

KEAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**MINUTES – SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING****WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025****3:00 P.M. VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL: Steve Fastook, Chair; Linda Lewis, Vice Chair; Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Secretary; John Kean, Jr., Bertha Little-Mathews, Rajeev Malhotra, Alan Markman, A. Todd Mayo, Matthew McDermott, Ada Morell, Ed Oatman, Barbara Sobel, Rick Torres, Cylia Blackmon, Student Trustee; Jane Howlett, Alternate Student Trustee; Dr. Lamont Repollet, President; Board Secretary Audrey Kelly; Assistant Director Michelle Freestone

OTHERS PRESENT: Itunu Balogun, Greg Bellotti, Dr. David Birdsell, Matt Caruso, Kate Gallagher, Kristin Ganley, Dr. Sancha Gray, Kellie LeDet, Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Dr. Michael Salvatore, Karen Smith, Felice Vazquez, Dr. Joseph Youngblood

The chair called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 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 special meeting was properly advertised in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Fastook noted the Board needed to discuss a contract matter in closed session and that the Board would return to public session after the closed session to consider a resolution related to the proposed merger with New Jersey City University. He estimated the closed session would last about 60 minutes. He then asked Ms. Kelly to read the resolution advising of a closed session.

4. RESOLUTION ADVISING THE PUBLIC OF A CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Kelly read the resolution advising of a closed session for the purpose of discussing a potential licensing agreement. A motion was made, seconded and the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 3:05 p.m.

6. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board returned to Public Session at approximately 4:05 p.m.

7. **PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

President Repollet thanked everyone for joining this special meeting noting it marks an historic moment in Kean’s long history, for higher education in New Jersey, and—most importantly—for the students and communities we serve. With the signing of the definitive agreement, he said the project is moving from planning and due diligence into action.

He noted the merger is rooted in mission. Kean University has long been dedicated to opening the doors of higher education to first-generation students, to working families, and to communities that deserve access to excellence, he said, and NJCU, shares that same commitment. Though NJCU faced real challenges in recent years, it has always served an underrepresented community in one of the state’s largest cities—a community full of talent, promise, and potential, he noted.

Now, Kean has the opportunity to do something rare in higher education: to strengthen two institutions by becoming one, he said. The merger will expand academic programs, deepen research opportunities, and, above all, broaden access to a high-quality, affordable education. He said the merger will give students in NJ’s urban centers and across the state more pathways to success, while also enhancing the reputation and impact of Kean.

He thanked the Boards of both universities, state leaders, and the campus communities for their support and vision. Transformations of this scale take courage, collaboration, and a belief in the future, he noted.

Chair Fastook said this was an historic moment for not only Kean, but for higher education in New Jersey and for its students, and he congratulated the President and the administration of both Kean and NJCU on the hard work to date.

8. **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN KEAN UNIVERSITY AND NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY (NJCU) AUTHORIZING KEAN UNIVERSITY TO ACQUIRE CONTROL OF NJCU THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO THE KEAN ACT**

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of resolution authorizing Kean University to acquire control of NJCU through amendments to the Kean Act. He opened the discussion to comments from board members. Then, a motion was made, seconded and approved by the Board.

He asked the board to take a five-minute break so the meeting minutes could be finalized for consideration.

9. FINAL APPROVAL OF MINUTES –OCTOBER 1, 2025

Chair Fastook requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the October 1, 2025 public meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the board approved the minutes.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.