

APPROVED

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KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL

PRESENT: Ada Morell, Chair; Michael D’Agostino, Vice-Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Steve Fastook, Linda Lewis, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Richard Trabert; Student Trustee Kristen Failla; Dr. Dawood Farahi, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Toney, Felice Vazquez, Marsha McCarthy, Maximina Rivera, Karen Smith, Michelle Freestone

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 Morell welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted the 2018 Commencement ceremonies will take place May 15 and May 17 respectively, and she encouraged all to participate in these events which recognize the hard work of our students. She also encouraged participation in the June 14th Kean Gala, noting support helps provide assistance to students through scholarship. Chair Morell also thanked the trustees for their time, dedication and support and wished everyone an early Happy Mother’s Day.

4. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

President Farahi noted there was a large group in the audience with concerns about the reorganization of the Teaching Performance Center. He explained that enrollment in the College of Education has dropped by 30%; as such, the university needs to identify and embrace more innovative ways to enhance programs and student performance. He emphasized the need to focus on the success of students—their recruitment, their supervision and their placement. The best decision, he noted, is to establish a full-time operation where employees are responsible for counseling students, supervising students and placing students. The assignment will be more comprehensive.

President Farahi then introduced Dr. Jeffrey Toney, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, who provided an overview of the University’s Research Days as

well as an overview on how research improves graduation rates. Dr. Toney noted it is the 10th anniversary of Research Days at Kean; he reported the data related to Research Days shows participation by students and faculty has increased dramatically—from 92 students to 810 students today at Kean, plus another 180 students from Wenzhou-Kean University. He noted many of students who participate in Research Days go on to successful placement in prestigious graduate and doctoral research programs across the country. He also reported that graduation rates for students who participate in research initiatives are extremely high, at 4.4 years overall and in excess of 92 percent at five years.

The Board also heard from the undergraduate student researcher of the year, Ms. Sarah Mack, a senior in the environmental biology at Kean who reviewed briefly with the Board her research in crop development, as well as lake pollution. She was introduced by her faculty adviser Dr. Dongyan Mu. A short video summarizing Research Days also was shown. Copies of these presentations will be filed in the Board office.

Dr. Farahi then introduced Felice Vazquez, Special Counsel to the President and Vice President for Planning, who provided an overview of recent work by the Human Rights Institute at Kean University. Ms. Vazquez introduced the new Human Rights Institute director, Dr. Laretta Farrell, and her student team. Together, they reviewed the work they have been engaging in throughout the year. Ms. Farrell provided highlights of the annual human rights conference, along with four students from the HRI.

Dr. Farahi then introduced Maximina Rivera, associate vice president for student affairs, who advised the Board on two projects embraced by Kean students related to raising funds for Veterans Services and Children's Specialized Hospital. Students raised in excess of \$11,000 to support the training of a service dog to be assigned to a student veteran at Kean. Students also raised in excess of \$53,000 this year, the largest amount ever, for Children's Specialized Hospital. Ms. Riviera also reported on two major awards earned by Kean University this year: Kean will be recognized as a "Hope Honoree" by the NJ Community Food Bank, and in April received the American Conference on Diversity Award for Inclusivity and Education.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speakers: Patrick Ippolito, Nancy Zimmerman, Amber Eckenrode, Catherine Branco, David Joiner, Monica Nieves, Caleb Dagnall, Gail Wovna, Anita DeRosa, Patricia Tartivita, Marie Krupinski, Maria Cruz, Shlomo Tenenbaum, Kevin Willey, Mary Claire Lordi, Abigail Ragan, Ariana Robinson, James Castiglione, Joe Pizza, Samantha Bernardi, Michael Medeiros, David Reeseg, Kenneth Villiani, Kenneth May, John Farinella,

and Michael Clark. The majority of speakers voiced their concerns related to plans to reorganize the Teaching Performance Center. President Farahi briefly responded that the University will continue its support for professional development system for teachers in training, and will make the strategic investments needed to make the system more efficient and more effective for Kean students. Comments, where provided in writing, are kept on file in the Board office.

6. ITEMS OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

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

- 6.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 6.2 Returning Lecturers
- 6.3 Range Adjustments
- 6.4 Sabbatical Recommendations for AY 2019
- 6.5 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a new Certificate Program in Digital Leadership
- 6.6 Resolution Accepting External Grant Awards from the New Jersey Department of Education
- 6.7 Resolution Authorizing the University to Enter Into a Reciprocal Admission and Transfer Agreement with Morgan State University

The Chair asked the Board if they had any questions on each of the agenda items from the APP Committee. Each item and resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

7. ITEMS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Linda Lewis noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action item now before the Board for consideration. She then moved the following resolution for Board consideration:

- 7.1 Resolution Authorizing an Appointment to the Wenzhou-Kean University Board of Directors

The Chair asked the Board if they had any questions on the agenda item from the Governance Committee. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board, with Trustee Ed Oatman abstaining.

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

Trustee Matthew McDermott, committee member, noted the committee had met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board for consideration. He then moved the items and resolution for Board consideration:

- 8.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report
- 8.2 Professional Staff Reappointments
- 8.3 Resolution Authorizing a Waiver for Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Services in FY18 and FY19

<u>Professional Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Boyer Souza	\$50,000

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

9. **ITEMS OF THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEES**

Trustee Bistocchi, Committee Chair, noted the committees met earlier in the day to review various items including several forwarded to the Board for consideration. He moved each of the following items for consideration:

- 9.1 Resolution Approving the Sale of Kean University Surplus Property Through GovDeals.com
- 9.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for FY18, FY19

<u>Professional Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Heartland ECSI	\$45,000 FY18 \$45,000 FY19

<u>Insurance Coverage</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
CIGNA	\$2,000,000

- 9.3 Resolution Amending the Graduation Incentive Program for Students Who Complete Their Degrees in Summer Session

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on any of the agenda items from the Finance and Audit Committees. Each item was seconded and approved by the full Board.

10. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Michael D’Agostino, Committee Chair, noted the committee met earlier in the day to discuss several items, including a resolution on the full Board agenda. He then moved the following resolution for Board consideration:

- 10.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Professional Services in FY19

<u>Professional Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Saphire + Albarran Architecture, LLC	\$293,250

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on the agenda item from the Facilities and Maintenance Committee. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

11. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Richard Trabert, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss various student affairs, athletics and enrollment programs and issues. Mr. Trabert moved the following resolution for Board consideration:

- 11.1 Resolution Approving a Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Advertising Services in FY19

<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Modo Labs	\$42,500

The Chair asked for questions on the bid waiver. The bid waiver resolution was then seconded, and approved by the full Board.

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 6:18 p.m.

14. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 8:00 p.m.

15. SHORT BREAK

Chair Morell asked for a short break to allow the minutes of this meeting to be reviewed by the Board for approval.

16. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 7, 2018

Chair Morell requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 7, 2018 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 8:15 p.m.