

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
April 25, 2024

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Grim, Esq., Chairman.....Kutztown
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Vice-ChairHarrisburg
Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq. Secretary.....Philadelphia
Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....Lehigh County
Mr. James Ludlow..... Fogelsville
Mr. Guido Pichini.....Wyomissing Hills
Ms. Sandy Green.....Kutztown
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee..... Reading

ABSENT:

Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing
Ms. Dianne LutzWernersville

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, Legal Counsel
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President
Ms. Ann Marie Hayes Hawkinson, Associate to the President
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Ms. Megan Hanaway, Student Presenter
Ms. Maria Clark, Student
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, Director of Communications
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations and Athletics
Mr. Christopher Sponagle, Multimedia Producer
Mr. Scott Stamm, Client Technology and Support
Ms. Diana LoChiatto, Executive Assistant, University Relations & Athletics
Mr. Gavin Stone, President, Student Government Board
Mr. Matt Assad, Controller
Mr. Ken Steward, Associate Vice President, Academic Finance Management
Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost Extended & Life-Long Learning & Dean of Graduate Studies
Mr. Ed Richmond, Associate Executive Director & CFO, KU Foundation
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President, Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, HR Director
Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Brad Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Dr. Stephen St. Onge, Vice President, Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
Dr. Lisa Frye, Senate President
Mr. Troy Vingom, Assistant VP for Information Technology Services

Mr. Bradley Davis, Director of Equity & Compliance, Title IX Coordinator
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Services
Mr. Erik Burstein, Head Women's Soccer Coach
Ms. Bridget Curtis, Student Athlete
Ms. Katelyn Economopoulos, Student Athlete
Mr. Joe Jardine, Student Athlete
Mr. Matthew Weinberg, Student Athlete
Ms. Juliana Donato, Student Athlete
Ms. Sarah Gatehouse, Student Athlete

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 Mr. Robert Grim, Council Chairperson**

"Welcome to the April Public Session of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

As we celebrate Administrative Professionals Days this week, I want to begin by recognizing and thanking our many Administrative Professionals who contribute every day to the success of Kutztown University. It truly takes a team effort from all employees to make a large organization click, and AFSCME employees are certainly vital to our campus. Thank you all for everything that you do.

Advocacy season remains in full swing as we campaign for financial support for the State System prior to the upcoming commonwealth budget deadline. Trustee Sandy Green will lead our staff and 25 students in Harrisburg this coming Monday to stress the importance and value of a KU education and the need for support of our system.

Finally, today is one of those special meetings for the Trustees as we vote to approve the spring graduates for the upcoming May 10th and 11th commencement ceremonies. It is truly one of the great rewards of being a trustee when we pass the vote to send our students across the commencement stage and out into our society to make a difference."

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

Mr. Gavin Stone noted the SGB has completed their goals for the semester and highlighted SGA day celebrating their members. 12 members will be going to Harrisburg for Advocacy Day on April 29th advocating for PASSHE. The General Board elected the next Exec Board and he's happy to report that he will be returning as President next year. He thanked the Council and Administration for their support and looks forward to working with everyone again next year.

Mr. Gavin Stone concluded his remarks.

President Hawkinson commended Gavin on being a strong advocate for the student body in a calm and relaxed manner. Gavin raises important issues and brings about many positive changes. President Hawkinson looks forward to working with Gavin again next year as well.

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

*Kutztown University had its busiest weekend of the Spring on the first Saturday of April, hosting the Kutztown Optimist Fools' Run, to raise scholarship funds for area high school students to attend Kutztown University; we also hosted two academic conferences; two home athletic events; and our spring Accepted Students Reception, which attracted more than 3,000 guests, including prospective students and their parents, to O'Pake Fieldhouse for a morning of interaction with our faculty, staff and students. I want to thank everyone in the university community for their assistance in making the day a huge success.

*The University's multimedia producer, Chris Sponagle, won a Cuppie Award last month in the News/Event/Photo photography category for his Golden Bear field hockey celebration photo. The Cuppies are awarded a professional organization committed to advancing higher education marketing and communications. Chris won a Gold Cuppie, the highest bestowed by the organization, for the photo on display behind me. Congratulations Chris!

*Our Golden Bear athletic teams continue to bring excitement to campus this spring. Of historical note, is the first-ever national bid for participants on our 3-year-old women's acrobatics and tumbling team. Our 5-element heat will compete in the Individual Event Final this Sunday at Fairmont State University in West Virginia. The competition can be viewed on ESPN Plus. In addition, our women's lacrosse team has once again achieved national status, with a top 10 ranking in NCAA Division II heading into the final week of the season.

*Speaking of Golden Bear Athletics, we are pleased to be joined by several of our fall and winter sports All-Americans this afternoon, Matt Santos, Vice President of University Relations and Athletics will recognize our athletes:

From our national championship Field Hockey team:

*-Juliana Donato, a junior midfielder and Business Administration Major from Cedarville, NJ
-Sarah Gatehouse, a senior defense specialist and Sports Management Major from Sinking Spring. Sarah was also the recipient of this year's Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Gold Medal Award, the top Chambliss medal awarded to our most outstanding students.*

From our NCAA playoff Women's Soccer team:

*-Bridget Curtis, a junior defender and Business Administration Major from Warrington
-Katelyn Economopolous, a freshman midfielder from Grantville
They are joined by head coach Erik Burstein*

From Men's Indoor Track & Field:

-Joe Jardine, a graduate student pole vaulter and Data Analytics Major from Mohrsville, who placed sixth in the country with a school-record vault.

And From Wrestling:

-Matthew Weinberg, the national runner-up at 184 pounds, and Sport Management Major from Philadelphia]

*Our video today features senior Maria Clark, a wonderful young Woman who has triumph over adversity thanks to a positive attitude and help from KU's Disability Services Office. Please direct your attention to the screen behind me to learn about Maria's moving story:"

Dr. Ken Hawkinson concluded his remarks.

7. **Public Comments**

No comments were reported.

8. **Approval of Minutes, March 21, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Phillips Armstrong, the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the discussions of the committee meeting. He highlighted the financial aid presentation by Mr. Bernard McCree outlining the present situation with financial aid.

10. **Student Presenter: Ms. Megan Hanaway, Major: Elementary Education PreK-4**

Mr. Guido Pichini introduced our Dean of Education, Dr. Rebecca West Burns who introduced the student presenter, Megan Hanaway. Ms. Hanaway shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University and her goals for the future.

11. **School-based Internship Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University**

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

- Seneca Valley School District *New*

12. **Dual Credit Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the dual credit agreements with various school districts which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in university courses either on the Kutztown University campus or on a school district site.

- Northwestern Lehigh School District *New*

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to present agenda items #11 and #12 as one action item for approval. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

13. **May 2024 Candidates for Degree**

Ms. Payton Mentzer presented the May 2024 candidates for degree.

Ms. Payton Mentzer moved to approve the May 2024 candidates for degree as presented. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Mr. Guido Pichini concluded his report.

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

Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

15. Purchases and Contracts

Mr. Dennis Giorno noted that the purchases and contracts were reviewed and all was in order.

16. Capital Spending Plan

Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the Capital Spending Plan as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

17. 2024-2025 Auxiliary Budgets

Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the 2024-2025 Auxiliary Budgets are presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

18. Undergraduate Tuition, Non-Pennsylvania Residents

Mr. Dennis Giorno stated that we are proposing to increase our reduced out of state tuition rate by 3%. (\$6,110 to \$6,295 per semester)

Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the Undergraduate Tuition increase for Non-Pennsylvania Residents. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

19. Miscellaneous Fees

Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the Miscellaneous Fees as presented. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Mr. Dennis Giorno concluded his report.

20. Summary of Discussions – Council Committee on Human Diversity

Ms. Sandy Green presented the discussions of the committee meeting including the searches in progress and DEI update. Mr. Jesus Pena provided an update on complaints and investigations. Ms. Payton Mentzer shared an update of diversity programming.

Ms. Sandy Green concluded her report.

21. Summary of Discussions – Council Committee on University Relations & Athletic Advancement

Mr. Phillips Armstrong presented the discussions of the committee meeting including the FCC granted our permit for an FM Station. We are averaging about 97,000 users on our website. We will have a very busy camps and conferences Summer season. KU Foundation Board renewed Mr. Alex Ogeka and Mr. Ed Richmond in their positions for another four years.

Mr. Phillips Armstrong concluded his report.

22. **Nominating Committee Report**

Mr. Robert Grim provided a report of the nominating committee. The committee members are Mr. Robert Grim, Mr. Dennis Giorno, Mr. Kevin Harden, and Mr. Jim Ludlow. The committee selected the nominations for the executive officers to serve beginning July 1, 2024 for two years.

Chairman – Mr. Dennis Giorno
Vice-Chairman – Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr. Esq.
Secretary – Mr. Phillips Armstrong

The nominations will be presented for approval during the June Meeting.

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Nominating Committee Report and Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

23. **Proposed 2024-2025 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Robert Grim presented the *proposed* 2024-2025 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule for review. The meeting dates will be presented for approval during the June COT Meeting.

24. **PACT Update**

Ms. Sandy Green reported the PACT Conference was held via zoom on April 3rd. Chancellor Greenstein addressed the attendees, emphasizing the State System’s commitment to enhancing affordability, promoting student success, and aligning educational offerings with the workforce demands of Pennsylvania. With ongoing dialogue surrounding Governor Shapiro’s Blueprint for Higher Education, the Chancellor underscored the immediate necessity for adequate funding for PASSHE universities. A presentation by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) offered valuable insights into trusteeship, guiding trustees on how to effectively fulfill their responsibilities.


25. **As May Arise** – No items presented

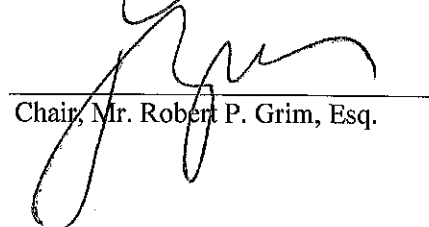
Adjournment

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.

6-6-2024
Date

6-6-24
Date


Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.


Chair, Mr. Robert P. Grim, Esq.