



KEAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

An Association of Professors, Professional Staff and Librarians
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For Immediate Release
May 15, 2012

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Outraged Kean faculty and librarians vote 'No Confidence' in Trustees

Overwhelming 94% agree that guardians of university refuse to check failed leadership

UNION, NJ...University faculty and librarians have overwhelmingly voted no confidence in the Kean University Board of Trustees for their inaction despite multiple ongoing crises that threaten the schools' academic and athletic programs and financial stability. "We need Trustees who have the independence and integrity to make decisions in the best interests of Kean's current and future students regardless of political influence," said Kean Federation of Teachers (KFT) President James Castiglione. "The Trustees are charged to represent the public trust—an important commitment. This vote shows that our faculty and librarians have lost faith in the Trustees' willingness or ability to perform their basic oversight duties as they have allowed university management to exercise unchecked power and to evade any accountability."

The 16,000-thousand student school currently has an inordinate set of growing scandals undermining the institution's reputation under President Dawood Farahi. According to Castiglione, the vote reflects the Trustees' inaction to address these serious problems:

- Multiple warnings to Kean's accreditation in student and institutional assessment remain unresolved and additional questions about integrity and general education further threaten the school's vital accreditation status.
- The NCAA found "major violations" leading to multiple years of probation for Kean athletics and whistle-blowers charge "conspiracy at the highest levels" of the university.
- Trustees ignored conflicts-of-interest in a narrow vote to retain President Farahi despite multiple instances of alleged resume fraud indicated in their investigator's own report. One Trustee resigned following the questionable vote.

KFT members unanimously voted to call for Farahi's immediate resignation as the first step of rectifying the burgeoning crises of institutional integrity. Under Farahi's failed leadership, New Jersey's third-largest university has closed academic departments, laid-off critical student advisors, reduced the number of full-time faculty and increased tuition and fees to pay for debt that has skyrocketed over 600%, according to Castiglione. "As a result, Kean has by far the worst ratio of full-time professors to students (over 50:1) of any comparable institution while students are being asked to pay more to cover the debt," said Castiglione.

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“Trustees have the responsibility to address these problems, but they have chosen to overlook failed university management instead of serving the public trust. To save Kean University, we need Trustees who will exercise their power to hold management accountable.”

Over the past three weeks 94% of KFT faculty and librarians voted no-confidence in the Trustees in a ballot conducted by the American Arbitration Association, when simply asked: “Do you have confidence in the leadership of the Kean University Board of Trustees?”

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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 American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the 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.