

**KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES****MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023****4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL**

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**PRESENT:** Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Linda Lewis, Bertha Little-Mathews, Rajeev Malhotra, A. Todd Mayo, Matthew McDermott, Ada Morell, Rick Torres; Christopher Sclafani, Student Trustee, Jeremiah Monteiro, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Richard Trabert

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Matt Caruso, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Marsha McCarthy, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Kelly Williams, Felice Vazquez

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 welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on making it to the end of another successful academic year. He invited everyone to the upcoming Commencement Ceremonies. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Annual Kean Gala, which will take place on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Stone House in Warren. He noted NJ Senate President Nicholas Scutari will serve as the honoree. The senator is a Kean graduate and big supporter of the University and its students.

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Repollet noted that it is his favorite time of year—Commencement Season. Last week, the University celebrated honors convocation, Lavender Graduation for the LGBTQIA community, and the African Heritage Ceremony. Next week are the two university-wide ceremonies—Graduate and Undergraduate, he noted. He emphasized how these celebrate support the best of Kean—its diversity and inclusion. The President said Kean encourages all of its community members to be their authentic selves.

The President then introduced Provost David Birdsell to provide an overview of the

2023 Research Days at Kean University. Dr. Birdsell talked about the importance of research to the success of Kean students and faculty members. He noted increased research funding in the past year alone, and commended faculty who are bringing new grant-funded opportunities to the campus. He then introduced the University's new Vice President for Research, Dr. Susan Porterfield. Dr. Porterfield comes to Kean from Johns Hopkins University, the largest research university in the country.

Dr. Porterfield spoke briefly and thanked the Board and the President for this opportunity. She then introduced Dr. Matthew Niepielko, the Faculty Research Mentor of the Year. He spoke briefly about his research agenda and also thanked the Board directly for the investments they made in research equipment that is advancing what faculty can accomplish.

Dr. Porterfield then introduced the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, Eric Landaverde. He briefly discussed his research related to social media and Twitter. He noted he was once a high school dropout, and now has reached this moment thanks to the support of the University and its faculty.

Dr. Porterfield then introduced the Graduate Researcher of the Year, Jose Serra. Mr. Serra discussed his experience with faculty mentors here at Kean who engaged him in research and encouraged him to do more. His research focused on weather patterns.

Dr. Porterfield also introduced a short video on Research Days.

The President then introduced Dr. Michael Salvatore, Senior Vice President for Administration. Dr. Salvatore shared with the Board and the public a progress report on the University's path to an R2 Carnegie designation. He noted the University is on track to achieve this important designation in 2024. A copy of the presentation will be kept with the minutes.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speaker: Professor Rachel Evans, who serves as the University Senate representative to the Board of Trustees. Comments provided in writing are kept on file in the Board office.

6. **ITEM OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to review various items including the resolution now before the board for consideration. She moved the following item:

6.1 Resolution Appointing Richard F. Trabert Trustee Emeritus

Chair Fastook asked Ms. Kelly to read the resolution to the public. He then asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and

approved by the full Board. The Board congratulated Mr. Trabert.

7. **ITEM OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

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

- 7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative
- 7.2 Professional Staff Reappointments

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

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

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

- 8.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Utilities for FY24

<b><u>Utilities</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
PSEG	\$6,160,000
NJ American Water	\$1,355,000
Township of Union Public Works	\$850,000
Elizabethtown Gas	\$825,000
Jersey Central Power and Light	\$230,000

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board. Trustee Little-Mathews abstained from the vote.

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

Trustee Matthew 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:

- 9.1 Resolution Authorizing the 2023 Summer W.E.L.L. Program
- 9.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY24

<b><u>Advertising</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Outfront Media	\$570,000
Clear Channel Outdoors	\$225,000

**Insurance**

Acrisure

**Not to Exceed**

\$200,000

- 9.3 Resolution Ratifying the Award of Contracts for Promotional Items and Increasing the Not to Exceed Amounts
- 9.4 Resolution Amending Resolution 19-12-07-2422 to Further Increase Flexibility in University Research Investments
- 9.5 Resolution Amending Resolution 16-06-27-2059 to Standardized Late Registration Fees and Reduce Costs for Students
- 9.6 Resolution Accepting a Grant from the NJ Department of Education

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.

**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:

- 10.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 10.2 Returning Lecturers
- 10.3 Sabbatical Recommendations for AY 2024
- 10.4 Range Adjustment Recommendations for AY 2024
- 10.5 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science Program with Biology and Chemistry Options
- 10.6 Resolution Honoring Dr. Mark Terenzi and Bestowing the Honor of Professor Emeritus
- 10.7 Resolution Authorizing the University to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Brookdale Community College
- 10.8 Resolution Authorizing the President to Continue the Learn, Earn and Persist (LEAP) Grant Program in FY24
- 10.9 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Various Library Services in FY24

<u>Library Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
EBSCO Industries	\$596,000
VALE/NJEdge	\$460,000
Lyrasis	\$159,000
OCLC	\$134,000

10.10 Resolution Authorizing the President and the Provost to Establish Academic Departments and Department Chairs

10.11 Resolution Authorizing the Reassignment of Various Academic Programs within the Academic Affairs Division

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the Board. Chair Fastook also noted all bid waivers were reviewed by University Counsel and met the requirements for bid waivers.

**11. ITEMS OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Little-Mathews noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action items now before the Board for consideration. She moved each of the following:

11.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY23

<u>Professional Consulting</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Ernst & Young LLP	\$600,000

11.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting in FY23 -FY 27

<u>Professional Consulting</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Tirzah Spencer, Ph.D.	\$957,500*
	<i>(\$191,500 annually fy23-27)</i>

11.3 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting in FY23

<u>Professional Consulting</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
BCT Partners	\$145,000 <i>(amends fy23)</i>

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the Board. Ms. Kelly noted the resolution for Tirzah Spencer is grant funded.

**12. 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.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**14. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 6:20 p.m.

**15. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 8, 2023**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2023 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.