

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026****4 p.m. DAVE GIBBONS CONFERENCE CENTER, KEAN HALL 127**

PRESENT: Steve Fastook, Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean, Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, A. Todd Mayo, Matthew McDermott, Richard Torres, Cylia Blackmon, Student Trustee; Jane Howlett, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Associate Director Michelle Freestone

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Linda Lewis, Alan Markman, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, David Spevack

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Itunu Balogun, Dr. David Birdsell, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Dr. Joseph Youngblood, Katherine Gallagher, Dr. Cary Andersen, Karen Smith

The meeting began at 4 p.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. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Chair Fastook noted the announcement provided the proposed schedule of Board of Trustees public meetings in the upcoming academic year including September 14, 2026, December 5, 2026, March 8, 2027, May 10, 2027, and June 28, 2027. The meeting schedule was approved unanimously by the Board.

4. **Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Cylia Blackmon and Thanking Her for Her Service to the Kean Community**

Chair Fastook moved the resolution commending Student Trustee Cylia Blackmon for her work with the Board. He applauded her hard work as student trustee and her engagement on behalf of the student body. President Repollet also applauded her performance in the role and her work with the President's Advisory Council, which brings student voices and initiatives to the forefront of the President Office's work. The resolution was seconded and unanimously approved with all the Board members sharing their thanks and best wishes.

5. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chair Fastook welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending and participating. He noted it is the end of a truly remarkable fiscal and academic year. He congratulated President Repollet and the University team on another successful Commencement season, noting the ceremonies once again served as a powerful and joyful reminder of why we do this work.

Chair Fastook then commended President Lamont Repollet and his team for guiding the historic merger with New Jersey City University toward its near successful completion on July 1. This has been an extraordinarily complex undertaking requiring countless decisions, careful planning, and unwavering commitment, he said. Throughout the process, the work has been carried out with transparency, cooperation, and a clear focus on serving students and strengthening public higher education in our state. He led a round of applause for President Repollet. He wished everyone a productive and enjoyable summer.

6. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Chair Fastook for his remarks. As we approach July 1, the President said, Kean is at a truly historic moment—not only in the history of the University, but in the history of higher education in New Jersey.

He said the merger work with NJCU is more than a transaction; it is about preserving access, expanding opportunity, and building a stronger future for current and future generations of students. It has been about ensuring that public higher education remains a powerful engine of social mobility, economic development, and community impact, he said.

President Repollet said the merger will make Kean University the second largest public university in the New Jersey. He emphasized the merger process has involved hundreds of individuals from both institutions. He said July 1 is not the finish line—it is the starting point. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in Kean's institutional history and shifts our focus from planning to implementation, from integration to transformation.

He also noted that the merger comes at a time of tremendous momentum for the University. Over the past several years, Kean has evolved from a regional institution into a globally connected university with growing national prominence. It achieved Carnegie R2 research designation, expanded strategic partnerships across New Jersey and around the world, invested in its physical and technological infrastructure, strengthened student success initiatives, and continued to elevate Kean's academic reputation, he said.

Together with Kean Ocean, Wenzhou-Kean University, Kean Global, our Union flagship campus, and now Kean Jersey City, Kean is building a university system uniquely positioned to serve students across multiple pathways, multiple communities, and multiple stages of life, the President said.

President Repollet emphasized that the expansion comes with an equal commitment to fiscal discipline. Higher education continues to face significant challenges nationally, including demographic shifts, enrollment pressures, and financial uncertainty. Yet Kean's strategy remains clear: invest in students, support academic excellence, strengthen our workforce, pursue innovation, and maintain the financial stability necessary to sustain long-term success. The budget before the Board today reflects those priorities, he said. It is designed not only to support today's operations but to advance tomorrow's opportunities.

President Repollet thanked the Board for its leadership and support throughout this remarkable year and added the progress we have achieved would not have been possible without the board's guidance, trust, and willingness to embrace bold ideas in service of Kean's mission. He said it's the start of new era for Kean.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speaker: Galia Shokry, who serves as the University Senate representative to the Board of Trustees.

8. **ITEMS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair McDermott then reported that the Finance committee met earlier in the day to review various items for FY27. He noted the recommendation regarding the tuition and fees increases included a public hearing earlier in June. He said all of the bid waivers on the agenda were reviewed and approved by university counsel. He moved each of the following items to the full Board for consideration:

8.1 Resolution Authorizing a Change in University Tuition and Fees for Academic Year 2027

8.2 Resolution Authorizing a Change in Tuition and Fees for Cohort and Special Academic Programs in AY27

8.3 Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Cohort Rates for the "Kean Educational Affiliation Network (KEAN)" for AY2027

8.4 Resolution Adjusting Rates for the Kean University Betty C. Elrod Cobb '75 Child Care Center Effective July 1, 2026

- 8.5 Resolution Setting the Cohort Tuition Rates for Certain High School Partnerships for Academic Year 2027
- 8.6 Resolution Approving the AY27 Cohort Tuition Rates for Participants in the Kean Scholars Academy (KSA)
- 8.7 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Services in FY27

<u>Educational, Food Supplies</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Barnes and Noble	\$9,450,000
<u>Information Technology</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
EAB	\$700,000
NJEDGE	\$300,000
The CBORD Group	\$250,000
Exxat Inc.	\$180,000* (amends FY27)
<u>Advertising, Recruit, Entertain</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Intersection Media	\$700,000
KLR Agency	\$460,000
Encoura, Inc.	\$200,000
Mainstay	\$130,000
SH Design Corporation	\$122,000
<u>Student Orgs (DECA/FBLA/HOSA)</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Caesars Entertainment dba Harrah's AC	\$3,000,000
FBLA, Inc.	\$250,000
DECA Inc.	\$250,000
M&M Productions USA	\$250,000
Vista Convention Services	\$250,000
HOSA-Future Health Pros.	\$200,000
<u>Specialized Library Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
ProQuest LLC	\$200,000

- 8.8 Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Grant for the Development of the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) Program at Kean University
- 8.9 Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Shuttle Transportation Services to Charter Bus Pros Inc., DBA Charter Linkz, Bid No. K-26-1-21-1

8.10 Resolution Accepting a Grant from the NJ Department of Education for Teacher Education Initiative

Chair Fastook asked if the Board members had any questions on the recommendations from the Finance Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

9. **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.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 4:35 p.m.

11. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 6:00 p.m.

12. **FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –JUNE 22, 2026**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the June 22, 2026 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

13. **REMARKS FROM STUDENT TRUSTEE CYLIA BLACKMON**

Chair Fastook recognized Student Trustee Blackmon for some closing remarks as she ends her tenure on the Board.

Ms. Blackmon shared the following comments: As my time as Student Trustee comes to an end, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude. Serving on the board has been one of the greatest honors and privileges of my entire college experience. Thank you for trusting me with the responsibility of representing our students and allowing me a seat at the table.

Over the past couple of years, I've learned so much from all of you—not just about leadership and service, but about what it means to care deeply about this university and its future. It's been amazing to have a front-row seat to some of the work that happens behind the scenes, and I'm leaving this role with a lot of respect and appreciation for everything you do to move our institution forward.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to President Repollet. On a personal level, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities you have given me throughout my time here. Thank you for your mentorship, trust, and for consistently encouraging me to step outside my comfort zone and grow as a leader. Your support has opened doors that have shaped both my college experience and my future, and I truly would not be where I am today without those opportunities. Thank you for believing in me, and for the lasting impact you have had on my personal and professional journey.

While my term as trustee is ending, I'll always be proud to be part of this university community. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve, for the lessons you've taught me, and for the memories I'll carry with me long into my professional career. It's been an incredible experience, and I'm grateful for every moment. Thank you.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.