

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024****4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL**

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

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Linda Lewis, Barbara Sobel, Richard Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Matt Caruso, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Marsha McCarthy, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Dr. Joseph Youngblood, Kelly Williams, Felice Vazquez

The meeting began at @ 4:05 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 began by introducing the alternate Student Trustee Cylia Blackmon and welcoming her to the Board. He also welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on making it to the end of another successful academic year. He invited everyone to the upcoming university wide Commencement Ceremonies.

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Repollet noted that it is his favorite time of year—Commencement Season. Last week, the University celebrated honors convocation, Lavender Graduation for the LGBTQIA community, and the 3th Annual African Heritage Ceremony. He noted these ceremonies reflect who Kean is as a university, and give our students and their families a chance to celebrate not only their academic accomplishments but also the social and cultural contributions they make to the University community.

Next week are the two university-wide ceremonies—Graduate and Undergraduate, he noted. He celebrated the Commencement Speakers for each ceremony—Abby

Philip of CNN for Graduate and Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson for Undergraduate and thanked the faculty who signed up to attend the ceremonies and the employees who volunteered to marshal and work at the two ceremonies. The community comes together to support our students, he said, and for that I am grateful.

The President congratulated Head Baseball Coach Neil Ioviero on this recent 800th win with the men's baseball team. He noted Neil has been with Kean for 27 seasons, and has always demonstrated remarkable dedication to his players and our University.

The President then noted he had three presentations to share with the Board that highlight the breadth of talent here at Kean University—from academics to international relationships to art.

He welcomed Reenat Munshi from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to share the highlights of the recent Research Days. Ms. Munshi shared a short video that provided an overview of the weeklong celebration of faculty and student research collaborations. She then introduced for remarks the Faculty Researchers of the Year: Dr. Jenna Tucker of Physical Therapy; Dr. Iyad Ghanim of Communication Sciences and Disorders; and Dr. Nazif Durmaz of the Economics department.

She also introduced the Student Researchers of the Year: Siyun Yang, the Undergraduate Researcher of Year from Natural Sciences; Tristram Dacayan, Undergraduate Student Researcher of the Year for Formal Sciences; and, Meghan Dowdell, Doctoral Student Researcher of the Year. The Board and the public heard from the students and faculty on their specific areas of research.

President Repollet then asked Senior Vice President Felice Vazquez to share an overview of the University's growing TravelLearn program, which allows student to earn credits serving on projects connected with national and international destinations. Ms. Vazquez gave a short overview of the program, and introduced Jessica Barzilay, assistant vice president of Global Initiatives. Ms. Barzilay shared a video overview of recent travel learn programs, featuring the experiences of students. She noted that since September 2023, 175 Kean students have gone abroad to study—and there are more to come this summer. Ms. Barzilay asked audience members who had participated in Travel Learns to stand—and the large group received a round of applause.

President Repollet then introduced Associate Vice President Dr. Lynette Zimmerman for a presentation on the work of the Liberty Hall Academic Center and the Kean Galleries. Dr. Zimmerman shared a presentation that highlighted the artists and the programming taking place on campus and planned for the future. She also noted the significant increase in school visits at the Galleries and the expanded programming that had attracted community interest in summer camps

and other programming. She also shared a video of all the Kean students who work with the Galleries program and support the various art initiatives.

President Repollet thanked Dr. Zimmerman, and all of the presenters, for their work and their presentations at the meeting. He also applauded Dean Sancha Gray and Dean Jin Wang for their recent STEAM conference held in Wenzhou, China which brought together education and business leaders from both sides for dialogue on how to expand relations.

A copy of the presentations will be kept with the minutes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments offered at the meeting.

6. 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 moved the following item:

- 6.1 Resolution Expressing Gratitude to Wakefern Food Corp. for their Generous Gift Honoring their Former President/COO Joseph Sheridan '80, and Naming the 6th Floor Board Room of Hynes Hall in His Honor

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. He noted Mr. Sheridan is a Kean graduate and a strong supporter of the University, its students and its mission. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

7. ITEM OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair Fastook noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board for consideration. He then moved the following items:

- 7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative
- 7.2 Professional Staff Reappointments
- 7.3 Resolution Approving and Adopting a Modified Tenure Timeline Due to Qualifying Life Event Policy

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

8. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

- 8.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Utilities for FY25

| <u>Utilities</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| PSEG | \$7,000,000 |
| NJ American Water | \$2,000,000 |
| Township of Union Public Works | \$ 1,100,000 |
| Elizabethtown Gas | \$ 950,000 |
| Jersey Central Power and Light | \$ 230,000 |

- 8.2 Resolution Recognizing and Confirming Expenditures Related to the March 15, 2024 Fire Emergency at Kean University

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the Board. Trustee Little-Mathews recused herself from the vote on the utilities bid waiver.

9. **ITEMS OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND AUDIT COMMITTEES**

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

- 9.1 Resolution Authorizing the University to Pursue Short-Term Financing for the Upgrade and Expansion of the Campus Security Camera System
- 9.2 Resolution Authorizing the President to Continue the Learn, and Persist (LEAP) Grant in FY25 to Assist High-Achieving Students at Kean
- 9.3 Resolution Establishing Tuition and Fees for the Kean University Child Care Center Effective July 1, 2024
- 9.4 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY24

| <u>Information Technology</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ellucian | \$2,000,000 (amends fy24) |
| Daktronics | \$120,000 |

| <u>Commencement/Entertainment</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Barnes and Noble | \$650,000 |
| Party Line Tent Rentals | \$175,000 |

9.5 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY25

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|---|-----------------------------|
| <u>Information Technology</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
| TouchNet Info Systems, Inc. | \$124,000 |
| <u>Recruitment, Advertising</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
| New York Jets LLC | \$750,000 (total fy25-fy27) |
| <u>Commencement/Student Supplies</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
| Barnes and Noble | \$450,000 |

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had questions on each of the resolutions and bid waivers recommended by the joint Finance and Audit Committees. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

10. 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:

- 10.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 10.2 Returning Lecturers
- 10.3 Sabbatical Recommendations for AY 2025
- 10.4 Range Adjustment Recommendations for AY 2025
- 10.5 Resolution Updating and Adopting the Kean University Policy on Academic Probation and Dismissal
- 10.6 Resolution Updating and Adopting the Kean University Policy on Credit Load Expectations for Full- and Half-Time Courses
- 10.7 Resolution Updating and Adopting the Kean University Course Repeat and Grade Recalculation Policy
- 10.8 Resolution Honoring Dr. Susan Polirstok and Bestowing the Honor of Professor Emerita
- 10.9 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Various Library Services in FY25

| <u>Library Services</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| EBSCO Industries | \$497,500 |
| VALE/NJ EDGE | \$449,600 |
| LYRASIS | \$236,500 |
| Online Computer | \$137,500 |
| Library Center (OCLC) | |

- 10.10 Resolution Amending an Amended Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for NJ-DECA Initiatives in Fy24

| <u>DECA Programming</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Caesars Entertainment Properties | \$1,500,000 |

11. ITEMS OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

- 11.1 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Consulting Services in FY24

| <u>Professional Consulting</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Evergreen TLC, LLC | \$275,500 |

The Chair asked if there were questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

12. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair Fastook noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action items now before the Board for consideration. He moved each of the following:

- 12.1 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY24

| <u>Info Tech, Recruitment</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| SWISH, LLC | \$1,150,000 |

- 12.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY24

| <u>Advertising</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Pandora Media, LLC (dba SXM MEDIA) | \$120,000 |

- 12.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY25

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Info Tech, Recruitment</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
| SWISH, LLC | \$1,300,000 |

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the 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 5:15 p.m.
15. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**
The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:15 p.m.
16. **FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 6, 2024**
Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 6, 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 7:25 p.m.