KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

16 DECEMBER 2025 3:20PM-4:20PM. Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

Full Senate Meetings: Zoom webinar link Meeting ID: 921 4068 6642; Passcode: 232451

I. **Call to Order.** Chair CK called the meeting to order at 3:21 after acknowledging the accomplishments of Assistant Professor Dr. Supratik Kar with regard to AI use in research for treatments of the Zika virus.

II. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting.

1. Approval of Full Senate Minutes from 12/2/25 Motion to approve NB, Seconded by KC. No discussion: All approved unanimously.

III. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote. CK presented the items below for notification.

1. Forensic Psychology, M.A. [Program Revision]
2. Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, B.A. [Program Revision]
3. Reading Specialization, M.A., Reading Specialist Option (currently not accepting students) [Program Revision]
4. Elementary Education K-6 & 5-8/TSD Endorsement, B.A. [Program Revision]

IV. President's and/or Provost's Address to the Senate.

No report(s)

V. Old Business.

1. CK welcomed Jonathan Mercantini, Ph.D, Acting Associate Provost for Special Projects to discuss the Draft Academic Integrity and AI Expectations Kean University. Dr. Mercantini established context for more nuanced use of AI and the desire to move beyond the perception of it as a tool for student cheating, but for use in research and more. AI Symposium will be held morning of January 30th. Details to follow. Computer use policy was updated in SP 25 by Kean IT, approved by the Board of Trustees. Currently in development are AI usage statements (faculty develop their own for each class they teach) and a KU policy. Dr. Mercantini mentioned co-pilot use in creating the document the Senate is reviewing. The draft policy was submitted to the Academic Technology Committee under Chair Dr. Conti and robust conversations were held. Academic Integrity and the Use of Artificial Intelligence document has been shared with the Senate for review. Dr. Mercantini acknowledged the potential for student/faculty confusion with the creation of multiple policies that may apply across campus, and reminded all that AI is here to stay and it is incumbent upon us to communicate carefully and clearly in our course-level statements. One item being discussed is whether there should there be a standard statement for courses with multiple sections, or should individual faculty be permitted to create their own standard (academic freedom)? Another discussion revolved around turning off the AI detector in Canvas. Failure rates of these programs accusing students of using AI when they haven't been is a serious concern. There is data on research of the negative mental health impact of those students falsely accused. This would be a revision to the Academic Integrity policy that requires faculty to use two additional detectors before accusing students of plagiarism and the like. Note: The AI detector alone is insufficient cause for an academic integrity violation. Dr. Mercantini acknowledged that the draft document itself was created with the use of Copilot.
    A. Questions: DC, after expressing gratitude for the work undertaken, asked about the title of the document, particularly the use of the phrase "The Use of Artificial Intelligence" noting that the comprehensive nature of this technology suggests that we, as scholars and students, discuss integrity in a broader sense, beyond defining plagiarism, etc. DC suggests that students see things like this as a set of "rules", but he would hope that a deeper understanding be encouraged. Perhaps GE 1000 might include a robust unit to address academic integrity and AI. Dr. M. affirmed that, given the ubiquity of AI, conversations and lessons to support the better understanding of the issue would take place within GE and beyond. Dr. M. suggests that faculty explain this and how it applies for every assignment, for the expectations may vary. DA noted that the RBSD had been asked to come up with a list of technology that is utilized in the discipline. Dr. M. affirmed that expectations need to be established for any/all forms of AI. DSJ asked a

question about the mental health impacts – how things would be handled for those students whose fears are crippling. Dr. M. encourages a conversation at the start of each semester, suggesting that students reach out any time a question arises, but to deal with this up front, to establish trust. Guest Stephanie Beck (via Zoom Q&A) asked, "Are faculty discussing with their students, and/or each other, the environmental and community ramifications of AI and data centers?"

VI. New Business.

1. CK Noted that the deadline for volunteers to serve on the GE implementation committee has been extended until Thursday, Dec 18. Professor Evans explained some of the details. She explained that 55 people have volunteered so far but that there are over 12 working groups that need to be formulated.
2. Senate Exec Comm Member Mukul Acharya Appointed as GE Restructuring Implementation Committee Co-Chair.
3. CK shared faculty concerns/feedback on university-wide IT, noting that a Survey to Gauge Impact on Research has been developed. CK expressed the faculty's urgent request that this be addressed. CK then read into the record a letter from VP Bellotti that provides a look at the recent progress that has been made within the IT department. CK highlighted some of the items within the letter: Risk mitigation, cyber security, NIST standards, among them.
    A. Questions related to IT: AG expressed that the integration of IT is a broader issue. The challenges of the infrastructure could be impacted by the loss of a significant staff member. Prioritization of hiring someone at a high level is vital. DC expressed thanks for the documents sharing the survey findings' Bellotti indicated that each college has an IT person assigned, whose job it would be to report college concerns back to the IT office. DC shared a feeling that we are not represented at the initial phase of establishing policies in matters such as these, rather than responding after the fact. CK clarified that this is a faculty initiative. The plan is to gather the concerns and bring to the appropriate body for resolutions. GS asked how IT is gathering information to know who is impacted; where did the statistic come from regarding the number of faculty impacted. She is affected but has not been contacted. Pat Morreale spoke about her involvement with IT and acknowledged the collaboration, but that Kean has fallen far behind in the implementation. Dr. Morreale noted that several chairs have expressed concerns about the lack of solutions to these needs of researchers. MM asked for solutions to be suggested. Pat M suggested that we ask for specific details: How many problems have been solved? How long did it take? Who were the faculty who had their problems solved? Pat notes that 50+ faculty is not a large number to deal with. If there were a SWOT team of IT folks assigned to solve these things, we might make better progress. BL asked about the survey referring to research devices, wondering whether laptops are considered research devices. Dr. PM suggested that if the 50+ problems could be solved, it would be a good start, assuming there are far more than 50 faculty affected. Responding to a comment on the webinar from Greg Bellotti, CK read two paragraphs about future planning to address the dedication of critical resources and the expectations of researchers. PM reported on the Academic Technology Committee progress, again urging measurable progress. Offices are full of unhappy research faculty; measurable progress is vital. Chairs need to show progress to faculty. How are faculty tickets prioritized?

4. FA26 Scheduling Issues – Robyn Roebuck and Scott Snowden presented the draft FA26 master scheduling grid, shown on the screen. The primary rationale for the change was to assist with evening students who work, and to better accommodate commuter train schedules, allowing students to arrive for the early morning classes. SS also noted that departments may follow alternate schedules, such as Fine Arts or Design with longer studios. With meeting time running short, CK suggested that we return to this conversation in January. RR noted that the schedulers need to formulate the

KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

16 DECEMBER 2025 3:20PM-4:20PM. Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

Full Senate Meetings: Zoom webinar link Meeting ID: 921 4068 6642; Passcode: 232451

FA 26 schedules very soon., but would be happy to return in January for any further clarifications.

5. NJCU Merger/Acquisition – Academic/Curricular Issues: Deans and Chairs received correspondence from Dr. Birdsell regarding the curricular impact of the merger. CK read sections of the letter, where 31 departments are impacted at NJCU, and encouraged Senators to speak with their Chairs/Deans for further important information.

6. KU Honors Program – tabled until next meeting.

3. Committee Reports.

None.

4. Notice(s) of Motion.

1. Draft New Accreditation Proposal Form – Full Senate Vote Results: Yes votes 21, No votes 1, Abstain 0. New Accreditation Proposal Form is Approved by the Senate.

5. Question/Discussion Period.

Further Open Discussion on Agenda items. (Time Not Permitting)

6. Adjournment KC moved, GDR second. Meeting and semester adjourned at 4:28pm

7. Upcoming Meetings (Happy New Year!)

i. Senate Executive Committee – 1/13/26 - In person J-302 + Zoom option 3:20pm

ii. Full Senate Meeting – 1/20/26 Kean Hall 127 & Zoom Webinar. 3:20pm

iii. The complete meeting schedule for the fall semester is available at: https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedule-2025-2026-executive-committee-and-full-senate

KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

16 DECEMBER 2025 3:20PM-4:20PM. Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

Full Senate Meetings: Zoom webinar link Meeting ID: 921 4068 6642; Passcode: 232451

Senators in attendance

1	Mukul Acharya [MA]	P
2	Craig Anderson [CA]	A
3	Denise Anderson [DA]	P
4	Billie Bailey [BB]	P
5	Norma Bowe [NB]	P
6	Dean Casale [DC]	P
7	Kathleen Curran [KC]	P
8	Gilda DelRisco [GDR]	P
9	Adam Eckart [AE]	P
10	Edward Farnum [EF]	P
11	Gabriel Fuentes [GF]	P
12	Aaron Gubi [AG]	P
13	Will Heyniger [WH]	P
14	Ipek Kocoglu [IK]	P
15	Craig Konyk [CK]	P
16	Barbara Lee [BLee]	A
17	Brenna Levine [BL]	P
18	Holly Logue [HL]	P
19	Patrick McManimon [PMcM]	P
20	Matthew Mongelli [MM]	P
21	Mahchid Namazi [MN]	A
22	Julia Nevarez [JN]	A
23	Raza Rafique [RR]	A
24	Nicole Rodriguez [NR]	**
25	Benito Sanchez [BS] (sent rep)	P
26	Galia Shokry [GS]	P
27	Dawn Smith-Jeffries [DSJ]	P
28	Zakeeyah Speight [ZS]	**
29	Gail Verdi [CV] Cailin O'Connor (sub)	P
30	Veysel Yucetepe [VY]	P

P = Present A = Absent E =Excused [ ] = Proxy * = Late **=Remotely

KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

16 DECEMBER 2025 3:20PM-4:20PM. Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

Full Senate Meetings: Zoom webinar link Meeting ID: 921 4068 6642; Passcode: 232451

Student Representatives:

1	
2	

Guests:

1	Joy Moskovitz**
2	Jonathan Mercantini
3	James Castiglione
4	David Birdsell
5	Susan Ahern
6	Robyn Roebuck
7	Beatrice Contreras**
8	Joe Capasso KUAFF
9	Rebecca Pistilli**
10	Charles Nelson
11	Bridie Chapman
12	Catricia Shaw
13	Alex Guzman
14	Abigail Perkiss
15	Arion Jamerson**
16	Scott Snowden
17	Andrea Rosa**
18	Rachel Evans
19	Mike Salvatore
20	Laura Baecher
21	Dr. Lavetta Ross **
22	Laura Lorentzen
23	Mingling Sun
24	Brid Nicholson
25	Rachel Kahn
26	Rich Conti
27	Pat Morreale
28	Gil Kahn
29	Beth Hyde
30	Greg Bellotti
31	Chris Bellitto
32	Dina Stoudmire

KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

16 DECEMBER 2025 3:20PM-4:20PM. Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

Full Senate Meetings: Zoom webinar link Meeting ID: 921 4068 6642; Passcode: 232451

33	Jerome Hatfield
34	Jill Kellett
35	Jill Rafalko
36	Judith Herman
37	Kathleen Rugh
38	Koren Goodman
39	Maria Shumskaya
40	Muhammad Hassan
41	Nicole Schroeder
42	Petal
43	Peter Kardos
44	Rongsun Pu
45	Sharmistha Das
46	Shuting Liu
47	Megan Engels
48	Stephanie Beck

** Via Zoom