

## Appendix 6.3: Board of Trustees Public Sessions: Feature Presentations

*Board of Trustees—Public Meeting—December 8, 2012*

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Farahi also thanked the campus community, and Dr. Jeffrey Toney in particular, for all of their hard work on the reaccreditation effort. He said the university can move forward as a strong institution now, but noted there was still work to do in areas such as student advisement, updating programming and introducing new programs to address economic trends.

Dr. Farahi reported Hurricane Sandy’s impact on campus, noting strong preparation work by Campus Planning and Facilities helped minimize the damage on campus; Ocean County College was not as fortunate, he said. Dr. Farahi asked Vice President of Student Affairs Janice Murray Laury to brief the Board and the audience on student services during the storm. Ms. Murray Laury noted the campus was closed, but about 90 students remained on site. Residence Life, Campus Police and Campus Planning pulled together to provide all of the students with the services, the safety and even the entertainment they needed to weather the storm. The board heard from a student who stayed on campus, as well as Denis Castonon, the director of student life.

Dr. Farahi then introduced Professor Rose Gonnella, executive director of the Robert Busch School of Design. Prof. Gonnella reported on the various accomplishments and impressive awards earned by students in the design programs. She then noted that one Kean graduate, Manik Rathee, had been a key player in the Obama re-election effort—so much so that he got a hug from President Obama on election night! She introduced Manik, who said a few words about well Kean prepared him for his work in the real world.

Last, Dr. Farahi reported that the Kean Wenzhou initiative continues to progress; more than 200 students are enrolled in the pilot initiative in Wenzhou currently, and the application for substantive change will be filed with Middle States in January.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from Dr. James Castiglione, Dorinda Cosimano, Victoria Stewart, Dr. Kathleen Henderson and Isaac Zaksenberg. Copies of their comments, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Farahi again thanked the campus community for all of their hard work on preparing a factual and accurate response to the concerns raised by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which in November approved the University’s reaccreditation. He said the university is a stronger institution now and encouraged all members of the community to continue to keep up the good work.

Dr. Farahi reported that for the first time in 25 years the state of New Jersey is making available to higher education institutions capital funding through bonding. He asked Phyllis Duke, Assistant Vice President for Operations, to review the University’s plans to seek bond funding for six specific projects. Ms. Duke reviewed the details of the bond initiative and the projects the University would submit in search of funding. Dr. Farahi introduced Matthew Caruso, director of University Relations, who provided an overview of ongoing University marketing efforts utilizing both traditional and social media outlets.

Dr. Farahi then asked Dean Susan Polirstok to present on popular and successful grant-funded initiative that is improving traffic safety—and likely saving lives—through early education and programming. Dr. Polirstok introduced the University’s partners in this initiative and they reviewed in detail their work and current results.

Dr. Farahi introduced Vice President Janice Murray-Laury, who reported on several significant student volunteer initiatives. She introduced Scott Snowden from the Center for Student Leadership and Kean student George Morgan, who reported they had just returned from working on a special park project spearheaded by New Jersey firefighters to commemorate the lives lost in the Sandy Hook school shooting in Connecticut.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from Dr. Pat Ippolito, Ed Esposito, Dr. James Castiglione, Dr. Kathleen Henderson, Danielle Ford, Corina Hernandez, Emmanuel Vozos, and Chazz Fellenz. Copies of their comments, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Farahi reported the University had submitted six applications to the state of New Jersey for funding from the Higher Education Bond Act, and that four of the applications, totaling about \$54 million in funding, were approved for funding by the Christie administration.

Dr. Farahi reported that enrollment and registration numbers are improving, and the University is working hard to continue that momentum. He also reported the University is working with the City of Elizabeth on efforts to improve the Elizabeth Train Station. Dr. Farahi then introduced Dr. Jeff Toney, Provost and VPAA, for an overview of the Faculty Research Days that took place in April 2013.

Dr. Toney commended faculty and student for their tremendous efforts in support of Faculty Research Days, and noted more than 110 posters summarizing faculty/student research efforts were on display. He then introduced Susan Gannon, director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, to provide more details.

Ms. Gannon reported that 191 students presented during the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Faculty Research Days, and 95 faculty members participated. She then introduced four specific projects and the faculty and students who participated in those initiatives. Each faculty member and student gave a brief overview of his or her research projects. A copy of their presentations, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from Dr. Jon Erickson and Dr. Kathleen Henderson. Copies of their comments, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Farahi reported the University continues to adhere to its commitment to providing access to a world-class education, noting this year’s tuition increase is just under 3%. Kean remains the most affordable, comprehensive University of New Jersey’s publics, Dr. Farahi noted.

Dr. Farahi reported that enrollment in the University qualitatively superior programs such as Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy is extremely strong.

Overall enrollment, he noted, was good and beginning to bounce back from last

year’s challenges. Enrollment will meet our budgeted requirements, he stated.

President Farahi reported that online education just a few years ago comprised about 8-9% of the marketplace, but today is about 30%. The University needs to be aware that online growth will continue, making it even more important for the University to develop and expand programming that cannot simply be offered online. To be competitive, the University needs to:

- Develop more qualitatively superior programs
- Encourage more faculty scholarship
- Provide extensive training of faculty to ensure they are aware of new technology and pedagogy
- Identify careers of the future, implement new programs to support them
- Provide opportunities for the students to study at least a semester
- Phase out obsolete programs who have not improved or gained in enrollment five years in a row
- Build programs in environmental and sustainability sciences
- Reallocate resources to support programming with huge waiting lists
- Expand programming in specific areas to remain competitive.

The University will create new allied health programs in physical therapy and physicians assistances, and will expand its global business programming to include specialties in supply chain management and global finance, he said. Kean also must improve and expand its STEM programming, and enhance technology transfer in the computer science area. President Farahi said he will ask Board to approve a policy that requires every member of Kean University to be assessed annually for competency in their field to ensure students are getting what the University says it is providing.

Dr. Farahi then introduced Dr. Patricia Morreale from the computer science department. Dr. Morreale and her students presented on their research and the development of a special iPhone “app” in the wake of Superstorm Sandy which will

allow consumers and others to quickly and efficiently report outages and check on restoration timeframes. Dr. Farahi then introduced Dean Susan Polirstok. Dean Polirstok gave the Board a brief summary of a longstanding project at Kean, Project Impact New Jersey, which addresses the needs of childcare workers in New Jersey. Dean Polirstok introduced the project director, Arlene Martin, who provided a description of the initiative and reported on the recent receipt of a \$1 million grant to move the initiative forward. Dr. Farahi introduced Dr. Sue Bousquet, acting Dean of the College of Humanities and chair of the University Planning Council, who gave an update on the status of the development of Kean's new strategic plan. Dr. Bousquet noted the plan would go to the Board for consideration and approval at the September meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from Ana Rita Pincaro and Dr. James Castiglione. Copies of their comments, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Farahi reported that University enrollment is begun to rebound from the tough year before. Fulltime, undergraduate freshman enrollment is up about 160 this fall from last year; transfer and graduate enrollment is down slightly and the growth of online education opportunities may be playing a role in this. Ten years ago online education held 8% of the marketplace; today, it control about 30% of the market, he noted. Enrollment at KeanOcean also is rebounding from the losses suffered due to Hurricane Sandy. The Gateway Building, which brings Ocean and Kean students together, welcomed students this semester and a grand opening is planned for October 2.

Dr. Farahi noted the development of the Wenzhou-Kean University campus continues to progress smoothly; the campus is now operating and all classes take place in the new location. The University welcomed 214 new freshman this fall for its second class; a total of more than 440 students are now enrolled in this landmark initiative.

Dr. Farahi noted the new academic space for the Robert Busch School of Design and other programs will open in January 2014; the new facility is located at the corner of Green Lane and Morris Avenue.

Dr. Farahi also noted the University fared extremely well with the state of New Jersey’s Building Our Future Bond Act allocations. Four of six projects were funded, for a total of about \$53 million.

Dr. Farahi introduced Dr. Susan Polirstok, Dean of the College of Education, who reported on the University’s recent award of a \$1.75 million, five-year grant from the state of New Jersey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning initiative to establish an afterschool program in Hillside, NJ.

Dr. Farahi then introduced Dr. Sue Bousquet, acting Dean of the College of Humanities and chair of the University Planning Council, who reviewed with the Board the draft 2013-2020 Kean University Strategic Plan. The plan was sent to the Board for review, comments, additions and input. Action will be considered at the December Board meeting.

Dr. Farahi then introducing Prof. Rose Gonnella, executive director of the Robert Busch School of Design, who gave an overview presentation on current initiatives in the University’s burgeoning design program.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board received public comments from David Arminio, Dr. James Castiglione, Dr. Kathleen Henderson, Dr. Patrick Ippolito, Dr. Greg D’Amico, Dr. Jon Erickson and Dr. Cyril Nwako. Copies of their comments, where provided, will be filed with these minutes.