

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

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**PRESENT:** Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice Chair, Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean, Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, Rajeev Malhotra, Ada Morell, Matthew McDermott, David Spevack, Rick Torres; Cylia Blackmon, student trustee; Jane Howlett, alternate student trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andres Acebo, Dr. Itunu Balogun, Greg Bellotti, Dr. David Birdsell, Michelle Freestone, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Jerome Hatfield, Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Karen Smith, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Joseph Youngblood

Chair Fastook called the meeting to order at approximately 4:05 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. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chair Fastook welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining today's session. As the academic year nears its close, Chair Fastook said it has been a truly productive and inspiring time for the Kean community. He described the recent Honors Convocation as a wonderful celebration of student achievement and encouraged all to participate in the May 14 Doctoral Hooding Ceremony and May 20 Commencement Ceremony.

He also commented on the momentum behind the NJCU merger efforts and thanked everyone working on this historic initiative for their dedication and professionalism. He acknowledged the recent authorization received from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and noted the Board today would consider adoption of more than 40 programs currently offered at NJCU to become part of Kean's academic portfolio.

He congratulated students, faculty, and staff on their hard work, resilience, and many achievements in academic year 2026 and wished all an enjoyable summer.

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Repollet welcomed everyone to the public meeting. He said it has been an incredible year both academically and operationally, and he congratulated all—students, faculty, leadership and staff—for their contributions.

The President then provided a brief update on the status of Kean’s merger with NJCU. He noted that when the merger process started, many said it could not be done in one year. “We raised a few eyebrows, but they don’t know Kean the way we do,” he said.

He said the merger is on track to close on July 1, 2026, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the transition leaders and more than 13 working groups from both institutions. President Repollet said the merger will be one of the most historic mergers in New Jersey’s history—and one of the largest public higher education mergers in the nation. He also noted the work is being recognized nationally because it was done transparently and respectfully, and always with students and their success at the center of each decision.

In addition to strong legislative support, including a public law supporting the merger, the University also received MSCHE authorization last week to move forward, which described our process as a model for others across the nation, the President said. There is still important work ahead, President Repollet said, but it is important to take a moment to recognize what has been accomplished to date. He said his leadership team has been working tirelessly on this merger and publicly thanked them and thanked the Board for its leadership, partnership, and unwavering support.

He also emphasized that Kean students are thriving, our athletes are excelling, and our research enterprise continues to expand. The University recently celebrated a truly special group of students who returned to the classroom to finish their academic journeys in the first-ever Journey to Success celebration. He thanked Senior Vice President Kate Gallagher and her team in the student success and retention division for putting the celebration together.

He noted the ongoing success of many Kean student-athletes, saying many are competing in national playoffs as they wrap up the spring season while earning some of the highest GPAs in history. He encouraged all to participate in the athletics department’s annual golf outing on July 15 at Galloping Hill.

In terms of research success, he then introduced Provost David Birdsell, Ph.D., to kick off a presentation related to the 2026 Research Days. Dr. Birdsell emphasized the transformative power of research and shared a summary of the graduate researcher of the year’s initiatives with the board (the student was not able to join the public meeting).

Dr. Birdsell then introduced the Reenat Munshi, director of undergraduate research,

who oversaw this year’s Research Days. Ms. Munshi reported on the overall event, noting more than 1,400 students and faculty participated in the initiative this year. She noted a former Kean University student (and former student trustee) Dr. Youssef Kousa served as the keynote speaker for the event. She then introduced two student speakers: first, Noorul Sahel Sama, a computer science major, who was named an undergraduate student researcher of the year. She presented her research project. Next, Katia Olhovsky, an interior design student who earned honorable mention in the undergraduate student researcher category also presented on her work and findings.

The President thanked Dr. Birdsell and the students for their presentations, copies of which will be kept with the minutes, and concluded his remarks.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

6. **ITEMS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to review various items including the resolutions now before the board. She then moved the following item:

6.1 & Resolutions Authorizing: the Award of an Honorary Doctor of  
6.1a Business Administration to Mr. Francis Walsh (DBS) and  
the Award of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr.  
Victor Richel (LHD)

6.2 Resolution Authorizing Officers to Execute Documents in  
Connection with Kean University’s Acquisition of New Jersey  
City University

Chair Fastook asked the board members for questions about the resolutions. The items were seconded and approved by the Board.

7. **ITEMS OF THE LEGAL AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Trustee Morell noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board. She then moved the following items:

7.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative

7.2 Professional Staff Reappointments

7.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and  
Bidding for Professional Legal Services in FY26

**Legal Services**

**Not to Exceed**

Klasko Immigration Law Partners      \$155,000

- 7.4 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Personnel Services in FY26

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Connections Personnel	\$200,000

- 7.5 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Professional Legal Services in FY27

<u>Legal Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfiere, Jacobs LLC	\$250,000
NJ Division of Law	\$200,000

Chair Fastook asked for questions on the personnel actions and the resolutions. Chair Fastook also noted that the bid waivers on today’s agenda were all reviewed and approved by counsel as authorized uses of the bid waiver statute. Each item was seconded and approved by the Board.

**8. ITEMS OF THE FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Bistocchi noted the committee met to review various items including the resolutions now before the board. He then moved the following item:

- 8.1 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the FY26 Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Elizabethtown Gas

<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Elizabethtown Gas	\$2,000,000

- 8.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Utilities for FY27

<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
PSEG	\$10,750,000
Elizabethtown Gas	\$ 4,100,000
NJ American Water	\$ 2,500,000
Township of Union Public Works	\$ 1,375,000
Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority	\$ 1,000,000
Jersey Central Power and Light	\$ 287,500

- 8.3 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract for the Townley House Renovation Project to Hall Construction Co., Inc., Bid No: K-25-10-22-1

- 8.4 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Awarded

to ABM Industries LLC for Housekeeping and Grounds Maintenance Services (BID NO. K22-4-6-2)

- 8.5 Resolution Authorizing Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System Agreement and Executive of a Cooperative Pricing Agreement Between Kean University and the County of Union, NJ for the Joint Purchase of Goods and Services
- 8.6 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract for Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Services with Transdev Fleet Services Inc., Bid No: K21-8-18-2
- 8.7 Resolution Recognizing and Confirming the Declaration of an Emergency and Authorizing the Replacement of the Deaerator Tank at Kean University Due to Imminent Failure

Chair Fastook asked for questions about the resolutions. Each item was seconded and approved by the Board. Trustee Little-Mathews asked the record note she abstained from voting on item 8.2. Trustee Oatman asked the record noted he abstained from voting on the item 8.5.

9. **ITEMS OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee McDermott reported the committees met jointly to discuss various items related to university finances. He moved each of the following items to the full Board for consideration:

- 9.1 Resolution Authorizing the President to Continue the Learn, Earn and Persist (LEAP) Grant in FY27 to Assist High-Achieving Students at Kean

Trustee McDermott took a moment to note this special initiative, which started as a pilot program in 2019, has been tremendously successful and had a measurable impact on students' persistence to graduation. He applauded the President and the administrative team and faculty who work on the initiative and said it is a model for what can be accomplished with innovative thinking.

- 9.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY27

**Information Technology**

Instructure Inc.  
Watermark Insights LLC  
Novacoast  
Bloomberg Finance LP  
Coastal Networking LLC

**Not to Exceed**

\$3,100,000 (FYs 27-31)  
\$370,000 (FYs 26-28)  
\$210,000  
\$160,000  
\$150,000

<b><u>Insurance</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
The College of New Jersey	\$1,450,000
CBIZ Borden Perlman	\$795,000
Willis Towers Watson	\$300,000

<b><u>Professional Consulting</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
ICIC	\$350,000

- 9.3 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Ingenuity Advising for FY26

<b><u>Professional Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Ingenuity Advising	\$360,000

- 9.4 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Manhattan Telecomm Corp. for FY27

<b><u>Information Technology</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Manhattan Telecomm Corp. LLC	\$420,000*
* (increases FY27 to \$180,000)	

- 9.5 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Advertising and Recruitment in FYs28-FY30

<b><u>Advertising, Recruitment</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
New York Jets LLC	\$750,000 (FYs 28-30)

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on any of the resolutions or bid waivers recommended by the Finance Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

**10. ITEMS OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Bistocchi noted the committee met and discussed various items, including the action items now before the Board for consideration. He moved each of the following items:

10.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report

10.2 Returning Lecturers

10.3 Sabbatical Recommendations for AY 2026

10.4 Range Adjustment Recommendations for AY 2026

10.5 Resolution Authorizing Kean University to Adopt and Integrate

Certain Approved Academic Programs offered at New Jersey City University into Kean’s Curriculum Effective July 1, 2026

- 10.6 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Agilent Technologies in FY26

<u>Specialized Equipment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Agilent Technologies	\$216,000

- 10.7 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Specialized Library Services in FY27

<u>Specialized Library Services</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
EBSCO Industries	\$635,000
VALE/NJEDGE	\$599,000
LYRASIS	\$273,000
OCLC	\$159,000

- 10.8 Resolution Honoring Dr. Brian Regal and Bestowing the Appointment of Professor Emeritus
- 10.9 Resolution Honoring Dr. Zandra Gratz and Bestowing the Appointment of Professor Emerita
- 10.10 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of an Administration of Justice Option Within the MA in Criminal Justice Program
- 10.11 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a New Certificate Program in Nonprofit and Philanthropic Management

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on any of the resolutions or bid waivers recommended by the APP Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

**11. ITEMS OF THE STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Lewis, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss a number of items now on the Board’s agenda and to receive updates on various student affairs, athletics and enrollment matters. Trustee Lewis moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

- 11.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY26

<u>Personnel, Recruitment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
TECHNOLUTION (SLATE)	\$150,000
The Common Application	\$150,000

- 11.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising in FY27

Info Tech, Recruitment  
SWISH, LLC

Not to Exceed  
\$1,375,000

Chair Fastook asked if the Board had any questions on the resolutions recommended by the SUA Committee. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the Board.

12. **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.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 5:15 p.m.

14. **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:20 p.m.

15. **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UNDERTAKING OF A REFINANCING PROJECT AND AN ACQUISITION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH AND AUTHORIZING THE ASSUMPTION OF OTHER DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY**

Chair Fastook moved the resolution which authorizes, among other things, the University to undertake a bond refinancing project that involves most of NJCU's outstanding debt and a portion of Kean's debt. The refinancing project will bring all the debt under Kean University's portfolio effective on the merger date.

The Chair opened the floor for questions on the resolution. The resolution was moved and seconded and approved by the full Board.

16. **FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 4, 2026**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 4, 2026 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.