECSI	\$130,000

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on any of the resolutions or bid waivers recommended by the joint Finance and Audit Committees. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

**12. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Oatman, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss several items, including the resolution on the full Board agenda. He then moved the following resolution:

- 12.1 Resolution Authorizing the University President to Accept a Grant Awarded by the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority (NJEFA)

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**13. ITEM OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Little-Mathews reported the committee met to discuss various items related to external initiatives that raise the university's profile. She moved the following item to the full Board for consideration:

- 13.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Professional Consulting Services in FY24

<b><u>Professional Consulting</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Evergreen TLC, LLC	\$125,500
Mercury Group, LLC	\$125,000
Winning Strategies Washington LLC	\$120,000

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the bid waiver resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**14. ITEM OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell reported the committee to discuss various items related to governance issues. She moved the following item to the full Board for consideration:

- 14.1 Resolution Endorsing the Kean University Mission Statement and Core Values

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**15. RESOLUTION ADVISING THE PUBLIC OF A CLOSED MEETING**

Ms. Kelly read the resolution advising of a closed session. A motion was made, seconded and the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 5:10 p.m.

**17. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:30 p.m.

**18. RESOLUTION RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.**

Chair Fastook noted the Presidential Review Committee had met, performed the President's annual review and briefed the full Board on its recommendations. He noted the full board discussed both the President's performance and future objectives. He moved the resolution, which provides for the continued employment of the President per the terms of his current contract with recommended adjustments of 6.5% increase for his salary and an annual bonus of 25%. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**19. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2023 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.