83% of Kean University Faculty Vote NO CONFIDENCE in the Failed Leadership of President Dawood Farahi

In his 7 years as President, Dawood Farahi’s fiscal and academic mismanagement has undermined the quality and integrity of the academic programs at Kean University.

- Reorganization of Academic Affairs threatens university with loss of national accreditations, undermining the value of a Kean degree for students and alumni.

- Loss of accreditation jeopardizes student applications for jobs, graduate school, professional school, etc. in a highly competitive market.

- Farahi eliminated Social Work Department in retaliation for Social Work students collecting over 1400 signatures against the last year’s course schedule change.

- Farahi justified eliminating Philosophy & Religion Department as “losing money” by cooking the numbers it actually ran a $500,000 profit.

- The number of full-time faculty has fallen from 400 to 324 while the number of adjunct faculty has skyrocketed from 463 to 1012.

- Student to full-time faculty ratio is 44:1 by far the worst in the state.

- Due to cuts to academics, students suffer from a lack of basic instructional needs such as labs, equipment, supplies, broken classroom technology, etc.

- Farahi permanently damaged the University’s reputation by hiring scandal-plagued former NJ Governor Jim McGreevey to teach “Ethics” classes at Kean and he is still on Kean’s payroll now teaching business classes.

- Farahi’s proposed branch campus in China has failed to materialize.

- Now Farahi is laying off 13 Professional Staff, undermining student services. No layoffs of academic personnel are taking place at our sister institutions.
The Failed Financial Leadership of President Farahi

Kean University students are paying more but getting less and taxpayer funds are being wasted. Here are the facts. Since 2002-2003, under Farahi’s failed leadership:

- Student tuition and fees have surged 62% from $5841 to $9446
- The university budget has shot up from $140 million to $210 million, BUT full-time faculty salaries now total only $31.3 million. *Where is the $ going?!*
- NOT into the classroom: full-time faculty numbers have dropped from 400 to 324
- University debt has skyrocketed from $46 to $360 million
- The number of administrators has jumped 31% from 124 to 165
- Farahi paid $5.1 million for Liberty Hall but didn’t secure the deed
- The Board of Trustees approved a $200,000 bonus for Farahi in September 2009 in the middle of a severe budget crisis
- Faculty voluntarily accepted 7 furlough days and a wage freeze to help keep tuition low for our students but administrators only took 2 unpaid furlough days

Farahi’s budget numbers are suspect. He claims a $17.7 million projected deficit for the 2011 fiscal year and is moving ahead with the layoffs of 27 university employees, but:

- The University has a $45 million reserve fund
- AND the University ran a $4.5 million surplus in FY 2010
- AND a projected enrollment increase of 400 will bring in $4 million
- AND the 4% tuition and fee increase will bring in $4 million

In the spring of 2008, Farahi claimed the university was expecting a $16-20 million deficit for the next fiscal year. The university’s internal audit, however, showed that it ran a $5+ million surplus in that year. *This is why faculty are calling for an external, independent forensic auditor to investigate where the money is going.*

*Data from Kean University audited financial reports and NJ Commission on Higher Education.*