Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEETING
September 24, 2026

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the McFarland Student Union Building, Room 250.

PRESENT:

Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq., Chair	Philadelphia
Mr. Phillips Armstrong, Vice-Chair	Lehigh County
Ms. Sandy Green, Secretary	Kutztown
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq	Kutztown
Ms. Kaitlyn Macauley, Student Trustee	Allentown
Ms. Dianne Lutz	Wernersville
Mr. James Ludlow	Fogelsville
Mr. Guido Pichini	Wyomissing Hill

ABSENT:

Mr. Dennis Giorno	Harrisburg

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President
Dr. Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Matt Assad, Vice President of Administration & Finance
Mr. Matt Santos, Vice President of University Relations & Athletics
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director of KU Foundation
Ms. Natalie Einsig, PASSHE, Legal Counsel
Ms. Morgan Herb, Student Speaker
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, Director of Communications
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Ms. Alexis Willingham, Student Government Board President
Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of University College
Ms. Pam Rex, Senior Executive Associate to the President
Dr. Lisa Frye, University Senate President
Dr. Deb Kidder, Dean, College of Business
Mr. Zachary Washko, Classroom Tech Manager
Dr. Brad Shope, Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts
Dr. Rebecca West Burns, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Carl Sheperis, Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies
Ms. Sara McKinsey-Barra, Executive Assistant for Finance
Mr. Brad Davis, Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance
Mr. Scott Stamm, Technical Services Coordinator

1. Call to Order

At 3:00 p.m. Chairman Harden called the meeting to order. He noted that an Executive Session took place earlier today and personnel matters were discussed and 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 Harden which established that a quorum of the Council was present.

4. Remarks by Mr. Kevin Harden, Chairman

”Good afternoon and welcome to the first public meeting of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees for the 2026-27 academic year.

For those of you who don’t know me, I am Kevin Harden, and I am extremely proud to be the chair of the leadership group of my beloved alma mater.

It has already been a month since our first day of classes, and we are moving into the heart of the semester with Family Day this weekend and Homecoming just over a month away. It is a great joy to see the KU community come together and enjoy one of the most beautiful and energetic times of the year. I know you all will make the most of it.”

5. Remarks by Ms. Alexis Willingham, Student Government Board President

”The start of the semester has been filled with immense culture building and strategic goal planning. At our recent Fall Retreat, the board agreed on three goals that encourage bonding and connections, visibility, and transparency for the board to bring forth to our peers here on campus. Additionally, we are happy to announce our participation in Dr. Cavalier’s Student Town Hall where we brought forth questions and concerns for Dr. Cavalier. A lot of our general board members and all of our E-board members were in attendance. Our college representative groups have been meeting together and with their respective deans in order to plan events, and ways to connect and showcase our students and their work they have done. Our public relations team is planning a rebrand on our social media pages so it showcases more of the student body and exemplifies how the student government board can be a resource to those who have concerns/comments/ and questions. Our budget and finance committee has informational sessions required for all clubs/org. Treasurers to attend so they can learn about the budgeting process and how to access their budget and private account funds. These info sessions will take place during the end of September.”

6. Remarks by Dr. Phil Cavalier, University President

“Kutztown University has been named a "Best Regional University" for 2027 in the U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of U.S. colleges and universities. U.S. News lists KU as No. 107 in the first tier of the Best Regional Universities for the northern region, five spots higher than last year. KU has been ranked in the first tier since 2011. Additionally, KU improved nine spots to No. 33 among Top Public Schools for Regional Universities in the North.

In addition, Kutztown University has been ranked as one of the Best Colleges in the Mid-Atlantic Region by The Princeton Review for 2027. Kutztown University has been included in the regional list in 24 consecutive rankings.

We are proud to celebrate that our freshman class of 1,318 students has a 3.44 high school grade-point-average, the highest at KU since 2000. In addition, we enrolled 375 new transfer students and 224 new graduate students at the university.

The university's retention rate for first-time, full-time students was above 80% for the second year in a row (81.4%). The recent success in retention has resulted in a 47% four-year graduation rate, a 6% increase over the last four years, and a 57.9% six-year graduation rate, the highest for the university in the last 20 years.

Total enrollment stands at 7,154 students (6,084 undergraduate and 1,070 graduate), a 2.89% decrease from Fall 2025.

The overall diversity of the student body remains steady at 25%.

I am grateful to our faculty and staff for all the hard work helping our students to persist and thrive at Kutztown University.

Kutztown University completed its renovation Johnson Hall last month. Built in 1966, Johnson Hall features 68,613 square feet of fully renovated and new space to house 298 students. Renovations include a new fully ADA compliant elevator, the addition of central air conditioning and fully renovated restrooms on each resident floor.

Our Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center's annual Heemet Fescht is this Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event is celebration of Pennsylvania Dutch folklife and America's 250th in partnership with Berks County and the university's Family Day."

7. **Public Comments** - *None*

8. **Approval of Minutes:** *June 4, 2026*
Upon motion duly made by Mr. Guido Pichini and seconded by Mr. Phillips Armstrong, the minutes of the June 4, 2026 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. He also introduced our new Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Deb Kidder.

10. **Student Presenter: Ms. Morgan Herb, Environmental Science: Biology Track**
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, introduced the Student Presenter, Ms. Morgan Herb. Ms. Herb shared 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.

- Penn Nursery, Spring Mills, PA — *New*
- Camp Weequahic, Lakewood, PA — *New*
- Wakefern Food Corporation Distribution Center, Breinigsville, PA — *New*
- Fallston Soccer, Fallston, MD — *New*
- Bridgeview Academy, Allentown, PA — *New*
- Spotsylvania County Sherriff's Office, Spotsylvania, VA — *New*
- KidsPeace – Pioneer Center, Orefield, PA — *Renewal*
- Phoebe Ministries, Allentown, PA — *New*
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center, Allentown, PA — *Renewal*

- ALFA Art Gallery, New Brunswick, NJ *New*
- Fleetwood Area High School, Fleetwood, PA *Renewal*
- Catholic Charities, Allentown, PA 18102 *Renewal*
- Sponsorship and Event Consulting, Cranbury, NJ *Renewal*
- Historic Harrisburg Association, Harrisburg, PA *New*
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester, Coatesville, PA *New*
- LVHN – Alternative Partial, Bethlehem, PA *Renewal*
- River Front Sports, Scranton, PA *New*
- Lehigh Valley Future Stars, Allentown, PA *New*
- Surge Volleyball Club, Fleetwood, PA *New*
- Berks County Courthouse, Reading, PA *New*
- IvyRehab Network, Inc., White Plains, NY *New*
- Brandywine Heights School, Topton, PA *Renewal*
- Complete Care at Lehigh LLC, Macungie, PA *Renewal*
- PA Museum of Military Vehicles, Gettysburg, PA *New*
- Berks County Intermediate Unit, Reading, PA *Renewal*
- XLC Media, Bethlehem, PA *New*
- College Settlement Camp, Horsham, PA *New*
- SlapStik Comedy Entertainment, Columbus, OH *New*
- YMCA Richmond Early Learning Center, Fleetwood, PA *New*
- Iron Peak Sports & Events, Hillsborough, NJ *New*
- Monroe County Children & Youth, Stroudsburg, PA *New*
- North Schuylkill Jr/Sr High School, Ashland, PA *Renewal*
- Chester County Parks & Preservation Department, West Chester, PA *New*
- Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company, Hershey, PA *New*
- Office of the Coroner, County of Chester, West Chester, PA *New*
- Cornerstone Law Firm, Blandon, PA *New*
- Family Promise of Berks, Reading, PA *New*
- Evonik, Trexlertown, PA *New*
- Azzatori Chiropractic, Quakertown, PA *New*

(29 new, 10 renewals)

12. **<u>School-based Internship Agreements with Various School Districts and Kutztown University</u>**

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.

- Hogan Learning Academy, Fleetwood, PA *New*
- Conrad Weiser Area School District, Robesonia, PA *Renewal*
- Hazleton Area School District, Hazle Township, PA *Renewal*
- Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, Pittsburgh, PA *Renewal*
- Pennridge School District, Pennridge, PA *Renewal*
- Palmerton Area School District, Palmerton, PA *Renewal*
- Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, New Oxford, PA *Renewal*
- Reading School District, Reading, PA *Renewal*
- Central Bucks School District, Doylestown, PA *Renewal*
- Pocono Mountain School District, Swiftwater, PA *Renewal*

- Lake and Peninsula School District, King Salmon, AK *New*
- Children's Home of Reading, Reading, PA *Renewal*
- Roberto Clemente Charter School, Lehigh County, PA *New*
- North Penn School District *Renewal*
- Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, Reading, PA *New*
- Lehighton Area School District, Lehighton, PA *Renewal*
- Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15, Enola, PA *New*
- Riverview Intermediate #6, Clarion, PA *New*
- York City School District, York, PA *Renewal*
- Elwyn's Davidson School, Media, PA *New*
- Maritime Academy Charter School, Philadelphia, PA *New*
- Parkland School District, Allentown, PA *Renewal*

(8 new, 14 renewals)

13. <u>Counseling Internship Agreements with Various Institutions and Kutztown University</u>

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

- Alternative Counseling Enterprises, Shillington, PA *New*
- Recovery Cove, Easton, PA *New*
- Hoping and Healing Wellness Center, Breinigsville, PA *New*
- Precipice Healing and Insight, Emmaus, PA *New*

(4 new)

Mr. Jim Ludlow 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. <u>Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on Finance, Property & Audit</u>

Mr. Guido Pichini reported on the committee discussions.

15. <u>Purchases and Contracts</u>

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

16. <u>Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on Human Diversity</u>

Ms. Kaitlyn Macauley reports on upcoming events at the University.
Ms. Sandy Green reported on the committee discussions.

17. <u>Summary of Discussions: Council Committee on University Relations & Athletics and Advancement</u>

Mr. Phillips Armstrong reported on the committee discussions.

18. <u>PACT Update – Ms. Sandy Green</u>

"PACT's new president, Angele Stoebener, is proposing mini retreats throughout the year to give trustees time to connect and discuss PACT's direction. The first will be Monday, October 19, at 3pm via zoom.

We'll talk about what PACT is today and what it should be in the future, including its role with PASSHE, the Chancellor, and the Board of Governors. The BOG Chair and Chancellor will join

us for that conversation. We'll also review the PACT survey results and brainstorm ways to get more trustees involved.

I'd also encourage everyone to take a little time to read *Trusteeship,* the AGB magazine. It has some excellent articles that I think you'll find useful in your work as trustees.

I'll bring any helpful takeaways from the retreat back to this Council."

19. **TEC-008: Academic Technology Platforms Policy**
This policy was included for information purposes and has been added to the policy register.

20. **As May Arise** - None

Adjournment

Mr. Kevin Harden adjourned the meeting at 3:51pm.

11-5-26
Date

Secretary, Ms. Sandy Green

11-5-26
Date

Chair, Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr., Esq.