

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 6, 2025

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Dennis Giorno, Chair	Harrisburg
Mr. Phillips Armstrong, Secretary	Lehigh County
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq	Kutztown
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee	Reading
Ms. Sandy Green	Kutztown
Ms. Dianne Lutz	Wernersville
Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq., Vice-Chair	Philadelphia
Mr. Guido Pichini	Wyomissing Hill

ABSENT:

Mr. James Ludlow	Fogelsville
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ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, Legal Counsel
Mr. Andrew Batista, Student Speaker
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, 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
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
Mr. Matt Assad, Executive Director of Finance
Mr. Cade Herndon, Student Government Board President
Dr. Chali Nando, Associate Dean, College of Business
Ms. Lisa Kowalski, Executive Director KUSI
Ms. Des Reasoner, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director of Health & Wellness Services
Ms. Leida Nieves, Executive Director of Financial Aid
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President of Accreditation, Assessment, & Curriculum
Mr. Troy Vingom, Assistant Vice President for Information Tech Services
Mr. Kraig Piper, University Volunteer
Mr. Mark-Handy Phanor, Board of Governor's Student Representative & KU Student
Ms. Jennifer Weidman, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. Call to Order

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Giorno called the meeting to order. He noted that an Executive Session took place earlier today and personnel matters were discussed 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 November public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

I want to thank the entire Kutztown University community for their work in ensuring an excellent Middle States Evaluation Team visit last month. We look forward to the full report, which will be made public this spring. We had also another great homecoming weekend last month, highlighted by beautiful weather and excellent representation by our Golden Bear alumni and students. I want to commend President Cavalier on his continued connection and interactions with many internal and external groups, including visits with regional superintendents, principals and guidance counselors as we work to help prospective students understand the value of a KU education.

Finally, I want to wish the KU family an early Happy Thanksgiving, which, believe it or not, is only three weeks from today.”

5. **Remarks by Mr. Cade Herndon, Student Government Board President**

“Good afternoon, everyone! It is a pleasure to be here again with you all.

The Student Government Board has been very busy since we last met. Internally, we are wrapping up another round of our elections in order to fill our board. We also had Green Dot training on Tuesday.

Our annual safety walk was Wednesday night. The purpose of this event has always been for students, faculty, and staff to walk the campus together and focus on what could make it safer for everyone. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year. SGB always greatly appreciates the effort and involvement that everyone takes to make this event successful.

Coming off the heels of a successful homecoming event where we had the opportunity to connect with SGB alumni and our very own Brenna McGowan’s spirit court victory, we have begun to focus on SGB’s 100th anniversary. We have made the effort to collect ideas from our board members, the campus community, and SGB alumni, and we will begin to host events regarding this topic in the Spring. We look forward to working with the KU Foundation and the alumni office to reconnect SGB alumni to KU and make SGB’s 100th anniversary as successful and exciting as possible.

Every semester we successfully run feedback tables in order to collect data from our peers to present to our wonderful college deans. This year we have begun to work closely with the college deans and the provost, so we can collect data that will help them the most.

Financially, our budget and finance committee is working to complete special funding ahead of schedule and operating below last year’s expenses.

As always SGB is committed to elevating student voices. One very important way that we are doing this is by promoting the President's Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday, November 18. We are committed to encouraging students to attend this important event as well as attend Dr. Cavalier's open hours. We greatly appreciate that so many administrators are open to serving and supporting students, and SGB is always welcome to contribute to this effort in order to make the KU experience valuable.

In closing, SGB is always grateful to be the voice for all the students, and we are committed to the sentiment that KU is a home where everyone can thrive, grow, and be successful. Thank you all for your continued support and for your time today."

6. Remarks by Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President

"I want to start by thanking the Middle States Steering Committee on an excellent job for all of their hard work throughout the Middle States review process; Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Dr. Karen Rauch, Dr. Greg Shelley, Mr. Mike Demetor, Ms. Krista Prock, and Ms. Tammy Wert.

Kutztown University has been named a "Best Regional University" for 2026 in the U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of U.S. colleges and universities. U.S. News lists KU as No. 112 in the first tier of the Best Regional Universities for the northern region, three spots higher than last year. KU has been ranked in the first tier since 2011. Additionally, KU remained No. 42 among Top Public Schools for Regional Universities in the North.

Kutztown University hosted its first of two Admissions open houses this fall for prospective students and their parents on Saturday, Oct. 25. A standing-room only audience in Schaeffer Auditorium learned about the admissions process, met faculty members, attended a Student Services Fair, and enjoyed guided campus tours and lunch at South Dining Hall. Registration looks strong again for next open house this Saturday morning, November 8th.

Kutztown University hosted the Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Symposium on Oct. 28. Hosted by the Departments of Computer Science and Information Technology, Biology, Geography, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, the event aimed to empower and excite young girls, equipping them with the confidence and knowledge to embrace future leadership roles in STEM. More than 150 students from 11 regional high schools had the opportunity to engage with KU faculty and STEM professionals from local companies, gaining valuable insights into potential career paths within these dynamic fields.

November will be an exciting month for several Golden Bear Athletic teams. The KU field hockey team finished the season undefeated for the first time in program history with an 18-0 record. The Golden Bears will host the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference final four tomorrow and Sunday at Andre Reed Stadium, in a quest for a conference title. NCAA Playoffs will begin November 15th.

The Golden Bear football team is also undefeated with a 9-0 record and has captured the PSAC East Conference title and the top ranking in the region. The Golden Bears will host the PSAC Championship game at Andre Reed Stadium on November 15th, as we pursue our third-straight conference title. The only football program to win three-straight PSAC titles was Slippery Rock between 1972 and 1974. In addition, Golden Bear football has won 29 straight regular season games. NCAA football playoffs will begin November 22nd."

7. **Public Comments** - None
8. **Approval of Minutes:** September 25, 2025
Upon motion duly made by Mr. Phillips Armstrong and seconded by Mr. Guido Pichini, the minutes of the September 25, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.
9. **Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**
Mr. Kevin Harden presented the discussions of the committee meeting.
10. **Student Presenter: Mr. Andrew Batista, Sports Management major and Philosophy minor**
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean of the College of Business introduced the Student Presenter, Mr. Andrew Batista. Mr. Batista 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. Kevin Harden presented the General Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University.
- Pennsbury School District, Fallsington, PA *New*
 - Phineas Davis Elementary School, York, PA *New*
 - Chick-Fil-A, Phillipsburg, NJ *New*
 - Allentown Diocese, Allentown, PA *New*
 - Boone Area Library, Birdsboro, PA *New*
 - Indian Valley Public Library, Telford, PA *New*
 - Reading Police Academy, Reading, PA *New*
12. **School-based Internship Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University**
Mr. Kevin Harden presented the list of school-based internship agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.
- Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School, Brandywine, PA *New*
 - Jim Thorpe Area School District, Jim Thorpe, PA *Renewal*
 - Arts Academy Elementary Charter School, Allentown, PA *New*
 - Exeter School District, Reading, PA *Renewal*
 - BHA Services, Lehigh, PA *New*
13. **Counseling Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**
Mr. Kevin Harden presented internship agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.
- Jonathan Dayton High School, Springfield, NJ *New*

Mr. Kevin Harden moved to present Tabs, 4, 5, and 6 as one action item for approval as presented. Ms. Dianne Lutz 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. **Summer Study Abroad Program**
Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the Summer Study Abroad Program as presented in Tab 8. Ms. Sandy Green seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved..
17. **Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on Human Diversity**
Ms. Sandy Green reported on the committee discussions.
18. **Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on University Relations & Athletics and Advancement**
Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.
19. **PACT Update** – None
20. **As May Arise** - None

Adjournment

Mr. Dennis Giorno adjourned the meeting at 3:34pm.

Date

Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong

Date

Chair, Mr. Dennis Giorno