

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
October 22, 2021  
Center for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement  
Room 103**

**Board Members Present**

Shawn Riley, Chair  
Virginia Addicott  
Pamela Bobst  
Haley Crews  
Barry Fetterman  
Robert Frost  
Johnathan Holifield  
Robin Kilbride  
Dylan Mace  
Donald Mason  
Stephen Perry  
Sandra Volpe  
Ann Womer Benjamin

**KSU President's Cabinet Present**

Todd Diacon, President  
Sean Broghammer  
Doug Delahanty  
Amoaba Gooden  
Rebecca Murphy  
Mark Polatajko  
Randale Richmond  
Charlene Reed  
Melody Tankersley  
Willis Walker

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He thanked everyone for making themselves available for this historic special meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Kilbride called the roll, and a quorum was present.

He then recognized special guests Ambassador Edward F. Crawford and his family: wife Mary; son Matt; daughter in-law Deborah; and grandchildren, Catherine and Claire. He additionally recognized Ambassador Crawford's grandson Colin who was away at school and unable to be in attendance. Chair Riley asked all present to join in welcoming the Crawford family.

Chair Riley next welcomed several guests in attendance: Trustee Emeritus Ralph Della Ratta, his predecessor as Kent State Board chair; Dean Deborah Spake of the College of Business Administration; Dr. Pam Grimm, Faculty Senate chair; Nora Jacobs representing Kent State University's Foundation Board of Directors and Campaign Executive Committee; and Don Brown, chair of the Kent State College of Business Administration National Advisory Council. He thanked all present and expressed gratitude to the many donors, alumni, faculty, staff and other guests watching the meeting on the livestream.

**PROOF OF NOTICE**

He said that public notification of this special meeting of the Board was given pursuant to Ohio law and university policy.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Riley stated that the special meeting was called for the purposes of considering a revision in the name of the College of Business Administration, approval of the construction of a new building for the college, and naming the college and the building in honor of a transformational benefactor whose generosity had brought us to this milestone moment for the college and the university.

He asked if any trustees had any additions or changes to the meeting agenda. Hearing no objections, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

## **MANAGEMENT DECISION ITEMS**

Chair Riley observed that the three proposed action items for consideration of the Board collectively will elevate Kent State University and specifically its College of Business Administration to greater impact, national prominence and most importantly, enhance the quality of the student educational experience.

He then called on President Diacon to present the proposed revision in the name of the College of Business Administration.

### *REVISION IN NAME OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP*

President Diacon thanked Chair Riley and welcomed the visitors to Kent State University. He shared that some years ago when he was Provost at Kent State, then-National Trustee Michael Solomon, a Kent State graduate and successful entrepreneur, pulled him aside and said it might be time to change the name of the College of Business Administration to better reflect the dynamism of business and entrepreneurial education nationally. He further remarked that this observation led to a discussion between the president and Dean Spake regarding a name change for the college. He then asked Dean Spake to explain the request to rename the college as the College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Dean Spake said the College of Business Administration was created in 1935 on the same day that Kent State College became Kent State University. In those early years, the unit's name was appropriate as there was a Business Administration Department in the college. Decades later the department became the Administrative Sciences Department and ultimately the Department of Management Information Systems, now more than 20 years ago. Administration is an outdated term for a modern college of business, she said. In fact, only one other public institution in Ohio still uses administration in the name of its college of business. Today, a more modern approach is to name a college of business with a focal discipline reflective of its programs and co-curricular activities, she said. She cited examples of the College of Business Innovation at University of Toledo, the College of Business and Technology at Sacred Heart University, the College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky, the College of Business and Analytics at Southern Illinois University, and the College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State

University. Like Montana State, Kent State was proposing that the name of the college be changed to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. The college currently houses the entrepreneurship major and minor, a Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (CEBI), the endowed Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series, the John S. Brinzo Entrepreneurship Laboratory, idea pitches, the CEBI Pitch competitions, and a student chapter of the Northeast Ohio Student Venture Fund. She then stated that given these academic programs, number of co-curricular activities and the importance of entrepreneurship in modern business and the economy, the faculty and administration feel this name is reflective of the college today.

With that Dean Spake concluded her presentation of the proposal.

Chair Riley next called on Trustee Robert Frost, chair of the Board's Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, to present the resolution. Trustee Frost said that he was thankful that both President Diacon and Dean Spake referenced Michael Solomon in their comments and that National Trustee Emeritus Solomon also is referenced in the resolution.

### **Resolution 2021-79**

#### **REVISION IN NAME OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

WHEREAS, the College of Business Administration requests a revision in name to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, the college's research showed that use of the term "business administration" is outdated and a more modern approach today is to name a College of Business with a focal discipline, reflective of its programs and co-curricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the college's administration and faculty have recommended the revision in name to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship given the college's academic programs, number of co-curricular activities, and the importance of an entrepreneurial mindset in modern business; and

WHEREAS, among the college's strengths in entrepreneurship include the entrepreneurship major and minor, a Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (CEBI), the Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series, CEBI pitch competitions, and a student chapter of the Northeast Ohio Student Venture Fund; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name of the College of Business Administration to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship was reviewed and approved by the appropriate college faculty committee, the Educational Policies Council and the Faculty Senate, and also carries the approval of the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees approves the revision in name of the College of Business Administration to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, effective immediately.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chair Riley next stated that the Board was pleased to move forward with the highly anticipated construction of a new building for the college, and he once again called on President Diacon.

*APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
BUILDING PROJECT*

President Diacon said that in his 35 years of higher education, serving at institutions from north to south and east to west, he had noted that great universities in America almost without exception feature great business and entrepreneurship programs. In addition, these same great universities feature almost without exception signature buildings for their business and entrepreneurship programs. These buildings become iconic on the campus and serve as gathering spots not just for the business majors and entrepreneurship majors -- because of that iconic stature, they become attractive places for all faculty and students. He stated that in her near-decade of leadership at Kent State, Dean Spake and her faculty and staff have worked hard to continually improve the college, which is reflected in its rise in the national rankings and in the number of graduates who go on to great success in their chosen fields of endeavor. President Diacon was pleased to announce that we are on the cusp of building that signature building and as importantly, we will do so in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with the strong financial health of Kent State University. He then called on Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko to present the proposal.

Dr. Polatajko thanked President Diacon, Board members, and esteemed guests. He said that it was a pleasure to present the College of Business and Entrepreneurship building project for the Board's consideration. On March 7, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved a 10-year master plan entitled Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State. The plan calls for a complete transformation of the front of campus along Main Street including building a new home for the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. He shared an overview and renderings of the approximately 150,000 square foot state-of-the-art building that will support innovative instruction and research. The new building will be located between Main Street and Terrace Drive on the current site of Terrace Hall. It will serve as a cornerstone for the complete transformation of this area of campus, he said. Dr. Polatajko noted that the project budget target is estimated at \$71 million; however, given current market conditions relative to the inflated cost of building materials as well as construction trade labor availability, the university administration is recommending an additional funding contingency of \$3 million, translating into a projected not-to-exceed cost of \$74 million. Funding for the project will be as follows and will be available during the construction period: gifts, \$24.7 million; bond proceeds, \$6.7 million; and university local funds of up to \$42.6 million, with the total project cost not to exceed \$74 million. The construction period is planned to begin in December 2021 with occupancy expected in August 2024, he said.

This concluded Dr. Polatajko's report.

Chair Riley then called on Trustee Stephen Perry, chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, to present the resolution.

**Resolution 2021-80**

**APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
BUILDING PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the 2018 Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State facilities master plan for the Kent Campus proposes to create a signature gateway entrance including construction of a state-of-art home for the then-named College of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, this special meeting of the Board of Trustees marks an historic occasion when several actions will be taken that position the college for greater impact and national prominence including its name change to the College of Business and Entrepreneurship and approval of construction of its stunning new academic home; and

WHEREAS, the new College of Business and Entrepreneurship Building will provide approximately 150,000 square feet of state-of-art educational and research space; and

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

WHEREAS, the estimated project cost is \$71 million, but given current economic conditions relative to inflated building materials costs and labor shortages, the university administration recommends a not-to-exceed total project cost of \$74 million; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University is grateful for the generous support of donors who as of this date are providing \$24.7 million in gifts in support of the project; and

WHEREAS, the balance of the project budget will be comprised of \$6.7 million in available general receipts bond proceeds and up to \$42.6 million in university local funds; 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 design and construction of this project at a cost not to exceed a cost of \$74 million, in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

He then moved to the final action item, the proposed naming of the college and the new building in honor of the transformational benefactor and his family who had brought Kent State to this historic day.

*NAMING OF THE AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CRAWFORD HALL*

President Diacon noted that at his inauguration, which was held shortly before the pandemic began, he organized his address around the notion that Kent State University had been and will continue to be a school not just for the fortunate few, but also for the meritorious many. He made this observation at his inauguration because of the countless Kent State alumni who came from humble yet proud backgrounds, often to become the first in their families to graduate from college, who then went on to great success in their chosen fields of endeavor. Indeed, many examples of the Kent State story were present at today's meeting, he said.

President Diacon shared that when he learned about Ambassador Crawford and read about his life, he found himself saying, this is a Kent State story. Ambassador Crawford's life is one of grit, of hard work, of overcoming prejudice, of sharp acumen, and of fearlessness to be great. Mr. Ambassador, around here we have a saying that Flashes Take Care of Flashes and that ideal of service, of helping others, is reflected in your own career, most recently in the service to your country as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland. We are humbled by your success, by your service and by your generosity and proud that our college has earned your notice, your imprimatur and your confidence, President Diacon said.

He noted that Kent State aims to be a student-centered university and as such, it gave him great pleasure to ask Undergraduate Student Trustee Dylan Mace, a finance major from North Ridgeville, to say a few words.

Trustee Mace stated that it was an exciting day at Kent State University and as a business student, he could not be more excited that the Board gathered to move forward with the new building for the new College of Business and Entrepreneurship. This college located within Crawford Hall will be a place for students to achieve their purpose and to fulfill their dreams. He said that the building will provide students with the tools, technology and space to be competitive within the ever-changing business climate of today. This space will support collaboration and innovation among students of all backgrounds and dreams. The open concept of the building will pair wonderfully with the goal of increased interaction among students, faculty and professionals. He noted that the Global Forum and the Scholars Walk are some of his favorite highlights of the building. He joked that he envied the future students who could spend four years in this building. He further reported that with its prominent location on Main Street, Crawford Hall will be seen as the highlight of the university. Not only will this building be a place where dreams and passions are pursued, it will be an eye-catching space for all of the Kent State University community. He expressed confidence the building would impress high school students touring the campus and help them make the right decision to become a Golden Flash. With that and on behalf of all current and future students, Trustee Mace thanked Ambassador Crawford, the generous donors and all Kent State University faculty and staff for their tireless

work on this project. Your work is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed, he said, and you are fueling the dreams of future leaders of our community.

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Mace for his comments and then called on Trustee Virginia Addicott, chair of the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee, to present the resolution.

### **Resolution 2021-81**

#### **NAMING OF THE AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CRAWFORD HALL**

WHEREAS, Ambassador Edward F. Crawford embodies the Kent State University success story, starting his first manufacturing business in 1962 while attending college classes at night and eventually building Park-Ohio Holdings Corp. from a small local manufacturer to a publicly traded \$1.6-billion industrial supply chain logistics and diversified manufacturing business, employing more than 7,000 people in 125 locations worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary leadership legacy of this son of Irish immigrants includes service to our country as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland from 2019-2021, and his current roles as Chairman of Crawford United Corporation, CEO of The Crawford Group, and Director of Park-Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Crawford has committed the largest single gift in Kent State University history to propel the College of Business and Entrepreneurship to greater impact and national prominence; and

WHEREAS, the Crawford gift completes the initial College of Business and Entrepreneurship Building capital campaign, enabling Board approval this day of the construction project, which is a cornerstone of the transformational *Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State* facilities master plan for the Kent Campus; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees honors and expresses deep gratitude to Ambassador Edward F. Crawford and his family for their impact upon current and future generations of students, faculty and staff who will learn and work in the college's cutting-edge academic home and look to Ambassador Crawford as a mentor and inspiration for their own entrepreneurial and business endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with great pleasure and pride, the Board of Trustees approves the naming of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the naming of the new college building to be constructed as Crawford Hall, effective immediately.

Prior to calling for a vote to approve the resolution, Chair Riley noted for that record that he "very reluctantly" was abstaining from the vote. He stated that Ambassador Crawford had called upon lawyers at the firm of McDonald Hopkins LLC, where Chair Riley serves as president, to

work on this matter. Thus, Chair Riley recused himself from any interaction regarding this matter.

**ACTION: Trustee Womer Benjamin moved, seconded by Trustee Addicott, that the resolution be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed, with all trustees other than Chair Riley voting in favor and Chair Riley abstaining.**

Following the vote, President Diacon and Trustee Mace came forward and unveiled two renderings of the building emblazoned with the names of Crawford Hall and the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship. President Diacon observed that the beautiful building will be set on Main Street and will quickly become the centerpiece of the Kent Campus. He said he looked forward to the groundbreaking and then to an inauguration of the building. He thanked Ambassador Crawford for his generosity noting that students like Trustee Mace, who had just finished two summers of internships in Cleveland, will go on to do great things even more so because of these fantastic facilities.

After a standing ovation, Ambassador Crawford began noting that as a good Irish boy, he could not pass up an opportunity to talk about his mother. His mother left Ireland when she was 17 years old and 94 years later, she saw her middle son Edward Francis become the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. After months of effort to achieve this role, it was very exciting to travel to Washington, D.C., with his family for his swearing-in at the White House. Ambassador Crawford went on to say that he knows good ideas when he hears them. He acknowledged President Diacon and Dean Spake for their amazing effort to go to his office in Cleveland at ParkOhio and to sit around his desk of 58 and a half years, where he has made all types of decisions. He said he initially took the meeting because he had a friend who brought forward such a good idea that was so dynamic. He gave credit to President Diacon and Dean Spake for building this partnership. His interest was really piqued by what they had in mind, where they were going, the time, the energy, the Board commitment, and it being a complete idea. He noted that he learned a lot from his mom and that it was exciting for him to be at Kent State University for so many reasons. When he looked at his family -- son Matt, wife Mary and grandchildren -- Ambassador Crawford said he was very proud that he was there and able to accomplish what the Board just approved.

Ambassador Crawford then closed by reflecting that his family employs about 7,500 people. When he thinks about how he got to Washington and how he got to Kent State, to be able to be part of someone else's great dream that he really liked, he thought he could fit in and bring something to the table, that it was easy for him to make the decision and be supportive. He further shared that when he thought about all the people who helped him get to where he had been and what he had accomplished, he started with his mom and another person named Alice Jackson. When he was 19 or 20 years old, Ambassador Crawford started his first business on East 79th Street in the Hough area of Cleveland, where riots had been occurring. Alice Jackson lived in the neighborhood and was a little older than him. She helped him recruit people from the neighborhood, mostly young women, to run his machinery. He understood the responsibility from that point on, how important it was to have people who believed in him. When Ambassador Crawford thinks of his family and his businesses, he knows there were hundreds of thousands of

people starting with Alice Jackson who believed in him, his ideas and his dreams. He said they brought him to this day and this opportunity to participate in the future of Kent State. He expressed his belief that the fantastic ASPIRE entrepreneurial workshop program, which will be part of his partnership with Kent State, will be accepted around the world. He then shared that he and his son had been doing this work for years in Ireland and first rolled out the ASPIRE program in China 14 years ago to 400 Chinese diplomats, explaining what American entrepreneurship was about. He thanked all present for accepting him and his family into the Kent State University family. The Crawford family will be good team members and will make this business school sparkle, Ambassador Crawford stated.

President Diacon thanked Ambassador Crawford, saying that one thing to be assured of is that Kent State University really is a special place and all present that day recognize the beauty and power of our mission to educate not just the fortunate few, but the meritorious many. President Diacon concluded by thanking Ambassador Crawford once again for his transformative donation and for his commitment to make the university even better. Together, Crawford Hall and the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship will benefit generations of Golden Flashes thereby carrying forward the Ambassador's legacy of entrepreneurial success and of service to his country. As a parting gift, knowing of his deep love of basketball, President Diacon presented Ambassador Crawford with a framed Kent State basketball jersey. The jersey bore the name "Crawford" and the number "1" and a plaque stating, "Ambassador Edward F. Crawford – In recognition and gratitude for embodying our Kent State story, offering transformational support, and leading our path to success - Kent State University, October 22, 2021."

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riley thanked all present for attending this milestone event and expressed gratitude to Ambassador Crawford and his family for their generosity and confidence in Kent State University.

On motion duly made and approved, he declared the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.