

**APPROVED**

**FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

**4 p.m. VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

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**PRESENT:** Ada Morell, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice-Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; Steve Fastook, Bertha Little-Mathews, Rajeev Malhotra, Matthew McDermott, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Richard Torres, Richard Trabert; Student Trustee Kobe Robinson; Chris Sclafani, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. David Birdsell, Michelle Freestone, Sancha Gray, Kellie LeDet, Christopher Rustick, Karen Smith, Senator Joseph Cryan, Union County Commissioner Al Mirabella

The meeting began at @ 4 p.m.

**1. INSTALLATION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE KOBE ROBINSON**

Chair Morell administered the oath of office to Kobe Robinson, student trustee, and the Board welcomed him.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Kelly called the roll and reported a quorum present.

**3. 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.

**4. CHAIR’S COMMENTS**

Chair Morell welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the start of the new academic year. She announced that she would be stepping down as chair this academic year after serving in the board leadership role for the past ten years. She thanked her fellow Board members, past and present, for their hard work and their support through the years. She also thanked the Board staff for their support throughout the years. She noted it was an honor to serve in the leadership role at such a transformational time for the University. She said she will continue to serve on the Board, but that the time is right to transition the chair’s seat to a new leader. Chair Morell also thanked President Repollet for his hard work and his leadership, and for moving the University forward even during the pandemic. “It was a privilege and an honor to serve as Chair of the Board, and I remain committed to Kean,” she said.

Trustee Sobel took a moment to thank Chair Morell publicly for all of her hard work and dedication and noted that Kean University is a better place because of her leadership.

5. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Repollet began by thanking Chair Morell for her years of service as board leader and noted the University is on a journey toward excellence because of her stewardship. He noted that Chair Morell led the University through a tremendous period of growth and change, and always kept the focus on students and their success. "For me personally, you have been both a mentor and a friend, in addition to being an excellent boss. You've set high standards for all of us to live up to, but I intend to make sure that we do!" the President said.

President Repollet then welcomed two special guests to the meeting and to his report. First, he recognized Senator Joseph Cryan, who shared with Chair Morell some highlights from a resolution approved by the New Jersey State Legislature recognizing her leadership and thanking her for her service at Board chair. He personally encouraged her to think about how her leadership has positively improved thousands of students lives.

Next, President Repollet recognized Union County Board of Commissioner Chair Alexander Mirabella, who shared with Chair Morell and the public a resolution from the County Commissioners also recognizing her leadership and thanking her for her service. He emphasized how much her acumen, diversity and dedication led to her success in this role.

The President then shared his report with the Board on operations, noting the campus is now open and operating in person with classrooms full and activities underway. He thanked the campus community for taking safety seriously and getting vaccinated, noting more than 90% of faculty and students are vaccinated.

He officially introduced Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Birdsell, Ph.D., and noted the University is moving forward with plans to obtain an R2 research designation. He noted the University hired 55 new tenure-track faculty this fall—the largest class in history. He also noted that progress continues on the MSCHE Self-Study and the first meeting with the Visiting Team Chair is in the near future.

Additionally, he thanked faculty and students for the tremendous increase in giving to the Kean Foundation that took place over the last year—a 54% increase. He set 100% participation as a new goal.

The President than shared several presentations with the Board members and the public:

First, Deputy Chief of Staff Kate Gallagher gave an overview of the Equity in Action Fellowship program and introduced the six faculty fellows who joined Kean this fall. Next, he introduced Senior Vice President Sancha Gray who gave an overview of the new Division of Entrepreneurial Education Initiatives and its outreach efforts. The new division will help build a strong student pipeline to New Jersey school districts, she said. He then introduced Kellie LeDet, special assistant to the President for governmental affairs, who provided an overview of an upcoming small business conference featuring top speakers from the national and state level. He introduced Vice President Karen Smith who shared news that Kean once again earned top spots on the U.S. News and World report rankings in key areas, including in the area of innovative programming for the first time this year.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from the following speaker: Dr. James Castiglione. Comments provided in writing are kept on file in the Board office.

7. **ITEMS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Oatman, Committee Chair, noted the committee met and reviewed nominations. The committee recommends the following Board officers for the 2021-2022 academic year: Steve Fastook, chair; Linda Lewis, vice chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary. The resolution also appoints all three of these officers plus Past Chair Ada Morell to the Board's Executive Committee. The chair asked if the Board had any questions or comments, then moved the resolution:

- 7.1 Resolution of the Board of Trustees Appointing Officers and Executive Committee Members for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

The resolution was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board. Trustee Fastook was congratulated by Chair Morell and other trustees on the new leadership role.

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

Trustee Trabert, 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 issues. Trustee Trabert moved the following resolutions for Board consideration:

- 8.1 Resolution Confirming the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Advertising and Marketing Services

**Advertising, Marketing**  
NY JETS LLC

**Not to Exceed**  
\$750,000

- 8.2 Resolution Approving the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Various Services

<b><u>Advertising, Marketing</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Art Guild	\$200,000
SWISH	\$150,000
Visual Graphics Systems, Inc.	\$75,000
NJEA c/o dIPLAN	\$60,000
NJ Advance	\$50,000
Max Marketing Agency	\$42,900

  

<b><u>Professional Consulting</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Technolutions	\$95,000
Hamilton Behavioral	\$76,050
John Simon	\$50,000

The Chair opened the floor for questions on each resolution. The resolutions were each moved and seconded, and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee McDermott noted the committee met to review various items including the personnel actions and bid waiver now before the board for consideration. He then moved the following items:

9.1 Personnel Actions—Administrative Report

9.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Advertising and Public Bidding for Professional Services in FY22

<b><u>Professional Legal Services</u></b>	<b><u>Not to Exceed</u></b>
Boyer Suozzo	\$50,000

9.3. Resolution Granting the State of New Jersey Easement Rights on Certain Properties Owned by the Kean University Board of Trustees

9.4 Resolution Transferring to the State of New Jersey Ownership of Certain Property Owned by the Kean University Board of Trustees

Chair Morell asked for questions on the personnel actions and the resolution. The items were seconded and approved by the full Board. Trustee Oatman abstained from item 9.1.

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

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

10.1 Personnel Actions—Faculty Report

10.2 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for Scientific Equipment in FY22

<u>Scientific Equipment</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
AB SciEx, LLC	\$682,500
Waters Corporation	\$420,000
Advion	\$180,000

10.3 Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising for DECA Program in FY22

<u>Student Contracts, DECA</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Caesars Resort Properties	\$950,000
DECA, Inc.	\$100,000
M&M Productions USA	\$100,000
Paul's Custom Awards and Trophies	\$80,000
DLG Enterprises	\$60,000
Awards Unlimited Inc.	\$40,000
Edu & Nonprofit Insurance Co.	\$40,000

The Chair asked if there were questions on each item. Both the personnel actions and the bid waiver resolution were seconded and approved by the full Board.

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

Trustee Oatman, Committee Chair, noted the committee met earlier in the day to discuss several items, including the resolutions on the full Board agenda. He then moved the following resolutions:

11.1 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Bidding and Advertising

<u>Intergovernmental</u>	<u>Not to Exceed</u>
Township of Union	\$650,000 ( <i>amends fy22</i> )

Chair Morell asked if the Board had any questions on each resolution. Each resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board. Trustee Little-Mathews abstained from voting on this resolution.

**12. ITEMS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

12.1 Resolution Adopting a Centralized Cash Management and

Investment Policy for Investment Purposes

12.2 Resolution Amending the “Global Education Fund” Resolution #19-12-07-2423 to Authorize the Program to Support Student Internships Abroad

12.3 Resolutions Authorizing the Waiver of Public Advertising and Bidding for Various Items

**Information Technology**

Richard M. Loalbo, LLC

**Not to Exceed**

\$200,000

**Professional Services**

Mercury Group

**Not to Exceed**

\$125,000

Jobs in Blue

\$100,000

IXP Corporation

\$47,500

**Insurance**

Borden Perlman

**Not to Exceed**

\$175,000 (*amends FY22*)

**Entertainment**

Party King Entertainment

**Not to Exceed**

\$60,000

12.4 Resolution Authorizing the Continuation of the “Learn, Earn and Persist LEAP Scholarship” Program to Assist High-Achieving Students to Continue at Kean

12.5 Resolution Expressing Gratitude to Ms. Patricia Graleski for her Generous Gift to the Kean University Foundation, Inc. and Naming the Art Gallery in the Green Lane Academic Building in Her Honor

Chair Morell asked if the Board had questions related to these resolutions. Each item was seconded and approved by the full 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 5:45 p.m.

**14. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 7:25 p.m.

**15. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NEW EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.**

Chair Morell noted the Presidential Review Committee had met, performed the President's annual review and briefed the full Board on its recommendations. She noted the full board discussed both the President's performance and future objectives. She moved the resolution, which provides the President with a new five-year employment contract and makes other adjustments to the terms of his agreement including a salary increase. The resolution was seconded and approved by the full Board.

**16. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

Chair Morell noted a draft copy of the minutes had been distributed for the Board to review. She asked for any edits or corrections; then, she requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2021 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.