KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

02 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 3:20 and acknowledged from the Union News Daily, Christine Laskowski, a Kean doctoral student veteran using OT for assisting veterans upon their return to civilian life.

II. **Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting.**

A. Approval of Amended Full Senate Minutes from 10/28/25,
(Reflecting the approval of Writing Emphasis Course Designation Policy Proposal.) KC motion to approve, NB second. Unanimously approved.

B. Approval of Full Senate Minutes from 11/18/25. GDR motion to approve, DSJ second. Note that Craig Anderson was in attendance for the 11/18 meeting online.

III. **Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote.**

None

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

Dr. David Birdsell addressed the Senate via Zoom from NJCU. Expressed appreciation for the care and consideration lent to the process of reviewing the GE revision, a process that took nearly 4 years. Dr. Birdsell highlighted the benefits of the new GE, noting that the revision elevates Kean, making us a strong partner for assorted populations. A new class schedule is expected to roll out in January 2026, with built in course space to allow for travel, co-curricular support, support services and other features that will make the students' lives richer. The next steps are expected to get underway immediately, thinking about implementation frameworks – encouraging senators to volunteer for the various implementation committees. Thanks were offered to Bridie Chapman and Rachel Evans for guiding the effort.

Next, Dr. Birdsell introduced his wish that Kean develop a new Honors Program, asking, "What do we want Honors at Kean to be?" He described a program that adds value, emphasizing 4 items: 1. Define an honor student beyond GPA; 2. Resonant with R2 and anchor institution identities; 3. An honors program that serves the entire institution, a program that impacts the largest number of students; 4. First University in country to offer honors option for transfer students, not forsaking this opportunity for those who enter after freshman year. Dr. Birdsell invited people to express interest in joining a steering committee, assuring interdisciplinary representation.

Integration with NJCU – there are no current Kean programs that are expected to be sunset during this merger. Most NJCU programs will also continue. Programs offered at NJCU but not at Kean are likely to continue as well. Opportunities for hybrid teaching and learning are strengthened by the merger, making better both campuses.

QUESTION FROM audience (Matt Halper) regarding details on course schedule modification mentioned by Dr. Birdsell. Scott Snowden (Registrar) spoke about the plans underway, expected to be effective FA 26. He noted that no drastic changes are expected but the elimination of the 3-day/week schedule and some block scheduling and evening start time to be more accommodating to working adults. NJCU programs are expected to follow the KU schedule.

V. **Old Business.**

None.

VI. **New Business.**

A. CK introduced Susan Ahern, Ed.D., Director of Office of Accreditation and Assessment, who reported on a proposed Draft Accreditation Guidelines Policy recently approved by the Senate Academic Standards and Policy Committee. Dr. Ahern reviewed the proposal document, designed to be completed by programs desiring external accreditation

prior to the submission of an application. The form, if approved, would be accessible through the OAA website and entered on Monday.com as a means of record-keeping and activity tracking.

B. HL asked about whether there is any plan to eliminate program accreditations that are not required by the discipline. Dr. Ahern indicated that there are no plans to remove accreditation. Dr. Moskovitz affirmed that this proposal document is focused strictly on new programs seeking accreditation. CK asked about whether the just approved Federal Budget is one of the considerations sponsoring this, in light of the potential reduction of federal financial aid for some professional degree programs. Dr. Ahern indicated that while they are monitoring closely that situation, it is not a consideration for this proposed document. DA asked about new agencies – and potential new applications. Dr. Ahern shared a few examples of existing agencies that may not be new but that might be related to a new licensing requirement. BLee shared that the COE has numerous accrediting agencies. CK noted that the document would be taken under consideration, it awaits a Senate approval.

VII. Committee Reports.

Assessment Committee Report by Chair Dr. Ray Divirgilio. Committee expects to be working more with SADI, new course evaluations, working with faculty on accreditation and assessment issues. Dr. Divirgilio is available to discuss these initiatives more once they are further elaborated on as a committee.

VIII. Notice(s) of Motion.

None.

IX. Question/Discussion Period.

Open further discussion on Agenda items. (Time Permitting)
Joy Moskovitz spoke about the plans for GE implementation, including senate executive representation on the GE Implementation committee. Joy emphasized the desire to have cross campus representation, noting that a form to indicate interest will be disseminated within a few days.

AG expressed that details about NJCU merger seem to have been limited to administration. BLee asked whether folks had read the (Hanover) consultant's report, which included several recommendations regarding programs and operations. Mike Salvatore expressed a desire for there to be a more formal presentation to the Senate on this topic. VPs have been sharing information with the University Planning Committee, and perhaps some of those reports can be shared with the Senate. GS asked about meeting the NJCU senate and asked whether the senate is working on plans for the merger with regard to two senates working together. CK explained that this issue will need to be considered but that the merger will only be official in July 2026ar, whereas Kean's Senate elections are held in May of each year.

Questions were posed to Scott Snowden, who reiterated the plans for evening courses to start later and three-day classes to be moved to 2x/week. The number of minutes of meeting time remains the same. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

X. Adjournment Motion by BLee, seconded by CA. All approved. Meeting Adjourned at 4:06pm

XI. Upcoming Meetings

A. Senate Executive Committee – 12/09/25 - Zoom ONLY. 3:20pm
B. Full Senate Meeting – 12/162/25 Kean Hall 127 & Zoom Webinar. 3:20pm
C. The complete meeting schedule for the fall semester is available at:

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https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedule-2025-2026-executive-committee-and-full-senate

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Senators in attendance

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

P = Present A = Absent

E =Excused [ ] = Proxy * = Late **=Remotely

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Student Representatives:

1	
2	

Guests:

1	Joy Moskovitz
2	Jonathan Mercantini **
3	James Castiglione
4	David Birdsell
5	Susan Ahern
6	Robyn Roebuck
7	Ray Divirgilio
8	Joe Capasso
9	Matt Halper **
10	Charles Nelson
11	Bridie Chapman
12	Catricia Shaw
13	Alex Guzman
14	Abigail Perkiss
15	Betsy Esposito
16	A Hassan
17	Andrea Rosa
18	Rachel Evans
19	Mike Salvatore
20	Laura Baecher
21	Brid Nicholson
22	Catricia Shaw
23	Chris Friend
24	Christina Mastroeni
25	Claire Mulry
26	Colin Anderson
27	Daphne El-Roy
28	D Stoudmi
29	Elizabeth Hyde
30	Elia Ciasulli
31	Janice Strassberger
32	Jen Van Dyk

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33	Jin Wang
34	J Roberts
35	Thomas Kuc
36	Sean Keegan
37	Rosa Paulino
38	Maureen Byrne
39	Nicole Schroeder
40	Rich Conti
41	Megan Engels