

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024****11 AM KEAN OCEAN GATEWAY BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR AUDITORIUM**

PRESENT: Steve Fastook, Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean, Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, A. Todd Mayo, Alan Markman, A. Morell, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Danielle Brathwaite, Student Trustee; Cylia Blackmon, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Assistant Director Michelle Freestone

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Linda Lewis, Rajeev Malhotra, Barbara Sobel, Rick Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Jerome Hatfield, Maris Henson, Carlos Rodrigues, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Karen Smith, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Joseph Youngblood

The meeting began at @ 11 a.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 Kean Ocean and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, Kean is doing great. He noted a vacant floor of the 1085 Morris Avenue office building was transformed into a grade school in five days to assist the Union Township School district as they faced a mold crisis in one of its schools. He said it emphasizes how we live our commitment to being an anchor institution in our community.

He wished everyone happy holidays and called on President Repollet for his report.

4. **PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

President Repollet welcomed everyone to Kean Ocean and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. He noted that Dr. Temple Grandin, renown scientist and autism advocate, spoke at the University Thursday evening and her remarks about learning strategies underscore how important it is to recognize the talents of all students. He noted that Kean continues to not only embrace diversity, but to celebrate and make it meaningful. He noted the importance of a university to help students to “stretch” themselves—to pushing them to think outside of the box

and taking challenges, as this is where innovation and breakthroughs usually take place.

He then introduced Dr. Jessica Adams, dean of Kean Ocean, for a short presentation on Kean Ocean academics and activities. Dr. Adams gave the board an overview of the educational experience at Kean Ocean and recent accomplishments. She then introduced Dr. Shuting Liu, a water geo-chemist, who spoke about some of the research initiatives her colleagues and students are undertaking in the region. Dr. Liu introduced one of her students, McKenna Fernandini, to describe a research project currently underway, and to share her perspective on participating in a research project. She noted she will present the research results at conference in the spring. Then, Kean Ocean student Amy Johnson share her experiences as a student researcher in the environmental sciences program and noted her work has been published in the journal of William Morris Drake. A copy of their comments, where provided, will be kept with the minutes.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Kelly noted there were no public speakers for today's session.

6. **ITEM OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Trustee McDermott noted the committee met earlier in the week to discuss a number of items now on the Board's agenda. Trustee McDermott moved the following resolution for Board consideration:

- 6.1 Resolution Establishing Student Housing Rental Rates for FY26
- 6.2 Resolution Authorizing the President to Create a Pilot Program for the Professional Development Internship Fund (PDIF)
- 6.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting Services in FY25

<u>Professional Consulting</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Cooperative Counseling	\$135,000

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

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

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions and resolution now before the board for consideration. He then moved the following items and resolution:

- 7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative

7.2 President’s Nomination of Professional Staff for Reappointment

7.3 President’s Nomination of Professional Staff for Promotion

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

8. 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 then moved the following resolution:

8.1 Resolution Authorizing Kean University to Accept the Congressional Papers and Materials of the late New Jersey Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.

She noted the family chose Kean to steward these documents, and expressed the board’s gratitude for this honor. The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the full 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 items and resolutions:

9.1 Personnel Actions –Faculty

9.2 Faculty Reappointments

9.3 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Doctoral Program in Computer Science, the Ph.D. in Computer Science

9.4 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Artificial Intelligence

9.5 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Fy25

Sole Source/Research Grant

Oregon State University

Not to Exceed

\$125,000

9.6 Resolution Authorizing the Summer 2025 Work-Earn-Live-Learn (W.E.L.L.) Program

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

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

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

- 10.1 Resolution Expressing Kean University’s Gratitude to the late Ellen Arlene Brautigan `78 and Family for Her Generous Gifts to the University and its Students and Naming the “Ellen Arlene Brautigan `78 Rehearsal Hall” in Wilkins Theatre in Her Honor
- 10.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Services in FY25

<u>Insurance</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Willis of New Jersey, Inc.	\$135,000

<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
GTT	\$2,250,000 (fy25-27)
AVI – SPL	\$935,000
SH Design Group	\$110,000

<u>Entertainment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Greater Talent Network	\$140,000

- 10.3 Resolution Authorizing the President to Select and Engage Qualified Firms for the Purpose of Conducting Internal Audits

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

11. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

- 11.1 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for HVAC Preventative Maintenance and Repair Services to ABM Building Solutions LLC Bid No: K24-8-26-2
- 11.2 Resolution Approving Kean University’s Participation in the Clean Energy Future—Energy Efficiency Program through PSE&G Company

- 11.3 Resolution Approving the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding in FY25-FY28 for Architectural and Engineering Services for 1085 Morris Avenue

<u>Arch & Engineering Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
DI Group Architecture	\$6,200,000

- 11.4 Resolution Approving the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting Services in FY25 Related to a Decarbonization Grant Initiative

<u>Consulting Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Gabel Associates	\$275,000

Chair Fastook noted the work Kean is doing with PSEG on clean energy is groundbreaking. He asked if the Board had any questions on the resolutions. The resolutions were seconded and approved by the full Board.

12. ITEM OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Little-Mathews noted the committee met to review various items including the resolution now before the board for consideration. She then moved the following resolution:

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

<u>Consulting Services</u>	<u>Not To Exceed</u>
Evergreen TLC, LLC	\$150,000

- 12.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting Services in FYs 25 & 26

<u>Consulting Services</u>	<u>Not To Exceed</u>
Education Advisors	\$250,000

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were 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 11:45 a.m.

15. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 2 p.m.

16. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –DECEMBER 7, 2024

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2024 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.