



UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING Minutes

September 8, 2026, 2:15 - 3:30 pm

Kean Hall Room 127 [In Person]

[Zoom webinar link](#), Meeting ID: 945 4407 0581; Passcode: 028054

- I. **Call to Order** Chair SA calls meeting to order at 2:21 PM
- II. **Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting** None
- III. **Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote**

Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BALA) approved in June 2026

SA reported that the revised Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (BALA) curriculum proposal, previously tabled for additional review, was approved in June 2026. Questions about housing in DGEIS remain.
- IV. **President's and/or Provost's Address to the Senate**

(At the President's/Provost's discretion.)
- V. **Old Business**
- VI. **New Business**
 - a. **Welcome Kean Jersey City members**

Senate Chair SA welcomed members to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2026–2027 academic year and extended a special welcome to representatives from Kean Jersey City (KJC). Members introduced themselves, sharing their departments, years at Kean University, and professional interests.
 - b. **Kean Jersey City Senate Structure**

SA provided an overview of the developing relationship between the Faculty Senate and KJC governance. KJC representatives will initially participate in an ex officio capacity and report to the Faculty Senate. Future governance models and operational structures will continue to be evaluated.
 - c. **Parliamentarian**

Nicole Rodriguez (NR) was nominated and elected to serve as Parliamentarian.
 - d. **Briefing on Meeting with President**

In June, the KFT and the Senate met with department Chairs to listen to their concerns and challenges. The Senate and KFT representatives reached out to President Repollet and Provost Birdsell with the Chairs' concerns. Recently, both SA and the KFT met with

President Repollet and discussed a list of issues/existing problems. The President was receptive to the communication and shared governance concerns and is willing to engage to address them.

The president talked about this visit to KJC on the first day of classes and a sense of emptiness on campus as majority of the courses are remote rather than in person. Moving forward this may require a culture shift.

e. Faculty Responsibilities

Discussion focused on balancing expectations related to teaching, service, and research. Several senators expressed concern that institutional emphasis on research may be overshadowing teaching and service responsibilities. The Senate discussed the need for clearer standards and expectations across departments.

f. Senate subcommittees

SA talked about the need for greater faculty involvement for effective shared governance. Staffing Senate subcommittees has been challenging this year, especially in the College of Education. MA noted that Senate election turnout decreased significantly this past year and encouraged Senators to help increase turnout. SA urges everyone to keep colleagues informed during college and department meetings about Senate actions and to encourage greater involvement in the Senate and its subcommittees.

g. Senate Group Picture

SA reminded senators that a group photograph would be taken following adjournment for the Faculty Senate website.

VII. Committee Reports

VIII. Question/Discussion Period

a. Senate Goals

Discussion ensued about what the general goal is and what the Senate hopes to accomplish this year, how the Senate can distinguish itself as a relevant body on campus, noting some of the successes and how they were able to advocate for the campus community.

SA does not have a tentative agenda for this year and would like to hear from Senators about issues of importance to the Senate.

An item SA plans to put forward is ARTP criteria that faculty worked diligently on but are still awaiting the Deans' and Provost's approval/signatures. These are urgently needed to guide faculty, especially new faculty.

DAH discussed lecturers and that they have no career path to advance at Kean, unlike other institutions where positions such as professor of practice exist. Concerns were raised about lecturer evaluations and the lack of a peer evaluation process like that of tenure-track faculty. SA thought this might be more of an administrative and union issue, but it needs further exploration.

Several concerns about the new class schedule were raised, such as classes running late into the evening (10:45 pm) and lab sessions split into two. Class scheduling was also a problem for the College of Education. Overall, the new schedule is an administrative challenge for Chairs and is not as conducive to student learning. These implementation issues stem from a lack of shared governance and consultation. Last spring, the new class schedule was presented to the Senate as a fait accompli, and Senators' feedback seems to have been ignored.

The course substitution issue was raised, with many departments being pressured to substitute even when it is not reasonable. Another Senator called for slowing down online education. This discussion

opens the door to more issues, including who is an online versus an in-person student. This issue will be prioritized this year.

IX. Adjournment

- a. SA moves to adjourn the meeting, motion to adjourn DSJ first, second DAH, all senators adjourn at 3:20pm.

Upcoming Meetings

- A. Senate Executive Committee – 09/15/2026 In Person; Room J-302 + Zoom. 2:15 pm B.
Full Senate Meeting – 09/22/2026 Kean Hall 127 & Zoom Webinar. 2:15 pm
- B. The complete meeting schedule for 2026-2027 is available at:
<https://www.kean.edu/offices/university-senate/meeting-schedule-2026-2027>

Senators in attendance

1	Dawn Adams-Harmon [DAH]	P
2	Sucheta Ahlawat [SA]	P
3	Denise Anderson [DA]	P
4	Billie Bailey [BB]	P
5	Norma Bowe [NB]	P
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]	P
14	Brenna Levine [BL]	P
15	Patrick McManimon [PMcM]	P
16	Matthew Mongelli [MM]	P
17	Reenat Munshi [RM]	P
18	Mahchid Namazi [MN]	E
19	Julia Nevarez [JN]	E
20	Eunice Nkansah [EN]	P
21	Cailin O'Connor [COC]	P
22	Nicole Rodriguez [NR]	P
23	Dina Rosen [DR]	A
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

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

Guests:

1	Adrian Martin
2	Andrea Rosa
3	Carmen Llerena
4	Elaine Gargiulo
5	Harriet Phillip
6	John Donnellan
7	Joy Moskowitz
8	Kathleen Rugh
9	Lisia Aikens
10	Meriem Bendaoud
11	Raul
12	Renalison Farias Pereira
13	Reim Aboul Hassan
14	Robyn Roebuck
15	Ruth Orti
16	Shuting Liu