



FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

19 March 2024, 3:15PM-4:15PM. Miron Student Center MSC Room 228 [In Person]

Public Login:

<https://kean-edu.zoom.us/j/96347110669?pwd=b3Z5VGV0WTZ6ODRDNXR2K1FjcFJpdz09>

Meeting ID: 963 4711 0669 Passcode: 682396

Ch-SA called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM.

I. Approval of the 02/27/24 Full Senate Meeting Minutes.

Ch-SA requested a motion to approve the previous Full Senate Minutes.

KC made a motion to approve the Minutes. HL seconded the motion.

All were in Favor, with one abstention – **Minutes approved by a vote of 18 to 0 of those Senators present.**
MH asked to abstain, having not been present at the previous meeting.

II. Update on the University Senate Elections.

CA gave an update on the current status of the University Senate Elections. Final voting and ballot information was given to the American Arbitration Association. AAA is to mail out ballots this week. Several Senators have already received their ballots in the mail. Voting will continue until April 15, when the voting will be closed. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Craig Anderson or the AAA listed on the ballots.

III. Curriculum Items for Notification. The UCC approved the following programs.

- A. BS in Accounting
- B. MS in Accounting
- C. Dance Minor
- D. Health Minor
- E. Theatre Minor

IV. Academic Standards & Policy Committee

V. Old Business

A. Curriculum Committee for Division of General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies, vote on proposals.

The General Education (GE) and Interdisciplinary Studies (ID) curriculum committee proposals were distributed, and comments were invited. Two proposals have been advanced. The Division of General Studies proposes that the Senate GE curriculum committee review any existing GE course revisions and create a new ID curriculum committee consisting of one tenure/tenure track member from each college plus two from DGEIS. The Senate Exec Committee proposes that the CLA curriculum committee review existing GE course revisions before a review by the Senate GE committee. The Senate GE committee, which includes two representatives from each college, functions as the curriculum committee for ID courses and programs. In the Senate Exec proposal, these committees would function in this role until



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next year when new curriculum committees for GE and ID could be elected through the Senate elections process. Courses with GE prefixes (approximately 8 to 10 courses) and new ID programs would be reviewed this way for the remainder of this year and the 2024-2025 academic year. However, the issue can be revisited earlier if need be.

Dr. Jonathan Mercantini argued that creating an ID curriculum committee is needed now to produce truly interdisciplinary programs in their approach and orientation. The goal, he noted, is to populate the committee with faculty who have a genuine interest in interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinary studies and expertise in these areas.

Dr. Mercantini also noted that the Provost does not believe the CLA committee should review General Education. He would like to have a committee with representation across all the colleges. Also, the workload for ID programs is a particular concern – given the plan to introduce approximately a dozen interdisciplinary minors in the next 18 months.

Senator Dean Casale, chair of the GE committee, emphasized the importance of maintaining the integrity of the curriculum process by having appropriate review and oversight. Dr. Sara Compion of ID studies agreed and reiterated her interest in having an appropriately informed curriculum committee with experience in developing and implementing interdisciplinary programs.

Senator MH indicated that the Senate Exec proposal might be modified to create a Senate “task force” that could function as the ID curriculum committee until a new committee could be elected. Senators also noted that the provisional solution should include a “sunset clause” for the provisional arrangement.

During this discussion, Senators raised questions regarding the requirement for tenure or tenure-track status to serve on these committees. The current Senate constitution emphasizes the need for tenure and tenure-track faculty to serve on committees.

The Senate Chair said she would send a Qualtrics poll containing the Senate Exec and Division of General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies proposals and the Senate “task force” option for the temporary ID curriculum committee. Voting via Qualtrics poll assured a secret ballot.

VI. New Business

A. Dr. David Birdsell, Provost, and Senior Vice President

The Provost outlined the program review document and policy approved by the Academic Standards and Policies Committee. He noted the importance of program-level review in addition to updating courses. Office of Assessment and Accreditation and Departmental chairs will coordinate the implementation of the review process.

A second document outlining program review procedures will include the process details. Less work, but more meaningful work, looking at outcomes

The Provost noted that the University has the technical means to automate large portions of the program assessment process. For example, written work submitted through Canvas can be retrieved and



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reviewed for assessment purposes. Canvas needs to be configured to provide output to Watermark, the assessment software. When this happens, automating data collection and systematically evaluating outcomes will be possible.

The Provost also noted that the University has 147 assessment coordinators, with a letter of agreement governing their work. He does not believe that this arrangement should continue, though he argues that there will be a need for faculty beyond the department chairs to be involved in program review. There is an existing ad hoc process for giving release time for accreditation-related program review, and this process could be used to review non-accredited programs when needed.

Faculty Evaluation

The Provost also observed that student achievement is a meaningful benchmark for faculty effectiveness, and assessment outcomes can serve as data points for faculty evaluation.

Senators noted problems with the current SIR-II forms and the need for meaningful feedback from students. They asked if any new initiatives were for gathering student feedback and evaluating student learning. Provost agreed that present student assessment of faculty teaching is a concern, noting concerns about bias and differences regarding the rating of male and female faculty and faculty of color.

The Provost also noted that the current faculty peer evaluations are not 'helpful' and he does not consider them in his decisions. Senator Dina Rosen reported that the Center for Teaching and Learning is soliciting mid-term feedback from students regarding faculty. She noted that it would be helpful to learn what is working for students and what is not for them.

Senators highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive and safe community so that students can provide information about what is or is not working. The importance of listening to student comments was also emphasized.

Senators noted that positive reviews are endemic to the ratings culture and that many people are reluctant to share negative feedback.

The Provost noted that the University's goal should be to identify what could be better in evaluating faculty performance, discuss how it could be improved, and then track the changes from year to year. The consequences of critical reviews in the previous administration were noted, and the discussion emphasized the importance of using evaluations for improvement rather than dismissal.

VII. Future Items for Discussion

- A. Google Drive limitations
- B. Career Services
- C. Student Advisement



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Motion to Adjourn

Ch-SA requests a motion to adjourn the meeting. BL made a motion to adjourn. AR seconded the motion. **All in Favor - Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM**

VII. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – **Zoom**, 3:15 PM.
- B. Full Senate Meeting – Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 3:15 PM – **In-person**
- C. Complete meeting schedule for the year: https://www.kean.edu/offices/university_senate/meeting-schedules-executive-committee-and-full-senate.

Senators in attendance:

1	Mukul Acharya [MA]	P
2	Sucheta Ahlawat [Ch-SA]	P
3	Craig Anderson [CA]	P
4	Stephanie Baker [SB]	P
5	Charles Boateng [CBoat]	P
6	Consuelo Bonillas [CBoni]	P
7	Sharon Boyd-Jackson [SBJ]	P
8	Dean Casale [DC]	P
9	Kathleen Curran [KC]	P
10	Gilda DelRisco [GDR]	P
11	Ronald Dowdell [RD] [retired]	--
12	Rachel Evans [RE]	P
13	Daniel Gover [DG]	P
14	Aaron Gubi [AG]	A
15	Matthew Halper [MH]	P
16	Maria Ingelmo [MI]	A
17	George Kolodiy [GK]	A
18	Craig Konyk [CK]	E
19	Barbara Lee [BL]	P
20	Holly Logue [HL]	P
21	Mahshid Namazi [MN]	E
22	Don Marks [DM]	P
23	Marguerite Mayhall [MM] [on Sabbatical] Brid Nicholson attending	P
24	Judy Pena [JP]	A
25	Nicole Rodriguez [NR]	A
26	Andrea Rosa [AR]	P



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27	Dina Rosen [DR]	P
28	Benito Sanchez [BS]	P
29	Gail Verdi [GV]	P
30	Jane Webber [JW]	E

P = Present **A** = Absent **E** = Excused

Student Representatives:

1	Glynnis Tan
2	

Guests:

1	Dr. David Birdsell, Provost & Senior Vice President
2	Dr. Michael Salvatore, Senior Vice President of Administration
3	Joy Moskovitz – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
4	Dr. Jonathan Mercantini – Acting Associate Provost for Special Projects
5	Dr Sara Compion - Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
6	Dr. Bridie Chapman, Acting Associate Dean
7	Dr. Christopher Bellitto
8	Dr. James Castiglione – KFT Pres.
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