

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025****4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL**

PRESENT: Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice Chair, Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, Alan Markman, Ada Morell, A. Todd Mayo, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barara Sobel, Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: David Spevack, Richard Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Jerome Hatfield, Felice Vazquez, Joseph Youngblood

Chair Fastook called the meeting to order at approximately 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 thanked them for joining today’s session. He formally congratulated the President and the Kean community for its hard work which led to the recent naming as an R2 Carnegie research designation. He noted the university continues to progress to the next level. The Chair said he is excited about the combined Commencement ceremony for all Kean graduates planned for Tuesday, May 13th. And, he noted the Executive Committee had met in late December to consider a request by Liberty Hall Museum to update their bylaws to allow for the expansion of the Board to support fundraising efforts and approved that request.

4. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

President Repollet welcomed everyone to the public meeting and he followed the Chair’s remarks on the R2 designation with some personal observations of his own. He noted the entire university came together behind this vision for R2, and that it had its roots in his conversations with Kean’s former provost and vice president for research Dr. Jeff Toney. He thanked the faculty, administrators, alumni and others for their support. And he personally applauded the Board of Trustees for their leadership on this issue, noting it would likely never happen without their support.

The President also noted that he and group of students and members of the Kean community would be traveling to South Africa on Spring Break for a human rights focused Travelearn led by Ndaba Mandela. He said the students will present on this incredible opportunity when they return.

The President acknowledged that there may be a tough budget year ahead as the Governor’s budget proposal does not provide any increased funding for higher education, and in some cases makes cuts to higher education funding. He said there are months of negotiations ahead and he will keep the community and the Board updated. He also noted that Kean has submitted a proposal to NJCU in response to their request for proposals from institutions interested in merging or managing their campus. NJCU will select the proposal it wants to pursue later this week, the president said, and when we know their decision, the campus will know.

The President then introduced SVP Michael Salvatore, Ph.D., who gave a presentation on the University’s journey to R2 Carnegie status. A copy of his report will be kept with the minutes.

The President then introduced Provost David Birdsell, Ph.D., who gave a brief overview of a pilot project in General Education, and then introduced Drs. Laura Baecher and Bridie Chapman, who presented on the initiative in detail and introduced several students who participated in the program. Those students shared their experiences with the Board members.

The President thanked the students for sharing their experiences, and let the Board know that concluded his report.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speaker: Holly Logue, who serves as the University Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.

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

Trustee Mayo noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board. He then moved the following items:

- 6.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative
- 6.2 Resolution Approving the Adoption of the Kean University Export Control Policy
- 6.3 Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property from the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority to the Kean University Board of Trustees
- 6.4 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and

Bidding for Legal Services

<u>Legal Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose, LTD	\$200,000

- 6.5 Resolution Rescinding the Current Kean University Title IX Policy and Reverting to the University's 2020 Title IX Policy and Guidelines in Compliance with Federal Requirements

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

7. **ITEMS 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 and enrollment matters. Trustee Lewis moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

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

<u>Personnel Recruitment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Technosolutions (Slate)	\$120,000

- 7.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Advertising Recruitment Services in FY25, FY26

<u>Advertising, Recruitment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Outfront Media	\$650,000 (fy26)
New York Yankees	\$420,000 (total for fy25 & fy26)
Clear Channel Outdoor	\$235,000 (fy26)

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

8. **ITEMS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Trustee Fastook, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss several items, including the annual audit. He noted that for the fourth year in a row the University received a clean audit with no major deficiencies. He applauded the President and the CFO, and their staff, for their hard work in this area. He moved the following resolution:

- 8.1 Resolution Accepting the FY24 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Kean University Prepared by PFK O'Connor Davies

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was 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:

- 9.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 9.2 First Year Faculty Reappointments
- 9.3 Faculty Promotions
- 9.4 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of Master of Science in Environmental Management Program
- 9.5 Resolution Updating and Expanding the Policy for Graduate and Doctoral Student Assistantships
- 9.6 Resolutions Authorizing and Amending Waivers of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY25

<u>Technical Equipment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
EMD Millipore	\$160,000

<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Exxat, LLC	\$320,000 (fy24-fy26 total amount)

<u>Professional Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
McAllister & Quinn	\$100,000

- 9.7 Resolution Authorizing the University to Accept a Grant from the NJ Department of Education

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

10. ITEMS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 Resolutions Authorizing and Amending Waivers of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY25

<u>Entertainment/Commencement</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
The Prudential Center	\$160,000
<u>Professional Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
KLR Agency	\$294,000 (amends fy25)
<u>Insurance</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Willis Towers Watson Northeast	\$182,000 (amends fy25)

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on any of the resolutions or bid waivers recommended by the Finance Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

11. **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.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 4:45 p.m..

13. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 8:15 p.m.

14. **FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MARCH 3, 2025**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2025 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.