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KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

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

PRESENT: Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, A. Todd Mayo, Alan Markman, Matthew McDermott, Ada Morell, David Spevack, Student Trustee Jane Howlett, Alternate Student Trustee Susan Berube; Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Assistant Board Director Michelle Freestone

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Rick Torres

OTHERS PRESENT: Andres Acebo, Dr. Itunu Balogun, Greg Bellotti, Dr. David Birdsell, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Kellie LeDet, Steve Remotti, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Karen Smith, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Carlos Rodriguez

The meeting began at @ 4:00 p.m.

1. **INSTALLATION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE JANE HOWLETT**
   Chair Fastook administered the oath of office to new student trustee Jane Howlett, and the Board welcomed her. The Board also welcomed alternate Student Trustee Susan Berube.

2. **ROLL CALL**
   Ms. Kelly called the roll and reported a quorum present.

3. **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.

4. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**
   Chair Fastook welcomed everyone back to the new academic year at Kean. He noted this September feels particularly significant as the University begins its first full academic year following the successful completion of our merger with NJCU in July. He extended a warm welcome to the faculty and staff who officially joined the Kean University community this academic year, and noted the Board is looking forward to holding a public meeting on the Jersey City campus and visiting with students. He told those new to Kean they would find the University a place where people and ideas are welcomed, where community matters, and where there is a genuine sense of pride in what we accomplish together.

   Chair Fastook also recognized President Repollet, his leadership team, and the many faculty and staff members across both institutions who worked so hard to bring us to this point. He said the merger was a tremendous undertaking, and it was accomplished with a commitment to transparency, collaboration and, above all, doing what is best for our students.

Chair Fastook also noted the university's continued strength in enrollment, particularly at a time when colleges and universities across the country are preparing for the much-discussed "enrollment cliff." He said this does not happen by accident and recognized President Repollet, the Enrollment Management team, and the Student Success and Retention team for their continued focus on attracting students to Kean and helping them persist and succeed once they are here.

He wished everyone a successful academic year and turned things over to President Repollet for his remarks.

5. <u>PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS</u>

President Repollet welcomed everyone to the public session and thanked Chair Fastook for his remarks. He said his public reports usually focus on performance—enrollment, research, student outcomes, finances, programs, partnerships and the strategic initiatives moving Kean University forward. But today he said he wants to focus on something different: acknowledging those who made those accomplishments possible**.**

He said this is a moment in time that requires appreciation of all that has been accomplished and the people that helped make it happen. He said have built what Kean University has become; behind every accomplishment are people. So today's report, he said, focuses on gratitude.

First, he thanked the Kean University Board of Trustees for supporting the president's vision for their stewardship, and for believing Kean could become more while remaining grounded in our mission. The board asked difficult questions, evaluated risk and provided the stewardship necessary for Kean to move forward responsibly, he said.

He also expressed gratitude for students**,** who are not just benefitting from institutional transformation, they are participating in it. Our students have embraced new academic opportunities, research, technology and a changing University, he said and he specifically recognized the students who came to Kean through New Jersey City University.

The President also expressed his gratitude for Kean faculty, noting no group has experienced Kean's transformation more directly. Becoming a research university required more than receiving a Carnegie designation, he said, it required a change in culture.

Kean faculty embraced research, scholarship, grants, interdisciplinary work and student research while continuing the teaching and mentorship that have always defined Kean. He also recognized the new faculty joining Kean from NJCU, noting they bring history, scholarship, relationships and decades of service to Hudson County into the new Kean Unified System.

President Repollet then recognized and thanked administrators and staff**,** noting so much of institutional success is built by people whose names never appear in a headline. When we completed a merger, someone had to integrate the technology, reconcile budgets, move records, register students, process financial aid, prepare classrooms, keep campuses safe and answer families' questions, he said, and the administrative team has carried an extraordinary workload while continuing to operate a complex University and integrate an entirely new campus. President Repollet said that he wanted everyone in the organization to know, "I see you. We see you."

The President then thanked the Kean University Foundation, our alumni and our donors for their support and their generosity**.** Over the past six years, the Foundation has raised more than $36.7 million and welcomed thousands of new donors into the Kean family, he said, and these dollars represent more than fundraising—they represent belief in students and all they can accomplish.

He concluded his remark by encouraging everyone to be present in this moment, because it is historic: a teachers college became a university; a university became a research institution; and a research institution became a university system. The Unified Kean System has risen, he said, and we will continue to Climb Higher.

The President then introduced two presentations. First a presentation on enrollment led by Executive Vice President Michael Salvatore, Ph.D., who walked through the university's continued growth on all campus and also highlighted Kean's significant success in retaining students. President Repollet, he noted, made a big investment in retention efforts when he arrived and it is paying off.

Dr. Salvatore introduced Vice President for Student Affairs Kerrin Lyles, who shared a look at the experiences of students in the first few weeks on campus, from new student orientation to Kean Day to Freshmen Convocation. A copy of both presentations will be filed with the minutes.

President Repollet then introduced Chancellor Felice Vasquez, who shared two presentations with the Board and the public. The first, led by Vice President John Raue, focused on the success of the WELL program that launched four years ago and is tremendously successful in keeping students engaged, enrolled and getting them prepared to join the workforce. VP Raue shared assessment data on student participation that underscored its success.

Chancellor Vasquez then introduced Associate Director Jessica Barzilay to share details of an idea that grew from student experiences in a TraveLearn to Wenzhou, China to an incredible full publication of case studies on the US-China study abroad programs. Ms. Barzilay shared copies of *Cases on US-China Study Abroad Programs in Higher Education*, authored by WKU Professors Mohammad Noman and Amrita Kaur. The book was published by IGI Global Scientific Publishing.

Professor Noman attended the meeting and shared his wonderful experience of working with the students to pull the stories together and working. He then introduced three students—Xavier Taliaferro, Amira Caballero and Ashly Caballero—each of whom shared their story of their personal experience traveling to Wenzhou and pushing their personal boundaries to undertake this academic adventure.

6. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u>

Ms. Kelly said there were no registered speakers.

7. <u>ITEM OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>

Chair Fastook noted the committee met and reviewed nominations. The committee recommends the following Board officers for the 2026-2027 academic year: Steve Fastook, chair; Linda Lewis, vice chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary. The resolution also appoints all three of these officers plus the past chair and, as an alternate, Trustee Ed Oatman to the Board's Executive Committee. Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions or comments, then moved the resolution:

7.1 Resolution of the Board of Trustees Appointing Officers and Executive Committee Members for the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

8. <u>ITEM OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u>

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to review various items including the resolution now before the board for consideration. She moved the following item:

8.1 Resolution in Support of and Constituting an Application to the Secretary of the Office of Higher Education ("OSHE") to Remove the State Monitor for New Jersey City University ("NJCU") and Terminate His Oversight Responsibilities Pursuant to NJAC 9A:8-2.6(C)

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

9. ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Trustee Mayo said the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board for consideration. He then moved the following items:

9.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative

9.2 Personnel Actions—New Kean Employees from NJCU
Effective July 1, 2026

9.3 Resolution Approving a Consolidation Agreement Between Kean University and the Jersey City Board of Education Regarding the Provision of Food Services for the A. Harry Moore School for the 2026-2027 Academic Year

9.4 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Information Technology

Info Tech, Personnel	**Not to Exceed**
Workday	$6,500,000 *(fy25-34)*

9.5 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Services in FY27

Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
J&J Staffing	$500,000

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions and resolutions. Each item was seconded and approved by the Board.

10. ITEMS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

10.1 Resolution Authorizing Kean University to Allocate Any Remaining Cash Funds at the Closure of NJCU 2026 Fiscal Year to Kean's Capital Improvement Fund

10.2 Resolution Adopting a Centralized Cash Management and Investment Policy for Investment Purposes

10.3 Resolution Approving a Transfer of Funds to the New Jersey City University Foundation for FY27 Operating Support

10.4 Resolution Authorizing Certain Cohort Rates for the Doctoral Education Technology Leadership and Civil Security Studies Programs

10.5 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Advertising and Recruitment Services

Advertising, Printing, Recruitment	**Not to Exceed**
Royal Printing	$540,000
NJ Devils	$475,000 (fy27-29)
Art Guild	$285,000

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

11. ITEMS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

11.1 Resolution Approving Internal Audit Areas for Review in FY27

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

12. 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:

12.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report

12.2 New Faculty from NJCU Merger: July 1, 2026

12.3 Resolution Approving the Executive Certificate in Applied AI for Transportation Management Program

12.4 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Kean University Institutional BioSafety Policy

12.5 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising

Student Orgs (DECA/FBLA/HOSA)	**Not to Exceed**
1855 Harbor Drive Holdings	$550,000

Info Tech	**Not to Exceed**
Elsevier	$425,000* *(amends FY27-30)*
Tasseled PBC Inc.	$220,000

12.6 Resolution Accepting the Award of a Paraprofessional Program Grant from the New Jersey Department of Education

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had questions on each of the resolutions and bid waivers recommended by the Academic Programs and Policy Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

13. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

13.1 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Professional Services for FY25-30

Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
DI Group Architecture	$7,200,000 (fy25-fy30)

13.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Professional Services for FY27

Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
Liberty Hall Condo Association	$275,000

13.3 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to DLS Contracting Inc. for Snow Removal Services (Bid No. K26-5-19-1)

13.4 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to KONE, Inc. for Elevator Services (Bid No. K26-4-2-1)

13.5 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Awarded to ABM Industry Groups LLC for HVAC Services (24-8-26-2)

13.6 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Awarded to ABM Industry Groups LLC for Housekeeping and Grounds

Maintenance Services (22-4-6-2)

13.7 Resolution Confirming the July 8, 2026 Declaration of Emergency Due to Equipment Failure at Kean Skylands

13.8 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Awarded by NJCU to LA Design & Construction for Repair and Preventive Maintenance of GSUB Parking Garage at Kean Jersey City (NJCU Bid No. 24-006)

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolutions. Each of the resolutions were seconded and approved by the Board.

14. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

14.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding Information Technology and Recruitment Services in FY27

Info Tech, Recruit	Not to Exceed
Technolutions (SLATE)	$150,000
Common App	$150,000

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on bid waiver. The bid waiver resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

15. 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.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 5:25 p.m.

17. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

18. RESOLUTION RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.

Chair Fastook noted the Presidential Review Committee had met, performed the President's annual review and briefed the full Board on its recommendations. He noted the full board discussed both the President's performance and future objectives and unanimously support his continued employment.

The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

19. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 14, 2026 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

20. ADJOURNMENT

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