



KEAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
An Association of Professors, Professional Staff and Librarians
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Feb. 6, 2012

Weingarten calls on Governor to investigate Farahi and safeguard whistle-blowers
Supports local demand for independent investigation of charges against Kean President

UNION, NJ...Mounting evidence of resume fraud by Kean University President Dawood Farahi necessitates both an independent investigation and protection for whistle-blowers who called academic claims into question, according to American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Randi Weingarten. Among the causes for concern, the leader of the 1.5 million-member union noted that Kean management recently removed athletic director Glenn Hedden, allegedly for reporting a host of NCAA violations including rigging grades for student athletes by administrators.

“To ignore the requests for an independent and prompt investigation into allegations of resume fraud by President Farahi will make it all that more difficult to restore Kean University's integrity,” Weingarten wrote to Governor Chris Christie, reiterating a request made by Kean Federation of Teachers (KFT) President James Castiglione in January.

The KFT has produced documentation showing inconsistencies and inaccuracies in claims of publications, a deanship, an editorial board position and scholarly presentations that they allege constitutes fraud. The claims span multiple resume versions over three decades. When questioned by reporters, President Farahi admitted that he never served as Dean and that he has no peer-reviewed publications. However, instead of taking responsibility, Farahi has blamed unnamed employees for mistakes on his resume and stated that he did not review the documents.

The Kean University Trustees delayed acting on the scandal for weeks before launching an internal investigation in December. Kean Federation of Teachers leadership remains skeptical of the group's independence. “The Board's sluggish, inadequate response does not address the potential damage that these allegations have on impending Middle States accreditation and NCAA reviews,” said Castiglione. “It is urgent that this matter be promptly and thoroughly investigated by an independent body above reproach.”

Weingarten agreed, “It is imperative that university management set a positive example for students and be viewed as leaders in the academic community. An independent investigation that directly and forthrightly addresses the questions raised by Kean Federation of Teachers members' research would be an important first step towards establishing trust.”

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About the Kean Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO

Established in 1978, the Kean Federation of Teachers (KFT) is a union of approximately 500 professors, professional staff and librarians. KFT Local 2187 is a member of the national American Federation of Teachers (AFT), state American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFTNJ) and of the AFL-CIO. The KFT is one of the locals under the Council of New Jersey State College/University Locals (CNJSCL), the statewide bargaining agent for more than 8,000 professional employees in 11 state college locals in New Jersey.

We protect and advance the terms and conditions of employment for our members, professional educators and staff committed to their students and to their support by Kean University. The KFT is a democratic, inclusive, strong union local with over 80% membership. We are proud of our members' work with their students and for the union.