

**KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES****MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020****11 a.m. VIA ZOOM and LIVE STREAMED**

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**PRESENT:** Ada Morell, Chair; Michael D’Agostino, Vice-Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Steve Fastook, Dave Gibbons, John Kean Jr., Linda Lewis, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Richard Trabert; Student Trustee Jason Pleitez; Alternate Student Trustee Kobe Robinson; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Freestone, Christopher Rustick

The meeting began at @ 11 a.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 and thanked President Repollet for keeping the Board and the campus community well-informed in this virtual environment.

The Chair noted that the pandemic has been difficult for everyone, but it also has been an opportunity for everyone to work together in a new spirit of community. Chair Morell commended President Repollet for his leadership during this time, noting he made safety a priority and he was prepared on day one to move the institution forward. She noted that President Repollet:

- Instituted the Presidential Task Force, a driving force of communication, goals, teamwork, support and unity with a focus on keeping the campus safe and healthy.
- Created a student leadership council and launched the first Student Town Hall on Nov. 19, led by Student Trustee Jason Pleitez and Alternate Student Trustee Kobe Robinson
- Created the Division of Student Success and Retention to get focused on what really matters here at Kean--getting our students to graduation.
- Created Kean’s first post-doctoral fellowship program to advance equity and diversity within our faculty ranks.

We may be virtual but the President is hands on, she said, and thanked students, faculty and employees for adapting to these challenges and their commitment to the community. She noted the Executive Committee had met between meetings to approve a legal matter related the Kean Skylands construction, and she wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Repollet thanked the Chair for her kind words. He noted he was happy to see everyone safe and healthy. He commended our students and our faculty and staff for following the guidance closely and taking it seriously and keeping Kean's positivity rates among the lowest among NJ universities. He reminded everyone the University transitioned to remote on Thanksgiving week, and will be staying remote through President's Day in February.

The President said the pandemic has not slowed his outreach, work or progress. He noted a few of the highlights that have taken place on campus since July, including: creating the Division of Student Success and Retention; creating the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; expanding partnerships with area high schools; signing new partnership agreements with county colleges, including the Pathways to Kean agreement signed in November with Kean Ocean; and, playing a big role in community service initiatives in partnership with the County of Union including COVID testing, processing and various food bank drives. He specifically thanked Trustee Ed Oatman, who also serves as the county manager of Union County, for his tireless efforts in leading these joint initiatives and engaging the Kean community in all of this important work.

The President also noted that Dr. Suzanne Bousquet, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will retire in 2021 and a national search for a new Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs will get underway in January with a goal of having our new leader of all academic issues at Kean onboard by July 1, 2021.

The President then introduced several presentations to provide the Board and the public with an opportunity to see and hear about some of the new and ongoing initiatives, including: Associate Vice President for Kean Ocean Dr. Steve Kubow, and our Associate Dean of Kean Ocean, Dr. Jessica Adams, who shared a presentation with several students on the status of Kean Ocean; a presentation by Student Trustees Jason Pleitez and Kobe Robinson on the new President Action Committee and the November Student Town Hall; a presentation from Tamika Quick, the Executive Director of the new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kean; a presentation by Dean George Chang and his colleagues and students from the Dorothy and George Hennings College of Science, Mathematics and Technology; an overview of the University Self-Study process for MSCHE re-accreditation by Dr. Suzanne Bousquet; and a short presentation and a video shared by Karen Smith, Vice President for University Relations, with regards to the University's ongoing partnership with the County of Union on COVID testing and a

community food bank, among other items. These presentations will be saved in the Board office.

President Repollet also thanked the representatives of the University's faculty and professional staff union for their willingness to work together with the administration on the issues related to DEI and COVID-19 requirements, among others.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speakers: Emma Yorra, Mary Rizzo, Susan Graves, Whitney Strub, Dr. James Castiglione, Susanna Jivotovski, Stacey Callahan and Alex Zucker. Comments, where provided in writing, are kept on file in the Board office. Ms. Kelly also noted letters sent to the Board as comments were shared with board members.

6. **ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Richard Trabert, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss a number of items now on the Board's agenda and he moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

- 6.1 Resolution Establishing Student Housing Rental Rates for FY22
- 6.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Services in FY21

<b><u>Technology/Student Loans</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
John Simons	\$50,000
<b><u>Advertising, Recruitment Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
iHeart Media	\$75,000
Entercomm Communications	\$65,000
Spanish Broadcast Systems	\$60,000
Emmis Communications	\$45,000
Pandora	\$45,000
Townsquare Media	\$40,000

The Chair opened the floor for questions on the housing resolution and the bid waivers. Each resolution was then seconded, and approved by the full Board.

7. **ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Trustee Dave Gibbons noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board for consideration. He then moved the items for Board consideration:

- 7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report

7.2 Professional Staff Reappointments

7.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for FY21

**Professional Services**

NJ Division of Law

**Not to Exceed**

\$250,000

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

**8. 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 then moved each of the following resolutions:

- 8.1 Personnel Actions -Faculty
- 8.2 Faculty Reappointments
- 8.3 President's Nominations for Continuation of At-Will Administrative Appointment with Faculty Rank
- 8.4 Resolution Endorsing and Adopting the Kean University Strategic Plan for 2020-2025
- 8.5 Resolution Endorsing the Draft 2020-2025 Strategic Plan for Wenzhou-Kean University
- 8.6 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Economics
- 8.7 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Grant Renewal from the New Jersey Department of Human Services
- 8.8 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Grant Renewal from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

The Chair asked the Board if they had any questions on each of the agenda items from the APP Committee. Each item and resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee Fastook noted the committee met to review various items including several forwarded to the Board for consideration. Trustee Fastook noted the bid

waivers met the requirements with legal counsel, he moved each of the following items for consideration:

- 9.1 Resolution Amending the University's Centralized Cash Management and Investment Policy for Investment Purposes
- 9.2 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Campus Security Services to Sterling Securities LLC
- 9.3 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Items for FY21

<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Coastal Networking LLC	\$132,000 (amendment)
EMS Software LLC	\$55,000

<u>Technology/Student Loans</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Heartland ECSI	\$70,000

- 9.4 Resolution Amending Resolution 19-12-07-2422 Creating the "Faculty/ Student Research Fund" to Allow for Summer Stipends for Students Engaged in Research
- 9.5. Resolution Waiving SAT/ACT Requirements for Scholarships during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Chair Morell asked if the Board had questions related to these resolutions. Each item was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**10. 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.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 12:45 p.m.

**12. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 1:20 p.m.

**13. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2020**

Chair Morell requested the Board take a few minutes to review the draft minutes of the day's public meeting. The board reviewed the draft minutes and edits were made where noted. Chair Morell asked for a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2020 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.