



**UNIVERSITY SENATE RESOLUTION  
COURSE CAPS INCREASES – SPRING 2023**

**# 2023-01**

**WHEREAS** Kean University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence; and

**WHEREAS** the Kean University Senate is the official representative body of the academic faculty and staff; and

**WHEREAS** course caps are determined by faculty during the course approval process of the universally-applicable curriculum procedures overseen by the Senate, where such decisions are based on best practices in pedagogy and delivery practices to maximize the opportunity for student success; and

**WHEREAS** scaling up class size impacts the faculty's ability to provide effective student learning and inconsistent with the university's mission and vision; and

**Whereas** a large body of peer-reviewed scholarship confirms the negative impact of increasing class size on student learning; and

**WHEREAS** course caps for a large number of face-to-face courses and all online courses were changed just days before the start of the Spring 2023 semester; and

**WHEREAS** the University Senate opposes unilateral changes to class caps at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour without consultation with faculty and department leadership.

**WHEREAS** the faculty and department heads in general, and those faculty serving the Senate as its officers in particular, are available to interact with the administration expediently to avoid disruptions at a later date; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that when unexpected circumstances lead to the consideration of an emergency change in an enrollment cap—defined as any change outside the normal Senate Curriculum process—that any modifications be made to existing class enrollment caps only in *and after* full consultation with department leadership, the University Senate Chair and Chair of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the administration improve its course scheduling and enrollment forecasting to meet expected demand and avoid a similar scenario in the future.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Provost and the administration engage in a dialogue with the university senate and faculty at the colleges and departments for mutually agreeable and equitable course caps. The course cap issue should be resolved by April 10, 2023.

On behalf of the University Senate,

*Sucheta Ahlawat*

Sucheta Ahlawat – Chair, University Senate

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstain: 3

February 7, 2023