

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
March 21, 2024

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing  
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Vice-Chair.....Harrisburg

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business  
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities  
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, University Legal (via conference phone)  
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President  
Ms. Ann Marie Hayes Hawkinson, Associate to the President  
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services  
Ms. Alayna Rea, Student Presenter & Guest  
Mr. Solomon Johnson, Student & Guest  
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, Controllor  
Ms. Cinamon Kopicki, Executive Assistant, Finance & Facilities  
Mr. Ken Steward, Associate Vice President, Academic Finance Management  
Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost Extended & Life-Long Learning & Dean of Graduate Studies  
Mr. Kraig Piper, KU Volunteer  
Ms. Elizabeth Kolb, Student Government Board Member  
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

ALSO PRESENT CONTINUED:

Ms. Lisa Kowalski, Director of KUSI  
Dr. Brad Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts  
Dr. Stephen St. Onge, Vice President, Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

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.

Mr. Guido Pichini mentioned the passing of Mr. Richard Orwig, who was very active in the KU community as a trustee member and chair for many years.

4. **Remarks by Mr. Robert Grim, Council Chairperson**

Mr. Grim welcomed everyone to the first public session of the KU Council of Trustees of 2024 and hoped everyone had a relaxing Spring Break and are geared up for the home stretch of the academic year.

He expressed, as the advocacy season progresses, we will continue to highlight how Kutztown University and PASSHE universities are meeting workforce needs; increasing access and enrollment; driving affordability; supporting student success; and pursuing financial sustainability. *The State System is requesting state funding of \$623.7 million — a \$38 million or 6.5% increase over the current fiscal year. The increase would enable PASSHE's Board of Governors to freeze tuition again next year. Anything we receive above and beyond the 6.5% increase would be put to good use to further reduce costs to students, support student success, and expand student opportunities.*

Mr. Grim continued, to do this, we are coordinating across the system to pitch and push success stories in both traditional and social media to support the one-on-one conversations President Hawkinson, our Government Relations staff and others have with legislators about our budget request.

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

Mr. Stone shared SGB has made great progress in fulfilling their goals for this semester. They continue to focus on student safety on/off campus. There were multiple instances where SGB was needed to address concerns to the student body regarding residence hall, safety, dining services, library services, and the new MyKU. He is willing to go into further detail as needed. After input from the SGB budget and finance committee, they raised the student activity fee by \$5.00 hoping the small change would give clubs extra funding but still keep us as one of the lowest activity fee schools in the PASSHE system. The final review with the KUSI Board of Directors is on March 25<sup>th</sup>. SGB is focusing on two primary agendas. One is to increase student involvement across campus while focusing on student mental health and wellbeing. Ten SGB members attended the Board of Student Government President's Conference while another ten members will be going to Harrisburg in April to advocate for continued PASSHE funding. Their election season is

approaching. They are making changes to their bylaws and constitutions to possibly change and add a proposed retention and recruitment committee to bring more students to advocate and be part of their organization.

Mr. Gavin Stone concluded his remarks.

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

Kutztown University was awarded a \$1.5 million grant to support its Regenerative Organic Agriculture track within its environmental science program in collaboration with the Rodale Institute. State Representative Mark Rozzi, a 1996 KU graduate, was a pivotal advocate in the university acquiring the grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. Funding will support student scholarships; internships; renovations to the university teaching greenhouse, adjacent to the newly built Nancy Jean Stump Seiger '54 Botanical Research Center; professional development for students, faculty and Rodale Institute employees; farming equipment and land care. There was a wonderful ceremony on February 29, with many attendees to celebrate the awarding of this grant.

2,094 students have been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Kutztown University. To be eligible for the Dean's List, an undergraduate student must be registered for at least 12 credits and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60.

Kutztown University received more than \$150 thousand dollars in grants in recent weeks to help support the Campus Food Pantry, the Hunger Free Campus Program, the Women's Center for support of the It's On Us program, and the Visual Impairment Program

Dr. Stephen St. Onge began his tenure as vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at KU on February 12. Steve will oversee the comprehensive enrollment process including recruitment, admission, orientation and will contribute to retention efforts. He will also oversee areas related to student affairs and the quality of student life and success on campus. Steve comes to KU after nearly 10 years at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Calif., where he served as the executive director for Auxiliary Operations since 2019. He also has 10 years of experience as a vice president at several universities.

Dr. Hawkinson mentioned that he recently attended an American Council of Education meeting in Washington D.C. with selected presidents from around the country and, accompanied by John McCallister, our grant writing consultants, met with our Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, and with representatives from Senator Fetterman's office, to discuss possible earmark funding for several projects. He also met on zoom with Senator Casey's staff.

On Tuesday, Dr. Hawkinson and his wife, Ann Marie, were pleased to join our national championship field hockey team as they were honored on the house floor at the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg. They were graciously hosted by our state representative, Rep. Jamie Barton – who introduced our athletes to numerous representatives to include the speaker of the house. Rep. Barton also hosted them for lunch where Rep. Mark Rossi, KU alum and former speaker of the house, also attended.

Not only did the team succeed on the field, but in the classroom. 17 players were named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II National Academic Squad last month. The program honors student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative grade-point

average of 3.5 or higher through the first semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Congratulations once again to our NCAA Division II Golden Bear Field Hockey Team.

This month's video highlights Solomon Johnson, a senior sport management major from Philadelphia who is the student manager of KU's men's basketball team. Solomon plans to pursue a career in coaching, and appreciates the sense of family and community here at KU.

Dr. Ken Hawkinson concluded his remarks.

7. **Public Comments**

No comments were reported.

8. **Approval of Minutes, December 14, 2023**

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Phillips Armstrong and seconded by Ms. Dianne Lutz, the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting were approved.*

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

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the discussions of the committee meeting. He highlighted that Dr. Christina Kinney, Director of International Education & Global Engagement presented at the meeting.

10. **Student Presenter: Ms. Alayna Rea, Major: Environmental Science**

Dr. Laurie McMillan introduced the student presenter, Alayna Rea. Ms. Rea shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University and her 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.

• Caron Foundation, Wernersville, PA	COE	<i>Renewal</i>
• Infradapt, Allentown, PA	Business	<i>New</i>
• Shuffle - Remote	CTM	<i>New</i>
• Hang Loose Hut, Fountain Valley, CA	Business	<i>New</i>
• Herbein & Company, Reading, PA	Business	<i>New</i>
• GL Public Services, Reading, PA	Business	<i>New</i>
• Jackson Hewitt, Elizabethtown, PA	Business	<i>New</i>
• Big Show Sports, Leesport, PA	Sport Management	<i>New</i>
• Penn State Schuylkill, Schuylkill Haven, PA	Sport Management	<i>New</i>
• Sponsor United, Stamford, CT	Sport Management	<i>New</i>
• Rose Avenue Literary, Bloomington, IN	English	<i>New</i>
• UbiFire Video Production, Allentown, PA	CTM	<i>New</i>
• BNB Media, Sinking Spring, PA	CTM	<i>New</i>
• Bondo, Bend, OR	English	<i>New</i>
• Heatwaves NG LLC, Blandon, PA	English	<i>New</i>
• Digital CEO Circle, Madison Township, PA	CTM	<i>New</i>
• Zhive Media - Remote	CTM	<i>New</i>
• Patriot League, Bethlehem, PA	CTM	<i>Renewal</i>
• ACLAMO, Norristown, PA	English	<i>New</i>
• Sports Media Inc., Severance, CO	Business	<i>New</i>

- Lehigh University Art Galleries, Bethlehem, PA Art *New*
- The Pulse of the Museum, New York, NY English *New*
- EVP Marketing, Campton, NH CTM *New*
- Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA English *New*
- Music Addict LLC – Remote Music *New*
- Tamaqua Arts Center, Tamaqua, PA CTM *New*
- Gallery840 – Remote Social Media *New*
- Kalmbach Memorial Park, Macungie, PA English *New*
- Angelo Costanzo/You Tube – Remote CTM *New*
- LA Fitness, North Wales, PA Sport Management *New*
- Stretch Zone, Newark, DE Sport Management *New*
- Glass Entertainment, Bala Cynwyd, PA CTM *New*
- Penguins Hockey, LLC., Wilkes-Barre, PA Sport Management *New*
- Martson Law Offices, Carlisle, PA English *New*
- Tower Behavioral Health Various *Renewal*

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

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the school-based Internship Agreements with Various School Districts which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.

- Penncrest School District, Saegertown, PA EMLT *New*
- North Pocono School District Clinical Experience *New*
- Collegium Charter School Clinical Experience *Renewal*
- Palisades School District Clinical Experience *Renewal*

**13. Affiliation Agreement with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the affiliation agreement whereby Kutztown University and various organizations affiliate for different purposes (e.g., education, course sharing, and research)

- Geosciences Consortia *Renewal*

**14. Dual Credit Agreement with Various School Districts and Kutztown University**

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

- Schuylkill Valley School District *New*

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to present agenda item #14 for approval. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**15. Corporate Partnership Agreement with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Guido Pichini presented the corporate partnership agreement which establishes a relationship to partner for difference purposes (e.g. employee education, non-credit training, and joint community activities.)

- Creative Health Services *New*

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to present agenda items #11, #12, #13, and #15 as one action item for approval. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

Mr. Guido Pichini concluded his report.

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

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

17. **Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Jim Ludlow reviewed information on a few key items. There will be action items for next meeting.

Mr. Jim Ludlow concluded his report

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

Ms. Dianne Lutz presented the discussions of the committee meeting including the searches in progress. Ms. Payton Mentzer shared an update of events hosted by the Multi-Cultural Center, Women’s Center, LBGQTQ Center, and Veteran’s Services. Ms. Sandy Green shared a DEI update.

Ms. Dianne Lutz concluded her report.

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

Mr. Phillips Armstrong presented the discussions of the committee meeting including our sports team’s success All Americans; 2 wrestlers and 1 pole vaulter. KU Radio won gold award from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. KU Foundation received twenty-three gifts this past month and continue their success.

Mr. Phillips Armstrong concluded his report.

20. **Appointment of Nominating Committee for New Executive Committee Serving for Two Years as of July 1, 2024**

Mr. Robert Grim announced the Nominating Committee:

Mr. Robert Grim  
Mr. Dennis Giorno  
Mr. Kevin Harden  
Mr. Jim Ludlow

Report from the Nominating Committee at the April meeting.

21. **PACT Update** – Ms. Sandy Green is our PACT Representative. The PACT Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12n-2pm via zoom.

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

**Adjournment**

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

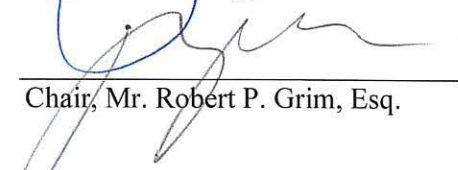
4/25/24

Date

4/25/24

Date

  
Secretary, Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.

  
Chair, Mr. Robert P. Grim, Esq.