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KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

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, Matthew McDermott, Ada Morell, Ed Oatman, David Spevack, Rick Torres; Cylia Blackmon, Student Trustee; Jane Howlett, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Assistant Board Director Michelle Freestone

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Barbara Sobel

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Matt Caruso, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Kellie LeDet, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Joseph Youngblood, Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Jeff Bethke, Orley Wainberg; NJCU President Andres Acebo

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

1. **INSTALLATION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE CYLIA BLACKMON**
   Chair Fastook administered the oath of office to new student trustee Cylia Blackmon, and the Board welcomed her.

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 congratulated President Repollet on a powerful Opening Day address, noting it was inspiring to hear how much has been achieved in just five years, and exciting to see the vision for Kean's future. He also recognized the outstanding work of the Kean Foundation, noting their success in securing a number of large gifts recently.

   He thanked the board for their continued support for him as Chair, noting it's an honor to serve. And, he commended the team behind the new Kean University strategic plan, Elevate 2030.

5. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

He began the meeting by welcoming everyone in Spanish in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. He noted that former board chair Ada Morell used to great everyone in Spanish at the start of the meeting, so he wanted to do her honor. He also recognized Trustee Torres and NJCU President Andres Acebo, who attended the public session of the board meeting.

The President welcomed everyone back for a new academic year. He noted the energy that accompanies the start of a new academic year and how it reminds everyone that Kean opens doors of opportunity. This year, he said, marks five years of unprecedented progress and transformation at Kean University. Among the accomplishments are:

- Record growth in enrollment and academic offerings. This year, Kean welcomed more than 19,000 students worldwide. Our retention rate surpassed 80 percent, marking the highest level in more than a decade.
- Kean earned our place as New Jersey's urban research university.
- Kean's Online enrollment reached over 2,000 learners across the nation and the world.
- Kean's Carnegie R2 designation affirms the depth of our scholarship.
- Expanded global reach with meaningful partnerships with more information.

He thanked everyone--faculty members, staff members, students, and leaders—for all their contributions to these efforts. Then, he turned his focus to the future.
He said Kean is transforming, it is not confined by the words, "this is how we've always done it." The university is embracing a growth mindset, innovation, expanding research, and boldly charting new directions. He mentioned work in Brazil and the 1085 Morris Avenue redevelopment project as two clear examples.

Kean's global strategy is thriving as well, with new partnerships in Dubai, Bermuda, South Korea, and beyond, he said. And in New Jersey, Kean is preparing to make history with the planned merger with NJCU—a step that represents the start of a Kean system that elevates access, excellence, and impact statewide.

All of this is guided by Kean's new strategic plan, Elevate 2030, which is before the Board for adoption today, the President said. The plan is intentional, mission-driven, and future-focused. He introduced Executive Vice President Dr. Michael Salvatore to provide an overview of the strategic planning process and the plan itself. A copy of Dr. Salvatore's presentation will be kept with these meeting materials.

The President then introduced Provost and SVP for Academic Affairs Dr. David Birdsell for a significant presentation on the University's research and initiatives taking place with partners in Brazil. Dr. Birdsell provided an overview of the academic initiatives underway in Brazil and introduces several faculty members who provided an overview of their specific initiatives in Brazil. The presenters included Dr. Supratik Kar, Dr.

Daniela Shebitz, Marshall Hayes, Professor Sarah Ruell-Bergeron and two students. A copy of these presentations will be kept with the meeting material.

Trustee Sobel, who joined the meeting via Zoom from Brazil, expressed her gratitude for the presentation. She remarked on how amazed she is with what Kean has accomplished since she helped facilitate the first meeting in Brazil, where her husband formerly served as a U.S. ambassador and where they continue to do their philanthropic work.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kelly called on two registered speakers, graduate student Sarah Yee and Pat Malkom. Mr. Malkom was not present. Copies of their remarks, where provided, will be kept with the meeting material.

7. ITEM OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Trustee Morell noted the committee met and reviewed nominations. The committee recommends the following Board officers for the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 Academic Year.

The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

8. 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:

8.1 Resolution Adopting and Endorsing the Elevate 2025-2030, the Kean University Strategic Plan

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

9.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report

9.2 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Kean University Financial Conflict of Interest in Research Policy

9.3 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Kean University Research and Integrity Policy and Related Procedures

9.4 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Kean University Policy Prohibiting in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs

9.5 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Kean University Policy on Disclosing Other Support for Research

9.6 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Legal Services

Legal	**Not to Exceed**
Rogut McCarthy LLC	$250,000

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions. The items were 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 Adopting a Centralized Cash Management and Investment Policy for Investment Purposes

10.2 Resolution Authorizing the Elimination of Out-of-State Tuition Rates for all Kean University Students Effective Fall 2026

10.3 Resolution Authorizing a Reduced Tuition Pilot Program for Summer 2026 Travelearns to Wenzhou-Kean University

10.4 Resolution Authorizing the University to Pursue Capital Funds from the State of New Jersey Summer 2025 Bond Initiative for Higher Education

10.5 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Items in FY26

Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
Cenergistic LLC	$595,000

Info Technology	**Not to Exceed**
Richard Loalbo LLC	$600,000 *(fy26-fy27)*
Robert Ferrilli LLC	$125,00

10.6 Resolution Naming the University's Childcare Center "The Betty C. Elrod Cobb `75 Center for Early Childhood Education" In Honor of Her Career and Her Family's Generosity

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 FY26

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

12.3 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Cybersecurity Risk Management Certificate Program

12.4 Resolution Honoring Professor Linda O'Shea and Bestowing the Appointment of Professor Emerita

12.5 Resolution Honoring Professor Patrick Ippolito and Bestowing the Appointment of Professor Emeritus

12.6 Resolution Honoring Dr. Thomas Walsh and Bestowing the Appointment of Professor Emeritus

12.7 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY26

Student Contracts, DECA	**Not to Exceed**
Renaissance Hotel Operating Group	$525,000
Bravo Hotel Operating Group	$225,000

12.8 Resolution Updating and Adopting the Kean University Standard Grade Policy

12.9 Resolution Updating and Adopting the Kean University Incomplete Grade Policy

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

13. 1 Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Sozio Hall Elevator Modernization Project to Current Elevator Technology, Inc. Bid No: K-25-6-4-1

13.2 Resolution Authorizing an Extension to the Contract for Snow Removal Awarded to DLS Contracting

13.3 Resolution Recognizing and Confirming the August 22, 2025 Declaration of an Emergency Due to a Vehicular Accident at Kean University

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolutions. 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 Bidding and Advertising

for Advertising and Recruitment Services in FY26

Advertising, Recruitment	**Not to Exceed**
Art Guild	$255,000

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 5:40 p.m.

17. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 8:25 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 15, 2025

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 15, 2025 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 8:35 p.m.