

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 26, 2024

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

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

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
Mrs. Ann Marie Hayes Hawkinson, Associate to the President
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Mr. Bryan Salvatore, 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. Matt Assad, Controller
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President, Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum
Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Brad Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Dr. Steve St. Onge, Vice President, Enrollment Management & Student Affairs
Mr. Kraig Piper, University Volunteer
Dr. Stephen Rupprecht, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Dr. Stephen Oross, Associate Professor of Psychology
Ms. Lisa Kowalski, Executive Director of KUSI
Ms. Cinamon Kopicki, Executive Assistant for Finance
Mr. Mark-handy Phanor, PASSHE Board of Governor's Student Representative
Ms. Kyra Richards, Student Government Board President
Dr. Steve Lem, Chair of Academic Enrichment
Ms. Julie Fiorini, CLAS Management Technician
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business
Dr. Greg Shelley, Chair of Psychology Department
Ms. Michelle Kenstler, Student Presenter
Ms. Leah Cassellia, Senior Director McFarland Student Union & Student Involvement

Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director of KU Foundation
Mr. Alex Darlington, Student

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:05 p.m. Chairman Giorno called the meeting to order.
Chairman Giorno 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 Giorno which established that a quorum of the Council was present.

4. **Remarks by Mr. Dennis Giorno, Council Chairperson**

"Welcome to the first public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees for the 2024-25 Academic Year.

I am honored to serve as chair for the next two years, and want to thank Mr. Robert Grim, the chair for the past two years. Hopefully you all had a chance to see the publicity over the summer on Mr. Grim's rich family history with the university.

KU changed the trajectory of my life and career when Dr. Treadway encouraged me to apply to The Harrisburg Internship Semester. That semester spent in Harrisburg working, learning and meeting people that would go to assist advancing my career was invaluable. Chairing the Council thirty years later is a testament to the opportunity that a KU education provides.

Last month at the university's opening day convocation and celebration, President Hawkinson announced that the upcoming academic year will be his 10th and final as KU's 12th President.

On behalf of the Council of Trustees, I want to congratulate Dr. Hawkinson on his decision and thank him for all he has done for this institution. We still have 9-plus months with Dr. Hawkinson to celebrate his tenure.

In the meantime, the focus of the Council of Trustees this year will be to search for his successor. We began this process immediately after Dr. Hawkinson's announcement and will vote to approve an expansive and diverse search committee this afternoon. Our plan is to identify a new President in April to begin in July."

Mr. Dennis Giorno concluded his remarks.

5. **Remarks by Ms. Kyra Richards, Student Government Board President**

Kyra Richards reported on a few items that their board is presently working on: academic advising and the possibility of using AI technology for advisement. SGB will be hosting a Campus Safety Walk on November 6th at 5:00pm and invited all to attend. They held their bi-annual retreat including lots of great activities promoting team bonding. They are also working with Dr. Rupprecht on accessibility in the classrooms and ways to improve the freshman experience. Kyra met with Sandy Green to focus on advocacy and campus well-being.

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

"KU's Mark-handy Phanor, a junior political science major from Philadelphia, has been approved as the newest student member of the Board of Governors for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). The motion was passed at July's Board of Governors meeting. Mark is one of three students represented on the Board.

Kutztown University has been named a "Best Regional University" for 2024-2025 in the U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of U.S. colleges and universities. U.S. News lists KU as No. 115 in the first tier of the Best Regional Universities for the northern region, one spot higher than last year. KU has been ranked in the first tier since 2011.

Kutztown University has been ranked as one of the Best Colleges in the Mid-Atlantic Region by The Princeton Review for 2025. KU is among 97 institutions named to the regional list. Kutztown University has been included in the regional list in 22 consecutive rankings.

Bonita B. Perkins '68 and Charles O. Perkins '68 were presented with Kutztown University President's Medals earlier this month, for their leadership and commitment to the university through decades of philanthropy and support. The Perkins' have supported KU through giving for 36 years. They co-chaired the Foundation's annual fund in 1998 and served on the executive committee for KU's capital campaign in 2008. Charlie has served on the KUF Board of Directors for 20 years, including terms as vice president and treasurer.

The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) (ALL IN) recognized Kutztown University for its nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts that fostered high levels of student voter engagement in the 2022 midterm elections. Kutztown University received the Silver Seal reflecting its commitment to ensuring that nonpartisan democratic engagement is a defining feature of campus life.

Kutztown University and Lehigh Carbon Community College strengthened their partnership over the summer by adding resources to allow students to seamlessly transfer credits between the two institutions to encourage students to complete a college degree. LCCC students who earn their associate degree can transfer seamlessly to KU, entering as a junior. Financial benefits of the transfer program include a \$500 book award, \$1,000 in housing scholarships per year for two years and up to \$5,000 in merit scholarships. Transfers will have their application fees waived, receive personal advising and have access to grants and scholarships.

Our video feature today is the annual Kutztown University Year in Review video that debuts at the Faculty/Staff Opening Day Convocation & Celebration. Please direct your attention to the screen to enjoy the many highlights and accomplishments of the Kutztown University Community during the 2023-24 Academic Year."

7. **Public Comment by Dr. Stephen Oross**

8. **Approval of Minutes: June 6, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Phillips Armstrong, the minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

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

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

10. **Student Presenter: Michelle Kenstler, Graduate Counseling**

Dean, Dr. Laurie McMillan, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Dean, Dr. Rebecca West Burns, College of Education, introduced the Student Presenter, Michelle Kenstler. Ms. Kenstler shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University and how it's shaping her future.

11. **General Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the General Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University.

- Royersford Free Public Library, Royersford, PA *New*
- Lenape Valley Foundation, Doylestown, PA *New*
- Halifax Area Historical Society, Halifax, PA *New*
- BCTV, Reading, PA *New*
- Centro Hispano Hispanic Center, Reading, PA *New*
- Haas Financial Group, Kutztown, PA *New*
- HPL Consortium, Inc., Douglassville, PA *New*
- C. Burr Artz Public Library, Frederick, MD *New*
- Valley Health Partners Community Health Center, Allentown, PA *New*
- Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, Doylestown, PA *New*
- Weslabs Investments, LLC, Wilmington, DE *New*
- Allentown Arts Museum, Allentown, PA *New*
- Videocraft Productions, Lafayette Hill, PA *New*
- York County Libraries, York, PA *New*
- New Bethany, Bethlehem, PA *New*
- Davinci Science Center, Allentown, PA *New*
- KidsPeace Donely Therapeutic Education, Orefield, PA *New*
- The Impact Project, Emmaus, PA *New*
- High Company LLC, Lancaster, PA *New*
- Disciplemakers, State College, PA *New*
- Spin of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA *New*
- National Stem Honor Society, Gloucester, MA *New*
- Flip N Cheer Gymnastics, Kearneysville, WV *New*
- Haven Behavioral Health of West Chester, West Chester, PA *New*
- Arcade Free Library, Arcade, NY *New*
- City of Allentown Parks and Recreation, Allentown, PA *New*
- Arete Gallery, New Hope, PA *New*
- Monument Post Acute Care, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Resolution Pictures, Fogelsville, PA *Renewal*
- JBT Corporation, Chalfont, PA *New*
- Millhill Child and Family Development, Trenton, NJ *New*
- Men's Health Network, Alexandria, VA *New*
- Kevin Russo Photography, Blackwood, NJ *New*

• Morris County Sheriff's Department, Morristown, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Lutheran Social Ministries of Maryland, Westminster, MD	<i>New</i>
• Allen Goel Marketing Co., King of Prussia, PA	<i>New</i>
• MGN Logistics, Inc., Easton, PA	<i>New</i>
• Brotherly LLC, Conshohocken, PA	<i>New</i>
• Russo Law Offices LLC, Phillipsburg, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Ephrata Police Department	<i>New</i>
• Keystone Pictures	<i>New</i>
• Cedar Crest College	<i>New</i>
• East Stroudsburg University	<i>New</i>
• Wilkes University	<i>New</i>
• Achieving More	<i>New</i>
• RHA Health Services	<i>New</i>
• Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Newton, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Success Rehab, Quakertown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Thingers of Stuff, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Fresenius Medical Care North America (FMCNA), Waltham, MA	<i>New</i>
• The Tolkien Society, Canada	<i>New</i>

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

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

• Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18	<i>New</i>
• John Barry Elementary	<i>New</i>
• Overbrook School for the Blind	<i>New</i>
• Central Dauphin School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Weatherly Area School District	<i>New</i>
• Lebanon School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Quakertown Community School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Monroe Career Technical Institute	<i>Renewal</i>
• Lincoln Leadership Academy Charter School	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh Valley Academy	<i>New</i>
• Boyertown Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Tamaqua Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Chester County Intermediate Unit #24	<i>Renewal</i>
• Berks County Intermediate Unit #14	<i>Renewal</i>
• Pottsgrove School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Northern Lebanon School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Governor Mifflin School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Lehigh Valley Dual Language Charter School	<i>Renewal</i>
• The Mesivta High School of Greater Philadelphia	<i>New</i>
• Conrad Weiser Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Allentown School District	<i>Renewal</i>

- Chester County Intermediate Unit *Renewal*
- Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School *New*
- Wallingford-Swarthmore School District *New*
- East Pennsboro Area School District *New*
- Panther Valley School District *Renewal*
- Hanover Area Jr-Sr High School *New*
- Perkiomen Valley School District *Renewal*
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 *New*
- Zephyr Elementary School *New*
- John Barry Elementary School *New*
- Lebanon Junior High School *Renewal*
- Catholic Charities Maine *New*
- Lodi School District *New*
- Innovative Arts Academy Charter School *New*
- Hanover Area School District *Renewal*
- William Penn School District *New*
- Hempfield School District *Renewal*
- Council Rock School District *New*

13. Counseling Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the counseling internship agreements with various institutions and Kutztown University.

- Heart 2 Soul Counseling *Renewal*
- Valliere Counseling Associates, Inc *New*
- Allentown Comprehensive Treatment Center *New*
- Positively Produced Foundation *New*
- Hope for Reading *New*
- LGBT Center of Greater Reading *New*

14. Dual Credit Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the dual credit agreements with various school districts and Kutztown University.

- Muhlenberg School District *New*
- Wilson School District *New*
- Parkland School District *New*
- Twin Valley School District *New*
- Hamburg Area School District *New*
- Tulpehocken Area School District *New*
- Governor Mifflin School District *New*
- East Penn School District *New*
- Kutztown Area School District *New*
- Antietam School District *New*

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present agenda items #11 through #14 as one action item for approval as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

15. **Affiliation Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the affiliation agreements with various institutions and Kutztown University.

- Course Sharing – Pennsylvania Western University – SWK 541, 590, and 591
- Course Sharing – Millersville University – ACCT 317
- Lehigh Carbon Community College

16. **Letter of Understanding with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the letter of understanding with various institutions and Kutztown University.

- Easter Center for Arts & Technology

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present agenda items #15 and #16 as one action item for approval as presented. Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq. seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

17. **New Program: Master of Arts in Communication Design**

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present the new Master of Arts in Communication Design Program item #17 for approval as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

18. **Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on Finance, Property & Audit**

Mr. Guido Pichini reported on the committee discussions. He noted that we did well on the audit and thanked Matt Delaney and Matt Assad for all of their work on it.

19. **Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Guido Pichini noted there were no negative comments after review of the purchases and contracts.

20. **Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on Human Diversity**

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq. reported on the committee discussions.

21. **Summary of Discussions: Council on University Relations & Athletics and Advancement**

Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.

22. **COT Policy-002: (REVISED) Non-Sponsored Demonstrations, Presentations, and Non-Commercial Literature Distribution**

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to present the revised COT Policy-002: Non-Sponsored Demonstrations, Presentations, and Non-Commercial Literature Distribution in item #22 for approval as presented. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

23. **Presidential Search Committee Membership**

Mr. Phillips Armstrong moved to present the Presidential Search Committee Membership in item #23 for approval as presented. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

24. **PACT Update: Ms. Sandy Green**

"As a member and now officer (Treasurer) of PACT, I will be attending the reception for Chancellor Greenstein on Wednesday, October 9th at 5:00pm. The hope is to have a short in-person PACT meeting prior to the reception."

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

Adjournment

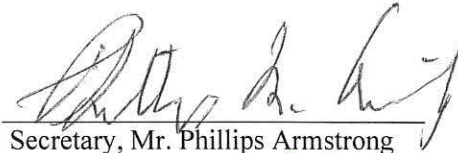
Mr. Guido Pichini moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

11/7/24

Date

11/7/24

Date


Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong


Chair, Mr. Dennis Giorno