

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education  
**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**  
June 10, 2021

The Council of Trustees met on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. virtually by Zoom Video Conference.

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Phillips Armstrong.....Lehigh County  
Dr. Charles Blocksidge ..... McKees Rocks  
Mr. Dennis Giorno, Secretary.....Harrisburg  
Mr. Robert Grim, Esq., Vice Chair .....Kutztown  
Mr. Kevin Harden Jr., Esq.....Philadelphia  
Mr. Thomas Heck.....Wyomissing  
Mr. James Ludlow, Chairman.....Fogelsville  
Ms. Dianne Lutz .....Wernersville

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Guido Pichini..... Wyomissing Hills  
Mr. John Wabby..... Pottsville

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr. Matt Assad, Comptroller  
Mr. Nykolai Blichar, Assistant Director, Office of Student Involvement  
Mr. Matt Delaney, Vice President for Finance and Facilities  
Ms. Anne Marie Hayes-Hawkinson, Volunteer, Associate to the President  
Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, University President  
Ms. Renee Hellert, Director, Intercollegiate Athletic Services  
Ms. Toyia Heyward, Senior Executive Associate to the President  
Dr. Warren Hilton, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs  
Ms. Caecilia Holt, Academic Dept Secretary, Physical Sciences  
Dr. Nicole Johnson, Professor, Special Education  
Dr. Michelle Kiec, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Dr. Kevin Kjos, Professor, Music  
Dr. Donavan McCargo, Dean of Students  
Ms. Cathleen McCormack, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Legal Counsel  
Dr. Laurie McMillan, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Ms. Debra Mengel, Administrative Assistant, College of Visual and Performing Arts  
Mr. Alex Ogeka, Executive Director, KU Foundation and Alumni Relations  
Mr. Jesus Peña, Esq., Vice President Equity, Compliance and Legal Affairs  
Mr. Bryan Salvadore, Director of Communications  
Mr. Evan Santos, Student Trustee Elect  
Mr. Matthew Santos, Vice President, University Relations & Athletics  
Dr. Jennifer Schlegel, Associate Professor, Anthropology/Sociology  
Mr. Tyler Schwab, Technology Manager  
Ms. Kayla Sherry, President, Student Government Board  
Mr. Ken Steward, Assoc Vice President Acad Fin Mgmt  
Ms. Huong Tran (Jacey), Student, Kutztown University  
Ms. Veronique Vlaun, Clerk Typist 3, University Honors Program  
Ms. Mandi Volkert, Executive Director, Health & Wellness Services

Dr. Carole Wells, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies  
Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams, Honorary Doctorate, Kutztown University

1. **Call to Order**

At 3:05 p.m. Chairman Ludlow called the meeting to order.  
Chairman Ludlow noted that an Executive Session was held.

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 Ludlow which established that a quorum of the Council was present. Guests in attendance were invited to introduce themselves.

4. **Remarks by the Council Chairperson**

Chairman Ludlow welcomed everyone to the June public session of the Kutztown University Council of Trustees.

He was pleased to note that our campus has been returning to normal after successfully navigating the pandemic. He noted that we look forward to having in-person meetings in the year ahead.

Chairman Ludlow congratulated and welcomed the newest members of the Council of Trustees, Kevin Harden Jr. Mr. Harden is a trial lawyer with the law firm Ross Feller Casey, LLP in Philadelphia, Pa., where he works to rebuild the lives of people after catastrophic events. He has worked on a series of significant cases with various firms through the years. As lead counsel, Mr. Harden has tried more than 25 trials to jury verdict and numerous bench trials in both state and federal courts. He has represented corporations in professional malpractice, breach of contract, consumer rights, real estate, civil rights, product liability, construction, whistleblower, medical malpractice, class action and mass tort litigation. Mr. Harden began his career as a prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. He is originally from West Philadelphia and attended Philadelphia public schools. He graduated from KU in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and paralegal studies with a minor in political science and went on to the Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Chairman Ludlow reported that Kutztown University hosted its 2021 spring commencement across six ceremonies May 7 - 9. All ceremonies took place at the O'Pake Fieldhouse and was streamed live for those who were unable to attend. Commencement news and links for each ceremony can be found on the KU website under commencement coverage.

Chairman Ludlow shared that on the evening of Friday, May 7, 248 graduates from the Class of 2020 (all colleges) were finally able to celebrate their achievements in-person and walk across the stage. In addition, KU conferred an Honorary Doctorate upon Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams. On Saturday, May 8, three ceremonies took place with a total of 702 graduates. On Sunday, May 9, two ceremonies took place with a total of 420 graduates.

Chairman Ludlow shared that he was honored to assist Dr. Hawkinson on stage to distribute diplomas and confer degrees upon our students. On behalf of the Council, he thanked all the faculty, staff, and students who worked so hard to accomplish a successful commencement weekend for the graduates and their families.

The Council recognized and expressed their appreciation to the commencement committee as they considered CDC guidelines within Pennsylvania's restrictions on gatherings and consulted with several health and environmental safety specialists to plan commencement in a way that would celebrate our graduates' achievements while maximizing safety for all in attendance.

5. **Remarks by Student Government Board President**

Ms. Kayla Sherry provided an overview of the key responsibilities, initiatives, and goals of the Student Government Board for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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

President Hawkinson reported on June 1st Kutztown University announced our intent to return to a primarily face-to-face environment for the 2021 fall semester. While some health and wellness protocols may remain in place, KU's course offerings and residential experience will more-closely reflect its traditional on-campus environment. He reported that KU's 2021 fall semester, at this time, will include:

- Classes begin Monday, Aug. 30.
- Course offerings will primarily be in-person.
- Classrooms will closely resemble pre-pandemic configurations.
- Residence halls will be open for occupancy.
- Residency requirement will be in effect for freshmen and sophomores.
- Dining facilities will be open.
- Increased events and extracurricular activities, including intercollegiate athletics with fans in attendance.
- Employees will return to work on campus.
- In-person commencement will be held Saturday, Dec. 18.

President Hawkinson strongly encouraged members of the campus community to get vaccinated prior to the fall semester.

President Hawkinson expressed his appreciation to the university's Emergency Management Committee that has worked so diligently throughout the last 16 months and to the faculty, students, staff, trustees, and other members of our broader university community who contributed to helping us successfully get through this very difficult year.

President Hawkinson reported that Kutztown University's Rock Ensemble I won two DownBeat Student Music Awards for Undergraduate College Outstanding Performance for 2021. The ensemble won in both the "live" and "asynchronous" categories. These are the fourth and fifth awards for the ensemble in the past four years – this was a significant achievement in the music world! DownBeat is the premier and longest-running jazz and commercial music magazine in the world. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kevin Kjos, director of Commercial Music Studies. Students in the ensemble created arrangements for the songs performed and submitted to Downbeat through live and studio recordings.

President Hawkinson reported that Liquid Interactive, a premier marketing and tech agency in the Lehigh Valley, headed by the chair of our Council of Trustees, Mr. Jim Ludlow, recently concluded its sixth annual Liquid Digital Marketing Award competition. This special event allows Kutztown University students to apply their digital marketing know-how. This year's winner was junior Brittany Arentz, a marketing and finance major pursuing a minor in social media theory and analytics. This year, Liquid partnered with its client Blue Ridge, a regional internet and TV. Students were asked to create a digital marketing campaign plan promoting their soon-to-be-launched TV product.

President Hawkinson reported that Kutztown University's Undergraduate Research and Creativity Faculty Advisory Board and the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects awarded its inaugural Undergraduate Research and Creativity Faculty Mentorship Awards at a ceremony held April 27. The awards recognize excellence in faculty engagement with undergraduate researchers. The four award recipients (two STEM and two non-STEM) are Dr. Khori Newlander, assistant professor, anthropology/ sociology; Dr. Adrienne Oakley, associate professor, physical sciences; Dr. Ed Simpson, professor and department chair, physical sciences; and Dr. Carol Watson, associate professor, education. Each award carries \$500 in professional development funds.

Dr. Hawkinson shared that Kutztown University is proud to be the first Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institution to offer a special education PreK-12 internship program for individuals who are employed in a school district surrounding Kutztown and who have passed their PRAXIS exams. This allows individuals to pursue their certification while maintaining their current employment. The internship program is part of KU's post-baccalaureate special education preK-12 certification.

Dr. Hawkinson reported that Senior Becca Hemingway of the Golden Bear women's track and field team became the 26th All-American in Kutztown University women's track & field history after her sixth-place finish in the high jump at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships hosted by Grand Valley State University on Memorial Day weekend. Becca is the first KU woman to achieve All-America honors in the high jump and gave the program its first All-American at the Outdoor Championships since 2011.

Dr. Hawkinson reported that Senior Jenna Lipowski of KU softball team was named a 2021 National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American, earning third team recognition. Jenna becomes the 13th NFCA All-American in program history. The Golden Bear softball team one the PSAC East and hosted the PSAC and North Atlantic Regional Tournament this year, finishing 33-15 overall.

President Hawkinson shared that he has been on the board of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for the past five years and at a recent retreat to enhance the DEI initiatives at the sanctuary and an important topic was discussed on how to enhance the experience for those visitors who have disabilities. During this meeting he mentioned that KU has one of the top Visual Impairment Programs in the country and perhaps its director, Dr. Nicole Johnson, and her students could help. Dr. Johnson and students enthusiastically volunteered their time and expertise. Dr. Johnson and her students created braille signage for use by those in need of these resources. They provided braille materials to the staff and provided training on some sighted guide techniques (under blindfold and guided around the sanctuary). The staff also learned how to be guides so they could assist a guest if necessary. A strong relationship developed between professor, students, and staff of the sanctuary and more initiatives will be undertaken in the future. This initiative inspired a wonderful video that was recently made that spotlighted one of our very special visually impaired students. Dr. Hawkinson highlighted a video featuring Chinonyeram "Noye", a student of the KU Visual Impairment Program. Dr. Nicole Johnson and her student, Noye were present. Dr. Hawkinson and Council acknowledged them all for the service they provided to our community.

7. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments presented.

8. **Approval of Minutes, April 29, 2021**

*Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jim Ludlow and seconded by Mr. Thomas Heck the minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting were approved. Mr. Kevin Harden, Jr. abstained his vote.*

9. **Summary of Discussions – Council Committee on Human Diversity**

Ms. Dianne Lutz presented the discussions of the committee.

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

Mr. Tom Heck presented the discussions of the committee.

11. **Student Presenter**

Mr. Tom Heck introduced Dr. Jennifer Schlegel, Director, Honors Program. Dr. Schlegel introduced the student presenter, Ms. Huong “Jacey” Tran. Ms. Tran shared her personal background, her experiences at Kutztown University as a student and shared her plans. The members of the council recognized and congratulated Ms. Tran on her many accomplishments.

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

Mr. Tom Heck presented the list of internship agreements which establishes a relationship whereby students may participate in practical experience outside the traditional classroom setting.

- Alaska Mountain Rugby Grounds, Sport Management, *New*
- Alison Chen Studio, Art, *New*
- Battle Creek Bombers, Sport Management, *New*
- Bethlehem Catholic High School, Sport Management, *New*
- Candle Fly Films, Art, *New*
- Carbon County Children and Youth Services, Social Work, *New*
- Catasauqua High School, Sport Management, *New*
- Central Bucks School District, EMLT, *New*
- Colorful Bridges, Art, *New*
- Comfort Keepers, Special Education, *New*
- Empowerment Behavioral Health, L.L.C., Social Work, *New*
- Freedom High School, Sport Management, *New*
- Lake Bryn Mawr Camp, Sport Management, *New*
- Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office, Criminal Justice, *New*
- Monmouth Partial Care, L.L.C., Social Work, *New*
- My World of Babies, Art, *New*
- Northeast Family Healthcare/Pinnacle Treatment Centers, Social Work, *New*
- OMA, Geography, *New*
- Orthopedic Associates of Reading, Biology, *New*
- Phoenix Rehabilitation and Health Services, Inc., Biology, *New*
- Pyramid Healthcare and its Subsidiaries, Social Work, *New*
- Quakertown Borough Police Department, Criminal Justice, *New*
- Reach! USA, Art, *New*
- Red Creek Wildlife Center, Biology, *New*
- RSM, U.S., L.L.P., Sport Management, *New*
- Smashing Graphics Game Studios, Art, *New*
- Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, Sport Management, *New*
- The Real Church, Academic Affairs, *New*
- Thompson Social Services, Inc., Social Work, *New*
- TORQ Physical Therapy and Associates, Biology, *New*
- Tussey Mountain Senior High School, Sport Management, *New*
- Valley Health Partners Community Health Center, Social Work, *New*

- Walters' Productions, Art, *New*

*Mr. Tom Heck moved to approve the Internship Agreements as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**13. Affiliation Agreement with a School/Non-School and the College of Education**

Mr. Tom Heck presented the affiliation agreements which establishes a relationship whereby its students may participate in a practicum or student teaching experience.

- Lake and Peninsula School District, King Salmon, AK, *Renewal*
- Lehigh Area School District, Lehigh, PA, *Renewal*
- Nazareth Area School District, Nazareth, PA, *Renewal*
- Palmerton Area School District, Palmerton, PA, *Renewal*
- Reading School District, Reading, PA, *Renewal*

*Mr. Tom Heck moved to approve the Affiliation Agreements as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**14. Agreements of Academic Cooperation with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Tom Heck presented the agreements of academic cooperation which allows students the opportunity for one or two semesters of study.

- Inholland University of Applied Sciences, Haarlem, Netherlands, *Renewal*
- University of Southern Denmark, Denmark, *Renewal*

*Mr. Tom Heck moved to approve the Agreements of Academic Cooperation as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**15. Articulation Agreement with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Tom Heck presented the articulation agreement which admits up to three (3) Kutztown University students per year into their Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program.

- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, *Renewal*

*Mr. Tom Heck moved to approve the Articulation Agreement as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**16. International Transfer Agreement with Various Institutions and Kutztown University**

Mr. Tom Heck presented the international transfer agreement which agree to streamline and clarify transfer pathways for international students.

- Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA, *New*

*Mr. Tom Heck moved to approve the International Transfer Agreement as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**17. Summary Discussions-Council Committee on Finance, Property and Audit**

Dr. Charles Blocksidge presented the discussions of the committee.

**18. Consent Agenda Items**

Dr. Charles Blocksidge reported that the committee thoroughly reviewed and were advised by staff that the purchases and contracts are in compliance.

**Purchases and Contracts under \$100,000**

*Dr. Charles Blocksidge reported that the council reviewed the purchases and contracts under \$100,000 as presented.*

**Purchases and Contracts \$100,000 and over**

*Dr. Charles Blocksidge reported that the council reviewed the purchases and contracts \$100,000 and over as presented.*

**19. 2021-22 E&G Budget**

*Dr. Charles Blocksidge moved to approve the 2021-22 E&G Budget as presented. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**20. 2021-22 Winter Study Abroad Program Fees**

*Dr. Charles Blocksidge moved to approve the 2021-22 Study Abroad Program Fees as presented. Mr. Robert Grim seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**21. Summary of Discussions-Council Committee on University Relations/Athletics and Advancement**

Mr. Robert Grim presented the discussions of the committee.

**22. 2021-22 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

*Mr. Jim Ludlow moved that the council approve the 2021-22 Council of Trustees Meeting Schedule as presented. Mr. Dennis Giorno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion was approved.*

**23. As May Arise**

Chairman Ludlow thanked Ms. Toyia Heyward and everyone who worked so hard to organize today's meeting. Mr. Dennis Giorno complimented the professionalism of the KU staff.

**24. Adjournment**

*Mr. Jim Ludlow moved that meeting be adjourned. Mr. Phillips Armstrong seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.*

10.13.2021

Date

9.23.2021

Date

*Dennis Giorno*  
Secretary, Mr. Dennis Giorno

*Jim Ludlow*  
Chair, Mr. Jim Ludlow