CHE MSA Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680. Tel: 267-284-5000. Fax: 215-662-5501
www.msche.org

July 27, 2012

Dr. Dawood Farahi
President
Kean University
1000 Morris Avenue
Box 411
Union, NJ 07083-7131

Dear Dr. Farahi:

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is obligated by federal regulations to review third-party comments it receives regarding member and candidate institutions. Third-party comments will be considered by the Commission when they pertain to whether an institution's performance is consistent with the Commission's Requirements of Affiliation, Accreditation Standards, and expectations for institutional conduct.

The Commission recently received third-party comments from Dr. James Castiglione, President of the Kean Federation of Teachers, who has granted permission for the Commission to share his comments with you. While Dr. Castiglione submitted his comments in reference to the Kean monitoring report that is due to the Commission on September 1, 2012, the supporting documents he enclosed bring forth some additional questions for the Commission related to Standards 4, 10, and 13. The Commission's third-party comment procedures allow for institutions to have the opportunity to respond to third-party comment. You may do so as part of the University's September 1 monitoring report or as a separate document. In either case, the Commission requests that you respond in writing no later than September 1, 2012, providing evidence to address these additional concerns.

In your response, please provide the following:

- Copies of Board policies regarding administrative hiring, evaluations, and conflict of interest, along with an explanation of how these policies are being followed. This should include policies and procedures that encompass the hiring and evaluation of the President, as well as other administrators (Standard 4);

- Copies of appropriate and equitable policies regarding faculty and staff, including proof that fair and impartial practices are followed in such areas as hiring, granting of tenure, promotion, grievances, disciplinary actions, and compensation (Standards 6 and 10);

- Copies of Board policies on integrity, covering the actions of all employees, students, and Board members (Standard 6);

- Evidence of University compliance with the Commission's policy, *Political Intervention in Education*. A copy is enclosed (Standard 4);

- In light of the University's plans to open a new campus in China, the appointment of a new Board of Directors for that venture, the start of construction on the campus, and especially the recruitment of faculty and students, information on the University's plans to comply with the Commission's policy and procedures on Substantive Change. Copies of these documents are enclosed (Standard 13).

The enclosed third-party comments will be forwarded to the chair of the small team that will visit Kean University this fall and to the Commission's Committee on Follow-up Activities. The Commission will also forward to the team chair and the Committee, the institution's response to the third-party comments if they are submitted under separate cover from the monitoring report due September 1, 2012.

Please understand that the Commission's decision to forward this information to the University, the team chair, and to the Committee on Follow-up Activities does not imply that the Commission has already determined that these third-party comments demonstrate a violation of Commission standards. The information is provided to the Committee as a supplement to the monitoring report that will be submitted by Kean University.

Your response should be sent to Dr. Elizabeth H. Sibolski, President, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Second Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Please plan for your response to arrive no later than September 1, 2012.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pokrass
Director for Communications and Public Relations

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Debra Klinman, MSCHE Vice President
Dr. Stephen Sweeny, Chair, MSCHE Visiting Team