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Press Release

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For source documents visit: <http://ow.ly/PWwccx> or <http://www.cnjscl.org/wenzhou-kean.html>
and <http://ow.ly/PWvwvF>

Communist Party Membership Preference is Advertised for Kean University Positions in China While University Moves to Lay Off More U.S. Employees

University's China Job Applications Also Appear to Violate U.S. Employment & N.J. Anti-Discrimination Laws

UNION, NJ — At least two of the thirty staff job postings on Kean University's Wenzhou [website](#) include a preference for Chinese Communist Party members. It is advertising to fill thirty professional staff positions and multiple faculty positions at its campus in Wenzhou, China. At the same time, Kean University has informed the AFT local on campus that it is actively planning up to thirty additional professional staff layoffs in addition to the twelve it imposed over four years ago.

"Membership in the Chinese Communist Party is preferred" for the [Specialist for Residence Life](#) and [Specialist for Student Conduct](#) positions. These positions involve close, daily contact with students. For example, the *Specialist for Student Conduct* would, according to the job posting, manage the student code of conduct and violation process as well as "student profiles and archives."

Applicants for non-faculty openings at Wenzhou-Kean are also required to complete and submit the University's [application form](#). The form asks for the prospective employee's photo, gender, birth date, nationality, birth place, marital status, height and *politics status*.

Such hiring practices and criteria could be found illegal and discriminatory in the United States under Federal and State civil rights statutes. They also raise serious concerns about the existence of academic freedom at Wenzhou.

Other U.S. based universities with campuses and academic partnerships in China seemingly do not prefer Communist Party membership in employment nor do they request information about an applicant's personal information or political status. See for example recent job announcements for New York University's [Shanghai campus](#) and Kansas' Fort Hays State University [China](#) partnerships.

Council of NJ State College Locals President Tim Haresign stated "I believe this is an extremely serious issue and that the Senate and Assembly Higher Education and Labor Committees should hold hearings on all expenses and labor practices as related to Wenzhou Kean."

All of this comes on the heels of Kean University's April 2015 layoff off of 54 longstanding maintenance employees whose work was subcontracted to a private non-union employer. Kean Federation of Teachers (KFT) President James Castiglione commented that "The impending professional staff layoffs will undermine important services for our neediest students even while the University continues to raise the tuition and fees that they are required to pay."

The administration at Kean University, under the leadership of President Dawood Farahi, is no stranger to [controversy](#). Farahi's administration has been scarred by scandals surrounding the validity of the President's own academic credentials, the near loss of the school's Middle States accreditation, NCAA membership probation and the questionable use of public funds to purchase a [\\$219,000 conference table](#) from a manufacturer in Shanghai, China.

The Council of New Jersey State College Locals, American Federation of Teachers/AFL-CIO, is comprised of 11 AFT union locals and represents nearly 10,000 faculty and professional staff members at nine public state colleges & universities throughout New Jersey (Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey City University, Rowan University, William Paterson University, The College of New Jersey, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Stockton University and Thomas Edison State College).

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