

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 23, 2021  
Integrated Sciences Building, Timken Classroom**

**Board Members Present**

Shawn Riley, Chair  
Virginia Addicott  
Pamela Bobst  
Jasmine Bonder  
Robert Frost  
Robin Kilbride  
Dylan Mace  
Donald Mason  
Stephen Perry  
Ann Womer Benjamin

**KSU President's Cabinet Present**

Todd Diacon, President  
Doug Delahanty  
Nick Gattozzi  
Amoaba Gooden  
Lamar Hylton  
Rebecca Murphy  
Mary Parker  
Mark Polatajko  
John Rathje  
Randale Richmond  
Charlene Reed  
Melody Tankersley  
Valoree Vargo  
Willis Walker

**Guests Attending Electronically**

John Crawford-Spinelli  
Paul DiCorleto

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Trustee Kilbride called the roll, and a quorum was present. Trustee Jasmine Bonder attended the meeting via Zoom.

**PROOF OF NOTICE**

Chair Riley announced that public notification of the meeting was given pursuant to Ohio law and university policy. He said that he was delighted to see everyone in person for the first time since March 2020. Chair Riley also noted that members of the public had access to the Board proceedings through livestreaming of the roll call vote, the Committee of the Whole session, and the Board's business meeting. He then thanked all present for their flexibility and dedication to Kent State. In addition, Chair Riley welcomed Trustee Pamela Bobst, who was attending her first meeting of the Board that day since her April 21, 2021, appointment by Governor Mike DeWine.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Riley said that in accordance with Chapter 121.22, section G of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board has a need to meet in Executive Session for the purposes of: (i) considering the

employment and compensation of a public employee or official [121.22(G)(1)]; (ii) considering matters of real estate for public purposes [121.22 (G)(2)]; and (iii) conference with attorney for the public body concerning disputes that are or may be the subject of court action [121.22(G)(3)].

Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Mason, that the Board retire into Executive Session. Trustee Kilbride took a call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:35 a.m., which concluded at 9:55 a.m.

By approval of a motion made by Trustee Frost and seconded by Trustee Addicott, the Board returned to public session for the Committee of the Whole session at 10:00 a.m.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Board's Committee of the Whole session convened at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Riley thanked President Diacon and the team for focusing the session on two important topics: first, the university's newly developed Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, led by Vice President Mary Parker; and second, Fall 2021 return to campus planning from Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Manfred van Dulmen.

Since the session was running ahead of schedule, Chair Riley asked President Diacon if he would like to present his report as the starting time of the Board business meeting had been announced publicly at 11:45 a.m.

President Diacon noted that earlier in the meeting he had discussed the first two waves of access, diversity and excellence at Kent State University. The strategic enrollment management plan presented by Vice President Parker was borne from and reflective of Kent State's history, culture, past successes, and opportunities. We now stand on the edge of the third wave of access and diversity at Kent State University, he said.

Instead of a dramatically expanding population of Northeast Ohio after World War II, today the region faces the exact opposite in terms of a demographic cliff. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that the number of high school graduates will decline by more than 15% in the next 10 years in Ohio and more likely by more than 20% in Northeast Ohio. Especially worrying is the bottoming out of high school graduates in 2026 and beyond, he said, based upon fewer births following the Great Recession of 2008. According to demographer Nathan Grawe in his book *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*, there were 5.7 million foregone births due to lower fertility rates. In his subsequent book *The Agile College*, Grawe wrote that there is no silver bullet for dealing with this challenge, but instead suggests getting better primarily at three things: increasing retention rates, adjusting staffing levels in line with enrollment changes, and enrolling more students from populations who traditionally attend and graduate from college at lower rates, including students of color, students with high financial need, and first-generation students.

He shared that one of the most uplifting parts of his job is to meet and interact with alumni who were the first in their families to go to college. There are legions of incredibly successful Kent State graduates, leading people in industry and commerce, who were the first in their families to go to college. They grew up in challenging circumstances, came to Kent State, succeeded and now are very loyal alumni and donors, he said. Every one of Kent State's regional campuses enrolled a freshman class this year with more than 50% of students being the first in their families to attend college. On the Kent Campus, 30% of undergraduate students are first generation and 30% have the highest levels of financial need. Kent State also doubles down on excellence by providing top-ranked programs in wide-ranging areas such as fashion design and merchandising, aeronautics and engineering, theatre and dance, and the Honors College. Excellent programs attract excellent students and increase access and degree completion. This trio is Kent State's North Star – access, degree completion, and excellence – and it is what drives the university's strategic enrollment plan and actions in the months and years to come, he said.

In conclusion, President Diacon said Kent State is ready to surf this third wave of access, diversity, and excellence along with doubling down on its commitment to degree completion. The university increased its six-year graduation rate to 65.6% in the past decade, which puts Kent State ahead of more than a dozen flagship universities in other states. Access is important, but degree completion is vital. The challenge of managing student loan debt on the way to earning a degree is superseded by the tragedy of students assuming high levels of debt and not earning a degree, he commented.

President Diacon then discussed the newly announced Flashes Go Further Scholarship Program and how it was designed to advance both access and completion. The program will cover the cost of unmet need for students with the highest levels of financial need and go a step further by extending this coverage to students who come from families with an expected family contribution of \$10,000 or less. The program also will assist students in moving to graduation and even graduate school. With that he concluded his report.

Chair Riley commended President Diacon and the entire team for developing such a bold, comprehensive, and creative program that will be a game changer for many students and families. The Committee of the Whole session concluded at 11:35 a.m. By approval of a motion made by Trustee Frost and seconded by Trustee Mason, the Board recessed until 11:45 a.m., at which time it returned to public session for the Board's business meeting.

### **BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Riley reconvened the board for the business portion of the meeting. He began by welcoming new trustee Pamela Bobst, who was attending her first meeting. Trustee Bobst is the mayor of Rocky River and a 1985 master's graduate of Kent State University. He asked Trustee Bobst if she would like to say a few words.

Trustee Bobst said she uses her amazing Kent State education every day and has done so since the day she graduated. She expressed appreciation to Chair Riley, President Diacon, Vice President Reed, the leadership team, staff, and other trustees for their warm welcome. Trustee Bobst said she was excited and proud to see the accomplishments of recent years including the strategic visioning, the integrated planning that has been comprehensive and engaging of so many stakeholders, the implementation and action around the planning, and most importantly, the results with the tremendous focus on the success of students not only today, but in the future.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Riley then moved to the approval of the agenda. He noted two additions to the agenda: first, a property matter that would be presented by Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko at the conclusion of the Finance and Administration Committee report, and second, the annual election of the president under New Business. Chair Riley asked there were any other additions or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

### **DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Riley next asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 10, 2021, meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by general consent.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Riley commended President Diacon, the faculty, staff and students for wrapping up the academic year safely and successfully. He additionally thanked President Diacon, Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker, and Associate Provost Manfred van Dulmen for their presentations earlier that day as part of the Committee of the Whole. Their reports were very thorough, well thought out, and well presented. Chair Riley said he looked forward to updates and further reports on both of the topics in the coming academic year.

On behalf of the Board, he congratulated the 5,037 spring graduates of Kent State University. More than 2,700 graduates received their degrees in person, which was the first time in-person ceremonies were held since December 2019. He had the opportunity to address all graduates and their families through virtual remarks that were recorded in order to keep the platform party as small as possible for the health and safety of participants. The ceremonies were conducted outdoors over six beautiful sunny days in May. He encouraged trustees to attend future ceremonies including a very special commencement for the class of 2020, which will be held during the Homecoming weekend.

Noting that President Diacon had presented his report earlier during the Committee of the Whole session, Chair Riley asked Dr. Diacon to proceed with the presentation of personnel actions.

### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

President Diacon called Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley to present the

academic personnel actions. Dr. Tankersley stated that the academic personnel actions were considered routine in nature, with the exception of the request for emeritus status for 11 faculty members and academic administrators, including retiring Dean of the College of the Arts John Crawford-Spinelli who would be honored later in the meeting.

President Diacon next turned to Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Polatajko to present the non-academic personnel actions. Dr. Polatajko noted that the non-academic personnel report stood as written with all matters routine and customary in nature. The report included the restoration of full salaries for non-represented personnel and staff who had received temporary salary reductions at the beginning of the fiscal year.

By general consent, the personnel actions were placed on the consent agenda for approval.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Riley next moved on to committee reports and recommendations. He explained that the recommendations from the standing committees would be placed on the consent agenda and acted upon in one motion unless any trustee wished to remove an item for further discussion. At the end of every committee report, he would ask if any trustee wished to remove an item from the consent agenda, he said.

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Virginia Addicott reported that the External Relations and Development Committee met via Zoom on June 16, 2021, to consider one proposed action item and to hear several informational reports. The committee also welcomed Trustee Pamela Bobst to her first meeting as a committee member.

#### ***APPROVAL OF REVISED EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER***

The committee recommended Board approval of revisions to the committee's charter. The most significant revision is a change in name to the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee to reflect current terminology in the field of fundraising. In addition, updates to the titles of the committee's principal liaisons within the university administration and the committee's designated functions were proposed, she said.

#### **Resolution 2021-26**

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISED EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Kent State University approved the revised External Relations and Development Committee Charter on December 12, 2012;  
and

WHEREAS, a periodic review of the External Relations and Development Committee Charter was performed; and

WHEREAS, the External Relations and Development Committee Charter was revised to remain current and accurate; and

WHEREAS, the revision of this External Relations and Development Committee Charter requires the approval of the External Relations and Development Committee and the full Board of Trustees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University hereby approves the recommended revised External Relations and Development Committee Charter.

The revised committee charter was recommended for approval as part of the consent agenda.

She then reported on informational reports delivered to the committee. The group had the opportunity to meet Randale Richmond, director of athletics, and heard a quick taste of his first 45 days on the job. She expressed hope that the remarkable winning streak recorded in his first days continue and commended the department for its focus on academics as well as athletics. The Board will receive an annual report on Intercollegiate Athletics, President Diacon reported.

Trustee Addicott reported the committee also learned of a very meaningful naming action approved by President Diacon. Interim Vice President Valoree Vargo shared news of the naming of the Gregory J. Elliott Classroom in the John Elliott Center for Architecture and Environmental Design. This action was taken in recognition of the Elliot Family Foundation's and John and Fonda Elliot's generosity in support of Kent State. The family and the foundation have given more than \$12 million to support a wide range of university initiatives and priorities, most notably the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. On behalf of the committee and the Board, Trustee Addicott expressed gratitude to the Elliot family for its remarkable generosity and support.

The committee also received a fundraising update from Interim Vice President Vargo, which was very positive, she said. Impressive progress continues toward the public launch of the largest comprehensive campaign in university history, which will occur during the Homecoming weekend. More than \$82.3 million has been raised to date toward the goal of \$100 million to support student success, she previewed. Trustee Addicott further reported that in FY 2021, the Division of the Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement surpassed its fundraising goal of \$20 million for the year, with giving of \$21.3 million. She commended the staff for not only moving to a donor-centric fundraising model, but also collaborating more effectively with deans and other campus partners. She expressed confidence in Ms. Vargo's leadership and gratitude for the university's fundraising progress, which she felt has come a long way in the past year.

Trustee Addicott said that the committee also heard a legislative update from Executive Director of Government and Community Relations Nick Gattozzi. Among his remarks was an update on

the State of Ohio budget deliberations, which at that time were continuing in Columbus, and how it would likely impact Kent State University. The budget bill was in the hands of the Conference Committee with the House and the Senate working to reconcile their budget bills, she said, with passage of a final bill required by June 30, 2021.

With that, Trustee Addicott concluded her report of the External Relations and Development Committee.

Chair Riley asked whether any trustee wished to remove the revised External Relations and Development Committee charter resolution from the consent agenda. Hearing no objections, the resolution was added to the consent agenda.

Chair Riley then called on Committee Chair Robert Frost to present the report of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Frost thanked Trustee Riley and reported that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met via Zoom on June 15, 2021. The committee had a list of action items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, he said. Trustee Frost said that the committee also welcomed Trustee Bobst back to Kent State University, albeit remotely. He stated that the academic personnel actions had already been recommended for the consent agenda by general consent.

He then moved on to present the establishment of the Healthy Communities Research Institute, sharing that Interim Vice President Delahanty gave the committee a presentation on this important action.

#### ***ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE***

The committee asked that a resolution creating the Healthy Communities Research Institute be placed on the consent agenda, he said. The proposed institute covers a wide range of disciplines engaged in community health including nursing, sociology, geography, public health, health sciences, biological sciences, healthcare, design, psychological sciences and health promotion and education, he reported.

#### **Resolution 2021-27**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

WHEREAS, the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs requests the establishment of the Healthy Communities Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, population health and related community health topics represent

significant existing research strengths at Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Healthy Communities Research Institute builds upon the exceptional accomplishments during the past four years of the current initiative bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines, supporting campus community health efforts, launching pilot funding programs, supporting student research, and hosting lectures and webinars; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Healthy Communities Research Institute will provide infrastructure support for researchers and opportunities for collaboration across multiple departments, colleges, and campuses; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Healthy Communities Research Institute aligns with the university's strategic goals to build a culture of research and innovation and to increase extramurally funded research; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate college faculty and curriculum committees, the Educational Policies Council, and the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Healthy Communities Research Institute, effective June 23, 2021.

Trustee Frost next presented the proposed establishment of the Center for African Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences.

#### *ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES*

He stated that the proposed center's central purpose is to promote awareness and understanding of contemporary events occurring in Africa in addition to supporting and promoting existing experiential learning programs. The resolution was recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

#### **Resolution 2021-28**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences requests approval for the establishment of the Center for African Studies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed center's central purpose is to promote awareness and understanding of contemporary events occurring in Africa and to support and



promote existing experiential learning programs; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Center for African Studies aligns with the university's core values to build an inclusive culture with active inquiry and discovery that expands knowledge and human understanding; and

WHEREAS, unlike existing center and institutes, the proposed Center for African Studies will exclusively focus on critical issues of interest in the Pan-African world; and

WHEREAS, there is no negative impact on students, departments, programs or course offerings; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee within the Department of Pan-African Studies, the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Center for African Studies, effective Fall 2021.

Trustee Frost then presented the proposed revision in name of the Department of Pan African Studies to the Department of Africana Studies, also within the College of Arts and Sciences.

***REVISION IN NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES***

He noted that the proposed departmental name change is intended to reflect the current terminology used at peer institutions. The change in name also follows earlier actions that were approved by this committee to rename degrees that are awarded out of this department, he stated. The resolution was placed on the consent agenda for Board approval.

**Resolution 2021-29**

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PAN-AFRICAN  
STUDIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval of the revision in name of the Department of Pan-African Studies to the Department of Africana Studies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used at peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, through an analysis of internal and external data, the College of Arts and Sciences found that the department name did not adequately convey the contemporary subject matter of the department; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will increase the department's ability to recruit students, remaining competitive with peer universities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed name revision has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate department and college faculty and curriculum committees, the Educational Policies Council, and the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revision in name of the Department of Pan-African Studies to the Department of Africana Studies, effective Fall 2021.

Trustee Frost stated that the committee also proposed the revision in name and administrative structure for the Center for Comparative and Integrative Programs to the School for Multidisciplinary Social Sciences and Humanities.

*REVISION IN NAME AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF CENTER FOR  
COMPARATIVE AND INTEGRATIVE PROGRAMS TO SCHOOL FOR  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES*

This proposed action, which was placed on the consent agenda, is a structural change designed to intentionally recognize a series of existing academic programs into an academic structure with a coherent vision and mission. The restructured school will be the academic home of innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to social sciences and humanities with common themes including international relations, religious studies, social justice and gender and sexuality, he said.

**Resolution 2021-30**

**REVISION IN NAME AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF  
CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE AND INTEGRATIVE PROGRAMS TO  
SCHOOL FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES AND  
HUMANITIES**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences requests approval for the revision in name and administrative structure of the Center for Comparative and Integrative Programs to the School for Multidisciplinary Social Sciences and Humanities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed school will embrace innovative integration of existing expertise, providing an inclusive and engaged living-learning environment for students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed school will provide an administrative structure to house current programs as well as a place for future multidisciplinary and integrative programs to be created; and

WHEREAS, changing the administrative structure from a center to a school will create a better sense of identity for the programs and the faculty; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name and administrative structure will increase the college's ability to recruit students, remaining competitive with peer universities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name and administrative structure has been reviewed and approved by the Educational Policies Council and the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revision in name and administrative structure of the Center for Comparative and Integrative Programs to the School for Multidisciplinary Social Sciences and Humanities, effective Fall 2021.

Next, Trustee Frost presented the proposed revision in name of the Medical Technology major to the Medical Laboratory Science major within the Bachelor of Science degree.

*REVISION IN NAME OF THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY MAJOR TO THE  
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF  
SCIENCE DEGREE*

The proposed departmental name change was intended to reflect the current terminology used in the professional industry and would also align with applicable career titles as medical laboratory scientists, he noted. The resolution was placed on the consent agenda for approval.

**Resolution 2021-31**

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY MAJOR TO  
THE MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE MAJOR WITHIN THE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences requests approval for the revision in name of the Medical Technology major to the Medical Laboratory Science major within the Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used in the professional industry; and

WHEREAS, students who pass the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification exam are identified as medical laboratory scientist; and

WHEREAS, current students will not be affected by the change; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will increase the college's ability to recruit students, remaining competitive with peer universities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed name revision has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate department and college faculty and curriculum committees, the Educational Policies Council, and the Faculty Senate, and also carries the endorsement of the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revision in name of the Medical Technology major to the Medical Laboratory Science major within the Bachelor of Science degree, effective Fall 2021.

He then shared the committee heard three informational reports. As a group, members reviewed the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee charter and discussed possible revisions. This matter will come back to the committee at its September meeting, he said. Trustee Frost further noted that Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker along with President Diacon gave the committee an update on enrollment management, with a particular focus on access, completion, and student outcomes. Additionally, he shared that Vice President Lamar Hylton and Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Talea Drummer-Ferrell gave the committee an update on student mental health initiatives, which was very important.

Trustee Frost concluded the report of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee. Chair Riley asked whether any trustee wished to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda. Hearing no objections, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda.

### **AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Donald Mason presented the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee. He stated the Audit and Compliance Committee met via Zoom on June 14, 2021, to review two management decision items and to hear a series of information reports, the first of which were proposed changes to the Audit and Compliance Committee Charter and the Internal Audit Charter that were presented by Director of Internal Audit Sarah Gampo.

#### ***APPROVAL OF REVISED AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER***

The Audit and Compliance Committee Charter was last revised December 2012. The proposed revisions included updating department personnel titles to ensure consistency and alignment with

the Internal Audit Charter as well as ensuring the charter is current and accurate. Minor terminology changes were made and are in line with peer universities and the IIA standards and best practice guidance, Trustee Mason said.

### **Resolution 2021-32**

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISED AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Kent State University approved the revised Audit and Compliance Committee Charter on December 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a periodic review of the Audit and Compliance Committee Charter was performed; and

WHEREAS, the Audit and Compliance Committee Charter was revised to remain current and accurate; and

WHEREAS, the revision of this Audit and Compliance Committee Charter requires the approval of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the full Board of Trustees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University hereby approves the recommended revised Audit and Compliance Committee Charter.

He then presented the committee's request for approval of the revised Internal Audit Charter.

#### ***APPROVAL OF REVISED INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER***

Verbiage and organizational changes were proposed to align with current guidance and the current university organization, he noted.

### **Resolution 2021-33**

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISED INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the approved Audit and Compliance Committee Charter includes responsibilities of the Audit and Compliance Committee to review the Internal Audit Charter; and

WHEREAS, the professional standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors require the Internal Audit Charter be approved by the Board; and

WHEREAS, a periodic review of the Internal Audit Charter was performed; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Audit Charter was updated to align with the current Institute of Internal Auditors Standards and best practice guidance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University hereby approves the recommended revised Internal Audit Charter.

Both revised charters were recommended Board approval as part of the consent agenda.

Next, Trustee Mason reported that Matt Garvey, audit partner with RSM, and Steve Ansberry, audit senior manager, reviewed the scope of the firm's engagement, the importance of communication between RSM and the Audit Committee, and focus areas of the external audit. A timetable was also presented outlining audit planning and risk management, internal audit work, final audit work and reporting, he said.

Trustee Mason went on to say that Ms. Gampo provided the committee with a report of the third quarter internal audit plan review and activities. He noted that there were no unusual items to report. He noted that Ms. Gampo also commended the work of the university's student auditor this past spring semester. She also presented the proposed FY 2022 Internal Audit Plan review. The audit plan has been created based on the current risk assessment and will be adjusted accordingly throughout the year if there is a need to focus on an emerging risk area, he shared.

With that Trustee Mason concluded his report of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

The resolutions will be added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley then called on Trustee Perry to present the report of the Finance and Administrative Committee.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Trustee Stephen Perry stated that the Finance and Administration Committee met remotely on June 10, 2021, and discussed several items to be considered by the Board, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda. He encouraged other members of the committee to comment as he delivered his report, given that several items were substantial in terms of their potential impact on the university.

He then went reported the committee reviewed the non-academic personnel actions previously presented and heard an update on the university's preparation and planning for the FY 2022 budget.

### ***EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2022***

The State of Ohio biennial budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 was still under development by

the Ohio General Assembly, therefore, the Kent State University budget cannot be finalized for Board approval at that time, he noted. Trustee Perry requested that the Board authorize Kent State University to conduct business at the expenditure levels approved by the Board for the 2020-21 fiscal year. This has been a common practice every other year as the State of Ohio budget deliberations generally continue until the end of June, he said.

#### **Resolution 2021-34**

#### **EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the appropriation and legislative tuition directives from the State of Ohio for higher education have not been finalized at this time; and

WHEREAS, the most recently discussed version of House Bill 110 (the Budget Bill) considers a variety of budget considerations including tuition caps, state share of instruction, and the Ohio College Opportunity Grant; and

WHEREAS, state appropriation, tuition and need-based student aid are critical components of the university budget and must be known prior to preparing a meaningful operating plan; and

WHEREAS, deliberations on the state budget may not be concluded in time to permit Board of Trustees' action on a final Kent State University budgetary plan for the 2021-22 fiscal year at the Board's June 23 meeting; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has experienced significant impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 16 months including the movement to remote learning and limited on-campus operations; and

WHEREAS, while the university is engaged in planning and preparations for the coming academic and fiscal year, there continues to be uncertainty about critical components of the university budget including student enrollment, on-campus resident student occupancy, and state share of instruction; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees will be included in ongoing planning and development of the Fiscal Year 2022 University Budget as further information becomes available; and

WHEREAS, as Kent State University must proceed with its operation into fiscal year 2022, which begins July 1, 2021, spending authorization is requested through action of the Board of Trustees at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that

- (1) The Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the President and the university's chief financial officer to expend monies from educational and

general and auxiliary funds beginning July 1, 2021, at the funding level established by the Board for fiscal year 2021 and expenditure authorization of total funds applied equal to \$595,150,639; and

- (2) The President will submit an operating budget for action by the Board of Trustees when appropriate information is available and a complete operating budget reflecting direction and authority can be prepared. It is anticipated this action will occur at the next regularly scheduled Board business meeting in September.

Next, Trustee Perry presented the request for authorization of rates under the Tuition Guarantee Model effective Fall 2021 which was reviewed with the committee that morning.

*AUTHORIZATION OF RATES UNDER THE TUITION GUARANTEE MODEL,  
EFFECTIVE FALL 2021*

The final rates would be effective only for the new freshmen cohort beginning in the fall of 2021 and would be frozen for four academic years from their first enrollment as a degree-seeking student. Rates will be finalized once the State of Ohio budget is completed, he said.

**Resolution 2021-35**

**AUTHORIZATION OF RATES UNDER THE TUITION GUARANTEE  
MODEL, EFFECTIVE FALL 2021**

WHEREAS, the Kent State University Tuition Guarantee is designed to provide students and their families a predictable and stable model for planning for the cost of a college degree; and

WHEREAS, the model is a cohort-based, guaranteed undergraduate tuition program adopted in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3345.48; and

WHEREAS, the Kent State Tuition Guarantee was adopted by the Kent State University Board of Trustees with Resolution 2017-54, Consideration of Tuition Guarantee Model, at the December 13, 2017, meeting; and

WHEREAS, the university's Tuition Guarantee provides all eligible new first-year undergraduates and their families the certainty that resident tuition and room and board charges will not increase during the ensuing four academic years from their first enrollment as degree-seeking students; and

WHEREAS, the university intends to utilize a designated portion of the incremental revenue to fund need-based student aid; and

WHEREAS, all tuition, fee and rate increases must be authorized and consistent with legislation to be enacted in Am. Sub. H.B. 110 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; now, therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees approves the Tuition Guarantee Model for the cohort entering Fall 2021 at rates not to exceed those authorized by Am. Sub. H.B. 110 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Trustee Perry presented the committee's request for approval that current special surcharge rates for non-Ohio residents be continued into the next biennium.

*APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SURCHARGE RATES FOR NON-OHIO RESIDENTS*

He stated that discounts or waivers of regular tuition rates to students must be approved by the Board of Trustees and by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Kent State currently has five approved waivers that will terminate June 30, 2021. It is requested that the Board approve the proposed special rates continue through Spring Semester 2023 and any summer terms that begin prior to June 30, 2023, he said.

**Resolution 2021-36**

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SURCHARGE RATES FOR NON-OHIO RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is responsible for approving fees for instruction and other education services; and

WHEREAS, reductions from established instructional and general fees as well as out-of-state surcharge rates are permitted if approved by the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University currently has five approved reductions in the regular out-of-state surcharge assessed to non-Ohio residents described below, which are set to expire at the end of this fiscal year:

- An 80% waiver of the out-of-state surcharge rate that applies for students attending regional campuses from specific counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia;
- A reduced special fee of \$10 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents enrolled in fully online programs;
- A special reduced fee of \$10 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program;
- A waiver of the out-of-state surcharge, not to exceed 97.5%, for students who have completed the two-year dual-enrollment program with the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR) and now seek to complete a bachelor's degree at Kent State University;
- A reduced rate of \$1 per credit hour, not to exceed \$11 per term, for new non-Ohio residents enrolled in a graduate degree program (except non-degree programs or those at the College of Podiatric Medicine) who earned their undergraduate degree

from an institution of higher education in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the university has reviewed the enrollment impact of these special rates and recommends that they be continued; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the continuation of the five out-of-state surcharge rates as noted above, subject to any required approvals from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Trustee Perry next presented an amendment of the permitted uses of the 2020 Bond proceeds. The university paused planned major capital projects due to the pandemic and now has a need to invest in projects that are aligned with strategic enrollment priorities.

*REGARDING PERMITTED USES OF 2020 BOND PROCEEDS*

He noted that the university administration proposed a shift in the parking strategy that would allow the university to reallocate the 2020 Bond proceeds available from the general receipt bonds that were issued in January 2020. The bond proceeds were proposed to be used to fund the Aeronautics and Engineering building addition, Ice Arena/band educational facility renovations, the College of Business Administration building and other capital projects in furtherance of the university's programs. Parking needs can be met through strategic realignment of existing spaces, leasing parking spaces available contiguous to campus, and investing in additional surface lots, he said. This change in strategy led to the recommendation that Board approval of the Main Street parking deck be rescinded and the bond proceeds reallocated to three projects at this time, Trustee Perry reported.

**Resolution 2021-37**

**REGARDING PERMITTED USES OF 2020 BOND PROCEEDS**

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2019, the Board of Trustees of Kent State University (the "University") approved Resolution 2019-65 (the "Bond Resolution"), Authorization for the Issuance of General Receipts Bonds to Refinance Outstanding General Receipts Bonds and to Pay Cost of University Facilities, which authorized the issuance of general receipts bonds by the University (the "2020 Bonds") to finance facilities in furtherance of the University's programs, including the construction and improvement of University parking facilities; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved Resolution 2019-66, Approval of the Main Street Parking Deck, which confirmed that the Main Street Parking Deck project could proceed with funding coming from 2020 Bond proceeds; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020 the University paused many of the capital projects, including the planned Main Street Parking Deck, for further review and consideration in light of the pandemic and other factors; and

WHEREAS, from this reassessment the University determined that these bond funds at this time should be used for their greatest impact in projects that will promote strategic enrollment growth and directly support the academic mission; and

WHEREAS, through this review the University also determined that parking needs can be met through strategic realignment of existing spaces, leasing parking spaces available contiguous to campus, and investing in additional surface lots; and

WHEREAS, the University has a need to invest in strategic enrollment priorities such as the Aeronautics and Engineering program, the Marching Band Program, and the College of Business Administration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees hereby rescinds Resolution 2019-66, Approval of the Main Street Parking Deck; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Board of Trustees confirms that 2020 Bond proceeds may be used to pay costs of the Aeronautics and Engineering Building addition, Ice Arena/Band Educational Facility renovations, the College of Business Administration building, and other capital projects in furtherance of the University's programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authorized Officers identified in the Bond Resolution are authorized to furnish, sign and deliver such documents, certificates and instruments, and to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to consummate the transactions contemplated in this Resolution.

He then went on to request approval of the College of Aeronautics and Engineering (CAE) building addition. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering continues to rise, he noted.

*APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AND ENGINEERING  
BUILDING ADDITION*

Trustee Perry explained that with Board approval, the project's design and construction documents would be completed, with groundbreaking expected in October 2021. The project budget of \$19.6 million project would be funded from several sources including \$14.1 million from the Series 2020 bond proceeds as noted, local funds and philanthropic gifts to Kent State.

**Resolution 2021-38**

**APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AND  
ENGINEERING BUILDING ADDITION**

WHEREAS, at its March 7, 2018 meeting, the Kent State University Board of Trustees approved construction of an addition to the Aeronautics and Engineering Building as a prioritized project within Phase 1 of the Kent Gateway Plan; and

WHEREAS, the College of Aeronautics and Engineering (CAE) has experienced significant enrollment growth and requires additional space to keep pace with demands for expanding facility research, instructional laboratories and classrooms, offices and student collaboration areas; and

WHEREAS, the location and addition concept has been developed and endorsed by the Gateway Plan Executive Council (GPEC); and

WHEREAS, the proposed addition will be 41,449 gross square feet within three stories and comprised of classrooms, instructional laboratories, research laboratories, and faculty offices on the upper two levels with additional classrooms, instructional laboratories, and research laboratories housed in the lower level; and

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted \$19.6 million for this project, with \$14.1 million from bond proceeds reallocated from the rescinded Main Street Parking Deck project, \$4 million from local funds, and \$1.5 million from philanthropic gifts to Kent State; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with the project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

Trustee Perry stated that approval also was requested for renovations to the KSU Ice Arena that would provide a much-needed band educational facility as well as make critical deferred maintenance improvements.

*APPROVAL OF ICE ARENA/BAND EDUCATIONAL FACILITY RENOVATIONS*

On behalf of the committee, Trustee Perry noted that this project will provide educational and rehearsal space as well as address critical deferred maintenance needs. The university has budgeted \$6.5 million for this project, which would be funded by the Series 2020 bond proceeds, he said.

**Resolution 2021-39**

**APPROVAL OF ICE ARENA/BAND EDUCATIONAL FACILITY  
RENOVATIONS**

WHEREAS, the pause and subsequent review of remaining Phase 1 Kent Gateway Plan projects permitted a reassessment of Kent Campus capital priorities, with particular emphasis on supporting projects that will foster strategic enrollment growth and meet critical deferred maintenance needs of existing university facilities; and

WHEREAS, this review identified a new opportunity to advance both enrollment and deferred maintenance objectives through a series of renovations to the Ice Arena at a total cost of \$6.5 million, to be funded with reallocated 2020 Bond proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the renovations will provide an expanded educational and rehearsal facility and contiguous field location for the Marching Golden Flashes, the Flasher Brass and percussion in the Glauser School of Music, supporting the recruitment and retention of talented student musicians across all majors and replacing an outdoor practice field that will be displaced by the upcoming East Main Street improvement project; and

WHEREAS, this project also addresses two critical deferred maintenance priorities in the Ice Arena by completing a full roof replacement and public restroom rehabilitation serving all users of the facility including students, faculty and staff, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with the project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

President Diacon added that he thinks of the ice arena and band renovation as a triangulation among usage, academic and co-curricular use, and needs and expenses. Regarding usage, he said that for the years leading up to the pandemic, 89% of the total rink hours were used by the community and only 11% by Kent State programs. With the closing of the recreational rink, the university will maintain the competitive rink for community and university use. Initial estimates have shown that 72% of the rink hours still would be dedicated to community/external use, with 28% of the rink time devoted to university use. He also noted that for both academic and co-curricular needs, the university requires a better home for the marching band and other programs within the School of Music. The marching band attracts students to Kent State who would not enroll otherwise, and the university has plans to expand the size of the marching band. Kent State has a terrific new director of the Marching Golden Flashes who formerly was with the University of Wisconsin Madison, which has a very famous marching band. The facility will provide educational and rehearsal space for the program, which generates academic credits and tuition and SSI revenue. He observed that the university's subsidy for the two rinks over the last decade

has amounted to approximately \$2.7 million. Replacing one of the rinks with a facility for academic and co-curricular use of students is a more effective and efficient use of university resources and consistent with our Students First philosophy, he said.

Trustee Perry thanked President Diacon for his comments and remarked that this project is another indication of how well programmatic and resource decisions are strategized by the university leadership. Kent State needs to maximize enrollment as well as meet community and budget needs, he said.

Next, Trustee Perry presented the committee's recommendation of a prime vendor to provide food and related items for the dining services operation.

*APPROVAL OF SELECTION OF A PRIME FOOD VENDOR FOR UNIVERSITY  
DINING SERVICES*

He explained that through a competitive process, US Foods Inc. – Premier was identified as the vendor providing the best value. The proposed purchase agreement is for an initial term of three years with a university option to renew up to three additional one-year periods at approximately \$6.9 million each year. Funding will be provided by dining services revenues, he said.

**Resolution 2021-40**

**APPROVAL OF SELECTION OF A PRIME FOOD VENDOR  
FOR UNIVERSITY DINING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State requires an agreement for a prime food vendor to provide food and related items across the university system; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by Kent State University, US Foods, Inc. - Premier provided the proposal with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these goods is an initial three-year term of approximately \$20.7 million, with the potential of up to three additional one-year periods at approximately \$6.9 million funded by Dining Services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a contract with US Foods, Inc. - Premier for the provision of food and related items for three years plus a university option to renew up to three additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry then presented a series of franchise agreements that are necessary as the university moves to self-operation of on-campus dining services on July 1, 2021.

*APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS FOR KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
DINING SERVICES OPERATION*

Franchise agreements with Starbucks, Einstein Bros. Bagel, Auntie Anne's Pretzels, and Advanced Fresh Concepts (Sushi) are requested so that these food services can continue after July 1, 2021. The estimated total cost for these four agreements with an initial five-year term is approximately \$4.2 million, with the potential of up to one additional five-year period at approximately \$4.2 million. Costs of these agreements will be funded by dining services, he said.

**Resolution 2021-41**

**APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS FOR KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY DINING SERVICES OPERATION**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University will transition to self-operation of on-campus dining operations effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University anticipates providing food service operations through various franchise agreements; and

WHEREAS, four existing franchise operations are anticipated to continue after July 1, 2021, under new franchise agreements with Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of these four agreements for an initial five-year term is approximately \$4.2 million, with the option of additional annual renewals up to a total of five years, all to be funded by Dining Services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into franchise agreements for the operation of on-campus dining operations for five years plus a university option to renew up to one additional five-year period in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry then presented the request for Board approval of \$1 million in ADA improvements across the Kent Campus. The ADA projects undertaken will target areas and buildings that represent the highest priority based on a recent study, he said.

*APPROVAL OF KENT CAMPUS 2021 ADA IMPROVEMENTS*

Trustee Perry said the university has budgeted \$1 million for this project, with funds coming from the State of Ohio capital allocation (SB 310).

### **Resolution 2021-42**

#### **APPROVAL OF KENT CAMPUS 2021 ADA IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the university's accessibility study and plan has outlined the fact that many campus buildings remain unchanged since their original construction and thus are out of compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements; and

WHEREAS, the university must address campus accessibility needs across the campus, including but not limited to signage, toilet rooms and drinking fountain accessibility, and areas with limited or no wheelchair access; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will address academic areas that will not be targeted for major improvements during the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of this project is \$1 million, which is available from state capital appropriations (SB 310); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with the project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

Trustee Perry next presented proposed HVAC upgrades to Founders Hall at Kent State University at Tuscarawas.

#### ***APPROVAL OF FOUNDERS HALL HVAC UPGRADES, PHASE II KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TUSCARAWAS***

Trustee Perry noted that much of the HVAC equipment in Founders Hall is original to the building's 1968 construction. Five different major mechanical units are beyond their original designed life expectancy, he continued. The university has budgeted \$1,045,955.97 for Phase II with \$545,955.97 coming from the state capital allocation (SB310) and \$500,000 from Tuscarawas local funds, he said.

### **Resolution 2021-43**

#### **APPROVAL OF FOUNDERS HALL HVAC UPGRADES, PHASE II KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TUSCARAWAS**



WHEREAS, the air handlers and re-heat system in Founders Hall on the Kent State University at Tuscarawas Campus are original to the 1968 building construction; and

WHEREAS, the air handlers and re-heat system are inefficient, antiquated and difficult to control in a consistent manner; and

WHEREAS, the project will be phased and a strategic systems replacement plan will be developed to ensure reliability of indoor environmental conditions and realized energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, this proposed project will replace a heating water boiler and air handlers with a more efficient hydronic re-heating source; and

WHEREAS, Phase 1 was completed in 2019, Phase II will continue the improvements based on a prioritized list of critical equipment while maximizing energy reductions. Additional funding will be required to address remaining HVAC components.; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted \$1,045,955.97 for Phase II with funds coming from two sources; \$500,000 from local Tuscarawas funds and \$545,955.97 from the state capital allocation (SB 310); and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Finance and Administration Committee, on behalf of the Kent State University Board of Trustees, hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with the project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

Trustee Perry went on to present the approval of a wildlife exclusion fencing project for the Kent State Airport. This project was included in the Kent State facilities master plan and the Federal Aviation Administration's master plan for the property, he said.

*APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT WILDLIFE EXCLUSION  
FENCING PROJECT*

Trustee Perry noted that Kent State has identified \$1.43 million for this project, with the majority of funds sought to come from an FAA AIP grant. Funding also would include cost sharing of \$71,500 from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Kent State University. If grant funding from FAA is not awarded, the project will not proceed, he said.

**APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT  
WILDLIFE EXCLUSION FENCING PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Kent State University provides approximately 55,000 flight operations annually including flight instruction to nearly 600 students at the Kent State University Airport in Stow, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a need for wildlife exclusion fencing for the Kent State University Airport has been developed and endorsed as part of the Kent State University facilities master plan and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) master plan for the Kent State University Airport; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fencing will be approximately 16,000 linear feet in length and will be designed and constructed to meet FAA standards; and

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted \$1.43 million for this project with funds coming from three sources; \$1,287,000 million from FAA AIP grant funds, \$71,500 from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) cost share funds, and \$71,500 from local university funds; and

WHEREAS, the university will proceed with the construction once all grant funding is secured; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all federal and state laws and regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with the project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04 once all funding is secured.

Trustee Perry next recommended Board approval of a vendor to provide health insurance and administrative services for the university's student health insurance plan.

***APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE***

Through a competitive process, United HealthCare Student Resources was selected as the vendor offering the best value. The proposed agreement is for one-year term at a cost of \$3,266,745 for 1,335 students, with an option for up to two one-year renewals. The total cost of the agreement will be funded primarily by student premiums, he stated.

**Resolution 2021-45**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR  
STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of

any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University requires an agreement to provide health insurance and administrative services for its student health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by Kent State University, United HealthCare Student Resources provided the proposal with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for an initial one-year term is \$3,266,745 for approximately 1,335 students participating, with the potential of two additional one-year renewal periods at approximately \$3,266,745 each; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the services will be funded primarily by student premiums, with undergraduate and graduate domestic and international students paying 100% of their premium costs and graduate assistants paying approximately 30% of their premium costs with the university funding the remaining 70%; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a contract with United HealthCare Student Resources for the provision of student health insurance and administrative services for its Student Health Insurance Plan for one year plus a university option to renew up to two additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry continued, requesting Board approval of two vendors to provide janitorial chemicals and supplies.

*APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR JANITORIAL CHEMICALS AND SUPPLIES*

Through a competitive process, Nichols and Brown Enterprise Solutions were selected as providing the best value. Trustee Perry said the proposed, combined agreements will be for an initial term of two years with an estimated combined total cost of \$1.3 million, with options to renew up to three additional one-year periods at \$650,000 annually. Funding will be provided by University Facilities Management, Residence Services, Kent Student Center and Recreational Services, he stated.

**Resolution 2021-46**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION  
FOR JANITORIAL CHEMICALS AND SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University requires janitorial chemicals and supplies; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by the Kent State University Procurement Department, Nichols (Chemicals, Paper, and Liners) and Brown Enterprise Solutions (Miscellaneous Supplies) provided the proposals with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these goods is an initial two-year term of \$1.3 million, with the potential of three additional one-year periods at approximately \$650,000 each year combined, to be funded by University Facilities Management, Residence Services, Kent Student Center, and Recreational Services departments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into separate contracts (one each) with Nichols (Chemicals, Paper, and Liners) and Brown Enterprise Solutions (Miscellaneous Supplies) for the provision of janitorial chemicals and supplies for two years plus a university option to renew up to three additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry requested ratification of the approval to purchase needlepoint bipolar ionization (NBPI) technology for classroom spaces across the Kent State system.

***RATIFICATION OF THE APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NEEDLEPOINT  
BIPOLAR IONIZATION TECHNOLOGY FOR CLASSROOM SPACES***

He shared that NBPI units will be installed in all educational spaces systemwide. The total cost will be \$3 million – \$2 million for the Kent campus and \$1 million for the regional campuses. Cost of the project will be covered by federal pandemic relief funds, he said.

**Resolution 2021-47**

**RATIFICATION OF THE APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NEEDLEPOINT  
BIPOLAR IONIZATION TECHNOLOGY FOR CLASSROOM SPACES**

WHEREAS, the patented needlepoint bipolar ionization technology has been proven to purify indoor air by reducing airborne particles, odors, and pathogens as well as inactivating up to 99.4% of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, while reducing energy consumption and lowering carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, as part of Kent State's COVID-19 prevention plan, this technology

has been installed in student rooms, dining facilities, athletic facilities, elevator cabs of five stops or more, and other locations including DeWeese Health Center, Student Wellness and Recreation Center, and the College of Podiatric Medicine; and

WHEREAS, as Kent State returns to extensive delivery of face-to-face instruction in the fall of 2021 and seeks to realize ongoing benefits of improved air quality in university classrooms, \$3 million has been budgeted to expand this technology to all classroom buildings across the Kent State system, with funds coming from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF); and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all federal and state laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet requirements for completion prior to the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, the President, Board Chair, and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, under the provisions outlined in University Policy 7-12 D.4.b., jointly approved the purchase of needlepoint bipolar ionization technology on May 5, 2021, through an existing state cooperative purchasing agreement with OMNIA Partners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees formally ratifies the approval of the purchase of needlepoint bipolar ionization technology for classroom spaces as proposed.

Trustee Perry went on to present the committee's request for Board authorization to enter a contract for an integrated suite of marketing and enrollment management services.

***AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT FOR UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT SERVICES***

The proposed purchase agreement with EAB Global, Inc., will be for a total of three years at a cost of \$4,198,731, which will be funded by Enrollment Services. This partnership will strengthen Kent State's market position in Ohio and expand the recruitment footprint of the University to attract students at a national level, Trustee Perry said.

**Resolution 2021-48**

**AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT FOR  
UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University requires an agreement to provide Undergraduate Enrollment Services; and

WHEREAS, a waiver of competitive bidding was issued and approved for the selection of EAB Global, Inc., as the vendor for this project; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for Undergraduate Enrollment Services for the proposed three-year term is \$4,198,731 and will be funded by Enrollment Management; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a contract with EAB, Global, Inc., for the provision of Undergraduate Enrollment Services for 3-years in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry then presented the request to approve six selected vendors that will provide printing requirements and related direct mailing services.

*APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR PRINTING REQUIREMENTS  
AND RELATED DIRECT MAILING SERVICES*

Following a competitive process, six vendors were chosen as providing the best overall value. Trustee Perry said that separate contracts will be prepared, with an estimated combined total of \$1.14 million for one year with options to renew up to four additional one-year periods. The total cost of funding will be through budgeted funds from various departments utilizing these services, he noted.

**Resolution 2021-49**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR PRINTING  
REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED DIRECT MAILING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, University Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods and/or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more, including the initial term and any optional renewals; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University requires printing and related direct mailing services; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by the Kent State University Procurement Department, HKM Direct Market Communications; Northern Ohio Printing, Inc.; Angstrom Graphics; Duke Print & Mail; Printing Concepts, Inc.; and Minuteman Press, Youngstown provided the proposals with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the combined annual cost for these services has been estimated at approximately \$1.14 million, to be funded by various University departments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter separate contracts (one each) with HKM Direct Market Communications; Northern Ohio Printing, Inc.; Angstrom Graphics; Duke Print & Mail; Printing Concepts, Inc.; and Minuteman Press, Youngstown for the provision of printing requirements and related direct mailing services for one year with the option to renew up to four additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Next, Trustee Perry reported a request for approval of an amendment of University Policy 3342-5-16 Regarding Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment.

*AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-16 REGARDING UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT*

Trustee Perry reported that the policy was being amended to grant the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Human Resources joint responsibility in this area.

**Resolution 2021-50**

**AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-16  
REGARDING UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Kent State University requires the university to maintain a register of policies and procedures (University Policy Register); and

WHEREAS, this resolution reaffirms the university's obligations to prohibit discrimination and harassment and to define responsibility, processes and procedures; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2021, the vice president for human resources and the vice president for student affairs jointly will be responsible for implementation of University Policy 3342-5-16 Regarding Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment, precipitating a comprehensive review and amendment of university and administrative policies and procedures in this area; and

WHEREAS, following this comprehensive analysis, amendments to both university and administrative policies and procedures were developed leading to the current recommendation that the existing policy be rescinded and replaced with University Policy 3342-5-16 as amended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed amendment of University Policy 3342-5-16 Regarding Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment.

He then shared the committee's request for revision of University Policy 3342-9-02 Regarding Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources.

*APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-9-02 REGARDING ACCEPTABLE USE  
OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES*

Trustee Perry reported that the proposed updates will provide improved guidance and clarity for the proper use, management, administration, and protection of information technology resources.

**Resolution 2021-51**

**APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-9-02 REGARDING ACCEPTABLE  
USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Kent State University requires the university to maintain a register of policies and procedures (University Policy Register); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with its periodic review of institutional policies, the Division of Information Technology proposes approval of new university policy language within Chapter 9 to improve guidance and clarity regarding the proper use, management, administration, and protection of information technology resources:

- (a) Approval of a new University Policy 3342-9-02 Regarding Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources which simplifies guidance regarding acceptable use through the rescission of 3342-9-02 University Policy on [Responsible Use of Information Technology](#) (now recommended for Board approval), the rescission of 3342-9-02.1 Administrative Policy on Responsible Use of Information Technology (by the administration), and replacement with new proposed policy language. The proposed University Policy 3342-9-02 respects the principle of equitable use, states expectations for responsible and irresponsible behaviors while using information technology resources, and identifies the vice president for information technology and CIO as responsible for administration of the policy.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves University Policy 3342-9-02 Regarding Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources as recommended, effective July 8, 2021.

He then turned to two recommendations from the Board's Investment Committee, which were



presented by Investment Committee Chair Donald Mason.

*AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-7-03 REGARDING UNIVERSITY INVESTMENTS*

First, Trustee Perry recommended Board approval of revisions to University Policy 3342-7-03 Regarding University Investments. During its May 26, 2021, meeting, the Investment Committee approved a new asset allocation for the intermediate term pool. These changes to the asset allocation have been incorporated into the revised policy now proposed, he noted.

**Resolution 2021-52**

**AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-7-03  
REGARDING UNIVERSITY INVESTMENTS**

WHEREAS, Section 3345.05 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code assigns the oversight for investments made by public universities to the board of trustees of each state-supported university; and

WHEREAS, Section 3345.05 (C) also requires that such investments be made in accordance with an investment policy adopted by the board of trustees consistent with all provisions contained in Section 3345.05; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Investment Committee has worked with university administration and with its external investment advisor, SEI Investments Management Corporation, to revise the investment policy's intermediate-term pool asset allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Investment Committee recommends the revised policy be adopted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees adopts the amendment of University Policy 3342-7-03 Regarding University Investments as proposed.

Trustee Perry then presented the committee's recommendation that the Investment Committee charter be revised.

*APPROVAL OF REVISED INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER*

He noted that the primary revision was to remove the annual requirement of an executive session. The revised language allows an executive session if deemed necessary, according to Trustee Perry.

**Resolution 2021-53**

## **APPROVAL OF REVISED INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Kent State University last approved revisions to the Investment Committee Charter on May 11, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a periodic review of the Investment Committee Charter was performed; and

WHEREAS, the Investment Committee Charter was revised to remain current and accurate; and

WHEREAS, revision of the Investment Committee Charter requires the review and endorsement of the Board's Audit and Compliance Committee and the full Board of Trustees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University hereby approves the revised Investment Committee Charter as proposed.

Trustee Perry proposed that all of the management decision items be added to the consent agenda for Board approval. Further, he noted that behind tabs 39 through 41 are informational items routinely provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

With that Trustee Perry concluded his for the Finance and Administration Committee.

Chair Riley asked if any trustee wished to remove any items for approval from the consent agenda. Hearing none, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley then observed that it is obvious from these reports that the bulk of the work of this Board occurs at the committee level. He thanked the committee chairs and members for their hard work.

He then called on Senior Vice President Polatajko to present the property matter recommended for Board approval.

### ***AUTHORIZATION TO SELL VACANT LAND LOCATED AT 1257 MELOY ROAD, KENT, OHIO***

Dr. Polatajko presented for the Board's consideration the authorization to sell eight acres of vacant land located at 1257 Meloy Road in the City of Kent. The sale would be at the property's appraised value of \$59,000, he said.

### **Resolution 2021-54**

### **AUTHORIZATION TO SELL VACANT LAND LOCATED AT 1257 MELOY ROAD, KENT, OHIO**

WHEREAS, Kent State University completed its Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State master plan in 2018; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that plan certain real estate parcels were identified as surplus real estate assets by the university and made available for disposition; and

WHEREAS, at the December 5, 2018, meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized the marketing and sale of the surplus parcels; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the sale of the parcels in legislation passed on July 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has received an offer to purchase two parcels of vacant land located at 1257 Meloy Road, Kent, Ohio, for fair market value; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a purchase agreement for the sale of 8.04 acres of vacant land located at 1257 Meloy Road, Kent, Ohio, for the sum of \$59,000 and such other terms and conditions as set forth in the purchase agreement.

The resolution was placed on the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the personnel actions, recommendations from the standing committees, and the sale of vacant land at 1257 Meloy Road in the City of Kent.

**ACTION: Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Frost, that the motion be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Riley then moved to New Business. The first item was the election of Fiscal Year 2022 officers of the Board of Trustees. He asked Trustee Addicott, the chair of the Board's Nominating and Governance Committee, to present the group's report.

Trustee Addicott reported that the Nominating and Governance Committee met on June 17, 2021. As a result of that discussion, the following slate of officers was recommended: Shawn Riley, Chair; Virginia Addicott, Vice Chair; and Robin Kilbride, Secretary. Chair Riley thanked the committee for its work and asked for a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers.

**ACTION: Trustee Perry moved, seconded by Trustee Mason, that the motion be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

*ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT*

Chair Riley next presented a resolution for the annual election of the university president, effective July 1, 2021. He noted this is a routine action required annually under the Kent State University Constitution. He thanked President Diacon for his leadership of the university during a particularly difficult and challenging year.

**Resolution 2021-55**

**ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, Todd A. Diacon was elected as the 13<sup>th</sup> president of Kent State University effective July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the University requires that the Board of Trustees shall annually elect a president of the University; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes President Diacon's leadership and contributions to the well-being and advancement of Kent State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd A. Diacon is hereby elected President of Kent State University for a third annual term, effective July 1, 2021.

**ACTION: Trustee Perry moved, seconded by Trustee Frost, that the resolution be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

*RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION TO DEPARTING SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS*

Chair Riley then moved to recognize four senior administrators who had or soon would be departing Kent State University: Dr. Mary Parker, Dr. Paul DiCorleto, Dr. John Crawford-Spinelli, and Joel Nielsen. He suggested that trustees approve the four resolutions of appreciation that follow in a single motion, and then he and President Diacon would proceed to recognize those individuals who were present either in person or electronically.

**Resolution 2021-56**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MARY G. PARKER**

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary G. Parker joined Kent State University on January 16, 2019, as the inaugural Vice President of Enrollment Management after progressively responsible leadership positions in enrollment management at the University of Utah and Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, in her time at Kent State she has provided outstanding leadership to reshape the university's enrollment process and to strengthen our capacity and commitment to ensuring access for all students; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Parker has provided wise and effective leadership of her newly formed division that includes the critical functions of Admissions, Student Financial Aid, Registrar, One Stop for Student Services, and Enrollment Management Operations and Administration; and

WHEREAS, she has overseen the development and implementation of a holistic admissions model that has increased the academic quality of the freshmen class and elevated the diversity of all classifications including race, geography, and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Parker's impact on Kent State University will endure due to her effective and inclusive leadership in the development of a university-wide strategic enrollment management plan and her work to optimize the institution's financial aid to students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Parker will leave Kent State on July 16, 2021, to become Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost at the University of Florida; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses deep gratitude to Mary G. Parker for her contributions to the education of students and the advancement of Kent State University, and wishes her well in her future pursuits.

#### **Resolution 2021-57**

#### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO PAUL E. DICORLETO**

WHEREAS, Dr. Paul DiCorleto joined Kent State University on August 17, 2015, as Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs after his retirement as the Sherwin-Page Chair of the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute and as Chair of the Department of Molecular Medicine in the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, during his "second act" at Kent State, Vice President DiCorleto cultivated a culture of research and innovation among the university's faculty, students, and staff; and

WHEREAS, among his many accomplishments and perhaps nearest and dearest to his heart, Dr. DiCorleto guided the establishment of the Office of Student Research, which includes the popular Summer Undergraduate Research Experience and the

Undergraduate Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Vice President DiCorleto worked with faculty and staff to create and build university-wide institutes and initiatives including the Brain Health Research Institute, the Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute, the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute, the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute, the Healthy Communities Research Initiative, the Global Understanding Research Initiative, the Design Innovation Initiative, and the Human Performance Education, Research and Outreach Initiative; and

WHEREAS, within Northeast Ohio he cultivated strong partnerships with the region's universities and corporate community, leading in the establishment of the Northeast Ohio Public University Research Alliance (NEO-PURA); and

WHEREAS, reflecting the high impact of Vice President DiCorleto's leadership, the university's research expenditures doubled from \$25 million to \$50 million during his tenure, which concluded May 31, 2021; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses deep gratitude to Paul E. DiCorleto for his far-reaching contributions to research and innovation, the education of students, and the advancement of Kent State University, and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

#### **Resolution 2021-58**

### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO JOHN CRAWFORD-SPINELLI**

WHEREAS, Dr. John Crawford-Spinelli has dedicated more than 33 years to Kent State University's College of the Arts as a professor, school director, and dean; and

WHEREAS, he joined Kent State as a member of the theater and dance faculty in 1988, advancing to full Professor in 2001 and key leadership roles including Artistic Director of the Kent Dance Ensemble, Director of the School of Theatre and Dance, Producing Director of Porthouse Theatre, Associate Dean, and Dean of the College of the Arts since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Dean Crawford-Spinelli has advanced the college to become one of the nation's top-ranked colleges of visual, performing and design arts, including the acclaimed schools of Art, Fashion, Music, and Theatre and Dance; and

WHEREAS, he has continued to contribute to his beloved field through teaching master classes, setting commissioned choreography, presenting dance research, and serving as President of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans from 2014 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dean Crawford-Spinelli has cultivated strong relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, donors, artists, and the broader community to advance the arts at Kent State and across the region and nation; and

WHEREAS, he is highly regarded as a genuine and caring leader who consistently puts the development and well-being of students and others first and foremost, and one who finds great satisfaction in supporting the learning, development and well-being of students as they progress throughout their college and professional careers; and

WHEREAS, Dean Crawford-Spinelli will retire from Kent State University effective July 1, 2021; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses its deep gratitude to John Crawford-Spinelli for his contributions to the education of students and the advancement of Kent State University and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

#### **Resolution 2021-59**

#### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO JOEL NIELSEN**

WHEREAS, Joel Nielsen joined Kent State on May 15, 2010, as the university's 11<sup>th</sup> Director of Athletics after progressively responsible leadership roles at the University of South Dakota, Colorado College, and Wake Forest University; and

WHEREAS, he has left a legacy of student success on and off the playing field; and

WHEREAS, the academic performance of Golden Flashes student-athletes steadily rose throughout his tenure, setting new high marks for cumulative student-athlete GPA each term and recording 17 consecutive semesters with a term GPA of at least 3.0; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director of Athletics, the Golden Flashes claimed five Jacoby and Reese Trophy honors, which recognize the Mid-American Conference's top women's and men's athletics programs respectively, and the department won 63 MAC regular season or tournament championships and produced three individual national champions; and

WHEREAS, additional athletic highlights included an 11-win football season (2012) and first bowl appearance in 40 years, the first football bowl win in school history (2019), the men's basketball team's return to the NCAA Tournament (2017), baseball's first appearance in the College World Series (2012), the MAC's only

appearance in a gymnastics' national championship (2011), and continued dominance of men's and women's golf teams with women's golf winning 22 consecutive conference championships and both teams ranking in the top 5 nationally; and

WHEREAS, Kent State Athletics was a Nielsen family affair, with wife Sharon ever present in cheering on the Golden Flashes and daughters Kasey, Kelly and Kory competing as student-athletes on the women's golf team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses gratitude to Joel Nielsen for his dedicated service to Kent State University and wishes him well in his future pursuits.

**ACTION: Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Mason, that the resolutions be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

President Diacon then said a few words about each of the participating individuals and asked if each would like to say a few words. He commented that enrollment management at Kent State will be known as "Before Mary" and "After Mary" as Dr. Mary Parker has brought best practices, a fierce commitment to data-driven decision making, and even more importantly a fierce commitment to access and degree completion to the university. Dr. Parker said it was her honor to come to Kent State University and to serve as the inaugural vice president for enrollment management. She said she has made lifelong friends and has served with wonderful colleagues. She thanked trustees and colleagues alike for giving her this opportunity, for believing in her, and for welcoming her with open arms.

President Diacon next said that Dr. Paul DiCorleto certainly has made the university better. Under his leadership, Kent State experienced dramatic increases in funded research and he brought best practices in grant writing and grant administration. Dr. DiCorleto was a leader for *all* of the campus community, not only for professors, but especially for students as he guided the creation and success of the student undergraduate research experience. Through his own generous donations, he has supported Kent State's SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience) program. Dr. DiCorleto thanked President Diacon, Chair Riley, and the Board of Trustees for the resolution of appreciation. He said after 34 years at Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, he wanted to do something different. Kent State has been a fantastic place to do just that with great support from presidents Beverly Warren and Todd Diacon. In fact, President Diacon, as Provost, chaired the search committee that brought him to Kent State. He further remarked that with the faculty and the students there is a real passion for research innovation at Kent State. He said it was his pleasure to participate in such a great institution.

President Diacon then moved to recognize Dr. John Crawford-Spinelli, whom he described as exemplifying all that is great about Kent State. He has been a tireless advocate for the arts as an essential part of a life well led. He has been a tireless advocate for the arts and the excellence of arts education and has increased the profile and ranking of the School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, the School of Theater and Dance, the School of Music and the School of Visual



Arts. President Diacon said Dr. Crawford-Spinelli does not get enough credit for his success as a fundraiser. He has been the university's most successful dean in fundraising, according to President Diacon. Dr. Crawford-Spinelli thanked President Diacon, Chair Riley and the Board of Trustees. He was truly humbled and honored by their recognition and appreciated the kindness expressed. Dr. Crawford-Spinelli said he has spent more than half of his life at Kent State in one role or another; it truly is home. He looks forward to participating in the future in a different role, watching the college's great success under new Dean Dr. Diane Petrella. He observed that he has worked with five different presidents and six different provosts at Kent State and said with assurance that the current administration is among the very best. He said he appreciated the support of the President, the Provost, the College of the Arts, of everyone at the meeting, colleagues, friendships and relationships made at Kent State.

Chair Riley thanked all honorees for their comments and stated that the last item on the agenda was to express appreciation to two valued Board colleagues whose terms have come to a close far too quickly.

*RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO CATHERINE L. ROSS*

Chair Riley presented a resolution of appreciation honoring National Trustee Catherine Ross, whose three-year term expires August 31, 2021. Trustee Ross communicated the need to complete her service at this time. On behalf of Trustee Ross, Chair Riley conveyed her pleasure and appreciation for being able to serve on the Board and she indicated that the Board can count on her for continuing support. She thanked fellow trustees for the collegiality and support they provided to her, he noted.

**Resolution 2021-60**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO CATHERINE L. ROSS**

WHEREAS, Catherine L. Ross was elected as National Trustee of Kent State University by the Board of Trustees effective September 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, a 1971 Kent State graduate in Sociology, Dr. Ross has brought distinction to her beloved alma mater through her preeminence in the field of transportation and urban planning, serving as a Regents' Professor and Harry West Professor of City and Regional Planning and Civil and Environmental Engineering and director of the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD) at the Georgia Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ross is one of the world's leading experts on megaregions and sustainability – bringing together regions and cities on transportation, water, energy, land development and health, creating places that compete in a global world; and

WHEREAS, just like her landmark research she has proven herself to be a force of

nature, an extraordinary leader who unites communities and individuals to compete in a global world; and

WHEREAS, during her term Trustee Ross has served on the Board's Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee and the External Relations and Development Committee, joined the university's Campaign Executive Committee planning the largest comprehensive campaign in its history, and served on a plenary panel for the 2020 Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) National Conference on Trusteeship; and

WHEREAS, through her dedicated service as National Trustee, she has provided invaluable insights regarding student success, academic vision and strategic directions, and philanthropy, demonstrating the premier leadership, cutting-edge thinking, and commitment the Board envisioned in creating this role; and

WHEREAS, her three-year term as a National Trustee expires August 31, 2021; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation to Catherine L. Ross for her distinguished stewardship and wishes her well in her future pursuits.

**ACTION: Trustee Perry moved, seconded by Trustee Kilbride, that the resolution be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

Chair Riley then expressed the Board's appreciation to retiring Graduate Student Trustees Jasmine Bonder.

*RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO JASMINE BONDER*

Chair Riley called on Trustee Dylan Mace to say a few words and to read the resolution. Trustee Mace shared that he had the honor of meeting Trustee Bonder at the September 2020 Board meeting. He knew right from the start that he had a great example of what a student trustee should be and she was there for him to observe and learn from. He further remarked that she is a Kent State success story as she started out earning her associate degree in nursing at Kent State's Twinsburg Academic Center and now has progressed all the way to pursuing her doctorate at Kent State. He commended her extraordinary dedication and courage as a nurse during the pandemic. In addition to completing her doctoral studies and being a valuable member of the Board of Trustees, she has provided tireless service as a nursing manager for Cleveland Clinic's premier Heart and Lung Transplant Center. On behalf of the Board and Kent State University, Trustee Mace expressed gratitude and pride for having Trustee Bonder as a Board colleague.

**Resolution 2021-61**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO JASMINE BONDER**

WHEREAS, Jasmine (Hoff) Bonder was appointed as the Graduate Student Trustee member of the Kent State University Board of Trustees by Governor Mike DeWine on June 11, 2019; and

WHEREAS, throughout her term Trustee Bonder has shined and inspired through her high energy and high achievement in multiple, concurrent roles as dedicated trustee, outstanding graduate student, devoted mentor to students as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Nursing, and courageous healthcare hero working throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, she has demonstrated an informed and passionate commitment to student success both as a member of the Board and through her own Kent State success story, earning her associate degree in Nursing at Kent State's Twinsburg Academic Center, then earning bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing and now pursuing a doctorate in Nursing Practice and an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner graduate certificate at the Kent Campus; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Bonder has served capably as a member of the Board's Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Compliance Committee, and External Relations and Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Bonder is well respected by her Board colleagues as a highly motivated, extremely thoughtful and principled individual who participates actively in all aspects of the trustee role, whose insights have been particularly valuable as the university has worked its way through the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to completing her studies and fulfilling her trustee responsibilities at Kent State, she has provided brave and tireless service as a nursing manager for the Cleveland Clinic's premier Heart and Lung Transplant Center in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, the Board, the administration and the university community applaud her for her high performance, generous spirit, and devotion to Kent State University; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University expresses deep gratitude to Jasmine Bonder for her outstanding service and wishes her the very best in her future pursuits.

**ACTION: Trustee Mace moved, seconded by Trustee Addicott, that the resolution be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.**

President Diacon stated that hers truly is a story of Kent State – earning the associate degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, and now doctoral studies in nursing, and then going out and changing the world, adding value, and showing tremendous leadership during the pandemic. It is what we expect of Golden Flashes and certainly what we have with Jasmine Bonder, he remarked.

Trustee Bonder expressed her gratitude for the experience. It really has been a remarkable opportunity to be a nurse during the pandemic and also to sit on this wonderful Board. Kent State University always has been known for encouraging students to become leaders in their communities and she was so happy to have had the chance to serve, she said.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riley announced the next regular business meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held in September 2021 at the Kent Campus, with the final date to be established. On motion duly made and approved, he declared the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.