

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 4, 2026

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, June 4, 2026, 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
Ms. Kaitlyn Macauley, Student Trustee	Allentown
Mr. Guido Pichini	Wyomissing Hills
Mr. James Ludlow	Fogelsville
Ms. Sandy Green	Kutztown
Ms. Dianne Lutz	Wernersville

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, Legal Counsel
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director of KU Foundation
Mr. Matt Assad, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance
Ms. Des Reasoner, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations and Athletics
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Brad Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Dr. Karen Rauch, Dean of University College
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Science
Dr. Anne Carroll, Dean of the College of Business
Mr. Bradley Davis, Executive Director of Equity and Compliance
Dr. Stephen Rupprecht, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students
Ms. Payton Mentzer, Alumni & Former Student Trustee
Ms. Leida Nieves, Executive Director of Financial Aid Services
Mr. James Austerberry, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid Services
Deputy Chief Justin Soumas, Public Safety

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, Chair**

“First, I want to start by congratulating our new Student Trustee, Kaitlyn Macauley as well as congratulate Dr. Anne Carroll on her retirement.

As I conclude up my time as Chair of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees, I just want to take a moment to say how truly meaningful this experience has been for me—both personally and professionally.

Serving as Chair has been an incredible honor, but more than that, it’s been deeply rewarding to work alongside all of you. The commitment, thoughtfulness, and genuine care for Kutztown’s students and future is something I’ll always appreciate and carry with me.

One of the highlights of my time in this role was having the opportunity to chair the presidential search committee. It was a significant responsibility, and at times a challenging process—but also one of the most fulfilling. Getting to work closely with so many dedicated individuals throughout that search made it clear just how strong this university community is. I’m proud of the role we played in bringing Dr. Philip Cavalier to Kutztown, and I’m confident in the leadership and vision he brings to the university.

On a personal level, this experience has given me a much deeper appreciation for the impact Kutztown University has—not just on its students, but on families, communities, and the broader Commonwealth. Being part of that mission, even for a time, is something I’ll always value.

Thank you all for your support, your partnership, and your friendship during my time as Chair. It has meant a great deal to me, and it’s something I won’t forget.”

5. **Remarks by Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President**

“I want to start my remarks by thanking Dennis for his time as chair the last two years and for all of his support of Kutztown University.

Kutztown University's College of Education hosted its annual Early College Academy (ECA) induction on April 22nd. The ceremony included keynote remarks from Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education Dr. Carrie Rowe, who announced a [renewed grant for KU of nearly \\$817k to support the ECA program](#), bringing the total grant awards to KU’s program to \$1.7 million since 2024. KU’s [Early College Academy](#) is an innovative approach to rethinking dual enrollment that thoughtfully and intentionally steps students into college, supporting their successful transition to post-secondary education. More than 100 high school students from 19 school districts have benefitted from KU’s ECA program.

Kutztown University's Rock Ensemble I has been honored as the Undergraduate College Winner in the Blues/Pop/Rock Group category of the 2026 DownBeat Magazine Student Music Awards. The DownBeat Student Music Awards are considered the most prestigious awards in jazz education, recognizing the nation's top music programs. This is the 11th Student Music Award for KU's Commercial Music program in the last 10 years.

Kutztown University is taking action to address the need for critical shortages of certified special education teachers with the launch of an accelerated, tuition-free certification pathway designed to prepare more highly qualified educators – faster. The new initiative, [ASPIRE \(Accelerated](#)

Special Education Program for In-Service Resident Educators), enables certified teachers and recent graduates who have passed student teaching to earn their PK-12 special education add-on certification in just 15 months. After completing the ASPIRE program, participants will be dual-certified educators, prepared to step directly into high-demand roles across Pennsylvania, including positions in learning, emotional, autistic, life skills and multiple disabilities support.”

6. **Public Comments** – *None*

7. **Approval of Minutes:** April 23, 2026

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Ms. Sandy Green, the minutes of the April 23, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

8. **Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

Mr. Jim Ludlow presented the discussions of the committee meeting.

9. **General Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

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

- Upper Merion Area High School, King of Prussia, PA *New*
- Feeser’s Food Distributors, Harrisburg, PA *New*
- PSP Leap, Harrisburg, PA *New*
- PhatMojo LLC, El Segundo, CA *New*
- Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, PA *New*
- Northern Lehigh Bulldog Stadium, Slatington, PA *New*
- Bochetto and Lentz PC, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Lehigh University Police Department, Bethlehem, PA *New*
- Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, VA *New*
- Thomas Jefferson Poplar Forest, Amherst, VA *New*
- Kaleidoscope Family Solutions, Allentown, PA *New*
- Brandenburg Industrial Service Company, Elmhurst, IL *New*
- Lebanon County Historical Society, Lebanon, PA *New*
- Charleston Battery, Mt. Pleasant, SC *New*
- New Wave Comics, Skippack, PA *New*
- Montgomery County Planning Commission, Norristown, PA *New*
- PulteGroup, Bridgewater, NJ *New*
- Berks County Public Defender, Reading, PA *New*
- Department of Corrections, Mechanicsburg, PA *New*
- Brentwood Public Library, Pittsburgh, PA *New*
- United States Marshals Service, Newark, NJ *New*
- Borough of Hanover, Hanover, PA *New*
- Brentwood Public Library, Pittsburgh, PA *New*
- Perkasio Police Department, Perkasio, PA *New*

- 3 Daughters Construction, Bath, PA New
 - Primordia Mushroom Farm, Lenhartsville, PA New
 - Oak Hollow Designs, LLC, New Ringgold, PA New
 - Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, Schnecksville, PA Renewal
 - Skybone Studios, Nashville, TN New
 - Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corp, Lehigh, PA New
 - Instant Systems, USA, Chalfont, PA New
 - Adidas Flagship Store, Paris France New
- (32 new, 1 renewal)**

10. 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.

- Owen J Roberts, Pottstown, PA Renewal
 - Phillipsburg School District, Phillipsburg, NJ Renewal
 - Southern Lehigh School District, Center Valley, PA Renewal
 - String Theory Schools, Philadelphia, PA New
 - Phoenixville Area School District, Phoenixville, PA Renewal
 - Wissahickon School District, Ambler, PA Renewal
 - Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 Renewal
- (1 new, 6 renewals)**

Mr. Jim Ludlow moved to present items 9 and 10 as one action item for approval as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

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

Mr. Guido Pichini reported on the committee discussions.

12. Purchases and Contracts

Mr. Guido Pichini noted the purchases and contracts were reviewed as presented in Tab 5 with no further comment.

13. 2026-2027 E&G Budget

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve 2026-2027 E&G Budget as presented in Tab 6. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

14. 2026-2027 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees

Mr. Guido Pichini moved to approve the 2026-2027 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees as presented in Tab 7. Ms. Dianne Lutz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

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

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

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

Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.

17. **PACT Update** – None

Ms. Sandy Green

18. **Nominating Committee: Election of Officers**

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq. – Chair

Mr. Phillips Armstrong – Vice Chair

Ms. Sandy Green – Secretary

Mr. Dennis Giorno made a motion to approve the slate of officers of the Council of Trustees for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2026 as presented above. Mr. Guido Pichini seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.

19. **Resolution for Mr. Dennis Giorno, Chair**

WHEREAS, Dennis Giorno, a proud alumnus of Kutztown University, has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to his alma mater through exemplary service on the Council of Trustees since 2013; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Giorno has provided steady and thoughtful leadership in successive roles as Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Council, reflecting his deep dedication to the University's mission and governance; and

WHEREAS, as Chair of the Council of Trustees from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, Mr. Giorno has led with integrity, professionalism, and a collaborative spirit, ensuring effective governance and fostering strong engagement among Trustees and University leadership; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Chair, Mr. Giorno served as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, guiding the process that resulted in the selection and appointment of Kutztown University's 13th President, Dr. Phil Cavalier;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Giorno be formally recognized, through this resolution for his exemplary service to Kutztown University while serving as Chair of the Council of Trustees for the past two years.

RESOLVED, this fourth day of June in the year 2026.

Mr. Kevin Harden moved to approve the resolution as presented to Mr. Dennis Giorno for his contributions and service to Kutztown University. The motion was approved.

20. **Resolution for Ms. Payton Mentzer, Student Trustee**

WHEREAS, Payton Mentzer has been a Student Member of the Council of Trustees at Kutztown University for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mentzer has served Kutztown University faithfully, earnestly, and with distinction throughout her tenure as a Council Member; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mentzer has been a friend of Kutztown University, representing the student body, making herself available for consultation, appearing at meetings when requested, and supporting its positions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mentzer will continue her service to KU as the new Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement at the KU Foundation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ms. Mentzer receive the sincere best wishes of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees for success in all of her future endeavors.

RESOLVED, this fourth day of June in the year 2026.

Mr. Dennis Giorno moved to approve the resolution presented to Ms. Payton Mentzer for her contributions and service to Kutztown University. The motion was approved.

21. **As May Arise** - None

Adjournment

Mr. Dennis Giorno adjourned the meeting at 3:37pm

9/24/26

Date

9/24/26

Date



Secretary, Mr. Phillips Armstrong



Chair, Mr. Dennis Giorno