

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
September 21, 2023

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....	Lehigh County
Dr. Charles Blocksidge (via phone).....	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
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee.....	Reading
Mr. Guido Pichini.....	Wyomissing Hills

ABSENT:

Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq. Secretary.....	Philadelphia
Mr. John Wabby.....	Pottsville

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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
Dr. Albert Fu, APSCUF President
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President
Mrs. Ann Marie Hayes Hawkinson, Associate to the President
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Interim Associate Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
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
Mr. Troy Vingom, Assistant Vice President for IT 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.

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 new academic year and the first public meeting of the Semester for the Council of Trustees. He highlighted the celebration weekend hosted by the KU Foundation in recognition of the end of a very successful comprehensive campaign and the dedication of two buildings the Wells-Rapp Center for Mallet Percussion Research and the deFrancesco Building, home to the College of Business. He noted the legislative breakfast tomorrow morning hosted by the Trustees, the President, and University Relations followed by Chancellor Greenstein's campus visit.

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

Mr. Gavin Stone shared many great past and upcoming activities with the Student Government Board. SGB has had their annual Treasurers meeting where they met different clubs and organizations on campus and assisted them in the budgeting process. They have also been busy reviewing their constitution while meeting with other students to revise theirs as well. They are having a Rita's fundraiser coming soon and are receiving 20% of the proceeds. SGB is off to a very good start and they are looking forward to KU's mental health day and more.

Chairman Grim recognized that Dr. Charles Blocksidge was attending the meeting by phone. He also mentioned that this was Dr. Blocksidge's last meeting as he is retiring from the Council.

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

Dr. Hawkinson began by recognizing Pam Rex who is his new Senior Executive Associate, who has succeeded Toyia Heyward who moved on to the state system. Pam has worked in the Office of the President for ten years and brings a wealth of experience to the office and is well prepared to take on the role of the chief support liaison to the Council of Trustees.

He was delighted to pass on some Unofficial Enrollment Numbers based on our freeze date last Monday. We are up in new FT students overall (this includes the total number for freshmen, transfer, and graduate students) and, for the first time in 13 years ... we are up in our FTE by 1.6%. Our overall fall headcount is down by .6% -- these are the best numbers we have had in over a decade and shows that we are continuing to make progress in stabilizing our enrollment.

The President introduced our new Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Dr. Learie Nurse, who will be leading our enrollment efforts going forward. Leary introduced himself.

Dr. Hawkinson mentioned that two of our faculty were recognized for their work this past summer. Dr. Kunal Das, physics, was awarded a three-year research grant by the National Science Foundation and Dr. Michael Gabriel, history, led efforts to have KU be selected as the

new digital home of a military achieve collection from the American Revolution, which launched in August at our Library.

KU hosted our annual Faculty and Staff Convocation and Celebration on August 25, the Friday before the start of the fall semester. President Hawkinson updated our campus on the year ahead and his Cabinet provided updates on the university's strategic plan, and they handed out our annual awards to our faculty and staff, highlighted by the Employee of the Year to Nancy Schuck, Facilities; and the Wiesenberger Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Carrie Nordlund, Art Education.

President Hawkinson shared that our student-athletes continue excel on the field, and in the classroom. Over the summer, 120 student-athletes were recognized by the Division II Athletic Directors Association with Academic Achievement Awards, by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. In addition, 227 student-athletes were honored as P-S-A-C Scholar-Athletes, by maintaining a 3.25 cumulative grade point average. It marked the fourth-straight year KU eclipsed 200 honorees.

He noted that Kutztown University was ranked as one of the region's best colleges by multiple organizations. The Princeton Review ranked KU as one of the Best Colleges in the Mid-Atlantic Region for 2024. KU has been included in The Princeton Review's rankings since 2004. The university also climbed six spots in the latest U.S. News and World Report's Best Regional Universities, announced earlier this week. KU also improved by two spots among the Top Public Schools for Regional Universities in the north.

Dr. Hawkinson shared Governor Josh Shapiro announcement of a new public-private partnership between Google and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education that makes industry-recognized Google Career Certificates available to students and the public to help them secure good-paying jobs. At KU, the Google partnership will allow for training that directly enhances real world business skills, working toward the launch of a workforce development partnership with the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center. The goal of the partnership is to operate a pilot program that provides 100 small-business owners with a chance to enhance their workforce skills in the identified certificate areas.

The President welcomed Jennifer Castro, class of 2005 and 2009, who has been appointed as the university's new director of Admissions. A KU graduate, Jennifer comes to KU from Lehigh University in Bethlehem and brings more than 15 years admissions experience. She will begin at KU on Monday.

He shared that the Kutztown University Foundation unveiled the impact of Together, We're Golden: The Campaign for Kutztown University, the weekend of Sept. 8th and 9th, revealing that \$46,852,180 was raised to create scholarships, bolster emergency funds and enhance student experiences. The campaign also resulted in nearly 57,000 hours of alumni and friends engagement with the university.

As part of the weekend celebration, Robert C. Landis and Scott A. Dorn '79 were presented with Kutztown University President's Medals for their leadership as Kutztown University Foundation Board presidents during the campaign. The university and Foundation also held a ribbon cutting for the Wells-Rapp Center for Mallet Percussion Research, named after Dr. Richard G. Wells, professor emeritus, and Dr. Willis M. Rapp, professor emeritus and KU Foundation Board member. He thanked Alex and the KU Foundation for their historic efforts.

Finally, in closing, Mr. Jesus Pena, Esq., vice president for Compliance, Equity and liaison for Legal Affairs at Kutztown University, has announced that he will be retiring from the institution, effective December 22nd, 2023. Jesus has served Kutztown University for two decades. He said, there will be many opportunities to honor Jesus in the coming months but said just how vital Jesus has been to the success of our university and that he is the ultimate professional and it has been an honor to work with him.

To conclude his report, as in past years, he shared the Year In Review video created by our wonderful photographer Chris Sponagle.

President Hawkinson concluded his report.

Mr. Guido Pichini moved forward a motion to make a resolution honoring Mr. Jesus Pena for his years of service, his dedication, and his guidance, to not only the president and management team, but to the trustees and State System guiding us legally, morally, and institutionally moving us forward. He and his family stand as the epitome of what the State System represents. His family came from another country, established their roots to allow their son to gain a law degree and become our Vice President. His daughter has her law degree as well.

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to make and pass a resolution by Council to Mr. Jesus Pena thanking him and honoring him for his years of service to Kutztown University and the State System. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Dr. Hawkinson concluded his remarks with the *Year in Review Video*.

7. **Public Comments**

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

8. **Approval of Minutes, June 8, 2023**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jim Ludlow and seconded by Mr. Guido Pichini, the minutes of the June 8, 2023, meeting was approved.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini shared that we are proud to have Dr. Carl Sheperis join us at KU. He gave a Coursera presentation. This is where higher education has to move into to survive in the new environment. KU will be offering certification programs. We are the only university in the state system involved in this program. He thanked Dr. Sheperis.

10. **Student Presenter: Lindsay Ott, Dual Majors: Studio Art and Art Education**

Mr. Guido Pichini introduced Dr. Bradley Shope, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Bradley Shope introduced the student presenter, Lindsay Ott. He noted her passion to become an educator as well as be an accomplished artist. Ms. Ott shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University and shared her goals for the future.

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to present agenda items #11 - #13 as one action item for approval. Mr. Dennis Giorno 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.

12. **Paid Clinical Experiences for Graduate Students with a School District and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the paid clinical experiences for graduate students which establishes a relationship whereby its students may participate in a practicum or student teaching experience.

13. **Non-paid Clinical Experiences with Educational Organizations and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the non-paid clinical experiences with educational organizations which establishes a relationship whereby its students may participate in a practicum or student teaching experience.

14. **Agreement of Academic Cooperation with a Non-School District and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the agreement of academic cooperation with Philadelphia Housing Authority. Dr. Basden Arnold mentioned that the housing authority has educational funding for their employees to use for professional development. We have signed an agreement with PHA as their educational institute. This connects back to the Coursera program where their employees may obtain certifications.

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the agreement of academic cooperation with a non-school district as presented. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

15. **Memorandum of Understanding for Dual Credit**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the memorandum of understanding for dual credit with Pottsville Area School District.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the memorandum of understanding for dual credit as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

Mr. Guido Pichini concluded his report.

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

Mr. Dennis Giorno presented the discussions of the committee meeting. Audit was reviewed and is very clean, credit to Mr. Matt Delaney and his team. E&G Budgets were discussed and will be presented for approval at the next meeting. Project update: Poplar House will be Welcome Center due to open January of 2025.

17. **Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Dennis Giorno reported that the council committee reviewed the purchases and contracts. One of note; the classrooms and students labs received updated dell computers, part of replenishment program happening every four years.

Mr. Dennis Giorno concluded his report.

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

Ms. Dianne Lutz and Ms. Payton Mentzer presented the discussions of the committee meeting. They are several searches in progress, information was shared on many upcoming events, and a DEI initiative update was provided.

Ms. Dianne Lutz concluded her report.

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

Mr. Phillips Armstrong presented the discussions of the committee meeting. KU Foundation campaign was very successful and made note of upcoming 1866 Minute Giving Challenge, October 25th & 26th. He also spoke of other alumni events, university events and athletic events. Excellent job on the recent Tower Magazine! KU hosting Legislative Breakfast tomorrow morning.

Mr. Phillips Armstrong concluded his report.

20. **PACT Update**

There was no PACT update presented.

21. **Order of Succession Plan**

Mr. Robert Grim presented the Order of Succession Plan for approval.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the Order of Succession Plan as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

22. **Resolution Honoring the Contributions of Dr. Charles Blocksidge:**

Mr. Robert Grim proposed a motion to approve a resolution honoring Dr. Charles Blocksidge.

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Blocksidge '65 has served faithfully, earnestly, and with distinction throughout his tenure as a member of the Council of Trustees at Kutztown University for the past fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blocksidge has served Kutztown University as Chairman of the Council of Trustees from 2016-2018; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blocksidge has served as Chair of the Finance Committee for many years; and provided exceptional oversight, support, and advice on all issues concerning finances and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blocksidge, in 2014-2015, served on both the University President's search and transition committees resulting in a successful transition of leadership at the University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blocksidge has been a friend of Kutztown University, representing the community, making himself available for consultation, appearing at meetings and other events despite having to travel long distances, and showing resolve in difficult situations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. Charles Blocksidge be formally recognized, through this resolution, for his exemplary service to Kutztown University while serving in these many capacities on the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the Resolution for Dr. Charles Blocksidge as presented. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

23. **As May Arise**

No items were presented.

24. **Adjournment**

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and Mr. Robert Grim adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

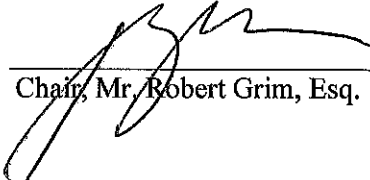
12-14-23

Date

Nov. 2, 2023

Date


Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.


Chair, Mr. Robert Grim, Esq.