



KEAN

FULL SENATE MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2026 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. CK called the meeting to order at 3:20, celebrating and drawing attention to Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, and the Human Rights Conference scheduled for March 27. Chair Konyk also acknowledged and welcomed the president of the NJCU Senate, John Donnellan, along with the vice president, Hanae Haouari, and NJCU SEC member, Joyce Wright.

II. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting.

A. Approval of Full Senate Minutes from 2/17/26. Motion to approve, KC; second AG. All present approved.

III. Curriculum Items for Notification and/or Vote.

Revised Programs, all have been revised and approved:

- A. Master of Science in Nursing, MSN Nursing Leadership [*Chrysanthe Patestos*]
- B. Fine Arts, M.A. Teacher Certification [*Jennifer Crupi*]
- C. Criminal Justice, M.A. [*Patrick McManimon*]
- D. Bioinformatics, minor [*Maria Shumskaya*]

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

Dr. Birdsell discussed his Honors Program Initiative [Zoom]. He is encouraging as much participation as possible. The Board of Trustees approved the new General Education program, and the provost thanked those who worked tirelessly on the process, Rachel Evans, Bridie Chapman, and Laura Baecher. The provost highlighted this new place-based learning that will begin from the day the student arrives on the campus. As such, it is the provost's desire to elevate the educational experience further by proposing an Honors Program. He highlighted the timing in conjunction with the NJCU merger, noting that NJCU has an Honors Program that is ending, but Kean will want to have a program into which honors students may continue. The provost also noted our nascent R2 status, suggesting that this, too, provides impetus for developing the Honors Program. The Community Engaged Learning programs and the various international activities underway, serve as partners in the creation of the new Kean identity. It is proposed that the Honors program will be available to students in all majors, providing an experience of lasting value, with advanced studies, leadership preparation, and scholarly endeavors. China's Zhejiang province has an honors program that is exclusive, which is not the model the provost hopes to develop. Instead, a program that benefits the university as a whole is what it desired; one that is open to transfers as well as freshmen. There is a list of committees and numerous volunteers who wish to be part of this initiative. Development is underway. The size of an initial honors cohort has yet to be determined.

MM asked whether there is a timeline. The provost hopes for a FA 27 launch. However, he indicated that a more realistic start date might be FA 28. The provost is not assuming the Honors Program will be a wholly new curriculum, but perhaps a packaging project, which may allow the timeline to be shorter.



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James Castiglione asked whether it can be confirmed that the academic component will go through the curricular processes in place. He also noted his research of honors programs at our sister institutions, asking whether there might be a faculty director compensated to lead the honors program. The provost expressed that these decisions have not yet been made, sharing additional leadership models under consideration. JC referred to the Kean STEM structure, likening it to an honors college, asking whether this might be a model as well. The provost explained that he is looking for something more universal than the narrowly focused STEM program. JC expressed concern that the merger, new GE and other activities are resulting in overloaded fac/staff. He asked about workload issues. The provost indicated that he does not anticipate this being a heavy lift. Question from the webinar attendee, "how will this affect the NJCU honors program?" Provost indicates not at all. Those students will be taught out in the pathways they are currently studying. The program will be available to those students continuing to study on the KJC campus. AG asked what made the NJCU program too expensive to continue – answer: full scholarships and full housing provided made it unsustainable.

V. Old Business.

A. NJCU Senate Merger – Draft Joint Resolution – CK shared the goal of having a fully functioning Senate that considers the needs and concerns of the NJCU colleagues, whose Senate will end with the merger. CK proposed that a new governing body be formed to allow NJCU a continued role in governance. July 1, 2026, we will be one body. NJCU colleagues will be welcome to run for elected positions on the Senate and its committees in March 2027. He assured that representation would be provided. He would like for both executive bodies meet to determine whether a newer Senate model is desired. KC asked whether we could change the number of Senators to be larger than 30. CK agreed that conversations about adjustments to the Senate, which would require an amendment to the Senate constitution, be held prior to the 2027 elections, during the year of transition. NJCU President John Donnellan expressed thanks to the Kean community for the comradery. He shared that the faculty & staff on his side are also reviewing and considering models, expecting that they will have a seat at the table. NJCU offered an open invitation to their Senate meetings which are on Zoom. There will be an in person meeting in May for NJCU. CO noted that there are 6 members on the NJCU Executive Committee, and that the NJCU Senate includes students and union representation. AG asked a general question about an update regarding faculty positions/layoffs. John Donnellan noted that there is a wish for more transparency, noting that many of the retrenchments were based on years of service (but not all). Efforts are underway to retain several faculty currently scheduled to be let go. BLee noted that internal candidates for faculty lines at Kean and hiring procedures are continuing as usual, and NJCU faculty are given Internal status as candidates on those searches.



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VI. New Business.

- A. Honors Program – see above
- B. CWA Encouragement Notification – Staff received a voluntary separation notice from the University Counsel which led to a feeling of unease among staff members. Faculty and staff have requested more transparency in all of the relevant merger processes.
- C. CAS and K-IT Reps on Senate Committees – tabled, due to time constraints
- D. Proposed New Faculty Affairs Senate Committee - tabled, due to time constraints
- E. New Modalities [Synchronous Distributed Courses] proposed for merged NJCU/KU courses + course cap question –This modality exists in Kean’s Online Curriculum Manual. Time did not allow for discussion, but CK noted Exec Comm concerns about maintaining course capacities in this new modality and that it is only approved as an Online modality, not for use in person. More discussion on this at the Senate Exec Comm.
- F. Morris Avenue Traffic Safety Issues – Sustainability Task Force Report – Mark Smith – Sharing a slide deck and providing context for the high traffic corridor on which our campus sits, Professor Smith shared his efforts to reach legislators about items such as: traffic patterns, crosswalk access, snow removal from crosswalks – difficult to determine who is responsible for this, and for debris on sidewalks, at the train station, etc. The Green Lane intersection prioritizes vehicular traffic over pedestrian safety. Participants note a “no right on red” sign would be useful at the Green Lane intersection and that snow removal pushing into pedestrian areas is a problem. JN asked whether an elevated bridge can be reconsidered. Additional slides provided a view of gravel walkways, broken glass, bumpers blocking a bus stop. Campus roadway concerns include speeding, stop signs being ignored, double lane for cars/buses. On Campus snow removal is also problematic. It is not clear who is responsible for all of this. Bike and micromobility access is also dangerous. Could Morris Avenue be prioritized as a safety corridor? GS asked whether the admin could have a clearer role, more engagement with the players who can help to make these changes. EC has no sidewalks, making walking there extremely difficult. Professor Smith noted that awareness is the first step for the moment. Crosswalk at train station is also an area of concern. CA added that most of the traffic lights along Morris Avenue are not obeyed.

VII. Committee Reports.

- A. 03/02 Board of Trustees Meeting Recap – BofT Senate Rep – Denise Anderson – Chair Fastook thanked the Senate for work undertaken, energy being very positive. There were three presentations at the meeting: VP Birdsell and Dr. Chapman provided a brief overview of GE reform. New VP for Innovation and Engagement introduced a travel learn to Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Last, Kate Gallagher introduced the Trustees to a service, Braven, to assist students in creating a path to the workforce post-graduation. Senate voting included a series of faculty appointments/reappointments.



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VIII. Notice(s) of Motion.

None

IX. Question/Discussion Period. Further Open Discussion on Agenda items. (Time Permitting)

None

X. Other Business/Items (from Senate Exec members)

None

XI. Adjournment. MM motions to adjourn, KC seconds. Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm

Upcoming Meetings

A. Senate Executive Committee – 03/17/26 – In person J-302 + Zoom option. 3:20pm

B. Full Senate Meeting – 03/24/26 Kean Hall 127 & Zoom Webinar. 3:20pm

C. The complete meeting schedule for the spring semester is available at:

<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]	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] [Fabio Castellanos]	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]	P
17	Brenna Levine [BL]	P
18	Holly Logue [HL]	P
19	Patrick McManimon [PMcM]	A
20	Matthew Mongelli [MM]	P
21	Mahchid Namazi [MN]	P
22	Julia Nevarez [JN]	E
23	Cailin O'Connor [CO]	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]	P
30	Veysel Yucetepe [VY]	P

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



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Student Representatives:

1	Favour Oyelade
2	

Guests: names gathered from sign in-sheet and webinar participant list*

1	Joy Moskowitz
2	Jonathan Mercantini
3	Robyn Roebuck
4	Scott Snowden
5	Alexandra Barrientos
6	Andrea Rosa
7	Brid Nicholson
8	Claire Yun
9	Dan Suraci
10	Dana Venerable
11	Daphne El-Roy
12	Donna Piscopo
13	Cynthia Atkins
14	Rana Zeine
15	Eliz Hyde
16	Eliz O'Donnell
17	Emily Lovrien
18	Helen Ramirez
19	Huiwen Tu
20	Jackie Keil
21	Jackie Stonberg
22	James
23	Janice Strassburger
24	Jenibelle Rosario
25	Jennifer Van Dyk
26	Jess Adams
27	Jim Mento
28	JoAnn Pobuta
29	Solman Ahmed
30	Dawn Worley
31	Mark Smith
32	Shuting Liu
33	Susan Ahern



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34	K. Frazier
35	Julia Nevarez (ill senator)
36	Kalasia Ojeh
37	Kelsey Morgas
38	Lorraine
39	Manny
40	Maria Briffa
41	Maria Gomez
42	Melissa Henry
43	Neva Losada
44	Nicole Schroeder
45	Nicole Visco
46	Pedro Lopes
47	Rachel Evans
48	Rachel Kahn
49	Raul Barriera
50	Rebecca Pistilli
51	Revathi Narasimhan
52	Ruth Gonzalez
53	Joyce Wright - NJCU
54	Hanae Haouari - NJCU
55	John Donnellan - NJCU