

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
June 5, 2025

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, June 5, 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	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
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  
Mr. Jivan Hawkinson, President's Guest  
Mrs. Susan Pichini, KUF Board Member  
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President  
Mr. Bryan Salvatore, Director of Communications  
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations and 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  
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs  
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director of KU Foundation  
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Ms. Leanne Recla, Executive Director of Marketing  
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean, College of Business  
Mr. Chris Sponagle, Multimedia Producer  
Mr. Kraig Piper, Volunteer  
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President, Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum  
Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Associate Dean of Visual & Performing Arts  
Dr. Lisa Frye, Senate President  
Dr. Stephen Rupprecht, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students

**1. Call to Order**

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Giorno called the meeting to order. He noted that an Executive Session was held. The annual COT Self-Assessment Results were reviewed and further actions were noted. Personnel matters were also 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**

“Good afternoon, and welcome to the final public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees for the 2024-25 academic year.

I want to congratulate the Kutztown University community on so many outstanding events over the past several weeks, including the three spring commencement ceremonies, the welcoming for incoming President Dr. Phil Cavalier, and of course the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Hawkinson Welcome Center this morning. As you can see, Dr. Hawkinson’s portrait, which we also unveiled this morning, is permanently displayed in this room with past principals and presidents. Congratulations Ken!

On behalf of the trustees, I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer break and again wish President Hawkinson and Ann Marie all the best in retirement.”

**5. Student Government Board Update – *No update was shared.***

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

“Yesterday, we had our annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Picnic where we honored 145 members of our community for their years of service from five to thirty-five years and our retirees. It is our opportunity to recognize the many employees who invest years and decades to provide wonderful service to our institution.

Kutztown University has been awarded a \$946,951 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for its Dual Credit Innovation program to address the state’s teacher shortage. The grant will support scholarships and programming for KU’s Early College Academy for Education. My congratulations to Dean Rebecca Burns, Provost Lorin Basden Arnold, and all the others who made this grant possible.

KU’s Early College Academy of Education is an innovative approach to rethinking dual enrollment that thoughtfully and intentionally steps students into college, supporting their successful transition to post-secondary education. High school students who have a general interest in working with children and education studies can attend classes on KU’s campus, where they will take two courses in the fall semester and two in the spring. The four courses count toward majors in education.

The current cohort in the pilot Early College Academy for Education has 39 students. The grant will allow the program to expand to 60 students in year one and a total of 150 students over two years.

Liquid, a marketing agency led by our own trustee Jim Ludlow, proudly announced the winners of the ninth annual Liquid Digital Marketing Award competition in collaboration with KU. This year’s challenge, presented in collaboration with Insomnia Cookies, tasked student teams with developing innovative digital marketing campaigns to boost awareness and sales of the brand’s

Cookie'wich menu item. The five KU seniors on the winning team impressed the panel with their comprehensive strategy, creative execution and insightful analysis. Their campaign stood out for its originality and practical application, earning them the top honor and monetary prize.

The Liquid Digital Marketing Award competition exemplifies the synergy between academia and industry, preparing students for successful careers in marketing and beyond. Thank you, Jim, to you and Liquid, for your continued support.

Kutztown University's home for Golden Bear Athletics, Keystone Hall, will undergo complete building renovation for the first time in its 54-year existence, beginning May 2026. The building will feature a modernized home for KU student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans and is slated to open in January 2028.

Highlights of the project include:

- Upgraded team locker rooms
- Updated office spaces for coaches, support staff and administrators. Keystone Pool upgrades
- A complete arena renovation
- Team rooms, an updated lobby, accessible entrances, state-of-the-art technology and more
- HVAC and many "behind the wall" improvements

The primary source of funding will be state capital funds.

I am happy to announce that as one of my last duties as President, I will award Mr. Robert Grim, esquire, a Kutztown University President's Medal. Bob is a life-long resident of Kutztown where he has practiced law since 1969. He served as chairperson and vice chairperson of the council to begin this decade. He is a generous supporter of the university, community advocate and has an extensive family legacy with KU and the borough of Kutztown dating back to the 1800s. I look forward to sharing more with everyone about Bob Grim at the ceremony later this month.

Finally, Ann Marie and I have been honored by numerous events in the last few months, and I can't tell you how humbling it has been. The events this morning with the opening of the Welcome Center and the unveiling of the portrait made it very difficult to find the right words of thanks.

I'm not worthy of the honors and accolades that have come my way. As all the accomplishments have resulted from the contributions of so many associated with this institution. If I am to have any credit at all it is to have the wisdom to surround myself with brilliant and engaged people who have helped and supported me over the last decade. This amazing Council of Trustees who have provided such important advice and guidance, my talented vice presidents and other administrators and staff, my wonderful office team, our faculty, the chancellor and State System personnel, my fellow presidents, the board of governors, the mayor and local community members, the amazing and generous alumni and friends of the university, legislators and civic leaders, my wonderful wife Ann Mrie and our students. It has all been about the students.

Thank you. Thank you all."

7. **Public Comment** - *None*

8. **Approval of Minutes:** April 24, 2025

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Phillips Armstrong and seconded by Mr. Guido Pichini, the minutes of the April 24, 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. **General Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

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

• Monroe County Courthouse, Stroudsburg, PA	<i>New</i>
• Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, Easton, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Big Owl Productions, LLC , Philadelphia, PA	<i>New</i>
• Heritage Conservancy, Doylestown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh County Authority, Wescosville, PA	<i>New</i>
• Legend of Allentown, Macungie, PA	<i>New</i>
• Ticket Sales and Sponsorships – Royals Hockey, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• 76ers Fieldhouse, Wilmington, DE	<i>New</i>
• Shore Sports Camp (SSC), Sea Isle City, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Horsham Township Library, Horsham, PA	<i>New</i>
• Perfect Game USA, Palmyra, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lehigh Valley Anti Trafficking Collaborative, Northampton, PA	<i>New</i>
• Anthracite Animal Clinic, Ashland, PA	<i>New</i>
• National Grange, Washington D.C.	<i>New</i>
• Concern Fleetwood, Fleetwood, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Comfort Keepers, Reading, PA	<i>New</i>
• BeSkintiful Esthetic Spa, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Electricat Recording Studio, Clifton Heights, PA	<i>New</i>
• WFMZ, Reading, PA	<i>Renewal</i>
• Lehigh Gap Nature Center, Slatington, PA	<i>New</i>
• Priority PT, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• H&K Group, Inc., Easton, PA	<i>New</i>
• Ponessa Behavioral Health, Lancaster, PA	<i>New</i>
• Air Products, Allentown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Easton, PA	<i>New</i>
• Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, PA	<i>New</i>
• Schaumburg Boomers, Schaumburg, IL	<i>New</i>
• Tesseract Ventures, Overland Park, KS	<i>New</i>
• ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks, Bethlehem, PA	<i>New</i>
• Make Plays Media, Orlando, FL	<i>New</i>
• Yellowstone National Park, Yellowstone National Park, WY	<i>New</i>
• Asset Link Global, Jessup, PA	<i>New</i>
• The Untitled Magazine, New York, NY	<i>New</i>
• Schuylkill County Sheriff's Office, Pottsville, PA	<i>New</i>
• US Postal Inspectors, Baltimore, MD	<i>New</i>
• Derry Township School District, Hershey, PA	<i>New</i>
• YMCA Gettysburg and Adams County, Gettysburg, PA	<i>New</i>
• Lakewood Memorial Library, Lakewood, NY	<i>New</i>
• Hellertown Historical Society, Hellertown, PA	<i>New</i>
• Alina Lodge, Hardwick, NJ	<i>New</i>
• Oceanside Library, Oceanside, NY	<i>New</i>

- LVPG Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Allentown, PA *New*
- West Virginia University Board of Governors/West Virginia University *New*
- River Crossing YMCA Doylestown Branch, Doylestown, PA *New*
- Women's Center of Montgomery County, Colmar, PA *New*
- Reading Royals Ticket Sales & Sponsorship, Reading, PA *New*
- Park Road Presbyterian Church, Wyomissing, PA *New*
- Big Shaw Sports Complex, Leesport, PA *New*
- Camp Modin, Belgrade, ME *New*
- Suffolk County Police Department, Brentwood, NY *New*
- Bucks County Beacon, Warminster, PA *New*
- Matrix Behavior Solutions, East Stroudsburg, PA *New*
- White Birch Golf Course, Barnesville, PA *New*
- Nao Now Learning, Dallas, TX *New*
- Allied Instructional Services, Ashland, VA *New*
- Parkland Community Library, Allentown, PA *New*
- DHL Supply Chain, York, PA *New*

**11. 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.

- Hamburg Area School District *Renewal*
- Fleetwood Area School District *Renewal*
- Governor Mifflin School District *Renewal*
- Manheim Township School District *Renewal*
- Easton School District *Renewal*
- Lehigh Valley Summerbridge/Moravian Academy *New*

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

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

- Pure Life Counseling *Renewal*

**13. Dual Credit Agreement with Various School Districts and Kutztown University**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the dual credit agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in university courses either on the Kutztown University campus or on a school district site.

- Octorara Area School District *New*
- Salisbury Area School District *New*

*Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present agenda items #10 through #13 as one action item for approval as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

Mr. Guido Pichini reported on the committee discussions.



**15. Purchases and Contracts**

Mr. Guido Pichini noted the purchases and contracts were reviewed as presented in Tab 7 with no further comment.

**16. 2025-2026 E&G Budget**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the 2025-2026 E&G Budget as presented in Tab 8. Mr. Kevin Harden seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**17. 2025-2026 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the 2025-2026 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees as presented in Tab 9. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**18. Bond Issuance for Johnson Hall Life-Cycle Renovation**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Bond Issuance for Johnson Hall Life-Cycle Renovation as presented in Tab 10. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr. Esq. 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. (AMENDED POLICY) COT-004: Retirement Recognition**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the (amended policy) COT-004: Retirement Recognition as presented in Tab 11. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

*Ms. Sandy Green moved to approve the 2025-2026 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule as presented in Tab 12. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**23. 2025-2026 Kutztown University Order of Succession Plan**

*Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the 2025-2026 Kutztown University Order of Succession Plan as presented in Tab 13. Mr. Jim Ludlow seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**24. PACT Update – Ms. Sandy Green is planning to attend the upcoming PACT Conference in July.**

**25. Resolution: Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, President**

*Mr. Dennis Giorno introduced a video showing highlights of Dr. Hawkinson's tenure at Kutztown University. He then presented a resolution to Dr. Hawkinson.*

*Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the resolution to recognize Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson for his contributions and service to Kutztown University as presented. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

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

**Adjournment**

*Mr. Dennis Giorno adjourned the meeting at 3:43pm.*

10/6/2025 | 8:02:30 AM EDT

Date

9/25/25

Date

Signed by:

Phillips M. Armstrong

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Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong

[Signature]

Chairman, Mr. Dennis Giorno