

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
November 2, 2023

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....Lehigh County  
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Vice Chair...(via phone).....Harrisburg  
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq., Chairman.....Kutztown  
Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq. Secretary...(via phone).....Philadelphia  
Mr. James Ludlow.....Fogelsville  
Ms. Dianne Lutz .....Wernersville  
Mr. Guido Pichini.....Wyomissing Hills

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing  
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee.....Reading  
Mr. John Wabby.....Pottsville

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mr. Matt Assad, Controller  
Dr. Rebecca Burns, Dean, College of Education  
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business  
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities  
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, University Legal  
Ms. Charisse Fisher, Starbucks Associate  
Dr. Lisa Frye, University Senate President  
Dr. Albert Fu, APSCUF President  
Ms. Sandy Green, Community Liaison and Government Relations Assistant  
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President  
Mrs. Ann Marie Hayes Hawkinson, Associate to the President  
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services  
Ms. Kayla Hudak, Assistant Director, University Marketing and Social Media  
Mr. Aiden La Penta, Student Presenter  
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Ms. Marrisa Moore, Student  
Dr. Learie Nurse, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs  
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director, Kutztown University Foundation  
Dr. Stephen Oross III., Associate Professor, Psychology  
Ms. Jim Pasquel, Student  
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs  
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate VP Accreditation, Assessment and Curriculum  
Ms. Valerie Reidout, Veteran Services  
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President  
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, Director of Communications  
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations and Athletics  
Dr. Jennifer Schlegel, Associate Professor, Anthropology/Sociology

Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost for Extended, Life-Long Learning and Dean of Graduate Studies  
Dr. Bradley Shope, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Mr. Christopher Sponagle, Multimedia Producer  
Mr. Scott Stamm, Client Technology and Support  
Mr. Ken Steward, Associate Vice President for Academic Financial Management  
Mr. Gavin Stone, President, Student Government Board  
Ms. Amanda Volkert, Executive Director of Health and Wellness Services  
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director, Human Resources

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Grim called the meeting to order.  
Chairman Grim noted that an Executive Session was held and no action was taken.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

3. **Roll Call of Council Members**

Attendance was taken at the direction of Chairman Grim which established that a quorum of the Council was present.

4. **Remarks by the Council Chairperson**

Mr. Grim welcomed everyone to the public session of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees. He commended the university administration and staff on a wonderful series of events since our last meeting, beginning with the Legislative Breakfast and panel hosted by our Government Relations staff and University Relations office. We hope that it will open the door for many opportunities to advocate with our government officials. In addition, there were also several academic and student affairs lectures and symposiums, the re-dedication of the Miller Art Gallery, and the groundbreaking. Mr. Grim was honored to be a part of for the new Admissions welcome center which the president will touch on shortly. Last weekend, we had beautiful weather for a very successful homecoming, and another win for our regionally ranked football team. We look forward to an exciting November for our athletic teams, specifically our nationally ranked field hockey and women's soccer teams, and our football team hosting Slippery Rock for the PSAC title on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Go Golden Bears. On behalf of the Trustees, he wished the entire university community an early Happy Thanksgiving!

5. **Remarks by Mr. Gavin Stone, Student Government Board President**

Since the last meeting Student Government has welcomed 7 new members to their board following their special elections that took place on 10/20. Several of their student Government Members attended the Warehouse meeting that was on 10/29. There are currently discussions happening about ideas regarding student parking on campus as well as additional shuttle stops after Hearing Feedback from students. SGB held their first ever town hall event that was organized by the student affairs committee where they answered questions publicly in the bears den and took suggestions from the students during their panel. On Halloween, SGB held a Trunk or Treat where each college would decorate their cars to promote SGB and give our students a fun entertaining night if they were on campus for the holiday.

A subject that was brought to his attention was that due to the frequency of the Title 9 reports presented to students through the crime alert system, Students were voicing a concern through multiple social media platforms. He joined an online group of students that were planning to stage a protest to voice their statements regarding a lack of action taken to prevent these incidents from

occurring. He had informed the group of the meeting that occurred 11/1 in south dining hall that was held to address their concerns. It was very informative and reassuring for our students. He has not heard any other information in the group regarding the protest, but his goal is to ensure that it is peaceful and does not Accuse anyone of causing terrible incidents like these to occur. He believes the confusion came mostly from the information that is not allowed to be shared to the students where from their perspective, it seems like nothing is happening but, appropriate responses are being made that cannot be shared publicly. In addition to a rise in concern of campus safety after the incidents he just spoke on, SGB has been planning their Annual Campus Safety Walk. They are happy to be assisted by EMT, Public Safety and the president's cabinet to schedule and organize the walk. He reached out to organizations such as Residence Life, RHA, Its on US and have had SGBs support in contacting DSO because this year, along with safety, a priority for them is also Accessibility on campus. Finally, their budget process is well underway with their board evenly distributing the Budget Packets and reviewing them separately and then under final revision by their treasurer and the budget and Finance Committee.

Mr. Gavin Stone concluded his remarks.

6. **Remarks by Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President**

Kutztown University was named to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's 2023 Transfer Honor Roll for the sixth-consecutive year. KU was among 208 colleges and universities in the nation to be named in recognition of the dynamic pathways they have created to support community college transfer students. KU was one of 10 Pennsylvania schools honored and the only member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Kutztown University has been awarded a five-year, \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement a Title III program, which is funded 100% with federal funds, to increase undergraduate retention and graduation rates and eliminate equity gaps for Kutztown University students.

An innovative partnership between Lehigh Carbon and Northampton Community colleges and Kutztown and East Stroudsburg universities will keep students on a pathway to a college degree with a variety of transfer agreements that will benefit students whose journey to higher education may have been interrupted. Entitled "It's Not Over," this pilot project brings together the four institutions to create opportunities for students seeking an associate degree and ultimately a bachelor's degree.

KU has begun its latest building renovation on campus, transforming the Poplar House into the new Kutztown University Admissions Welcome Center to greet prospective students and their families. The new facility is expected to open spring 2025. Located at the entrance to campus, at the corner of Kutztown Rd. and College Blvd., the new Admissions Welcome Center will include a renovation of the Poplar House and a new 10,300 square foot addition to host admissions functions.

KU's commitment to enhancing campus diversity also received a considerable boost once again with this year's freshmen class. The class boasts an all-time high of 31% minority students, a 2% increase over last year's record 29%. The overall diversity of the student body remains steady at 25%.

He has the practice of ending his remarks with a video highlighting a special event, faculty, staff, or students... Today, he shared a “Golden Moment” (a social media video series developed by University Relations – Kayla Hudak and Chris Sponagle -- to spotlight various individuals on campus who make a difference in the lives of our students) – this Golden Moment features Starbucks supervisor Charisse Fischer. You will see in this video why she is so popular with our students and other members of our community – she is a wonderful example of how people in many different roles at our university contribute to the success of our students.

#### **Instagram**

- Over 12,000 accounts were reached through this video
- 1,227 likes
- 115 people “shared” the video
- 75 positive comments regarding Charisse

Charisse – stood and was recognized.

Dr. Ken Hawkinson concluded his remarks.

#### **7. Public Comments**

Dr. Albert Fu commented on the Spanish program in moratorium.

Dr. Stephen Oross III. commented on his legal action against the University and others.

#### **8. Approval of Minutes, September 21, 2023**

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Phillips Armstrong and seconded by Mr. Guido Pichini, the minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting were approved.*

#### **9. Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

#### **10. Student Presenter: Aiden La Penta, IT Major with a cybersecurity certificate**

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold introduced Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Dr. Laurie McMillan introduced the student presenter, Aiden La Penta. Mr. La Penta shared his personal background, his experiences at Kutztown University and shared his goals for the future.

#### **11. Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the list of internship agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the internship agreements as presented. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

#### **12. New Program – B.S. in Data Science**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the new Bachelor of Science Program in Data Science to forward to the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education for final approval.

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to forward the new Bachelor of Science Program in Data Science as presented to the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education for final approval. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

Mr. Guido Pichini concluded his report.

**13. Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on Finance, Property and Audit**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

**14. Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Jim Ludlow reviewed information on a few key items.

**15. 2023-24 E&G Budget Revision**

*Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the 2023-24 E&G Budget Revision as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**16. Summer 2024 Study Abroad Program Fees**

*Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the Summer 2024 Study Abroad Program Fees as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

Mr. Jim Ludlow concluded his report.

**17. Summary Discussions – Council Committee on Human Diversity**

Ms. Dianne Lutz presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

Ms. Dianne Lutz concluded her report.

**18. Summary Discussions – Council Committee on University Relations & Athletic Advancement**

Mr. Phillips Armstrong presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

Mr. Phillips Armstrong concluded his report.

**19. Honorary Doctorate Degree Candidate – Mr. Mark Weaver**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Honorary Doctorate Degree Candidate – Mr. Mark Weaver as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**20. Revised Mission Statement**

*Mr. Phillips Armstrong moved to approve the revised Mission Statement as presented with one minor edit, in the last line, omit the “and” between social and civic. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**21. PACT Update – No PACT update presented.**


**22. As May Arise - No items presented.**

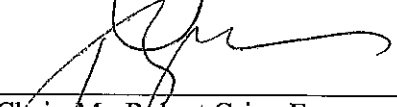
**Adjournment**

*Mr. Robert Grim moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:01p.m.*

12/14/23  
Date

12/17/23  
Date

  
Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.

  
Chair, Mr. Robert Grim, Esq.