



KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 2:15 pm-3:30 pm.

J-302 In-Person w/ Zoom option

<https://kean-edu.zoom.us/j/95535580376?pwd=HbpeDNSsHMTlulqznPiqYbFd4KCHfl.1>

I. Call to Order

Full Senate Meeting called to order at 2:20 by Chair SA

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Minutes of September 22, 2026, meeting

NGC moved to approve, GS Seconded, Minutes approved unanimously

III. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote: None

IV. Old Business:

V. Resolution 2026-05 regarding ARTP Standards – Universal and Departmental (~ 2:40 – 2:55)

SA provided background information on approvals of departmental standards. Feedback was given by Dr. Birdsell which were incorporated by the departments. SA stated that the goal is to have the Provosts and president sign these documents. SA stated that many universities have such guidelines but Kean has not had these guidelines. Much work was done by the departments and it is desirable to finalize these documents.

Denise: Some departments have their guidelines on the Kean website and others don't. Denise proposed that it should be clear to any faculty joining the university what the expectations are.

???: Suggested that it is unlikely

SA responded that departments have developed standards for research, teaching, and service so they are not universal guidelines. SA reiterated that department guidelines should be moved forward as departments worked diligently and in good faith on the documents.

Galia: Proposed that universal guidelines in each department are not feasible given that different types of research have differing demands and timelines.

SA responded that as she was away on sabbatical she is unaware of whether or not the documents are on the department websites.

Dina: Shared governance – review process at the departmental level
Standard but also flexible

NR suggested adding a clause that states "review as needed"

SA solicited other comments if any and reported that we will vote on the resolution at the next meeting
Resolution 2026-05 regarding ARTP Standards – Universal and Departmental (~ 2:40 – 2:55) b. Resolution 2026-06 creating a Senate Subcommittee on Teaching & Service (~ 2:55 – 3:10)

SA introduced this resolution by providing the context that teaching should also have prominence.



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Teaching and service were combined. If resolution is passed, volunteers would be solicited for this committee.

??? - In our department people are concerned that incoming faculty are not career ready when they start their job at Kean.

SA suggests that the start of readiness is improving academic rigor.

SA solicited more discussion. AS there were none, SA stated that resolution would be voted on at the next meeting.

c. Resolution 2026-07 to pause new distance learning courses and programs pending an audit of current offerings including a student and faculty survey to assess student learning (~ 3:10 – 3:25)

SA this resolution is about course modality specifically. Just like other universities, course offerings and online offerings continue to grow. There is a need for online classes and programs. Course modality is impacting student learning. What issues are there? How is online modality affecting student learning? Sometimes F2F students are offered online classes in the last two weeks before the semester starts. Scheduling issues included cancellation of F2F classes.

SA shared an email from a faculty member.

Caitlin as chair of the distance learning committee shared that discussion about topics such as that in the email are often discussed. Consistent course design, training online faculty, and better tools were some of the suggestions that came from this committee.

Nira: In a rush to create DL courses we are losing sight of the mission of Kean University. Many students need tools to learn how to learn. With so many students underprepared for college learning and then take online classes, it adds to the falling quality of our students as well as their career readiness. Distinctions need to be made between online and in person students.

SA stated that communication and teamwork are difficult to have in an online class. Suggested having a "wall" between these two groups of students. SA provided examples of universities who do this. Chairpersons are dealing with challenging scheduling issues. The goal is to initiate conversations with the administration to address these concerns. SA shared that the draft was emailed to Dr. Youngblood who suggested discussions about the concerns. The DL committee members should be included in these discussions due to the experience and work they have done as well as the fact that they teach online classes.

Y.S. from JC campus. Can the issues be assignment issues as opposed to online or F2F. Let faculty choose which they prefer to teach.



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M.M. Does the DL committee approve online courses? Caitlin responded that that charge got taken away and the committee had to come up with new charges.

SA: A sample syllabus should be created as a guide to facilitate the online instructor's ability to teach the class online. All departmental faculty should review the syllabus as the chairperson is not specialized in all content areas.

M.M. In general chemistry there are 20 sections taught by different instructors but it is ensured that content is the same.

Benito shared that it is not possible to teach derivatives in 8 weeks in an online class. Some courses cannot be taught in 8 weeks.

SA responded to Y.S. question about the length of online classes. SA responded that they are usually 8 weeks long.

J.O. VP for transformational learning at Kean global. Responded that 15-week online courses are offered. Expressed interest in working with the DL committee and/or other bodies the engage deems appropriate. There is some misinformation about how courses are built and delivered.

SA thanked J.O. and expressed interest in collaboration with Kean global to find solutions for issues that have been shared.

SA asked that there be a minimum number of weeks for a F2F class being switched to online.

J.O. shared that their data have not shown a difference in the difficulty level of online and F2F classes being different. Also stated that online courses are advertised to students who are unlikely to come to Kean and the average age is 27.

IX. Open Discussion

Z.S 4-year plans - J.M. all curriculum sheets are posted on the registrar's website. For the NJCU programs that were adopted as is are also posted but they are linked to the catalog. The 4-year plans are underway. J.M. thanked all the folks who have all this possible.

SA requested motion to adjourn

1st Dawn

2nd Denise

Unanimous vote to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:23pm



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VI. **New Business:**

Chair SA welcomed Dr. David Birdsell (DB) to the meeting. Dr. Birdsell's remarks appear below:

Dr. Birdsell expressed appreciation in general and specifically for the number of curricula completed and approved. More than 130 academic programs were aligned with the GE program. The revisions reduced the number of prerequisites and modernized curricula across all locations. More than a dozen programs from JC were adopted.

Lots of work still to be done; GE is adopted but not fully fleshed including the "passion project" in the second year which will be implemented in Fall 2027. Community engaged learning programs being developed and implemented under the leadership of Dr. Beacher. DB shared example from his recent visit about the Brazil project. Kean approach to CEL and how the community can get ENGAGED > honoring the local communities. Students are learning to engage and gaining valuable insights and knowledge.

DB remarked that another critical area is weaving AI into the curriculum: three Computer Science courses to learn about tools and their applications.

The honors program task force met and established subcommittees; summer was focused on the KJC merger, and the honors program work will resume once there are "more boots on the ground"

DB emphasized how different this University is compared to July 2020, when he arrived. More than 60% of full-time faculty are new. Today we are serving more than 23,000 students; 5000 from the merger and the remaining local gains. More students are staying in school and moving through semesters to degree completion.

Surge in faculty publication rate: 1978-2020: 32 Scopus-indexed publications per year; in 2020, it rose to 90. Last year: 479, and adding Wenzhou leads to 900+

Broad new opportunities the University is working to leverage: some from the KJC acquisition, such as the NY/NJ Port Authority and the logistics domain.

Q&A with Dr. Birdsell

Chair SA opened the Q & A session and asked what is the net increase in the number of faculty, especially tenure track and what are the hiring plans for the next 3-4 years?

DB didn't have specific numbers but emphasized that the University will continue to grow our faculty



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roster, including expertise across different areas, teaching modalities, and teaching approaches. We will be more strategic. The need for tenured associate and full professors will resolve itself. 47 faculty currently up for tenure this year. Be more deliberate about areas where we need experts; next year will be a 'big' hiring year.

NGC then discussed with DB that, in the humanities, there are disproportionately more faculty at the lecturer level than at the assistant, associate, and professor levels, and asked for his input.

DB responded that lecturers are "golden" for us. The same goes for adjuncts; DB mentioned that there are 372 full-time faculty with about 80 lecturers. Numbers vary from department to department. We need to keep building research capacity: students should be involved, taught how to pose the right questions, and how to use the methodology to address them. Adjuncts need a more integrated role. Every department must have enough tenure-track faculty to lead the curriculum.

DR inquired about the honors programs - what's the process for developing those programs, and what is the timeline? DB responded that they were reviewing the large, diverse disciplinary standards of practice to develop the most compelling approach possible. 90-credit options knock down the cost of education. Another possibility is a transfer honors program to attract the best students from community colleges. So, it would take 4 years to complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree

MM then thanked DB for taking the time to attend today's meeting and asked for his perspective on university service and other levels of service. DB answered that we can't do what we need to do unless we staff committees, write effective curricula, and include people in the recruitment process. Willing service flows from knowing there's value in doing it. Some committees have to be re-evaluated.

SA also asked about the ARTP standards documents the Senate passed last year. How do we move forward with the VPAA's office officially adopting the disciplinary standards? DB favors discipline-specific standards but noted that standards evolve. SA agreed and said these can be revisited every five years. 20 items account for research and scholarship. DB said peer-reviewed research was much better than going to a conference.

SA mentioned tentative plans for a Senate subcommittee on teaching and service to elevate teaching to a higher level, similar to research expectations. DB is supportive of higher standards for teaching and learning. The Center for Teaching Excellence is an excellent resource for sharing different pedagogies. What happens to students in 'your' class as a performance standard? New standards are an important first step



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VII. Committee Reports:

None.

VIII. Notice(s) of Motion:

None.

IX. Question/Discussion Period

SA asked if anyone in the audience had questions they wanted to raise before the meeting adjourned. James from KFT made the case for harmonizing the resources that faculty are provided with the expectations/criteria for research, teaching, and service. Faculty still have a 4-course load. He asked what plans there are to create a model similar to our sister institutions.

DB responded that there is no 'at-will' plan at present. Can't consider lecturer faculty for awards – only tenure-stream faculty. About 50% of tenured faculty received release time. Received 33 proposals. DB would like to offer multi-year awards in the future to productive faculty. All new tenure-track faculty receive 6 credits of release time.

X. Other Business/ Items

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chair SA moved to adjourn the meeting; BS moved to approve, seconded by DR. All members voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Full Senate Meeting – Tuesday, October 6, 2026 – K-127 and Zoom Webinar at 2:15 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – Tuesday, September 29, 2026 – In person in J-302 at 2:15 p.m.

Complete meeting schedule: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedules-executive-committee-and-full-senate>.

Senators in attendance

1	Dawn Adams-Harmon [DAH]	P
2	Sucheta Ahlawat [SA]	P



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3	Denise Anderson [DA]	P
4	Billie Bailey [BB]	P
5	Norma Bowe [NB]	**
6	Nira Gupta-Casale [NGC]	P
7	Kathleen Curran [KC]	P
8	Gilda DelRisco [GDR]	P
9	Edward Farnum [EF]	P
10	Will Heyniger [WH]	P
11	Ipek Kocoglu [IK]	P
12	Craig Konyk [CK]	P
13	John Lee [JL]	A
14	Brenna Levine [BL]	P
15	Patrick McManimon [PMcM]	P
16	Matthew Mongelli [MM]	P
17	Reenat Munshi [RM]	P
18	Mahchid Namazi [MN]	P
19	Julia Nevarez [JN]	E
20	Eunice Nkansah [EN]	A
21	Cailin O'Connor [COC]	P
22	Nicole Rodriguez [NR]	**
23	Dina Rosen [DR]	P
24	Benito Sanchez [BS]	P
25	Gaila Shokry [GS]	P
26	Zakeeyah Speight [ZS]	P
27	Dawn Smith-Jeffries [DSJ]	P
28	Gail Verdi [GV]	P
29	Shuo Yang [SY]	P
30	Veysel Yucetepe [VY]	P



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

KJC Members

1	John Donnellan	P
2	Hanae Haouari	P
3	EunSu Lee	P
4	Christopher Shamburg	P
5	Joyce Wright	P

Guests

Susan Ahern
Barbara Lee
Chris Doran
James A. Castigilione
Robyn Roebuck
Several guests online