

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
April 27, 2023

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Dr. Charles Blocksidge (via telephone) McKees Rocks
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Vice Chair.....Harrisburg
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq., Chairman.....Kutztown
Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing
Mr. James Ludlow.....Fogelsville
Ms. Dianne Lutz Wernersville
Mr. Guido Pichini..... Wyomissing Hills
Mr. Evan Santos, Student Trustee.....Kutztown

ABSENT:

Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....Lehigh County
Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq., SecretaryPhiladelphia
Mr. John Wabby..... Pottsville

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Matt Assad, Controller
Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Olivia Blasone, Student-Athlete, Field Hockey
Ms. Halema Bobby, Student Presenter, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities
Ms. Rachel Dussman, Student-Athlete, Field Hockey
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, University Legal
Ms. Krista Evans, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Mr. Robert Fisher, Head Coach, Wrestling
Dr. Albert Fu, Professor, Anthropology & Sociology and APSCUF President
Ms. Sarah Gatehouse, Student-Athlete, Field Hockey
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Ms. Toyia Heyward, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Dr. Steve Lem, Acting Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director, Kutztown University Foundation
Mr. Kraig Piper, University Volunteer
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Dr. Karen Rauch, Interim Vice Provost
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, Director of Communications
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations & Athletics
Ms. Marci Scheuing, Head Coach, Field Hockey
Mr. Scott Stamm, Electronic System Technician
Ms. Kayla Sherry, President, Student Government Board

Dr. Bradley Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Mr. Christopher Sponagle, Multimedia Producer
Mr. Ken Steward, Associate Vice President for Academic Financial Management
Mr. Gavin Stone, President-Elect, Student Government Board
Dr. John Ward, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Jeff Wehrung, Associate Dean, College of Business
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Matthew Weinberg, Student-Athlete, Wrestling
Dr. Mary Rita Weller, Assistant Professor, Social Work

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.

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 April public meeting of the Council of Trustees.

Mr. Grim shared that this last meeting of the semester is always a special one for the Trustees, as we make the motion and vote to approve our spring graduates. We are just a little over two weeks away from commencement, with the graduate commencement being held Friday night, and the two undergraduate commencements being held Saturday.

He reported that we expect more than 1,100 students to walk, as we recognize another group of KU graduates who will go into the world to make a difference. We are honored that they chose Kutztown University for their education, as so many from Pennsylvania and the region have for the past 157 years.

We look forward to joining many of my associate trustees to celebrate commencement with our students, faculty, and staff.

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

Ms. Kayla Sherry provided a Student Government Board update and provided an overview of the events, initiatives, and goals of the various SGB committees. As Ms. Sherry prepares to graduate, she introduced the incoming Student Government Board President, Mr. Gavin Stone.

The Council of Trustees thanked Kayla for her service and making a difference at KU.

Student Trustee Santos commended Kayla for her leadership and congratulated Kayla.

President Hawkinson praised Kayla for her contributions as a student leader during her tenure.

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

Dr. Hawkinson shared that he attended the presidential inauguration of Ken Long at East Stroudsburg University. Ken Long served at KU for five years for Assistant Vice President, Administration and Finance before moving on for a promotion opportunity at ESU. Dr. Hawkinson shared the many KU employees who moved on to become presidents at various institutions of higher education.

President Hawkinson reported that we are demonstrating a commitment to work together to better serve students and their communities, regional representatives of Pennsylvania community colleges and universities from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) held a news conference at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) to sign a pledge demonstrating this commitment. East Stroudsburg president Ken Long and President Ken Hawkinson represented the State System in promoting the pledge, which demonstrates the commitment to provide high-quality affordable academic and career education programs and to contribute to the development of a highly- skilled competitive workforce in the commonwealth.

Dr. Hawkinson shared that Kutztown University has been designated a “Voter Friendly Campus” for 2023-2024. KU is one of four institutions in Pennsylvania and three in the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to receive this year’s designation. The Voter Friendly Campus program is designed to help institutions address the myriad of challenges that prevent college students from participating in the political process and foster a culture of democratic engagement on their campuses, including in years without a national election.

President Hawkinson was delighted to share that Kutztown University’s Dr. Jennifer Schlegel, associate professor of anthropology, has been selected by Lehigh Valley Business as a 2023 Women of Influence and Circle of Excellence honoree. Women of Influence Awards honor high-achieving women from the Lehigh Valley for their career accomplishments. The honorees are selected based on their professional experience, community involvement and a commitment to mentoring.

Dr. Hawkinson reported that Kutztown University’s Samantha Nye, assistant professor of art and design, was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Professor Nye was awarded for Film-Video and was one of 171 exceptional individuals selected from nearly 2,500 applicants.

President Hawkinson reported Kutztown University Athletics had a total of five All-Americans from the fall and winter seasons. He recognized four of them who were present. On the field hockey team, under head coach Marci Schueing, had three All-Americans: Rachel Dusman, who earned the honor for a second-straight year, Olivia Blasone, and Sarah Gatehouse. Sarah was also named the NFHCA National Scholar-Athlete, presented to the top academic field hockey player in Division II.

On the wrestling team, under head coach Rob Fisher, earned the sole All-American honor for Golden Bear winter sports teams: Matthew Weinberg, who finished fourth in the nation at 184 lbs.

He also noted, not able to join us was Kayla Argen from women’s soccer, who earned the honor for the second year in a row.

Lastly, Dr. Hawkinson highlighted a video produced by our videographer Christopher Sponagle and his intern Aiden. The video emphasized the education program narrated by senior Education major Amelia Fair. Amelia shared her experience participating in the sixth cohort of the Professional Development School (PDS) program with our College of Education. Dr. John Ward, Dean of the College of Education mentioned that this program is a national movement to provide clinical teacher experience.

President Hawkinson concluded his report.

7. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments presented.

8. **Approval of Minutes, March 23, 2023**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Thomas Heck, the minutes of the March 23, 2023, meeting was approved.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

10. **Student Presenter**

Mr. Guido Pichini introduced Dr. Laurie McMillian, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. McMillian introduced the student presenter, Ms. Halema Bobby.

Halema Bobby is the recipient of the PASSHE Scholarship. She chose to attend KU, although she could have attended any PASSHE school of her choice. In addition to working on her degree in social work, she is also working on a minor in sociology. She is a first-generation college student and her family immigrated from Afghanistan. Halema works full-time at Tower Health as well as has her own business doing henna tattoos.

Ms. Bobby shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University and shared her goals for the future. The members of the council recognized and congratulated Ms. Bobby on her many accomplishments.

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

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.

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|--|-------------------|------------|
| • Catie's Cause, Wellington, FL | Social Media | <i>New</i> |
| • Accord Italy Smart Tours, Italy | English | <i>New</i> |
| • Reading School District, Reading, PA | Social Work | <i>New</i> |
| • DEA Allentown Resident Office, Allentown, PA | Criminal Justice | <i>New</i> |
| • PRO Rehabilitation Services, Dallas, PA | Biology | <i>New</i> |
| • US Bureau of Land Management, Kanab, UT | Physical Sciences | <i>New</i> |

12. **Agreements with Various International Organizations and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the Affiliation Agreements which establishes a relationship whereby its students may participate in a practicum or student teaching experience.

- Jyoti Nivas College New
- St. Joseph's University New
- NITTE (NU) New
- Padmashree Group of Institutions New
- Bangalore University New
- Bengaluru City University New

13. **May 2023 Candidates for Degree**

Mr. Evan Santos presented the May 2023 Spring candidates for degree.

Mr. Evan Santos moved to approve the May 2023 candidates for degree as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

14. **Resolution for Mr. Evan Santos, Student Trustee**

Mr. Robert Grim moved that the council approve the resolution as presented to Mr. Evan Santos honoring him for his service as student member of the Council of Trustees, his accomplishments, and contributions to our university. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Mr. Pichini concluded his report.

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

Dr. Charles Blocksidge and Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

16. **Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Dennis Giorno reported that the council committee thoroughly reviewed and were advised by staff that the purchases and contracts are in full compliance of PASSHE policies.

17. **Undergraduate Tuition, Non-Pennsylvania Residents**

Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the Undergraduate Tuition for Non-Pennsylvania Residents.

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

18. **Miscellaneous Fees**

Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the 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.

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

Ms. Dianne Lutz and Mr. Evan Santos presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

Ms. Lutz reported that all searches for senior level positions have concluded. The ongoing search for Labor Relations Manager continues.

Mr. Santos provided programming updates for the Multicultural Center (MCC), LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and Women's Center. He reported that the MCC hosted several events within the past month including autism acceptance day, the diversity council cookout, the diversity marketplace, and the Black lives still matter event. He reported that there will be a pride prom and also a black lives still matter march on campus. There was a bus trip held to Washington, DC to visit the African American history museum. The LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the Women's Center held spring week of action and the annual drag show was held. The Lavender graduation will be held on campus for fifteen students.

Ms. Lutz thanked Evan for his service as student trustee and commended his leadership.

Ms. Lutz provided a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion update.

She reported that the Institutional Climate Committee is convening working groups to analyze the Campus Climate. They will not be ready this spring but will use the fall semester to do more focus groups and campus engagement.

She also reported that Dr. Barbara Taliaferro was presented with the Keeper of the Flame award on April 18 at a small luncheon in the Multicultural Center with other retirees, current staff, and students of the Diversity & Inclusion Centers.

Ms. Lutz shared that the 2023 PASSHE DEI Summit will be hybrid this year in Shippensburg November 8-10. Ms. Angelica Mishra has been selected to serve on the statewide planning committee.

She shared that Mr. Jerry Schearer attended the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) annual conference in Baltimore, MD from April 12-15 and was already able to share some of the information learned. KU's Athletics DEI Officer, Bilal Salaam, attended the Black Coaches Association Forum, April 1-3.

Lastly, Ms. Lutz reported that the Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (EMSA) division along with Athletics will be hosting an in-person diversity training called "A Long Talk" on May 15 and 17 from 9-11am each day. Limited to eighty participants. "A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth" is an antiracism activation experience.

Ms. Lutz concluded their report.

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

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

He reported that University Marketing held a conversion rate of 11.45%, well over the industry average.

He also reported that Kutztown University Radio (KUR) has had a record-breaking 701,619 listened minutes this year, from 8,398 listening sessions (also a record) and thirty-eight different countries listened to the broadcast (also a record). Top countries listened besides the U.S. are Ireland, Germany, and Austria.

Mr. Ludlow reported that Sandy Green, Community Liaison and Government Relations official worked with Kayla Sherry, SGB president, and other Student Government Board members to schedule advocacy meetings with their representatives in Harrisburg. KU campus has been host to various legislative visits. There will be a legislative conference in September.

Mr. Ludlow reported that Conference Services has completed contracting for the summer of 2023. The office is anticipating its busiest summer in more than six years with more than 30,000 customers expected on our campus.

He reported that Athletics inducted its inaugural class into the Chi Alpha Sigma National Honor Society on March 30. The department recognized ninety-five student-athletes. Honorees must achieve at least junior academic standing and have achieved a minimum cumulative grade-point average of a 3.4.

He also reported that six members of the KU football team were honored for their performance in the classroom by being inducted into the 2023 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society. The honor society comprises college football players who will graduate from all divisions of the NCAA, NAIA, and sprint football who each maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA or better throughout their college careers.

Mr. Ludlow shared that the women's bowling team finished third in the ECC Tournament, making it to the final day of competition for the first time since 2019. Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling finished its second season of competition with an overall record of 5-3, grabbing its first victory over a ranked team (defeated West Liberty with a program-best score of 249).

He shared that Spring sports are nearing playoff season. Baseball, softball, and women's lacrosse all have post-season ambitions. Women's lacrosse currently has the second-most wins in program history, and the first winning season since the program was reinstated in 2008.

Mr. Ludlow reported that the Kutztown University Foundation (KUF) held a donor reception and open house for the Wells-Rapp Center for Mallet Percussion Research. More than 160 supporters of the project were in attendance. At the reception, Professor Emeritus and KUF Board member Dr. Willis Rapp was presented with the foundation's inaugural Golden Bear Award for Volunteerism.

He shared that the KU Foundation will welcome the spring 2023 graduates into the Alumni Association.

He also shared that the dedication and ribbon-cutting for the Nancy Jean Stump Seiger '54 Botanical Research Center will be held on June 2.

Mr. Ludlow reported that the KUF will be welcoming two new team members, Director of Development – Maria Baylor and Assistant Director of Athletic Advancement – Rebecca Donahue.

He shared that the Kutztown Folk Festival is USA Today Reader's Choice 10 Best awarded #2 in best cultural festival in North America.

He reported that the Kutztown University endowment is currently valued at \$39 million.

Lastly, Mr. Ludlow reported that the KUF hotel investment, The Hampton Inn & Suites Kutztown, has been awarded the Conrad Achievement Award recognizing it as the top 1% hotels in the Hampton Brand in every region.

Mr. Ludlow concluded his report.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the proposal that the council approve a resolution to the Kutztown University Foundation as a gesture of appreciation for all that they do to support Kutztown University. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

22. **PACT Update**

There was no PACT update presented.

23. **Proposed 2023-2024 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Robert Grim presented the proposed 2023-2024 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule for review. Noted that the September meeting date be changed from September 28 to September 21. The full slate of meeting dates will be presented for approval during the June COT meeting.

24. **As May Arise**

No items presented.

25. **Adjournment**

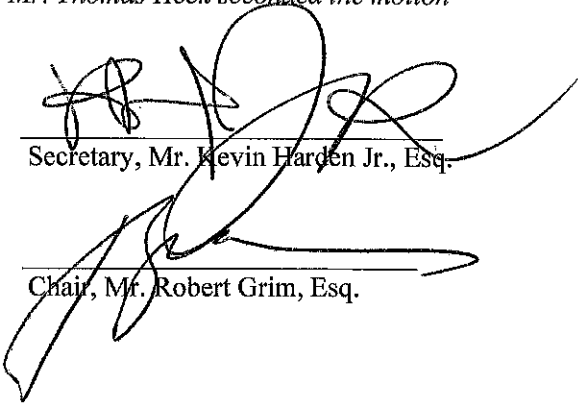
Mr. Robert Grim moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Thomas Heck seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

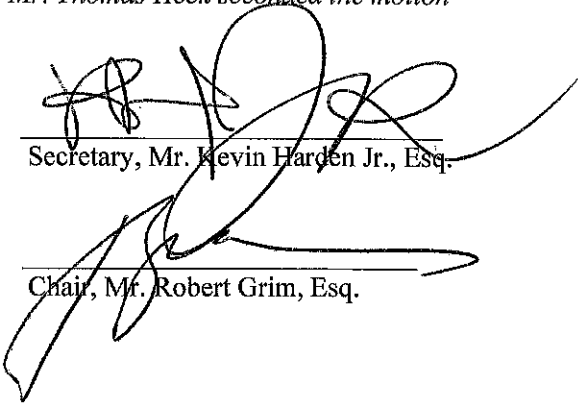
6.8.2023

Date

6.8.2023

Date


Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.


Chair, Mr. Robert Grim, Esq.