

**KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES****MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024****4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL**

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**PRESENT:** Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Bertha Little-Mathews, A. Todd Mayo, Matt McDermott, Ada Morell, Barbara Sobel, David Spevack, Danielle Brathwaite, Student Trustee; Cylia Blackmon, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** John Kean Jr., Rick Torres

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

The meeting began at @ 4 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Kelly called the roll and reported a quorum present.

2. **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.

3. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

Chair Fastook thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted the excitement of a new academic year. The chair said he wanted to focus his remarks on the fine work of the Kean University Foundation under the leadership of President Repollet and the direction of CEO William Miller. He noted the foundation has raised some significant funds in recent months and is building momentum for a new capital campaign for Kean. These include \$300,000 raised on Founder’s Day, the largest cash gift in history from Marion Stuart ’71, and a \$1 million from Wakefern Corp. to honor alum Joe Sheridan. The chair said the momentum is growing and he congratulated the Foundation team for their hard work. He encouraged everyone to attend Kean’s Third Annual Jazz & Roots Music Festival on the lawn at Enlow Hall. The free, outdoor event, open to the public, takes place on Saturday afternoon, September 21, starting around 3:30 p.m. He also invited everyone to this year’s Homecoming celebration, which takes place Saturday, October 5.

4. **PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new academic year. He noted that as he begins his fifth year as Kean’s president,

there are significant accomplishments to be recognized and more exciting progress and initiatives ahead.

The President noted that Kean is evolving from a respected regional teaching college to an innovative national research university. The University is experiencing a significant educational transformation here at Kean, he said, one that brings with it profound responsibility. Students from across the nation — and around the world — are hearing about Kean, exploring what we offer, and most importantly, choosing Kean as the place to earn their degrees.

He said the University is setting enrollment records, both in-person and online, noting one of the largest freshmen classes in history, the largest transfer class ever, and the largest freshmen class ever at WKU. Kean USA also welcomed more men and more Hispanic women to college campus than in more than a decade.

The President said more students are staying and progressing to graduation thanks to strategic investments in Student Success and in Moonshot for Equity. In academics, new programs in AI and Financial Tech are under development, and the University welcomed another 25 new tenure-track faculty members this fall. He noted his recent participation on an economic mission to Canada with Gov. Murphy and Choose NJ informed a number of the academic initiatives and partnerships under development.

Kean is now on the verge of being recognized as an R2 Research university by the Carnegie Classification, he said, noting the teamwork that's produced more than \$16 million in research grants and expanded Kean's footprint in biomedical research, STEM, and AI.

The President also emphasized the progress made in building a supportive and innovative culture here at Kean. The focus on well-being and professional development helped place Kean on the Forbes list of best places to work for the first time in recent history. And, cooperation with campus labor leaders, and the KFT leadership in particular, has led to ground-breaking agreements, initiatives, and partnerships that are celebrated locally, statewide and nationally, he said.

The President then introduced presentations by several campus leaders. First, Dr. Joe Youngblood, Senior Vice President of Transformational Learning and External Affairs, and his colleague, Chief Online Officer & Vice President Jay O'Callaghan, presented on the growth of Kean Online. Dr. Laura Baecher, associate provost, shared a report on faculty development efforts. Senior Vice President Felice Vazquez and her colleagues, including Associate Vice President John Raue, shared a presentation on the success of the new W.E.L.L. program. The WELL presentation included remarks from students who both managed and participated in the program. Copies of all presentations will be kept with the minutes.

The President also noted that he led a large delegation of Kean faculty and employees on a visit to WKU over the summer, including Dr. Sucheta Alawhat who chairs the University Senate, and Dr. Frank Argote-Freyre, a KFT officer. He noted how important it was to share the experience with more members of the Kean USA campus.

He also encouraged everyone to attend Kean’s Third Annual Jazz & Roots Music Festival on the lawn at Enlow Hall on Saturday afternoon and to this year’s Homecoming celebration, which takes place on Saturday, October 5.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Professor Holly Logue of the Theatre Conservatory addressed the board. A copy of her remarks was provided to board members and will be filed with the minutes.

6. **ITEM OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell noted the committee met and reviewed nominations. The committee recommends the following Board officers for the 2024-2025 academic year: Steve Fastook, chair; Linda Lewis, vice chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary. The resolution also appoints all three of these officers plus the past chair and alternate Ed Oatman to the Board’s Executive Committee. Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions or comments, then moved the resolution:

6.1 Resolution of the Board of Trustees Appointing Officers and Executive Committee Members for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

7. **ITEM 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, safety, and enrollment matters. Trustee Lewis moved the following resolution for Board consideration:

7.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Advertising and Recruitment Services in FY25

<b><u>Advertising, Recruitment</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Red Bull New York Inc.	\$465,000 (total fys25-27)
Art Guild	\$311,000
College Board	\$135,000

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

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

Trustee Morell reported the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions and bid waiver now before the board for consideration. She then moved the following item:

- 8.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report
- 8.2 Resolution Establishing and Adopting the Pregnancy and Related Conditions and Parenting Students Policy
- 8.3 Resolution Adopting Kean University’s Amended Title IX Policies And Guidelines in Compliance with Federal Requirements
- 8.4 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Information Technology Services

**Info Tech**

Workday Inc.

**Not to Exceed**

\$5,600,000 (total for fy25-fy35)

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions and resolutions. Each item was seconded and approved by the Board.

**9. 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:

- 9.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 9.2 Resolution Approving Updates and Amendment to the Kean University Academic Integrity Policy
- 9.3 Resolution Approving Updates and Amendment to the University’s Academic Program Review Policy
- 9.4 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY25

**Specialized Machinery**

Waters Technology Corp.

**Not to Exceed**

\$475,000

**Student Organizations**

Rosen 9939 dba/ Rosen  
Shingle Creek

**Not to Exceed**

\$650,000

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

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

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

- 10.1 Resolution Adopting a Centralized Cash Management and Investment Policy for Investment Purposes
- 10.2 Resolution Authorizing the University to Pursue Short-Term Leasing for Copiers
- 10.3 Resolution Amending Resolution #22-03-07-2633 to Authorize the President to Make Amendments to the Grant Documents in Connection with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Grant for Electric Vehicles
- 10.4 Resolution Establishing New Rates and Late Fees for the Kean University Child Care Center effective January 1, 2025
- 10.5 Resolution Authorizing the President to Establish the Living Abroad in Wenzhou Scholarship for Kean USA Students
- 10.6 Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of a Cohort Tuition Rate for FY25 for Off-Site Delivery of the Educational Leadership Program (Ed.D.) in Certain NJ School Districts
- 10.7 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Items in FY25

**Professional Consulting**

Cenergistic LLC

**Not to Exceed**

\$540,000

**Info Technology**

Manhattan Telecomm Corp.  
Carahsoft Technology Corp.  
Oomnitza, Inc.

**Not to Exceed**

\$360,000 (*fys25-27 total*)  
\$200,000 (*confirming*)  
\$185,000

**Food Services**

Tastefully Yours

**Not to Exceed**

\$250,000

**Entertainment**

Party Line Tent Rentals

**Not to Exceed**

\$175,000

**Banking and Investment**

AllSpring Global Investments

**Not to Exceed**

\$305,000 (total for fys25-27)

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.

**11. ITEM OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

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

- 11.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Bidding for Property Management Services in FY25

**Professional Services**

Liberty Hall Corporate Center  
Condominium Association, Inc.

**Not to Exceed**

\$250,000

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

**12. 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:

- 12.1 Resolution Approving the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting Services in FY25

**Professional Consulting**

Winning Strategies Washington

**Not to Exceed**

\$125,000

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

**13. 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.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 5:21 p.m.

**15. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:25 p.m.

**16. 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 a new, five year employment agreement with President Repollet and includes an increase in salary, bonus and retention incentives. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**17. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2024 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

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