

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
April 24, 2025

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Ms. Dianne Lutz	Wernersville
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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  
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  
Mr. Cade Herndon, Student Government Board Vice-President  
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. Mark-handy Phanor, Student Presenter  
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Ms. Des Reasoner, Assistant Vice President for Housing & Dining Services  
Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost for Extended & Life-Long Learning & Dean of Graduate Studies  
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Services  
Dr. Paul Quinn, APSCUF President  
Dr. Deb Hokien, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Jennifer Schlegel, Anthropology Professor

Ms. Leanne Recla, Executive Director of Marketing  
 Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business  
 Ms. Arielle Marcum, Assistant Director University Marketing & Social Media  
 Ms. Sarah Wert, President's Office Administrative Assistant  
 Ms. Liz Ramos, Student Union Operations Clerical Assistant  
 Ms. Tammy Wert, Assistant to the Provost for Gen Ed  
 Mr. Chris Sponagle, Multimedia Producer  
 Ms. Jennifer Waidelich, Manager of Clinical Services  
 Ms. Jennifer Castro, Director of Undergraduate Admissions  
 Ms. Susan Mangold, Counseling Center Instructor  
 Ms. Shannon Merkey, Health & Wellness Center Office Manager  
 Ms. Stacey Gambler, Executive Assistant to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Deam  
 Ms. Lisa Meyers, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Clerical Assistant  
 Ms. Julie Fiorini, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Management Technician  
 Mr. Erik Burstein, Head Coach of Women's Soccer  
 Mr. Kraig Piper, Volunteer  
 Mr. James Alaka, Assistant Track & Field Coach  
 Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President, Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum  
 All-American Student Athletes:  
 Bridgette Curtis  
 Matthew Weinberg  
 Michael Fellin  
 Sarah Gatehouse  
 Erin Gonzalez  
 Juliana Donato  
 Danielle Panati

**1. Call to Order**

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Giorno called the meeting to order. He noted that an Executive Session was held. Personnel matters were part of the discussion, but no formal actions were 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, Chairman**

"Welcome to the April public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

The next week is another important phase in our presidential search as we move closer to the final decision. The two individuals forwarded to the Council of Trustees by the search committee earlier this month --- Dr. Philip Cavalier and Dr. Matt Cecil --- will interview with the State System board of governors, staff and new chancellor Dr. Chris Fiorentino. A decision and announcement are expected to be made shortly afterward. The university community will be among the first to learn of the decision. We hope to have the new president on campus to greet the campus community and meet with key constituents before commencement.

Again, I want to thank the KU community, especially the members of the search committee, for your tremendous dedication and support throughout the search process.

Finally, the last meeting of the spring semester is one of those special meetings for the Council of Trustees, as we vote to approve the spring 2025 graduating class. We look forward to conducting the vote shortly and celebrating with our students as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>."

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

"Good afternoon everyone. As I stand here today, with just a few short weeks left before I graduate, I've been doing a lot of reflecting. I want to take this moment today to thank all of you. This year, Student Government Board committed to a simple idea: listening. We've collected feedback from hundreds, if not thousands of students. Whether it came through forums, tabling events, surveys, campus conversations, or simply stopping to talk in the middle of a busy day, student voices shaped everything we did. And we didn't just listen: we responded.

Looking back at all that we've accomplished this year: we prioritized safety, knowing that every student deserves to feel secure where they learn and live. We held our campus-wide safety walk, identifying areas of concern and turning observations into real, actionable change. We deepened our commitment to diversity, not just by checking a box, but by showing up, reaching out, and collaborating with student organizations that reflect the range of identities and experiences on our campus. We celebrated our community too, through events like SGA Day, which gave us a chance to lift up the voices, talents, and spirit of our student body. That day reminded me why I fell in love with this role in the first place, because our students are the heartbeat of this university.

Perhaps what I'm most proud of is the work we've done behind the scenes, the work that often doesn't make headlines. We rebuilt bridges. We mended relationships with groups who felt overlooked or unheard. We reached out with humility and listened with openness, because healing and progress are possible. If that is my legacy...if I'm remembered for helping make this campus a little safer, a little more inclusive, and a little more united...then I will know that I've done my job.

So now, it's time to pass the torch. I am incredibly proud and excited to announce that next year's SGB President will be Cade Herndon. Cade cares deeply about this campus, and I have no doubt that he will lead with kindness, clarity, and heart. He and his team have big things ahead, and I'll be cheering them on every step of the way.

To everyone who supported me, challenged me, encouraged me, and believed in me: thank you. Truly. Thank you for trusting me with this role. Thank you for letting me serve you. And thank you for making this university feel like home. Serving as Student Body President has been one of the greatest honors of my college experience--and of my life. As I get ready to turn the page to the next chapter, and as I prepare to continue working in higher education, I carry with me everything this role has taught me: the importance of listening, the value of collaboration, and the power of student voices when they come together.

So here's to what we've done, and here's to what's still to come. Because we're not quite finished yet. To our students, our faculty, our staff, our administrators, and the Council of Trustees, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done to support us not just this year, but throughout my time here as a Golden Bear. Thank you."

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

"The Ali-Zaidi Award is presented annually to a graduating senior at one of the 10 State System universities in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement and participation in extra- and co-curricular activities.

The 2025 recipient is Kutztown University student and PA Air National Guard Staff Sergeant Aidan La Penta. For this honor, Aiden is awarded by the board of governors at its quarterly meeting and presented with a \$2,500 award. He will also be recognized at commencement next month.

Aiden is majoring in Information Technology with a 3.9 GPA in Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He also earned a cybersecurity certificate in the Criminal Justice program.

German Consul General Till Knorn of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, visited Kutztown University for a tour of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center Monday, March 24. General Knorn was accompanied by Anton Klix, Consul of the Political Department, for the tour.

The tour included a visit to the farm, a tour of the galleries and archives at the Delight E. Breidegam Building. Over lunch, Consul General Knorn and Klix met with representatives of Kutztown University and the Borough of Kutztown to discuss the status of German American transatlantic educational and cultural partnerships. We also discussed future opportunities for collaboration between the consulate, the university and the borough.

It has been our tradition at Council of Trustees to recognize our KU athletics All-Americans. We had 10 Golden Bears earned All-America honors this past fall and spring, many of whom are here with us today. I would like to ask Matt Santos, vice president of University Relations and Athletics to introduce our All-Americans and their coaches in attendance. At the end, we will gather for a quick photo.

Thank you Dr. Hawkinson. All-Americans, please stand as I call your name:

From field hockey, four student-athletes earned All-America honors from the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, while leading the Golden Bears to the national championship game for the second-straight season.

- **Juliana Donato** is a senior, business administration major, and earned All-America First Team honors as a midfielder for the second time of her career.
- **Sarah Gatehouse** is a graduate student, business administration major, and closed her career as a three-time All-America First Team defender. Sarah won last year's Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Award Gold Medal.
- **Erin Gonzalez** is a junior, business administration major, and was named All-America Second Team as a forward for the first time of her career.
- and **Danielle Panati** is a senior, chemistry major, and was named All-America Second Team as a defender for the first time of her career.

From women's soccer, **Bridget Curtis** is a senior, business administration major, and is a two-time All-American, including Second Team honors as a defender this season. A winner of the Chambliss Academic Achievement Award Silver Medal, Bridget is one of only three players in

program history to earn multiple All-America honors. Joining Bridget today is head coach **Erik Burstein**.

From wrestling, **Matthew Weinberg** is a graduate student, business administration major, and finished in third place at the NCAA National Championships at 184 pounds in March, finishing his career as a three-time All-American. Matthew holds the school record with 38 career pins and ranks third with 96 career wins.

From track and field, **Michael Fellin** is a junior, criminal justice major, and became KU's first-ever All-American in the 60m dash when he claimed Second Team honors by finishing in 12th place at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March. Michael was also named the PSAC Indoor Track Athlete of the Year. Joining Michael today is assistant coach **James Alaka**.

At this time, I would ask all our All-America student-athlete to please come forward for a photo. Congratulations.

Our video feature today highlights physics majors Zakary Claman and Michael Lafferty, as they talk about the hands-on experience that they have received at KU. The video is used on KU's website and YouTube channel, and it was also shown on iPads that the admissions team displayed on their recruitment tables. They also displayed the 3-D printed clock tower that is featured in the video."

7. **Public Comment**

A group of staff members shared their concerns regarding the presidential search.

8. **Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2025**

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jim Ludlow and seconded by Mr. Phillips Armstrong, the minutes of the March 13, 2025, 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. Mark-handy Phanor, Major: Political Science and Minor: Philosophy & Student Member of the Board of Governor's for PASSHE**

Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, introduced the Student Presenter, Mark-handy Phanor. Mr. Phanor share 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.

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Roberto Clemente Charter School, Allentown, PA      | New     |
| • Monroe County Probation Department, Stroudsburg, PA | New     |
| • Lafayette College, Easton, PA                       | New     |
| • Delaware Blue Coats, Wilmington, DE                 | New     |
| • Preventative Measures, Inc., East Stroudsburg, PA   | New     |
| • Universal Phoenix Group, LLC., Stone Mountain, GA   | Renewal |
| • Blue Ridge Cable Technologies, Inc., Palmerton, PA  | New     |
| • Historic Yellow Springs, Chester Springs, PA        | New     |
| • JuxtaHub, Emmaus, PA                                | New     |

- George Washington High School, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Wyomissing Area School District, Wyomissing, PA *New*
- Novus Medical Services, Reading, PA *New*
- George Washington High School, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, Pottsville, PA *Renewal*

**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.

- Huntingdon School District *New*
- Pottstown School District *Renewal*
- Manheim Central School District *New*
- Fleetwood Area School District *New*
- St. Lucy School *New*

**13. 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.

- Tamaqua Area School District *New*
- Boyertown Area School District *New*
- Schuylkill Haven Area School District *New*
- Catasauqua Area School District *New*
- Wyomissing Area School District *New*

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

**14. May 2025 Candidates for Degree**

*Ms. Payton Mentzer made a motion to approve the May 2025 Candidates for Degree as presented. 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 as presented in Tab 8 with no further comment.

Mr. Guido Pichini asked Mr. Matt Delaney to summarize #17, #18, and #19 before the Council voted.

**17. Capital Spending Plan**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Capital Spending Plan as presented in Tab 9. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**18. Tuition Technology Fee**



*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Tuition Technology Fee as presented in Tab 10. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

19. **Miscellaneous Fees**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Miscellaneous Fees as presented in Tab 11. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

Ms. Sandy Green reported on the committee discussions.

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

Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.

22. **Proposed 2025-2026 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Dennis Giorno asked the Council to review the proposed meeting schedule as it will be voted on at the next meeting.

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

There will be a PACT Workshop in Harrisburg on July 16, 2025.

24. **As May Arise-Mr. Dennis Giorno, Chair - Motion for the Naming of the Admissions Welcome Center**

“At this time, the Council of Trustees would like to present a special motion regarding our newest campus facility.

Before the next Council of Trustees meeting on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the university will dedicate its brand-new facility located at the east entrance to our beautiful campus. The Admissions Welcome Center at the corner of Kutztown Rd. and College Blvd. will include a renovation of the Poplar House and a new 10,300 square foot addition. The new addition will include a lobby and gathering space with a reception/information counter with interactive displays and kiosks; a large multi-purpose meeting room, capable of both table seating for receptions or lecture style layout for presentations; a catering kitchen to support special events; offices for a portion of admissions department staff; and a lounge for student tour guides. The facility will also include state-of-the-art HVAC, lighting and audio/visual features.

President Hawkinson noted at the groundbreaking in the fall of 2023, that quote “we envisioned this as a gateway to our campus where prospective students and their parents could be welcomed in a comfortable environment and receive all the pertinent information on KU before embarking on tours of our wonderful campus. We are particularly pleased that once again, we are able to honor our past by including the historic Poplar House as part of the overall construction, while fulfilling the needs of our future.”

Over its nearly 159-year history, Kutztown University has named several of its facilities in honor of the institution’s great leaders, including Presidents McFarland, Stratton, Beekey, DeFrancesco, Rohrbach and Rothermel, and normal school principal Nathan Schaeffer.

Since July of 2015, Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson has demonstrated outstanding and fearless leadership as the 12<sup>th</sup> President of Kutztown University. Over the past decade, he has guided the university through challenges --- such as the COVID 19 pandemic --- and transitions --- such as the merging of State System campuses --- to keep KU stable and successful. This has included:

- \*Enhancing the academic profile of the university through student recruitment and retention
- \*A continuous balanced budget despite no tuition increases
- \*A record-setting fundraising campaign, the establishment and refurbishment of facilities,
- \*Unparalleled success on our athletic venues
- \*Enhanced diversity --- particularly among the student body

All while tirelessly engaging the KU community at his residence and beyond with the help of his wife Ann-Marie and his loyal dog Wynnie.

*With this as a background, I would like to make a motion to officially name the new Admissions Welcome Center in honor of our 12<sup>th</sup> President, Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson as the **Hawkinson Admissions Welcome Center**. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved."*

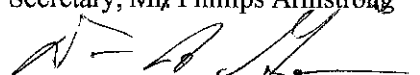
#### **Adjournment**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.*

6/5/25  
Date

6/5/25  
Date

  
Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong

  
Chairman, Mr. Dennis Giorno