

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
June 8, 2023

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....Lehigh County
Dr. Charles Blocksidge McKees Rocks
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Vice Chair.....Harrisburg
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq., Chairman.....Kutztown
Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq., SecretaryPhiladelphia
Mr. James Ludlow.....Fogelsville
Ms. Dianne Lutz Wernersville
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee.....Reading, PA

ABSENT:

Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing
Mr. Guido Pichini..... Wyomissing Hills
Mr. John Wabby..... Pottsville

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Matt Assad, Controller
Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Cara Basile, Assistant Director of Stewardship, KU Foundation
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, University Legal
Ms. Krista Evans, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Ms. Toyia Heyward, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Mr. Malcolm Huggins, Director of Alumni Engagement, KU Foundation
Dr. Deryl Johnson, University Senate President
Ms. Sarah Kassen, Director of Advancement Services, KU Foundation
Mr. Timothy Kast, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement, KU Foundation
Ms. Lisa Kowalksi, Executive Director, KUSI
Dr. Steve Lem, Acting Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Ms. Cheryl Lord, Events & Engagement Manager, KU Foundation
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Mr. Keegan Myers, Associate Director of Analytics & Research, KU Foundation
Ms. Kristen Nicholson, Head Coach, Women's LaCrosse
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director, Kutztown University Foundation
Mr. Kraig Piper, University Volunteer
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Ms. Christine Quinter, Executive Assistant, KU Foundation
Dr. Karen Rauch, Interim Vice Provost
Ms. Sharon Rubart, Assistant Director of Advancement Services, KU Foundation
Mr. Bryan Salvatore, Director of Communications

Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations & Athletics
Dr. Bradley Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Mr. Justin Shurr, Assistant Director of Communications, KU Foundation
Mr. Christopher Sponagle, Multimedia Producer
Mr. Tyler Schwab, Manager of Client Technology & Support
Mr. Ken Steward, Associate Vice President for Academic Financial Management
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director, Health & Wellness Services
Dr. Jeff Wehrung, Associate Dean, College of Business
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director, Human Resources

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:05 p.m. Chairman Grim called the meeting to order.
Chairman Grim noted that an Executive Session was held.

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**

Chairman Grim welcomed everyone to the final public meeting of the fiscal year for the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

Mr. Grim began by welcoming Payton Mentzer, the newest member of the council Payton is headed into her senior year as a public relations major. A graduate of Conrad Weiser High School in western Berks County. Payton has been named to the KU Dean's List four times, and has been active on campus with Residence Life, BearFest, and PRSSA. She replaces Evan Santos, who graduated last month. Mr. Grim asked everyone in attendance to join him in welcoming Payton Mentzer as our new Student Trustee.

He congratulated President Hawkinson, our administration, faculty, staff, and students on another successful year for our great university. Each year as we move further away from the pandemic it reminds of the joy and excitement an in-person living and learning experience brings to our students and the entire university community.

5. **Remarks by Student Government Board President**

There were no remarks presented.

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

President Hawkinson reported that he hosted five officials from India who led a consortium of thirty-five colleges & schools in Mumbai, India. We provided a tour, reception and informational session wherein our experts provided pathways for Indian students interested in attending KU. We are currently engaged in several partnerships with universities in India which we hope will result in Indian students attending KU next year.

Dr. Hawkinson reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced the \$1.5 million in grant funding was awarded to 15 universities that partner with school districts to expedite the process for students to become a special education teacher, including \$99,510 to Kutztown University.

President Hawkinson shared that the new Keith Haring Outdoor Fitness Court was selected as a Townie award winner by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center winner for the Organizational Development-Community Partnerships category. Representatives of the Kutztown Community Partnerships and Kutztown University will attend the Townie Awards Gala in Scranton on June 27 to accept this prestigious honor.

Dr. Hawkinson shared that Kutztown University and the KU Foundation hosted a dedication for the Nancy Jean Stump Sieger '54 Botanical Research Center this past Friday. The new botanical center, located next to the Boehm Science Building, will foster faculty and student research by offering controlled greenhouse environments, growth chambers and a fully equipped headhouse. The facility complements the current greenhouse in appearance and features contemporary shading and climate control elements. In addition to housing the growth chambers and storage facilities, the headhouse includes spaces for researchers to prepare plants, record findings and work collaboratively.

He reported that the KU women's lacrosse and softball teams wrapped up the spring athletic season with appearances in the PSAC and NCAA playoffs. Of particular note was the extraordinary season for women's lacrosse, which posted its first winning season since the program was reinstated in 2008, while tying a school record for wins in a season with 13 – after winning just 4 games last year, and 1 game in 2021. In addition, the team made the PSAC playoffs for the first time since 1982, winning a first-round game, and earned an NCAA playoff bid for the first time in school history. Congratulations to second-year head coach Kristin Nicholson and the entire Golden Bear team on their historic season. Coach Nicholson was recognized.

Dr. Hawkinson recognized Ms. Krista Evans, interim vice president for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs. She has accepted the position of dean of Admissions at Lafayette College, effective July 1. Krista has done outstanding work in her interim role and as director of Admissions since joining KU in May 2019. KU has experienced new student growth each year under her tenure. Krista's last day at KU will be June 30. He congratulated Krista on her new opportunity and thanked her for everything that she had done for KU. Especially for everything she had done during the past year as interim vice president. She will be missed!

President Hawkinson introduced the Golden Moments social media campaign. The project uses current video trends to share the stories of KU's students, faculty and staff. The short, casual videos enhance KU's brand awareness by cultivating a feeling of connection to the people who live and work at KU. Six videos have been shared so far, and over 51,000 people have seen them in their Instagram and YouTube feeds. The campaign has also achieved an overall engagement rate of 8.3%, while the industry standard is below 5%. The following video is three separate Golden Moments combined into one. Dr. Hawkinson asked the members of council & audience to direct their attention to the video screen to view a short montage of Golden Moments, including a few faces our trustees will certainly be familiar with.

President Hawkinson concluded his report.

7. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments presented.

8. **Approval of Minutes, April 27, 2023**
Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jim Ludlow and seconded by Dr. Charles Blocksidge, the minutes of the April 27, 2023, meeting was approved.
9. **Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**
Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the discussions of the committee meeting.
10. **Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**
Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the list of internship agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the internship agreements as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.
11. **Letters of Understanding with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**
Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the Letters of Understanding which establishes a relationship whereby its students may participate in a practicum or student teaching experience.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the letters of understanding as presented. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.
12. **Food Insecurity**
Mr. Jim Ludlow reported that Ms. Leah Casseliah presented about the KU Food Pantry during the council committee on academic and student affairs. The food pantry receives two tons of each week and serves 160 students. Mr. Ludlow informed the council that the food pantry needs volunteers, recognition, and funding.

Mr. Ludlow concluded his report.
13. **Summary Discussions-Council Committee on Finance, Property and Audit**
Dr. Charles Blocksidge and Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the discussions of the committee meeting.
14. **Purchases and Contracts**
Dr. Charles Blocksidge reported that the council committee thoroughly reviewed and were advised by staff that the purchases and contracts are in full compliance of PASSHE policies.
15. **2023-24 E&G Budget**
Dr. Charles Blocksidge presented the 2023-24 E&G Budget.

Dr. Charles Blocksidge moved to approve the 2023-24 E&G Budget as presented. Mr. Kevin Harden Jr. seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.
16. **2023-24 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees**
Dr. Charles Blocksidge presented the 2023-24 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees.

Dr. Charles Blocksidge moved to approve the 2023-24 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees as presented. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Dr. Charles Blocksidge concluded his report.

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

Ms. Dianne Lutz and Ms. Payton Mentzer presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

Ms. Lutz welcomed Payton Mentzer, student trustee to the committee. Ms. Lutz reported on the current searches that are underway to fill vacant positions.

Ms. Mentzer provided programming updates from the multicultural center, GLBTQ+ center, and the women's center.

Ms. Lutz provided a diversity, equity, and inclusion update.

Ms. Lutz & Ms. Mentzer concluded their report.

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

Mr. Kevin Harden Jr. presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

Mr. Harden extended appreciation to the leadership of the KU Foundation for all of their work in supporting the university.

He provided a detailed report on the upcoming events for the KU Foundation such as the Campaign Closing Celebration on September 8-9, the 1866 minute Giving Challenge on October 25-26, Homecoming tailgate and football game on October 28, DeFran dedication and ribbon cutting on September 19, and the Kutztown Folk Festival on July 1-9, 2023.

Mr. Harden provided an update report on the Hamton Inn & Suites Kutztown. The hotel is receiving the Conrad Hilton award which recognized it for the top 1% of hotels in the Hampton Inn brand worldwide. Our hotel is number 8 out of 2602.

He provided a KU Fuel Mentoring Program update. The goal is to increase alumni support by 100%. There are currently 50 KU alumni signed up to serve. The program would like to see that number increase to 100.

Mr. Harden recognized the KU Foundation new hires and shared that the KU Foundation appreciates the council of trustees for all of their support during the hiring processes.

Mr. Harden reported updates from University Relations and Athletics division under the direction of Vice President Santos.

He reported that three golden bear teams finished with a winning record and a winning academic success rate. Fifteen intercollegiate athletic teams recorded a cumulative grade point average over 3.0 and department academic success rate increased to 81% which is higher than the national average of 77%.

Mr. Harden reported that KU's social media engagement and website engagement has increased by 5-10%.

He reported that KU is adding two new athletic clubs – disc golf and climbing club.

Mr. Harden concluded his report.

19. **Resolution to the Kutztown University Foundation**

Chairman Grim and President Hawkinson presented a resolution to the Kutztown University Foundation as a gesture of appreciation for all that they do to support Kutztown University.

20. **PACT Update**

There was no PACT update presented.

21. **2023-2024 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Robert Grim presented the 2023-2024 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule for approval.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the 2023-24 Council of Trustees meeting schedule as presented. Dr. Charles Blocksidge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

22. **As May Arise**

No items presented.

23. **Adjournment**


Mr. Robert Grim moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

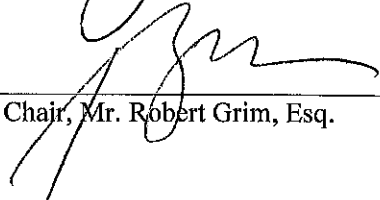
12-14-23

Date

12-14-23

Date


Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.


Chair, Mr. Robert Grim, Esq.