



KEAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
An Association of Professors, Professional Staff and Librarians
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Faculty & Librarians Vote 'No Confidence' in Kean University Academic Leadership
Allegations of plagiarism, academically unsound tenure denials cited in 96% rejection

UNION, NJ...Kean Federation of Teachers President Dr. James Castiglione announced the overwhelming results of a 96 percent no confidence vote in Kean University Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Jeffrey Toney's leadership and the entire Office of Academic Affairs after a voting period ended Wednesday night. Despite his short service, Dr. Castiglione said Dr. Toney has amassed an unfortunate record of academic integrity scandals, has instituted policies that have jeopardized academics at Kean and used unsound academic judgment in rejecting 90% of candidates applying for tenure this year.

In October Dr. Toney recommended denial of tenure to nine of ten candidates, despite unanimous recommendations affirming they earned tenure from their colleagues on departmental and college tenure committees. Both the KFT union and the Faculty Senate have called upon the Kean Board of Trustees to respect the faculty recommendations at their meeting this Saturday in Ocean County and affirm tenure for the candidates. "Tenure is the result of a rigorous peer review process," said Castiglione. "Those who have been continually reappointed until their tenure year and recommended by their departments should be granted tenure." Dr. Castiglione further opined that Dr. Toney's decision to override the majority of tenure decisions without stated reasons "is yet another indication that Kean University management operates without academic integrity and has little respect for the basic tenets of shared academic governance."

More recently, the University was embroiled in scandal when it was alleged by the union that Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Katerina Andriotis had plagiarized nine out of 15 pages of an enrollment report verbatim from sources on the Internet. The day after the union brought a complaint Andriotis was no longer employed at Kean. In Dr. Castiglione's opinion the blatant plagiarism of Dr. Toney's second-in-command "is testament to the culture of academic fraud that pervades university administration under his leadership," said Castiglione. "We teach our students to be ethical and scrupulous, and we expect our university officials to uphold higher, not lower, standards."

The overwhelming no confidence vote in Dr. Toney is the third such vote at the school in recent years. KFT members voted unanimously to call for Kean President Dawood Farahi's resignation after discovering his academic credentials to be inaccurate and voted 94% no confidence in the Board of Trustees after their decision to retain Dr. Farahi last year after the falsehoods were confirmed, according to Castiglione.

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Specific to Academic Affairs, Castiglione recounts a recent history that includes academic administrators changing grades of student athletes to keep them eligible for big games with the NCAA finding that Kean lacked institutional control over athletics in April last year. "The NCAA found 'major violations' leading to multiple years of probation for Kean athletics and whistle-blowers charged 'conspiracy at the highest levels' of the university," he said.

Also last year the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the school's accrediting agency, put the university on probation for violating several of its standards. The lapses included violating rules related to integrity after multiple warnings to Kean's accreditation in student and institutional assessment reform remained unresolved, according to Castiglione.

Continuing to operate under 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 students to full-time professors (almost 50:1) of any comparable institution while students are being asked to pay more to cover the debt," said Castiglione.

Over the past two weeks 96 percent of KFT faculty, librarians and professional staff voted no-confidence in Dr. Toney in a ballot conducted by the American Arbitration Association, when simply asked: "Do you have confidence in the academic leadership of the Kean University Office of Academic Affairs?"

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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.