

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
December 12, 2024

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, December 12, 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. 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. Phillips Armstrong, Secretary.....	Lehigh County
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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, Executive Director of Finance  
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. Lisa Kowalski, Executive Director of KUSSE  
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  
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Services  
Mr. Zhixi Zhang, Student Presenter  
Ms. Minxiu Zhang  
Dr. Andy Vogel, Professor & Director of the Honors Program  
Dr. Chali Nondo, Associate Dean, College of Business  
Dr. Sue Kong, Associate Professor, College of Business  
Dr. Gary Chao, Associate Professor, College of Business  
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dr. Lisa Frye, Department Chair of Computer Science & IT, Senate President  
Mr. Jerry Schearer, Chief Diversity Officer

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. Personnel matters were part of the discussion but no formal 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 December public meeting of the Council of Trustees.

This is always a rewarding meeting for the Council as we vote on the Kutztown University fall graduating class of 2024. We have more than 400 candidates marching this Saturday. On behalf of the Council of Trustees, I want to congratulate our many graduates and their families on this great achievement. We look forward to joining you in celebrating this weekend.

The KU Presidential Search committee had its most recent meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup> where we reviewed the presidential profile after completing a day of very productive listening sessions with the various stakeholder groups. The final profile was sent to the campus community on Monday, and Storbeck, our search firm, has started active recruiting for our next president. The search committee will reconvene in late January to begin screening applications. Again, information can be found on the KU website at Kutztown dot backslash president search

Finally, on behalf of the Council, I would like to wish the entire Kutztown University Community a happy, safe and joyous holiday season."

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

"Good afternoon, everyone. I want to first start off by saying that on behalf of our student body, our thoughts are with the students who were injured on campus yesterday. We are grateful that their injuries were not serious and that all involved are okay, and I want to take a moment to remind everyone that kindness and compassion are some of the greatest abilities we hold as human beings.

With that being said, Student Government Board has concluded our activity for the semester. Throughout the semester, we have sought student feedback on various issues, making sure that student concerns are valued, heard, and addressed. We view ourselves as the voice of the student body, a massive privilege for any organization. We have focused on developing relationships with other student leaders and organizations, especially students from underrepresented and diverse backgrounds. The relationships we create with our students serve as the foundation for everything that we do. We are using these relationships to develop programming, changes to our funding models, and opportunities to simply get to know one another and help each other thrive and grow as individuals.

Our organization has strong momentum moving into the spring semester, and while we look forward to expanding on the items I've mentioned, we are looking forward to new opportunities as they arise. Additionally, we plan on working with our advisors on strengthening campus traditions and programs to give our students the full Golden Bear experience. In doing so, we aim to foster a lifelong love for our student community, extending beyond the time spent as students. We are, as always, extremely grateful for the support of peers, faculty, staff, and the Council of Trustees. We look forward to continuing our work for the student body in just a few short weeks."

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

"The Kutztown University football team had its first undefeated season in modern team history, finishing with an 11 and 0 record, and capturing the first back-to-back Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference titles in program history. The Golden Bears earned the top seed in Super Region 1 in the NCAA playoffs before suffering a heartbreaking overtime loss to Slippery Rock Thanksgiving weekend in the second round. Congratulations to AFCA regional coach of the year Jim Clements and the entire team for their continued success.

The Golden Bear field hockey team upset top ranked Shippensburg in the NCAA semi-finals in Gaffney, South Carolina, to advance to their second straight appearance in the Division II National Title game last month. The defending national champion Golden Bears lost to St. Anselm, 1-0, also in an overtime heartbreaker two days later in Gaffney. Congratulations to NFCHA Regional Head Coach of the Year Marci Scheuing and the field hockey team on another fantastic season.

Jason Graver was presented with the Kutztown University President's Medal last week for his volunteerism, commitment and dedication to preserving and celebrating the university's rich history. Jason graduated from Kutztown University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education/political science and a master's degree in library science in 2018. In 2015, he became an invaluable alumni volunteer, serving on the history sub-committee of the KU Sesquicentennial Planning Committee. Jason has specialized in the collection of Kutztown University memorabilia and the history of the institution. In 2015, the history display in the Old Main Concourse opened to the public with the help of Graver's knowledge and collection. Since that time, Jason has worked closely with the gallery director and KU's Office of University Relations to refresh and upkeep a slightly toned-down display from the original. Congratulations to Jason, and if you haven't done so, please be sure to visit the Old Main Concourse to see Jason's ongoing work.

For the third year, Kutztown University has been awarded the Hunger-Free Campus grant to address food insecurity in students. The Hunger-Free grant awards \$60,000 to aid in expanding access to food options, creating awareness initiatives and upgrading facilities. At KU, the Bear Essentials Pantry, the on-campus food pantry, located in the McFarland Student Union and run by the Office of Student Involvement, provides non-perishable food items to students in need. The university also has a partnership with Friend, Inc., a local non-profit agency serving Northeastern Berks County, which provides a satellite food pantry adjacent to campus and critical support services to students in need. If you are so moved to make a contribute to the KU Food Pantry this holiday season, please reach out to the Office of Student Involvement.

Speaking of the holidays, Anne Marie, Wynnne and I are excited to share this year's holiday video that is being shared with the campus community this week. Special thanks to University

Marketing and our multimedia producer Chris Sponagle for their beautiful work on this year's video."

7. **Public Comment - None**

8. **Approval of Minutes: November 7, 2024**

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., the minutes of the November 7, 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: Mr. Zhixi Zhang (Business Administration Major, honors, & SCM/PFP)**

Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean of the College of Business, introduced the Student Presenter, Zhixi Zhang. Mr. Zhang shared his personal background, his experiences at Kutztown University and how it's shaping his 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.

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| • The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA                                       | <i>New</i>     |
| • Ripple Community Inc., Allentown, PA                                    | <i>New</i>     |
| • Lessel Company PC, Kutztown, PA   | <i>New</i>     |
| • Mack Trucks, Macungie, PA   | <i>New</i>     |
| • Access Services, Bethlehem, PA  | <i>New</i>     |
| • Safe Berks, Reading, PA   | <i>New</i>     |
| • Steps to Recovery, Bethlehem, PA  | <i>New</i>     |
| • Realistic and Behavioral Therapeutic Services, Wyomissing, PA           | <i>New</i>     |
| • Chloe Cristina Medlar Illustration, Brooklyn, NY                        | <i>New</i>     |
| • DODEA, Alexandria, VA   | <i>New</i>     |
| • PA Department of Education, Harrisburg, PA                              | <i>New</i>     |
| • Dorman Products, Colmar, PA   | <i>Renewal</i> |
| • Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, Allentown, PA              | <i>New</i>     |
| • County of Berks on behalf of Berks County Children & Youth, Reading, PA | <i>Renewal</i> |
| • Salvation Army, Reading, PA   | <i>New</i>     |
| • Hurricane Junior Golf Tour, Kissimmee, FL                               | <i>New</i>     |
| • Bright Communications LLC, Hellertown, PA                               | <i>New</i>     |
| • Historic Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA                                     | <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.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • Ephrata Area School District             | <i>Renewal</i> |
| • Circle of Seasons                        | <i>New</i>     |
| • Eastern Lancaster County School District | <i>Renewal</i> |

- Norristown Area School District
- East Pennsboro Area School District

*Renewal*  
*Renewal*

**13. Counseling Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

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

- Allentown Comprehensive Treatment Center
- Gaudenzia Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services
- Harle Counseling and Associates
- TTI Allentown Residential
- Realistic Behavior & Therapeutic Services

*New*  
*New*  
*New*  
*New*  
*New*

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

**14. Candidates for Graduation – December 2024**

*Ms. Payton Mentzer moved to approve the candidates for graduation - December 2024 as presented in Tab 7. Mr. Guido Pichini 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 in Tab 8 with no further comment.

**17. Audit Report on Financial Statements**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to accept the Audit Report on Financial Statements as presented. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**18. Certification of University External Financial Support**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Certification of University External Financial Support as presented in Tab 9. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr. reported on the committee discussions. The committee would specifically like to give a shout out to the four graduate students who have been making the work of the Multi- Cultural Center and the Diversity Committee move very efficiently. They are very hardworking and deserve recognition; Yaire Perez, Austin Harris, Solomon Johnson, and Mirialy Valle.

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



Mr. Robert Grim reported on the committee discussions.

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

"The PA Association of Councils of Trustees held a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, to discuss reallocating funds for better returns on investment.

The members voted to transfer \$100,000 to a PACT fund managed by the PASSHE Foundation and an additional \$100,000 to a high-yield CD account.  
These changes aim to maximize the organization's financial growth."

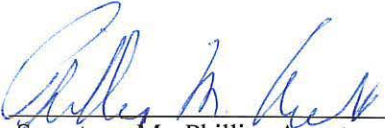
**22. As May Arise – No items presented**

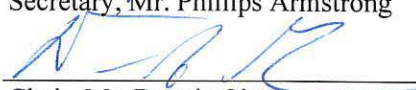
**Adjournment**

*Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.*

12.12.24  
Date

12.12.24  
Date

  
Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong

  
Chair, Mr. Dennis Giorno