

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 13, 2025

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

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...(via conference phone).....	Wyomissing Hill
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee.....	Reading
Ms. Sandy Green.....	Kutztown
Ms. Dianne Lutz	Wernersville

ABSENT:

Mr. Dennis Giorno, Chair.....	Harrisburg
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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 Salvatore, Director of Communications
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations and Athletics
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 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
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Services
Ms. Gwenyth DiPrinzio, Student Presenter
Dr. Chali Nondo, Associate Dean, College of Business
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Dr. Lisa Frye, Department Chair of Computer Science & IT, Senate President
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President, Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum
Ms. Des Reasoner, Assistant Vice President for Housing & Dining Services
Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost for Extended & Life-Long Learning & Dean of Graduate Studies
Mr. Troy Vingom, Assistant Vice President for Information Technology Services

Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Rachel Seifrit, Academic Department Secretary

Students:

Ava Esterly

Alex Darlington

Miggy Diaz

Ariel Fratanduono

Madison Jackson

Nikolai Kochel

Katie Shank

Siobhan Houghton

Levi Hart

Tashona Lewis

Amaris Means

Rowan Bermudez

Skye Evans

Kay Adams

Linda Zuniga

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:02 p.m. Vice-Chair Harden called the meeting to order. Vice-Chair Harden noted that an Executive Session was held. Personnel matters were part of the discussion but no formal action was taken. Social Equity Policy training was completed with all Council Members in the Executive Session.

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 Vice-Chair Harden which established that a quorum of the Council was present.

4. **Remarks by Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Council Vice-Chair**

“Welcome to the first public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees for the 2025 spring semester.

Our primary focus continues to revolve around the search for the university’s 13th President. The search committee has made significant progress since our last public meeting. Full information can be found on the presidential search page on the KU Website.

We conducted a round of zoom interviews in February and will be meeting soon to determine the candidates who will visit campus for in-person interviews in the coming weeks.

We will be communicating with the entire campus to request attendance at the various open forums to provide feedback to the committee. The council of trustees anticipate forwarding the finalists to the State System Board of Governors in the next month.

Again, I want to thank the members of the search committee for their tireless efforts in this process, and the members of the KU campus community for their participation in the weeks ahead as we work to identify KU’s next leader.

Finally, I want to wish our students a happy, healthy and safe Spring Break next week. I hope you all come back rejuvenated for the home stretch of the academic year.”

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

“Our Student Government Board has been incredibly busy since the last Council of Trustees meeting. We have dedicated significant time to collecting student feedback, finalizing our preliminary budget, and preparing for upcoming elections. As a senior, it’s a little bittersweet to think about elections coming so soon, but I know this board will remain in incredible hands long after my time of involvement.

We continue to focus on our three main priorities: diversity, safety, and well-being. These priorities shape many of our initiatives as we work to ensure that every student feels supported, included, and safe on this campus.

As we gather today, I can’t help but reflect on a milestone that has shaped so many concerns relating to these areas. Today marks five years since the day schools across the country sent students home, and a national emergency was declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many of our students, the effects of that time still linger. Feelings of isolation, increased mental health struggles, and the challenge of relearning how to be human beings again have shaped much of the college experience. Returning to an in-person learning environment wasn’t just about academics -- it was about rediscovering routines, rebuilding friendships, and simply finding our place again.

One of the things I often hear from students is that they’re searching for a sense of belonging. After years of disruption and uncertainty, many are still working to rebuild connections -- both with their peers and within themselves. Finding that sense of community isn’t always easy, but it’s clear that students are actively seeking ways to reconnect and create meaningful experiences. These challenges have certainly left their mark, but they’ve also underscored the incredible resilience of students.

Our students have consistently demonstrated remarkable strength. Their adaptability in uncertain times is inspiring -- not just by overcoming obstacles, but by moving forward, finding new ways to connect with peers and faculty, and bringing creativity and enthusiasm to everything they do. Whether through student organizations, advocacy efforts, or simply by being there for one another in times of need, these students have shown an amazing commitment to community. The strength of our students is evident not only in how they face challenges, but in their refusal to let those challenges define them.

As a student myself, I am incredibly proud to be part of the Kutztown community. The spirit of the students at this university is one of determination, kindness, and hope -- and their voices continue to shape our campus for the better every day.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our peers, faculty, staff, administration, and the Council of Trustees. Thank you for your continued support as we work to help every student reach their full potential. "

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

“2,178 students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Kutztown University --- 184 more students than fall 2023. 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.

Dr. Christina Kinney, director of the [Office of International Education and Global Engagement](#) at Kutztown University, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award in International Education to Taiwan this spring from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Dr. Kinney has been selected for the U.S.-Taiwan International Education Administrators Award. This two-week seminar aims to foster deeper connections and understanding between U.S. and Taiwanese higher education institutions. Through this Fulbright program, Dr. Kinney aims to further develop Kutztown University's existing partnerships in Taiwan, expand opportunities for both short-term and semester-long study abroad programs and explore new avenues for faculty exchange and collaborative initiatives.

Kutztown University hosted the 2025 Berks County Science Olympiad in early January. This year's Olympiad welcomed more than 300 high school students from across the county. These talented individuals from 16 schools competed in a variety of STEM-related events, showcasing their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. KU will host the 2025 Central Eastern Regional Science Olympiad Thursday, March 20. Approximately 600 students from eight middle schools and 30 high schools from Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton and Schuylkill counties will compete in more than 46 events in a variety of science disciplines.

The Kutztown University women's basketball team won the first Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference title in the 54-year history of the program, defeating Edinboro on the road this past Sunday. The Golden Bears have earned a bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament this weekend in Edinboro and will play Seton Hill tomorrow at noon in the first round. Congratulations to head coach Janet Malouf, assistant coach Justin Hallman, and our outstanding student-athletes for an amazing season.

Our video today features Ava Esterly, a junior who is studying in our Regenerative Organic Agriculture program. She talks about the hands-on opportunities that she has gained at KU and through the partnership with the Rodale Institute. The video is being used as part of PASSHE's campaign to showcase the programs and partnerships at our universities that positively impact students, communities, and Pennsylvania industry."

7. **Public Comment**

A group of alumni, staff, and students shared their concerns regarding program array.

8. **Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2024**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Phillips Armstrong and seconded by Ms. Sandy Green, the minutes of the December 12, 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: Ms. Gwenyth Diprinzio-Major: Early Childhood Education PK-4 & Special Education PD-12**

Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean of the College of Education, introduced the Student Presenter, Gwenyth Diprinzio. Ms. Diprinzio share 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.

• Gregory J. Rautzhan Insurance Agency, Shoemakersville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Iron Advocate Mindset, Lakeville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh Valley Zoo, Schnecksville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys, Wyomissing, PA	<i>New</i>
• Steps to Recovery, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Frey + Co CPA's LLC, Walnutport, PA	<i>New</i>
• North Whitehall Township, Coplay, PA	<i>New</i>
• River Rock Academy, Lancaster, PA	<i>New</i>
• Berks Nature, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• Fig Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Service Electric Network, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Mxdwn Magazine, Los Angeles, CA	<i>New</i>
• Creative Kiddie Care, Inc., Pottstown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Berks County Living Magazine, Reading, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Main Street Getaways KTown Hall, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Kutztown Animal Hospital, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh County Authority, Wescosville, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Mitzvah Circle Foundation, Lansdale, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• European Wax Center, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• PA Department of the Auditor General, Harrisburg, PA	<i>New</i>
• Delaware County Christian School, Newtown Square, PA	<i>New</i>
• RKL, Lancaster, PA	<i>New</i>
• Kutztown Strong, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Grace Church, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Newark, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Houlahan House, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23, Montgomery County, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Kingdom Story Company, Franklin, TN	<i>New</i>
• Positive Masculinity Now, Seattle, WA	<i>New</i>
• Make/Films, Lancaster, PA	<i>New</i>
• WMMR, Bala Cynwyd, PA	<i>New</i>
• Brandywine Library, Topton, PA	<i>New</i>
• Human Services, Inc., West Chester, PA	<i>New</i>
• Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• WMGH, Nesquehoning, PA	<i>New</i>
• Equity Retail Brokers, Plymouth Meeting, PA	<i>New</i>
• Office of Senator Nick Miller, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Raw Cereal, Los Angeles, CA	<i>New</i>
• Amphorae Publishing House, Harrisonville, MO	<i>New</i>
• Prime Care Medical, Harrisburg, PA	<i>New</i>
• Karen Quinlan Hospice, Newton, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Fleetwood HS Athletic Dept., Fleetwood, NJ	<i>New</i>
• DoDEA, Alexandria, VA	<i>New</i>
• Leigh Kane, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>
• St. Barnabas Church, Kutztown, PA	<i>New</i>

• Forvis Mazars, Fort Washington, PA	<i>New</i>
• NJEDA, Newark, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.	<i>Renewal</i>
• Wise Owl Consulting, Pottsville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Advantage Home Health Services, Pottsville, PA	<i>New</i>
• University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Child and Family Support Services, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• Baseball Academy Facility, Randolph, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Readeezy, Parsippany, NJ	<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.

□ Montgomery Twp School District	<i>New</i>
• West Chester Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• New Story Schools-Wyomissing	<i>Renewal</i>
• Kutztown Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Philadelphia School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Shenandoah Valley School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• West Chester Area School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Eastern Lebanon County School District	<i>Renewal</i>
• Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children	<i>Renewal</i>
• The School District of Philadelphia	<i>Renewal</i>
• Pittston Area School District	<i>New</i>

13. Counseling Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University

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

• Mind Matters Counseling	<i>New</i>
• Guided Life Structures	<i>New</i>
• Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health	<i>New</i>
• TTI Allentown Outpatient	<i>New</i>
• Glenn R. Koch and Associates LLC	<i>New</i>
• Our Whole Living Counseling	<i>New</i>
• Malibu Wellness Ranch	<i>New</i>
• Tracy E. Hill Phd and Associates LLC	<i>New</i>
• Aspire to Autonomy, Inc	<i>New</i>
• Anathallo	<i>New</i>
• Diakon Family Life Services	<i>New</i>
• Penn Psychiatric Center	<i>New</i>
• Sanctuary Counseling LLC	<i>New</i>

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

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the Dual Credit Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University.

- Southern Lehigh School District

New

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

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

Ms. Dianne Lutz reported for Mr. Guido Pichini on the committee discussions.

“We covered quite a few items in our committee meeting today. We reviewed the purchases and contracts from the past few months. These items all followed university purchasing guidelines and can be reviewed in detail under tab 8 in your booklets. Of significant note are the purchase orders for the renovation of Johnson Hall within the Housing operation. This residence hall will be fully renovated over the next year with plans for students to occupy the building in Fall 2026.

We discussed the E&G budget for next year which includes many assumptions since we are still early in the process. We are happy to see that the Governor’s budget proposal includes a 6.5% increase for the State System schools. This increase equates to \$3.5 million for KU and would help cover salary and benefit increases for our faculty and staff. Other assumptions, such as enrollment, will continue to be monitored as a balanced budget is prepared for approval at the June meeting.

Finally, we discussed the fiscal year 2025-26 Auxiliary Fees and Budgets which are being brought forward for action. The university is proposing a 5% increase to housing fees which is needed to cover rising personnel costs, deferred maintenance issues within the residence halls, and increasing debt payments for Dixon Hall. The university is also seeking a 3.6% increase in dining rates. This increase is in line with the Consumer Price Index and the terms outlined in the contract with Aramark, the campus food vendor. Fees for the Health Center, Student Union Building, Recreation Center, and Transportation will remain the same with no increase needed.

These increases will help the university balance the auxiliary budgets and continue on its path toward financial sustainability. I ask that we approve the 2025-26 Auxiliary Fees and Budgets as presented in tab 9.”

16. Purchases and Contracts

Ms. Dianne Lutz noted the purchases and contracts were reviewed in Tab 8 with no further comment.

17. 2025-2026 Auxiliary Fees and Budgets

Ms. Dianne Lutz moved to approve the 2025-2026 Auxiliary Fees and Budgets as presented in Tab 9. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

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

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

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

Mr. Robert Grim reported on the committee discussions.

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

"Trustees received a press release from the State Board of Higher Education, which is charged with drafting a new strategic plan for higher education in PA by September 25th. The draft plan will be the subject of a public review process in the coming months. Through regional public hearings, surveys, and listening sessions, the Board seeks to gather comprehensive feedback on six key draft goals: increasing postsecondary credential attainment, ensuring affordable education pathways, supporting economic and workforce development, ensuring accountability in state funding, and strengthening the fiscal health of higher education institutions.

The engagement process is designed to align higher education with the state's broader economic and workforce needs while ensuring transparency and financial sustainability. Trustees are encouraged to remain engaged with their university presidents throughout this process and consider how best to support this initiative, ensuring that the university's needs and priorities are effectively represented."

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

Adjournment

Mr. Phillips Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.

5/2/2025 | 10:33:22 AM EDT

Date

5/2/2025 | 12:21:57 PM EDT

Date

Signed by:

Phillips M. Armstrong

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Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong

Kevin Harden, Jr.

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Vice-Chair, Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr.