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KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

11 AM KEAN OCEAN GATEWAY BUILDING, 1st FLOOR AUDITORIUM

PRESENT: Steve Fastook, Chair; Secretary; Linda Lewis, Vice Chair; John Kean, Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, A. Todd Mayo, Matthew McDermott, Ada Morell, Ed Oatman, Rick Torres; Cylia Blackmon, Student Trustee; Jane Howlett, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Assistant Director Michelle Freestone

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Alan Markman

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Jerome Hatfield, Dr. Carlos Rodrigues, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Felice Vazquez, Zahire Estrella-Chambers, Dr. Joseph Youngblood, OCC President Pamela Monaco

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 Fastook welcomed everyone to Kean Ocean and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Kean Ocean leaders and OCC leaders for their warm welcome and continuing partnership. He also asked for a round of applause for Kean Ocean Executive Assistant Patti Martino, whom he noted plays a lead role in keeping the campuses connected.

Chair Fastook also commended the Board for working together at a high level of professionalism, even in challenging and changing times. He noted that the national Association of Governing Boards (AGB) spotlighted the Kean Board for best practices and its partnership with the President's Office in a recently released national study. He noted President Repollet has been asked to speak on a panel about this research report at the 2026 AGB Conference for Trustees.

He wished everyone happy holidays and asked President Repollet for his report.

4. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Repollet welcomed everyone to Kean Ocean and wished everyone a

happy and healthy holiday season. He expressed his gratitude to Ocean County College President Pamela Monaco and the entire OCC team for hosting and continuing to be exceptional partners. He said Kean deeply values the collaboration.

The President acknowledged the recent passing of Dr. Jon Larson, former president of Ocean County College. He said Dr. Larson played a critical role in building the Kean–OCC partnership from its earliest days, helping to create the pathway that allows students in Ocean County to earn a Kean degree right here at home.

The President noted that the holiday season is his favorite time of year, filled with joy, reflection and gratitude. He said it also can be a stressful time for many, especially our students, faculty, and staff who are balancing academic pressures, deadlines, and personal responsibilities. He encouraged everyone to take a moment to breathe, focus on wellness, and reach out for support if needed.

He shared that final enrollment numbers for Fall 2025 are strong. He also said Kean's international outreach and enrollment initiatives continue to grow, noting a new TraveLearn program in Dubai, bringing together students from Kean USA and from Wenzhou-Kean University.

The President also updated the Board and the public on the progress of the planned merger with New Jersey City University. He said the University signed the Definitive Agreement on October 1st, marking a major milestone. Legislation that supports the merger is currently moving through the Senate and Assembly, and he expects to see action on this legislation this month. He emphasized that maintaining Kean's financial strength throughout these negotiations and throughout the merger process is his top priority.

He then introduced Dr. Joseph Youngblood, Chancellor for Kean Ocean and Kean Global, who provided an overall discussion of renewed operations and new strategies for growth at Kean Ocean. Dr. Youngblood introduced OCC President Monaco for brief remarks. Dr. Monaco provided her perspective on the changing and growing partnership, and the expansion of opportunities for Ocean County and Kean Ocean alike.

Elizabeth, an environmental science major at Kean Ocean, spoke about her transfer from OCC to Kean University and her studies at Kean Ocean, including her research and an upcoming TraveLearn to the Cayman Islands.

Hunter Mance, a student veteran at Kean Ocean and an alumni representative to the OCC Board of Trustees, shared his experience as a student at both OCC and Kean Ocean, noting the smooth and incredibly positive transition from his service in the U.S. Marines, to research and student leadership roles with both institutions.

Dr. Jane O'Brien, also spoke about her experiences at Kean Ocean, where she has been teaching since the partnership's inception. She noted the extraordinary progress the program has made since its inception more than 15 years ago. Dr. O'Brien is retiring.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kelly called on the registered speakers: Mark Hall, Erin Elizabeth, and Gaila Shokry. Pat Malcom registered but did not speak. Copies of their remarks, where provided, will be kept with the meeting material.

6. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Trustee Lewis noted the committee met earlier in the week to discuss a number of items now on the Board's agenda. Trustee Lewis moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

6.1 Resolution Establishing Student Housing Rental Rates for FY27

6.2 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Enrollment and Recruitment Services in FY26

Recruitment Services	**Not to Exceed**
Encoura LLC	$195,500

6.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for a Sole Source Contract for Student Success Initiatives (FY27-FY31)

Sole Source/Student Success	**Not to Exceed**
BRAVEN inc.	$2,200,000 (fy27-fy31)

6.4 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Consulting Services in FY26

Professional Consulting	**Not to Exceed**
Cooperative Counseling	$135,000

The Chair opened the floor for questions on the resolutions. The resolutions were moved and seconded, and approved by the full Board.

7. ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative

7.2 President's Nomination of Professional Staff for Reappointment

7.3 President's Nomination of Professional Staff for Promotion

7.4 Resolution Authorizing the University to Renew a Lease Agreement for Shared Office Space in Trenton, NJ

7.5 Resolution Authorizing and Adopting the Kean University Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Policy for Student Athletes

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions and resolutions. The items were seconded and approved by the full 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 then moved the following resolution:

8.1 Resolution Approving the Award of an Honorary Doctorate to Wenzhou -Kean University Chairman Wang Beijao

She noted that former WKU Chair Frank Wang has been a leader with the WKU initiative since its inception, and a strong supporter of Kean University. He earned his MPA at Kean University and helped lead the team that established the full-scale partnership between Kean University and Wenzhou. The Chair asked if there were any questions. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

9. ITEMS OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Trustee Lewis, 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 items and resolutions:

9.1 Personnel Actions –Faculty

9.2 Faculty Reappointments

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

9.4 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Fy26

Specialized Equipment	**Not to Exceed**
Agilent Technologies Inc.	$196,000

9.5 Resolution Accepting Grant Awards from the NJ Department of Education

9.6 Resolution Authorizing the Summer 2026 Work-Earn-Live-Learn (W.E.L.L.) Program

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. Each item was seconded and approved by the full Board.

10. ITEM OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Trustee Fastook moved the following item to the full Board for consideration:

10.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Auditing Services in FY26

Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
COHNREZNICK Advisory LLP	$200,000

The Chair asked if there were questions on the item. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

11. ITEMS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Oatman reported the committees met jointly to discuss various items related to university finances. He moved each of the following items to the full Board for consideration:

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

Info Technology	**Not to Exceed**
AVI-SPL	$1,000,000
Commencement 2026	**Not to Exceed**
The Prudential Center	$145,000
Professional Services	**Not to Exceed**
ICIC	$235,000

11.2 Resolution Authorizing Amendments to Waivers of Public Advertising and Bidding for Information Technology Services in FY26 and FY26-FY28

Info Technology	**Not to Exceed**
Ellucian	$4,600,000 (fy26-fy28)
Robert Ferrelli LLC	$225,000

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

12. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to discuss several items, including one resolution on the full Board agenda. She then moved the following resolution:

12.1 Resolution Awarding a Contract for the 1085 Alteration Project to Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corporation, Bid No. K-25-2-18-1

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolution. The resolution was seconded and approved by Board; Trustee Oatman noted he recused himself from any discussion on these matters in committee and hence abstained from this vote.

13. 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.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 12:15 p.m. after eating lunch.

15. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 2:40 p.m.

16. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –DECEMBER 6, 2025

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 6, 2025 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 3 p.m.