

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING****MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021****4 p.m. VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

PRESENT ONLINE: Ada Morell, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice-Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Steve Fastook, Dave Gibbons, John Kean Jr., Rajeev Malhotra, Bertha Little-Mathews, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Richard Torres, Richard Trabert; Student Trustee Jason Pleitez; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Freestone, Chris Rustick, Andrew Brannen, Michael Salvatore, Joseph Youngblood, Felice Vazquez

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. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Morell welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that although the meeting is virtual and the setting a bit different than in the past, all are welcome and the Board appreciates the attendance. She thanked her fellow board members for their service and encouraged all members of the Kean community to work together toward student success. Chair Morell noted that the University's commencement ceremonies will take place this week on campus and thanked President Repollet for making sure that Kean students have the opportunity to cross the stage and celebrate with their families this important milestone.

Chair Morell also noted the recent passing of Dr. Steve Kubow, Associate Vice President in the Office of Academic Affairs and the Dean of Kean Ocean, who contributed more than 28 years of his career to Kean University. He will be missed, but never forgotten, she noted.

4. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Repollet welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Board and the entire community for the interest they show in the success and progress of the university. He noted the campus will celebrate the Class of 2021 in ten commencement ceremonies later this week in Alumni Stadium. He noted that our students work incredibly hard, amid challenging circumstances, to achieve this

goal and he applauded them for making it to the finish line. He thanked our faculty, our professional staff and our administrators for helping our students reach this milestone.

The President noted that, with Board support, he recently announced plans to require the COVID19 vaccine of all students seeking face-to-face learning this fall. He noted he did so thoughtfully, after ensuring all of our students have access to the vaccine right here on campus thanks to the University's partnership with the County of Union.

The President noted that COVID-19 has shaped the past academic year at Kean, but it has not defined Kean. He told the Board the University has been working on a number of transformative initiatives that will not only expand upon Kean's world-class education, but also build the University's leadership role in the communities we serve, and in the state of New Jersey. He then asked member of the administration, faculty and professional staff to share updates on their specific initiatives.

First, the President introduced Kate Gallagher, deputy chief of staff, to present on the **Equity in Action: Presidential Fellowships initiative**, which she led with support from AVP for Employee Relations Ken Green and in partnership with the leadership of the KFT under Dr. James Castiglione and Dr. Frank Argote-Freyre.

Ms. Gallagher shared the presentation on how the University is using a new fellowship program to help diversify its faculty; currently, the University plans to welcome eight to ten Equity in Action fellows to the faculty this fall. A copy of the presentation will be filed with these minutes. Dr. Argote-Freyre explained how excited he was to work in this initiative, calling it "a conscious effort to recruit people who are traditionally invisible in higher education." He said he counted it among his proudest achievements at Kean and noted the importance of having Kean students see people leading the classroom that look like them. Dr. Castiglione described this initiative as "a concrete example of positive outcomes that can be achieved under a model of shared governance."

President Repollet ceremoniously signed the agreement between the University and the KFT which defined their agreement on this initiative, and called it "the perfect example of how management and labor can work together to achieve important goals."

President Repollet then welcomed Senior Vice President of Administration Michael Salvatore, Ph.D., and Executive Director of DEI Tamika Quick to give the Board and public an overview of the work underway in the **new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. A copy of their presentation will be kept with minutes.

The President then reported the University recently announced the establishment of the new John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean. He said the institute will focus on research and practical, achievable solutions that will improve the lives of people living in urban communities, building on the University's commitment to scholarship and community service.

He introduced Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Dr. Joe Youngblood, and Vice President Barbara George Johnson, to provide a brief overview of the work they have underway. A copy of their presentation will be kept with the minutes.

Shifting gears to focus on the arts, President Repollet introduced Ms. Lynette Zimmerman, the Executive Director of the Liberty Hall Academic and Exhibition Center, as well as **Kean Galleries**, to provide an overview of some of the exhibition and gallery work on campus, as well as plans to host a rising new artist on campus this fall for an art takeover. A copy of Ms. Zimmerman's presentation will be kept with these minutes.

President Repollet then introduced Karen Smith, Vice President for University Relations, and asked her to share some updates on **student success**. Ms. Smith presented two videos: the first focused on how Kean's athletes and the athletics program navigated it way successfully through the pandemic and shutdowns; the second was an NBC News piece by Pat Battle that featured the work of Kean students in connection with the CLIA-certified laboratory for COVID-19 testing at Kean, as well as those working in the County of Union vaccination clinic on campus.

President Repollet concluded by congratulating all of Kean's athletes for their hard work and perseverance this year, and the Men's Lacrosse Team in particular for winning their division and making their way to the NCAA playoffs.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speakers: Angela Estevez, Emma Yorra, James Castiglione, Alex Zucker, Stephanie Hawkins and Stacey Callahan.

Where provided, copies of the speakers' comments will be kept on file in in the Board office.

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

Trustee Gibbons, Committee Chair, noted the committee had met to review various items including the personnel actions now before the board for consideration. He then moved the items and resolution for Board consideration:

6.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative

- 6.2 Professional Staff Reappointments
- 6.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Professional Services in FY21, 22

| <u>Professional Services</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Skoloff & Wolff | \$360,000 (FY22) |
| Saiber LLC | \$100,000 (amends FY21) |
| | \$100,000 (FY22) |
| Weber Dowd LLC | \$50,000 (FY22) |

Chair Morell asked for questions on the personnel actions and the waiver. The items and resolution were seconded and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee Richard Trabert, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss various student affairs, athletics and enrollment programs and issues. Mr. Trabert moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

- 7.1 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Bidding and Public Advertising for Commencement and Retention Initiatives in FY21 and FY22

| <u>Entertainment (FY21 Commencement)</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--|----------------------|
| Party Line Tent Rentals | \$50,000 |

| <u>Advertising, Recruitment Services FY22</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| Outfront Media | \$385,000 |
| Intersection Media LLC | \$450,000 |
| Clear Channel Outdoors | \$265,000 |
| Hobson's | \$130,000 |
| College Board | \$90,000 |
| Interstate Outdoor Advertising | \$75,000 |

The Chair opened discussion for questions on the bid waiver resolutions. The resolutions were seconded, and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee Ed Oatman, Committee Chair, noted the committee met to discuss various items including the following resolution on the Board agenda. He moved the resolution for Board consideration:

- 8.1 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for FY22

| <u>Utilities</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| PSEG | \$6,160,000 |
| NJ American Water | \$1,155,000 |
| Elizabethtown Gas | \$825,000 |
| Township of Union Public Works | \$550,000 |
| Jersey Central Power and Light | \$230,000 |

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on the agenda. The resolutions each were seconded and approved by the Board, with Trustee Little-Mathews recusing herself on the item related to the Township of Union Public Works.

9. **ITEMS OF THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEES**

Trustee Steve Fastook, Committee Chair, noted the committees met to review various items including several forwarded to the Board for consideration. He moved each of the following items for consideration:

- 9.1 Resolution Establishing the Child Care Center Rates for FY22
- 9.2 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for FY21, FY22

| <u>Information Technology</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SumTotal | \$160,000 (<i>amends fy21</i>) |

| <u>Professional Service/Student Loans</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| Heartland ECSI | \$125,000 |

| <u>Information Technology</u> | <u>Not to Exceed</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Watermark | \$450,000 |
| Bloomberg Finance LLP | \$140,000 |
| Labster Inc. | \$45,000 |

- 9.3 Resolution Authorizing the President to Expand the "Learn, Earn and Persist (LEAP)" Fund for High Achieving Students
- 9.4 Resolution Authorizing Participation in Cooperative Pricing System and the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Kean University and Other New Jersey State and Public Colleges and Universities for the Joint Purchase of Work, Materials or Supplies

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on any of the agenda items from the Finance and Audit Committees. Each item was seconded and approved by the full Board.

10. ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

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

- 10.1 Returning Lecturers
- 10.2 Sabbatical Recommendations
- 10.3 President's Nomination for Continuation of At-Will Administrative Appointment with Faculty Rank
- 10.4 Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science Program
- 10.5 Resolution Approving the Discontinuation of the Master of Arts in Hindi and Urdu Language Pedagogy
- 10.6 Resolution Honoring Associate Vice President Stephen Kubow, Ph.D. and Awarding the University's First Lifetime Achievement Award
- 10.7 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Posthumous Degree to Destiny Morot
- 10.8 Resolution Authorizing the University to Rescind the Suspension of Music Degree Programs and Allow Program Recruitment and Enrollment to Proceed

The Chair asked the Board if they had any questions on each of the agenda items from the APP Committee. Each item and resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

11. 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.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 6:10 p.m.

13. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:15 p.m.

14. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MAY 10, 2021

Chair Morell requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the May 10, 2021 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the

minutes.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.