

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020****4 p.m. VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

PRESENT ONLINE: Ada Morell, Chair; Michael D'Agostino, Vice-Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Helyn Payne Baltimore, Steve Fastook, Dave Gibbons, John Kean Jr., Linda Lewis, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Richard Trabert; Student Trustee Kayla Asare; Jason Pleitez, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Dawood Farahi, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Freestone, Chris Rustick, Felice Vazquez

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, noting that although the meeting is virtual and the setting a bit different than in the past, all are welcome and the Board appreciates the attendance. She also noted that everyone is living through difficult times right now, personally and professionally, but emphasized that if the University community works together Kean will come out stronger for it. She encouraged everyone to stay safe and healthy.

4. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Farahi began by discussing how quickly the University community adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and worked day and night to get education online so students could complete the academic semester. He noted that Commencement will take place virtually on May 29th, to celebrate the more than 3900 students scheduled to graduate this year. He noted in the future the University may be able to hold college-based ceremonies for the class of 2020 when the emergency is lifted.

Dr. Farahi noted more than 1,700 students participated this year in Annual Research Days. The celebration was a virtual one but all persons were able to share their research and accomplishments with an audience that drew thousands online. Dr. Farahi also noted the recent appointment of Kean's new Campus Safety Director Anthony Monticello, a Kean graduate.

President Farahi then advised that Covid-19 pandemic has been dramatic, drastic and in some ways a tragic event for Kean University and for the entire state and country. Specifically for Kean, the state reduced their support to public universities in the last quarter of the fiscal by 50%; the university needed to reimburse students for housing and dining; and revenue streams for camps, rental and shows among other things dried up instantaneously. The change created an immediate \$20 million deficit that needs to be closed. He projected a budget shortfall of at least \$15 million for the FY21 fiscal year. The bigger problem is the residential facilities, he said, noting even if Kean embarks on some use of the facilities this fall it will not be used in the current format and therefore expenses will outpace revenue. He also anticipated a reduction of at least 500 FTE students this fall because of the circumstances. Our revenue sources will be taxed, he said.

There are difficult and unpleasant decisions that need to be made for a balanced budget for FY21, President Farahi said, including the elimination of programs, the reduction of force, and the furloughing of some employees in areas that cannot currently be offered. We need to focus on what is best for students and institution, Dr Farahi said, and focus on what is fair for the students and the university. Kean will make it through, he said, but it will not be easy. He noted the Vice Presidents have been assigned to cut about \$8 million in total from their divisions; the budget presented in June will have these details.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speakers: Karen Wright-Borkowski, Lewis Kachur, James Castiglione, Daniel Gover, Christopher Lynch, Joanna Lopez, Connie Hassett Walker, Jacquelyn Tuerk-Stonberg, David Joiner, Joseph Field, Marguerite Mayhall, Robert Fagella, Thomas Abraham, Timothy J. Rivera, Cheyenne Thompson, Eric Miele, Emily Filardo, Melissa Merritt Russo, Gabriel Alexander, and Craig Donovan.

Where provided, copies of the speakers' comments will be kept on file in the Board office. Dr. Farahi commented after the speakers just how difficult the budget decisions are for everyone, but noted the University cannot continue to support initiatives that no one is interested in; he emphasized the changes must be made to balance the budget.

6. **ITEM OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Lewis, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to review various items. She then moved the following item for Board consideration:

6.1 Resolution Recognizing and Confirming the Declaration of a State of Emergency at Kean University

Chair Morell asked the Board if they had any questions on the resolution, which

confirms the state of emergency declared at Kean in early March. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

7. ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Trustee Gibbons, Committee Chair, 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:

7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report

7.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Professional Services in FY20, 21

| <u>Professional Services</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saiber LLC | \$50,000 (Both FY20 & FY21) |
| Weber Dowd Law, LLC | \$50,000 |
| Boyer Suozzo | \$80,000 |

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

8. 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 resolutions for Board consideration:

8.1 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Recruitment for FY21

| <u>Recruitment</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AdmitHub, Inc. | \$75,000 |
| College Board | \$115,000 |
| Hobson's | \$125,000 |
| NRCCUA | \$215,000 |

8.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Advertising and Recruitment for FY21

| <u>Advertising</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clear Channel Outdoor | \$75,000 |
| Lamar Advertising | \$60,000 |
| Outfront Media | \$90,000 |

The Chair opened discussion for questions on the bid waiver resolutions. The resolutions were seconded, and approved by the full Board.

9. **ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Michael D'Agostino, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss various items including the following resolution on the Board agenda. He moved the resolution for Board consideration:

9.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising
For Utilities for FY21

| <u>Utilities</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PSEG | \$5,600,000 |
| NJ American Water | \$1,050,000 |
| Elizabethtown Gas | \$750,000 |
| Township of Union Public Works | \$500,000 |
| Jersey Central Power and Light | \$205,000 |

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on the agenda. The resolutions each were seconded and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee Steve Fastook, Committee Chair, noted the committees met to review various items including several forwarded to the Board for consideration. He noted the committee also reviewed and discussed resolution 11.3, which appears on the APP Committee agenda. He moved each of the following items for consideration:

10.1 Resolution Approving an Amendment the Contract with U.S.
Security Associates for Campus Security Services

10.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and
Bidding for FY20, FY21

| <u>Professional Services (FY20)</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Vanessa Leonardo | \$41,200 |
| KLR Agency | \$148,700 (amends FY20) |

| <u>Advertising, Enrollment (FY21)</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| NJ Advance | \$55,000 |
| Chronicle of Higher Education | \$75,000 |

| <u>Intergovernmental Agreement (FY21)</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Union County Police & Sheriff's Office | \$100,000 |

| <u>Professional Service/Student Loans (FY21)</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Heartland ECSI | \$70,000 |

10.3 Resolution Creating the Garden State Equity Scholarship Program
To Expand Opportunities to Pursue Higher Education

- 10.4. Resolution Amending Resolution 19-09-16-2407 to Expand and Enhance Student Access to the Centennial Opportunity Fund

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. Trustee Oatman abstained from voting on the waiver for the Union County Police & Sheriff's Office.

11. ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Dr. Thomas Bisotocchi, Committee Chair, noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action items now before the Board for consideration. He noted the committee and the full Board received the draft Strategic Plan, and that he expects the Board to approve a final version at the June meeting. He then moved each of the following items for Board consideration:

- 11.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report
- 11.2 Returning Lecturers
- 11.3 Resolution Authorizing the University to Suspend Various Academic Programs Based on Long-term Underperformance and Financial Exigency and Take Additional Action to Reduce Operating Costs in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 11.4 Resolution Confirming the Waiver of Public Bids and Advertising for the Award of a Contract in FY20

Emergency, Info Technology

SmarterServices LLC

Not to Exceed

\$63,000

- 11.5 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Posthumous Degree for Kevin Gomez
- 11.6 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a B.S. in Management—Business Analytics Option
- 11.7 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a 3-Year Master of Architecture Option
- 11.8 Resolution Authorizing the Dissolution of the Graduate Certificate in School Nursing Program and Replacing with a Two Separate Initiatives: Graduate Certificate in School Nursing, Instructional and Graduate Certificate in School Nursing, Non-Instructional

The Chair asked the Board if they had any questions on each of the agenda items

from the APP Committee. Trustee Fastook again noted that the Finance and Audit Committee members also had considered and reviewed in detail **item 11.3** related to academic and administrative program cuts needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each item and resolution was 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 6:00 p.m.

14. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 8:25 p.m.

15. RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF KEAN UNIVERSITY

Chair Morell thanked Dr. Farahi immensely for all he did for the university over 17 years, and she thanked the Search Committee members and all the Board members for all their hard work and support in the search process. Trustee Fastook reported on the work of the Presidential Search Committee; thanking its members and moving a resolution naming Dr. Lamont Repollet the next president of Kean University.

The Board voted unanimously to support the appointment of Dr. Lamont Repollet as the 18th leader of Kean University effective July 2020.

16. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 11, 2020

Chair Morell requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2020 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 8:50 p.m.