



# KEAN

## FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES 21 November 2023 3:15PM-4:15PM. CAS Room 106 [In Person]

### Audience 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 3:17PM.

### **I. Approval of the 10/31/23 Full Senate Meeting Minutes.**

MA made a motion to approve the Minutes. DM seconded the motion.

All were in Favor – **Minutes approved by a vote of 20 to 0 of those Senators present in CAS 106.**

### **II. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote**

#### A. Counseling, M.A.: School Counseling Option

- I. Ch-SA notified the Full Senate of the UCC approval of the Counseling, M.A.: School Counseling Option. JW noted that the changes incurred in the program are an increase from 48 to 60 in the Credits for this Option, and that this was mandated by their Accrediting Body.

II.

### **III. Old Business (None)**

### **IV. New Business**

#### A. Africana Studies Minor

Ch-SA invited Co-Director of Africana Studies Minor, Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson to speak to the Full Senate regarding the moving of the Africana Studies Minor from the Department of Political Science and Cultural Studies (DPSCS) to the newly formed Division of General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies (DGEIS). Dr. Boyd-Jackson stated that Africana Studies remains a vulnerable program, struggles as a marginalized program and that it has been throughout its tenure harboring a need to become a Major program within the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), as other programs have. Dr. SB-J argued that Africana Studies rightful place is in the DPSCS, as it needs to remain within an Academic Department. Indeed, she offered that Dr. Kalasia Ojeh was hired because of her expertise in Africana Studies and she is now the coordinator as of Fall 2023. Dr. Ojeh and the new EIA fellow, Dr. Camille Dantzler (who has recently left Kean), added to the faculty expertise needed to develop a solid academic standing for the Africana Studies Minor. Dr. SB-J requested of Ch-SA if she could read a prepared statement. Ch-SA allowed this statement to be read into the record:



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*“As the Interim Director of Africana studies for the past year, I believe I have an important viewpoint and information regarding this essential minor program. I would like to speak in support of the Africana Studies Minor remaining in The Department of Political, Social and Cultural Sciences. The Africana Studies Minor has been vulnerable and its vulnerability at Kean U. has mirrored the state of Africana Studies in higher education – an intellectual discipline that has been marked as inconsequential and lacking in value. I am here to state that Africana Studies at Kean University has been vulnerable for too long.*

*The Minor, like Africana Studies nationwide, has not received adequate academic support since the struggle for it to become a Minor and yet, it is this very struggle to which Africana Studies commenced FIRST at Kean that allowed for other marginalized disciplines to benefit from and follow. It created the path forward for the other collateral programs to seek the academic status as minors as well.*

*The program has been housed within in Sociology and Anthropology since its inception in the 1960’s to only be moved to the IDS program within the last seven years. As a minor program I strongly suggest it should remain within an academic department that can support the strengthening of the curriculum, research, and student needs related to the Africana philosophy. When I stepped in as Interim Director, I informed Jonathan that there was a need to reorganize the curriculum and academic structure. There was no intellectual investment like other Africana Studies Programs that have become academic majors and departments. I can truthfully say that I do not know why changes in the academic structure was not completed before now. Under the leadership in the past 7 – 10 years or so no one has challenged the need to shore-up the academic structure. I reviewed the curriculum and realized that the required/core courses specific to Africana Studies were titled under an (ANTH) Anthropology prefix. I again spoke with Jonathan who tried to discourage me from making any significant changes. However, for Africana Studies to thrive as an academic minor it must be in an academic department with academic faculty.*

*And yet, as Kean’s leadership pushes for highly rated leadership and scholars in academic fields and claims to recruit leading and emerging scholars in their fields to be here, I can’t understand how moving an academic program out of an academic department to which there are no teaching faculty who are emerging scholars nor scholars in Africana studies would provide our students and/or Kean the notoriety it seeks. We do not want to mimic a K-12 Scenario where Out-of-Field teaching becomes the blueprint for Kean’s world-class education.*

*Or do we?*

*I want to further note that academics must come first and that is what I did despite many past and continuing challenges. I worked collectively on upgrading four courses that are important to the core curriculum of Africana Studies, with two Africana studies adjacent faculty. Dr. Ojeh who now coordinates the program and Dr. Camille Danzler who left Kean for reasons I will not speak about here. The courses have not been updated since 2017. I would like to see our work utilized for the benefit and growth of the Africana Studies Minor. As we strive to improve the academic programming of the discipline why does the minor receive undue recourse for building a stronger and more academic-facing curriculum? I would also like to know why only the Africana Studies travel-*



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*learn course has been approved and not the other three substantive, theoretical and methodological courses that were updated.*

*Nevertheless, my argument for the Africana Studies Minor to remain in the Department of Political, Social and Cultural Sciences is grounded in the following:*

- 1. First and foremost, the Africana Studies Minor's ideology, philosophy and academic content is more closely aligned with this department in terms of its Social, Cultural and Political content.*
- 2. Second, all minors are and should be located within academic departments that are most closely aligned with its academic content and ideology.*
- 3. Third, academic departments have curriculum committees to guide their minor and major courses within their own expertise of content. Africana studies needs to be in an academic department with faculty who have expertise within the subject matter.*
- 4. Fourth, those current experts have or will publish books on the Black Intellectual tradition that foregrounds them as experts in the field of Africana Studies and because of this the quality of instruction, the quality of teaching, and the quality of student success increases. I think it is important for our students to succeed in a space where they feel valued.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Boyd-Jackson, PhD.  
Associate Professor"*

Ch-SA invited Dr. Charles Boateng to offer any thoughts on this topic. Dr. Boateng felt that there is a long rich history dating back to the first Afrology Studies at San Francisco State College in 1964, where these programs were housed in Political Science, Sociology and/or Anthropology Departments. The African-American/Black American experience has a uniquely rich history of political and civil rights movements.

CB asked an open question; "Who is moving the Africana Studies Minor to DGEIS?"

Dr. Birdsell responded that it was the provost's decision to do so, and he offered four reasons for doing so. First, this new Division of General Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies gathers together Minors that would benefit from being together with other Interdisciplinary Studies offerings, thus strengthening the whole of Interdisciplinary Studies. Different disciplines benefit when common objects of study are looked at from different points of view.

Secondly, Africana Studies has been striving to become a Major for 40 years, but to no avail. Currently there are only 6 Africana Studies students enrolled in the Minor. Dr. Birdsell desires to eliminate the "invisibility" of Minors at



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Kean and to strengthen Minors as a student choice. The decision to create DGEIS and include Africana Studies was a way to elevate the visibility of the Africana Studies Minor.

Third, a desire not to maintain the status quo, but rather to have the Minors follow the Directors of the Minors and still have an interdisciplinary relationship to other Minors. Interdisciplinary Minors come to a place where all the other Minors live.

Fourth, and lastly, Social Science, Political Science and Cultural Studies are not the only places where Africana Studies have affinities for. Everyone knows that the Africana Studies Minor is in need of reform, as witnessed by the hiring of Dr. Ojeh and what that represents. Indeed, Dr. Birdsell stated that other areas of the University are engaged in Africana Studies related research, specifically Dr. Nurse in the Department of Marketing, Global Business and Economics and Dr. Locke in Physical Therapy who is doing Health Disparity Research and engaging expertise located in other areas of the University is one of the goals of DGEIS. Dr. Birdsell observed that the fastest growth in population is in Africa and this means new opportunities for Global Business and other development opportunities for our students, and our programs should be addressing that fact. The goal is not to disrespect Africana Studies, but rather to enhance its visibility to harness these opportunities.

Dr. SB-J stated that Black education is a top concern, and the study of Black intellectual thought is a primary goal of the Africana Studies Minor. She questioned why Africana Studies was earmarked for transference to the new non-academic division of DGEIS, while other Minors, such as Jewish Studies and Asian Studies were allowed to remain in CLA. Dr. Birdsell replied that it is the ultimate goal to have all Minors reside in a supportive academic area, such as DGEIS once finalized. The goal is to reach and include all of the resident and related expertise that exists University-wide. Dr. Boateng asked why there was not a respect for the expertise where it currently resides as originally described as a Social Science, Political Science and Cultural Studies home?

Dr. SB-J felt that this migration of Africana Studies to DGEIS instead plays into the trend in Florida where Black studies is under attack by the governor, as witnessed by the laws passed recently on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 there. Dr. SB-J stated:

*"The removal of Black Studies in academic public institutions (2022 - Stop Woke Act) in Florida is a concern. They are now going after the Intro to Sociology requirement for GE in all public universities in Florida as of this month. I question whether or not Kean University wants to be on the wrong side of history regarding these changes."*

Dr. Birdsell reacted strongly to any assertion that this movement of Africana Studies into the new DGEIS was anything close to the Florida example, as he stated instead it is an attempt to strengthen and fortify Africana Studies and its potential to reach more students and more area expertise University-wide.



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AS asked if instead there could be a growth strategy for Interdisciplinary Minors that will allow Kean to emulate how other Universities house their Minor offerings.

DC offered that while it was a laudable goal to support growth in ID Minors, the argument could be made that the new Division of DGEIS has a director without tenured faculty, and thus no active governance. Dr. Birdsell countered that the interim plan is for split responsibilities with other College Faculty and to accelerate work with Dr. Compion, but he countered that in the past 30 months since he has been appointed Provost, he has seen zero emails promoting Africana Studies to students or other interested parties to get more faculty and student involvement from across the Interdisciplinary spectrum. Greater transparency and greater opportunities are part of the goal here.

Dr. SB-J felt that the decision to relocate Africana Studies could have been better discussed with the affected parties prior to the decision being made. She is not understanding the due process followed in the switch without first an important discussion and debate being had.

In the interest of time limitations, Ch-Sa recommended discussion of the next agenda item.

### B. Division of General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies

- Representation on Senate Committees
- Curriculum Committee for DGEIS

Dr. Chapman offered this working model for the Curriculum Committee for DGEIS:

*Curriculum Committee for the Division of General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies (DGEIS) would include one representative from General Education, one representative from Interdisciplinary Studies and one representative from each College. The minor or course would follow the standard curricular approval process from there.*

*For minors this would be: DGEIS curriculum committee, the DGEIS Assoc Dean, GE Faculty Senate committee, University Curriculum Committee, Provost; Senate, Registrar. For courses this would be: DGEIS curriculum committee, the DGEIS Assoc Dean, GE Faculty Senate committee (GE courses only), Provost, Senate, Registrar.*

*We can adjust this process as needed, the process for the major restructuring of the GE Program as outlined in the UCC manual will continue to be followed. This curriculum committee structure can be revisited, as appropriate, as part of the preliminary review stage when we are ready to proceed with the new GE curriculum. (See page 47 of the UCC manual for more details.)."*

Ch-Sa observed that Minors are primarily in the Liberal Arts, but many of the GE are in the STEM areas. Her question; should there be more representation from CLA over other departments?



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She also wondered why General Education was moved out of CLA. The UCC Manual is clear about developing of courses without Senate oversight. She observed this change involves 30 to 45 credits of course instruction.

Dr. Chapman replied that the model is for it to operate much like the General Education Committee used to run, with similar representation. She also felt that the University Faculty is too taxed for time for to be asking them for additional Committee responsibilities at this time.

DM and CA asked if perhaps the Senate needed to await the report from the General Education Task Force. They also asked if perhaps there was a need for an Ad-Hoc Senate committee on General Education. Departments need to be self-sustaining.

James Castiglione of the KFT cautioned that the new DGEIS has only Lecturer representation and the new LoA for Lecturers not in academic departments to serve on this committee. He asked all parties be mindful of the impact on our Lecturer colleagues.

Ch-Sa felt the topic merited additional discussion and suggested continuing that discussion at the next Full Senate Meeting.

C. Items from the floor *[none offered, no time]*

### V. Future Items for Discussion

- A. Update from General Education Task Force and General Education Senate Committee.
- B. Update from Retention and Admissions Committee and Distance Learning Committee.
- C. Division of Transformational Learning & Online Education Initiatives.

### Motion to Adjourn

Ch-SA requests a motion to adjourn the meeting. JW made a motion to adjourn. GV seconded the motion. **Meeting adjourned at 4:27pm**

### VI. Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – Zoom, 3:15 p.m.

Full Senate Meeting – Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 3:15 p.m. – In-person with live Zoom feed for attendees.

Complete meeting schedule for fall semester:

[https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedules-executive-committee-and-full-senate.](https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedules-executive-committee-and-full-senate)



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### 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]	A
12	Rachel Evans [RE]	P
13	Daniel Gover [DG]	P zoom
14	Aaron Gubi [AG]	P zoom
15	Matthew Halper [MH]	P
16	Maria Ingelmo [MI]	A
17	George Kolodiy [GK]	A
18	Craig Konyk [CK]	P
19	Barbara Lee [BL]	P
20	Holly Logue [HL]	P
21	Mahshid Namazi	A
22	Don Marks [DM]	P
23	Marguerite Mayhall [MM]	P
24	Judy Pena [JP]	P zoom
25	Nicole Rodriguez [NR]	P zoom
26	Andrea Rosa [AR]	P zoom
27	Dina Rosen [DR]	P
28	Benito Sanchez [BS]	P [Alt]
29	Gail Verdi [GV]	P
30	Jane Webber [JW]	P

P = Present

A = Absent

E = Excused



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### In Person Student Representatives:

1	Glynnis Tan
2	

### In Person Guests:

1	Dr. Michael Salvatore – Senior VP [MS]
2	Joy Moskowitz – Assoc. VPAA [JM] <a href="#">[zoom]</a>
3	Robyn Roebuck – VPAA Office
4	Dr. Jonathan Mercantini – Assoc. VPAA
5	Dr. Sara Compion <a href="#">[zoom]</a>
6	Dr. Bridie Chapman
7	Dr. David Birdsell - VPAA
8	James A. Castiglione - KFT
9	Renalison Farias Pereira
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