

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 7, 2024

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Dennis Giorno, Chairman.....	Harrisburg
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

ABSENT:

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq., Vice-Chair	Philadelphia
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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
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. 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
Dr. Stephen Rupprecht, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services
Ms. Lisa Kowalski, Executive Director of KUSI
Ms. Kyra Richards, Student Government Board President
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director of KU Foundation
Mr. Alex Darlington, Student
Ms. Des Reasoner, Assistant Vice President for Housing & Dining Services
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Services
Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Associate Dean of College of Visual & Performing Arts
Mr. Bernard McCree, Assistant Dean of Students for Under-Represented & At-Risk Population
Ms. Elizabeth Kolb, Student

Ms. Amanda Celentano, Student Presenter
Dr. Megan O'Byrne, Associate Professor in Communication Studies
Ms. Brooke Viceconte, Student
Ms. Kristin Nicholson, Lacrosse Coach
Ms. Alison Bender, Student
Mr. Tony Dodds, Assistant Track & Field Coach
Mr. Joseph Jardine, Student Athlete
Dr. Emily Cripe, Department Chair of Communication Studies

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:03 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 November meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

The trustees have been very busy since our September meeting moving forward with the Presidential Search.

We have contracted Storbeck as the firm to help conduct the search. Storbeck joined us two weeks ago for the first meeting of the comprehensive search committee, as well as meetings with President Hawkinson and members of Cabinet. Their reps met with the trustees this morning at our executive session.

Storbeck will be back on campus November 21st to gather feedback from all members of the campus community prior to our next search committee meetings.

We thank the campus community for its participation, and we work toward identifying our 13th President to succeed Dr. Hawkinson in July."

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

"We held our annual safety and accessibility walk on 11/6, identifying around 60 areas in need of improvement on campus. Thank you to all who attended, especially faculty and administrators. Student Government Board has hosted many college and committee events, with a special focus on diversity and inclusivity. We are holding midterm elections to fill our open seats and finalizing our budget packet reviews, ensuring clubs and organizations have proper funding for the next school year. As always, Student Government Board is extremely grateful for your support."

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

"Final enrollment numbers have been finalized for the current academic year at KU.

Total headcount enrollment for the 2024 fall semester is 7,468, up 41 students and 0.55% from last fall. Of the students enrolled at KU, 6,307 are undergraduates, while 1,161 are enrolled in graduate studies, a 16.57% increase.

The university's retention rate of first-time, full-time students improved by 3% to 77.8%. KU's four-year graduation rate increased by more than 1% to 44.0% (based on the 2020 cohort compared to 2019).

The average high school grade-point average of KU's fall 2024 freshmen class increased from 3.35 to 3.38, the highest for the university in recorded history for the third-straight year.

I want to thank the many students and their parents who chose KU, as well as our Admissions Office and all the KU faculty and staff who continually work hard to attract new students to be part of the KU campus community.

Kutztown University's Dr. Peg Speirs, professor of Art Education, is the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator award from the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA). Through a rigorous review process, PAEA identified Speirs as an outstanding leader in the field of art education for her creative contributions, excellence in professional engagement and dedication to service.

This past spring, three Golden Bears earned All-America honors and are here with us today. I would ask each honoree to please stand as I call your name.

From women's lacrosse, two student-athletes earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association. **Cyrose Conteh** is a graduate student defender and was named All-America Second Team. She was a First Team All-Region and All-P-S-A-C performer. She ranks second in school history in draw controls, and third in caused turnovers.

Sam Graf concluded her junior season last spring as Second Team All-America. She is a two-time All-American and First Team All-Region and All-P-S-A-C midfielder. Sam holds eight school records, including career records for points and draw controls.

From track & field, graduate student **Joe Jardine** earned All-America Second Team honors in the pole vault. At the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Emporia, Kansas, Joe tied for 12th place with a height of 16-feet, 2.75-inches. Joe is the school-record-holder in the indoor pole vault, and ranks third outdoors.

At this time, I would ask Cyrose, Sam and Joe to come forward for a photo. Congratulations.

University Marketing has produced three Cub Cab videos during the fall semester, two hosted by Dean of Students Stephen Rupprecht and a homecoming edition featuring Tracey Gibson-Jackson, class of 1996.

The high-quality video production and social media strategy resulted in more than 77,000 views and an engagement rate of 6.4% across all three videos, which is about double KU's typical engagement rate.

This social media campaign helps to strengthen KU's brand perception while encouraging student and alumni engagement."

7. **Public Comment - None**

8. **Approval of Minutes: September 26, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Phillips Armstrong, the minutes of the September 26, 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: Amanda Celentano, Double Major (Communication Studies & Spanish)**

Dr. Brad Shope, Dean of the College of Visual & Performing Arts, introduced the Student Presenter, Amanda Celentano. Ms. Celentano 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.

• County of Lehigh	<i>New</i>
• Creative Health Services	<i>New</i>
• University of Scranton	<i>New</i>
• Compassus, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• LGBT Center of Berks, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• RB Distribution, Inc., Colmar, PA	<i>New</i>
• Pan American Charter Academy, Philadelphia, PA	<i>New</i>
• Montgomery County Community Connections, Pottstown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Hunterdon Behavioral Health School Based Youth Services, Flemington, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Behavioral Health Associates, Lehigh, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Berks County CYS, Reading, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• YWCA Bethlehem Adult Day Services, Bethlehem, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Bloom for Women, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh Valley Zoo, Schnecksville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Out of Sight Teaching, LLC., Frenchtown, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Creative Health D&A, Pottstown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Child Guidance Resource Centers	<i>New</i>
• Valliere & Associates, Fogelsville, PA	<i>New</i>
• St. Luke's Anderson Campus, Easton, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Development Services, Lancaster, PA	<i>New</i>
• Valley Youth House – Supervised Independent Living, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Council on Chemical Abuse, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21, Schnecksville, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Main Line Center for Eating Disorders, Bryn Mawr, PA	<i>New</i>
• Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Fresenius Medical Care North America	<i>New</i>
• St. Luke's University Health Network, Allentown, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• SAM-Inc Mental Health Services, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• Thrive, Valley Youth House, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh County Office of Aging, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Care Management Department at Reading Hospital, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>

- Lehigh Valley Salvation Army, Allentown, PA New
- New Vitae Wellness, Quakertown, PA New
- AHS Hospital Corporation New
- Duncan & Miller Glass Museum New

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.

- East Stroudsburg School District Renewal
- Brandywine School District New
- Hempfield School District Renewal
- Hatboro-Horsham School District Renewal
- Wyomissing School District Renewal
- Pleasant Valley School District Renewal
- Allentown School District/William Allen High School New
- Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 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.

- AMA Counseling New
- Find Yourself Be That, LLC New
- Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems New
- Child Guidance Resource Centers New

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present agenda items #11 through #13 as one action item for approval as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

14. Posthumous Degree for Mason Kinsey

Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold shared that Mason's focus was on Commercial Music. He did participate in the Spring Commencement ceremony and had only one class to complete when he suddenly passed away. We feel in honor of what he has accomplished here at KU, he is most deserving of his degree.

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to approve the Posthumous Degree for Mason Kinsey as presented in Tab 7. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini reported on the committee discussions.

16. Purchases and Contracts

Mr. Guido Pichini noted the purchases and contracts were reviewed with no further comment.

17. **2024-25 E&G Budget Revision**

Mr. Matt Delaney gave a brief summary of the budget revision.

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the 2024-25 E&G Budget Revision as presented in Tab 9.
Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

18. **Summer Study Abroad Fees**

Mr. Matt Delaney gave a brief summary of the new and renewed programs.

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Summer Study Abroad Fees as presented in Tab 10.
Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

Ms. Sandy Green reported on the committee discussions.

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

Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.

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

There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024.

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

Adjournment

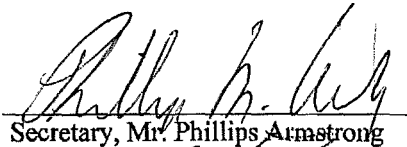
Mr. Guido Pichini moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.

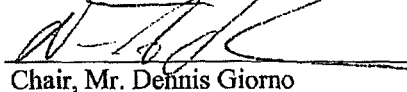
12/12/24

Date

12/12/24

Date


Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong


Chair, Mr. Dennis Giorno