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KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025

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

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

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: John Kean, Jr., Barbara Sobel

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Andrew Brannen, Matt Caruso, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Kellie LeDet, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Felice Vazquez

The meeting began at @ 4:00 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 welcoming everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on making it to the end of another successful academic year. He said two words come to mind when he gets to campus and sees everyone: wow and congratulations! He commended everyone for an excellent Honors Convocation Ceremony on May 2nd and encouraged everyone to have a restful and productive summer.

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**
   The President welcomed everyone to the Board meeting, noting May is always a meaningful point in the academic calendar. He encouraged everyone to wrap the year strong and take advantage of summer Fridays and one work from home day. He recognized Prof. Patrick Ippolito of the Education college for decades of service to Kean in many important roles and then applauded his decision to retire this year. He invited Ippolito to make a few remarks; Prof. Ippolito said he's never been at a loss for words, but at this moment he feels filled with emotion and just says thank you and expressed his love for Kean. The Board and crowd applauded him.

The president then noted the year closes with two ceremonies: the first-ever Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Thursday night, and the first joint Commencement Ceremony next Tuesday, he said. He took time to reflect on some of the transformative accomplishments of the past academic year, including:

- Kean achieved R2 research status, placing among the top 8% of institutions nationwide for research and doctoral productivity.
- Kean deepened its global engagement—broadening Kean's reputation and reach across the world. It launched a sustainability research partnership with SENAI CIMATEC in Brazil; partnered with Bermuda College to create seamless transfer pathways; signed MOUs with three universities in Dubai, where both faculty and students are eager to collaborate on improving education; traveled to South Africa for a Travelearn program led by Senior Human Rights Fellow Ndaba Mandela, exploring culture, history, and human rights; and continued expanding research efforts at Wenzhou-Kean University, where international recognition and graduate placements are rising steadily.

Closer to home, he noted the University strengthened its role as an anchor institution in New Jersey. Kean welcomed more than 18,000 students from 36 states and 88 countries this fall; experienced significant growth in both transfer students and first-time freshmen; launched a Certificate in Workforce Readiness; and, hosted hundreds of displaced Union Township elementary students at our 1085 Morris Avenue facility.

He noted two Kean faculty members—Dr. Jennifer Chen and Dr. Supratik Kar—were recognized among the top 2% of scientists in the world; on Founders Day, Kean University Foundation raised a record $762,995, including a $250,000 transformational gift; and, for the sixth consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report recognized Kean as a national leader in social mobility.

In Athletics, the President noted that student-athletes excelled both on the field and in the classroom this year. Kean added women's flag football to our athletic offerings, bringing our total varsity sports to 24 for the 2025–26 season. The university also began a new partnership with the New York Yankees.

The President also said it was time to focus on what's next. He reported that the university is preparing to sign a Letter of Intent with New Jersey City University next week, which will launch the process that could lead to the establishment of Kean Jersey City. He noted this initiative is the beginning of Kean's evolution into a university system.

The president then shared three presentations with the Board and the public. The first presentation was introduced by Provost David Birdsell, PhD, on Kean's Research Days. He shared two short videos on research initiatives at Kean. He then introduced Reenat

Munshi, the director of sponsored research who works with students on research and Research Days. She introduced the researchers of the year, including the graduate and undergraduate researchers of the year, Ahad Shabazz-Henry, Jose Marchena, Madhumita Gayathri who shared their experiences. She also introduced Mysara Elsayed, as the student spotlight winner. Mysara Elsayed interned at NASA and shared her experiences. Alternate Student Trustee Cylia Blackmon shared her research work on supply chain management and plans to travel to Chicago for an internship this summer with Kraft/Heinz.

The second presentation by Dr. Jason Lester shared highlights from the Kean Scholar Academy, which is graduating its first class this year. He shared both the data and the results of the important program, as well as where these students chose to attend college. Sixteen of the 28 students have chosen to attend Kean.

The third presentation featured an overview of the university's spring Travelearn programs, introduced by Chancellor Felice Vazquez. The presentation included remarks from Dr. Daniela Shebitz, who discussed the trip to Belize along with two students who participated on the Travelearn. Dr. Xurong Kong from the history department shared her experience taking students on a trip to WKU; some of those students were present and shared their thoughts on the extraordinary trip. Robyn Roebuck, AVP in Academic Affairs, discussed the trip she led to Iceland with eight students and invited one of the students to share their thoughts and experiences. Kristina Mastrioni discussed the travel writing Travelearn that she led to Ireland with 15 students. One of the participants shared her experiences. Jessica Barzilay shared a video about the Travelearn to South Africa.

Trustee Mayo noted that he joined the South Africa Travelearn with Trustees Markman and Spevack. He said the experience was life-changing and also better informed the work he is doing here on the Board.

Copies of these presentations will be kept with the minutes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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 Authorizing the Award of an Honorary Doctor of Laws to NJ Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari `89

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. He noted Senator Scutari is a Kean graduate and a strong supporter of the University, its

students and its mission. The resolution was seconded and approved by the Board; Trustee Oatman abstained from voting on this resolution.

7. ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Trustee Mayo 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

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 FY26

Utilities	Not to Exceed
PSEG	$7,000,000
NJ American Water	$2,000,000
Township of Union Public Works	$ 1,100,000
Elizabethtown Gas	$ 1,250,000
Jersey Central Power and Light	$ 230,000

8.2 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Elizabethtown Gas in FY 25

Utilities	Not to Exceed
Elizabethtown Gas	$1,250,000

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 FY26 utilities bid waiver.

9. ITEMS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 President to Continue the Learn,

Earn and Persist (LEAP) Grant in FY26 to Assist High-Achieving Students at Kean

9.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY26

Information Technology	**Not to Exceed**
CBORD Group, Inc.	$181,500
TouchNet Info Systems	$750,000 (fy26-30)
Student Loans	**Not to Exceed**
Heartland ECSI	$140,000
Commencement/Entertainment	**Not to Exceed**
Barnes and Noble	$450,000
Insurance	**Not to Exceed**
The College of New Jersey	$952,000
CBIZ Borden Perlman	$410,000
Willis Towers Watson	$200,000

9.3 Resolutions Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY25

Fire Suppression Systems	**Not to** Exceed
Johnson Controls	$900,000
Professional Consulting	**Not to Exceed**
Evergreen Consulting LLC	$300,000

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 President's Nomination for Continuation of At-Will Administrative Appointments with Faculty Rank

10. 6 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Master of Science (M.S.) in Business Analytics and Supply Chain Management Program

10.7 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Master of Science (M.S.) in ESG, Compliance and Risk Management Program

10.8 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Various Library and Info Technology Services in FY26

Library Services	**Not to Exceed**
EBSCO Industries	$489,500
VALE/NJ EDGE	$487,000
Elsevier, Inc. (Interfolio)	$390,000
Anthology	$312,000* *(fy26-28)*
LYRASIS	$225,000
Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)	$149,000

11. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

11.1 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Pilot Program for the Professional Development Internship Fund

11.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY 25 and FY26

Info Tech, Recruitment	**Not to Exceed**
SWISH, LLC	$1,150,000 *(fy26)*
The Common App	$110,000 *(fy25)*

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. The items were seconded and approved by the 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 5:30 p.m.

14. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 6:55 p.m.

15. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 5, 2025

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 5, 2025 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.