

K E A N

FULL SENATE MEETING
MINUTES

**18 October 2022
3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
Zoom Webinar**

Senators in attendance:

•Ahlawat, •Anderson, •Boateng, •Bonillas, •Boyd-Jackson, •Brandwein, •DiVirgilio, •Donovan, Dowdell, •Evans, •Farrokh, •Gover, •Gubi, •Halper, •Mack, •Marks, •Martinez, •Mayhall, •Pena, •Pintado-Casas, •Roebuck, •Rodriguez, ab-Rosa, ab-Rosen, •Sanchez, •Sargent, •Verdi, •Webber, ab-Wetzel, •Yucetepe

Student Representative: Glynnis Tan

Guests: Dr. Michael Salvatore, Joy Moskovitz, Dr. Jessica Adams

[•=present; ex=Excused; absent=ab]

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ahlawat at 3:22 p.m.

I. Minutes – 4 October 2022, forthcoming
A. Motion:
B. Second:
II. Curriculum Items for Notification-Notification and Vote or None: NONE
III. Old Business- NONE
IV. New Business-
A. Kean Connect/WorkVivo Chair: invitation sent for Senate space on WorkVivo, with announcements, news items. Sen. Rosen, Chairperson, and Ms. Hopson had training on how to share information on Senate activities with the Kean community via WorkVivo.
B. Faculty teaching requirements at Ocean Chair: Issue raised at the Senate Executive meeting. Some newly hired faculty are asked to teach at Ocean. Chair conferred with the KFT and learned it is employment terms and conditions issue, but it is also within the Senate's purview as it pertains to student needs, faculty retention, and welfare. For example, a TT faculty member hired for Ocean taught three classes at Ocean and one at Union each semester but left after one year. The challenge is increasing full-time faculty teaching at Ocean, retaining faculty, and improving the environment for faculty who do so they do not feel isolated. Senators discussed options such as the university providing a bus for transportation (possibly allowing more faculty to teach at Ocean), synchronous and hybrid online classes. Jessica Adams: putting more support in place for faculty who feel separated, mentions their

first Research Days at Ocean last year, which will happen again this year. They've connected with the UCC community, Toms River Field of Dreams, recreation, and psychology. Most of the instructors at Kean Ocean are lecturers and adjuncts, which is slowly changing. She knows the faculty and tries to rotate through them so that different instructors teach. For example, accounting has one full-time faculty and several adjunct faculty; it might be better if additional FT faculty were rotated.

Hybrid teaching is an option and is under active consideration. Each discipline is different, and Dr. Adam's office is prepared to help with them.

Chair: it's not great for student learning to have 4 or 5 classes in the major taught by the same instructor. And it's a KFT issue – some faculty don't like to commute. Mentions about the Communiversity at Brookdale project with ITV from several years ago – maybe something like that should be explored.

Senator: the University of California uses something like that across campuses.

Chair: Could consider other creative solutions, such as giving faculty one less teaching day as an incentive. The administration should consider that as well as transportation support.

Adams: has talked with Dr. Youngblood and O'Callaghan (VP of Academic Affairs at OCC) about HyFlex options. It hasn't succeeded in the past, but the technology is better now. In most disciplines, students aren't having problems with one instructor. She keeps data on the FT faculty/student ratio, adjuncts, and students. Unfortunately, there is no budget for a bus/van. Teaching load/schedule is another thing she has no control over – perhaps the provost can address this?

Senator – similar issues at Skylands campus but on a smaller scale. They've tried hybrid with mixed success, primarily because at the Union campus, technology doesn't work and because there are safety issues for students being in a classroom alone. However, it does give students more options, making it possible to run smaller classes, and provide a diversity of expertise – students do not have as many elective options as at the Union campus.

In the chat, Mike Salvatore shared a spreadsheet for everyone to see regarding Kean Ocean enrollments.

Adams: Kean Ocean has a reduced menu and rotates through electives., also thinking about students' schedules for getting classes, limiting electives and rotating them helps. Some searches are still happening in the home departments. In Education, have 2 FT faculty. We need to think strategically for Kean Ocean. The number of students affects how many Ocean-based FT and adjunct faculty can be hired.

Senator: why is it the KFT issue?

Chair – It has to do with the terms and conditions of employment. If the offer letter for a job indicates the position is at Ocean, then they are required to be at Ocean, but the offer letter can also mention both locations. If the letter is for Union, they can't be expected to go to Ocean.

Senator: long term plans for sustainability at Ocean? But she addressed it.

Adams: 85-90% of students come from OCC, so they look at them. Vasquez in Admission talks to Ocean admissions. There is some potential growth there.

They can add programs for the community.

They can do a major with 3 or 4 more classes. Also, they look closely at classes, adding minors when possible, filling seats, and making students more marketable. Also, Kean Online for hybrid courses - health sciences is an example. They're trying to make programs fully available at Kean Ocean. For instance, all management major options are offered at Kean Ocean except for the Supply Chain option; 3 or 4 more classes to make it possible. So, students take it online instead, which gives students more options.

Senator: How about student affairs? Counseling?

Adams: counseling is offered at the OCC counseling center but virtual with KU and KO.

They refer them out to try to make it seamless. An assistant director of student affairs, clubs, and student organization president has activities on and off-site. For example, Cougars in Action club; they try to make connections between courses and activities, like community engagement, resume building, career prep, and community building. Psychology is paired with the China campus, a good opportunity for students now because of the latest technology.

Senator: the size of KO, # of TT faculty, lecturers, adjuncts?

Adams: we have data on FT faculty, but adjuncts are more difficult because it's different every semester.

(in the chat, links to the 10/29 Skylands fall learning festival and call for volunteers)

Senator: is there outreach to Brookdale or Monmouth?

Adams: those are our next steps; we need to look at enrollment management, articulation agreements, and pathways. All transfer credits can go through when they make a plan with students and if the students follow the path. We have to do this program by program.

- C. Chair: OCIS and tech policies; shared some concerns with Joe Marinello, will postpone until 1 November meeting; there are some issues but also a lot of good news – faculty are getting new laptops every four years, improvements in WiFi, and more.
- D. Chair: GE task force has three members from the Senate: Marks, Roebuck, and Evans. Invites Senator Evans to summarize the task force work so far.
- E. Evans: Action Team subgroup meets more frequently than the task force.

Provost Birdsell's idea for restructuring GE, which the GE task force will consider for its Thursday meeting:

Looking at 2000 in the first-year class, 80 sections of 25 students, Year 1 experience for 16 weeks in the fall and spring. Based on the 166 stops of NJ Transit, each one is worthy of study, integrated and experiential learning. Each section chooses a 'whistle stop' for focus: economic variety, services to immigrants, rivers, etc. 10 themes proposed: demography and sociology, history, cultural resources, business and economics, wellness (food and health), water, air, soil, writing, speaking. One faculty member is the 'conductor,' organizing and linking topics, connecting the dots. Guest faculty visits for two weeks at a time for one theme. Example: New Brunswick, bring students there, look at topics, Raritan River, the immigrant experience, cultural resources. Why are they there? Do they contribute to all life experiences of citizens? Math, demography, business, etc., are to be addressed by guest faculty.

The provost likes it because these locales are where students come from, so they start with something familiar, work through intellectual depth, and discuss new topics to research. This would mean faculty needs to be intentional, synchronized with faculty being guests to ensure content is covered in depth. Past is used to inform current circumstances. The committee has not yet talked about how many credits, what happens to transfer students, the workload for faculty, especially the 'conductor.' The Action group has been asked to figure out how to weave the themes together. There are lots of logistical issues as this is a very different model.

Chair: when is the redesigned GE planned for implementation?

Evans: Fall 2024 is the target for the first implementation, so the current GE program is phased out by end of 2007-2008. Year 2 would be more focused on pre-major pathway, and might be room in year 1 for a foundational class in a student's major.

Senator: how will this be implemented? Does a faculty go to another location every two weeks? In freshman composition, could adapt writing assignments, but it would require a tremendous amount of coordination between the 'conductor' and guest lecturers. Foresee a lot of orchestration on a vast scale.

Chair: 1 or 2 years?

Evans: 2 years, with disciplinary courses in year 2, but also getting students into programs they already know they want.

- F. Chair: Senate committees with reorganization and university needs – Senator Evans and the Chair met with Joy Moskovitz and Mike Salvatore and sought feedback on the draft constitution and senate committees. Wants administration perspective on how committees can contribute to effective policies and decision-making at the university. Faculty is less inclined to volunteer if the committees are not meaningful. Senate needs to consider which committees are relevant, especially with the reorganization. Charges and structure can be evaluated. Senate representatives on existing task forces need to report back to the Senate, Colleges and Programs, and receive feedback and information from constituents to share with the task force.

G. Meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

V. Next Meetings

- A. Executive Committee Meeting – 25 October 2022 – Zoom at 3:15 p.m.
- B. Full Senate Meeting – 1 November 2022 – Zoom Webinar at 3:15 p.m.