

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 28, 2023  
Moulton Hall, Kent Campus**

**Board Members Present**

Shawn Riley, Chair  
Pamela Bobst  
Haley Crews  
Haley Dees  
Barry Fetterman  
Robert Frost  
Robin Kilbride  
Donald Mason  
Christian Palich  
Sandra Volpe  
Ann Womer Benjamin

**KSU President's Cabinet Present**

Todd Diacon, President  
Sean Broghammer  
Nick Gattozzi  
Amoaba Gooden  
Lamar Hylton  
Tiffany Murray  
Mark Polatajko  
John Rathje  
Charlene Reed  
Randale Richmond  
Peggy Shadduck  
Melody Tankersley  
Willis Walker  
Stephen Ward

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Vice President and University Secretary Charlene Reed called the roll, and a quorum was present.

**PROOF OF NOTICE**

Chair Riley announced that public notification of the meeting was given pursuant to Ohio law and university policy.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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)]; (iii) conference with attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of court action [121.22(G)(3)]; and (iv) preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment [121.22 (G)(4)].

Trustee Mason moved, seconded by Trustee Bobst, that the Board retire into Executive Session. Vice President Reed took a roll call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:46 a.m. The session concluded at 10:10 a.m.

### **BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

By approval of a motion duly made and seconded, the Board returned to public session for the business meeting at 10:15 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Riley announced that the first item of business was approval of the agenda. He stated that there was one addition to the agenda, the approval of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Tenure Track Bargaining Unit of the American Association of University Professors, Kent State Chapter. The resolution would be presented as the first item of new business. Chair Riley then asked whether there were any other additions or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Next, Chair Riley presented approval of the minutes from the March 9, 2023, business meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were added to the consent agenda.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Riley said he was pleased to be on the university's Front Campus, which he hadn't visited for nearly 40 years and reflected upon the beautiful setting. He shared that after the business meeting concluded, trustees would go outside for the placement of the final steel beam of Crawford Hall. He encouraged everyone present to attend. Chair Riley noted that while Ambassador Edward Crawford was not able to join that day, he did sign a beam at an earlier event for donors and members of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship. The topping-out ceremony is yet another milestone on the path to the on-time completion of the building for the Fall 2024 school session, he observed.

Chair Riley noted, for the record, the Board's appreciation for Pete Holway, who recently completed his two-year term as chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. Trustees are grateful for his leadership throughout this record-setting time of fundraising at Kent State, and they look forward to hosting new Foundation Board Chair Michelle Thomas at an upcoming meeting, he said.

Finally, he encouraged trustees to attend the Kent State Summer Commencement exercises on Saturday, August 19, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Manchester Field. He additionally thanked those trustees who were able to share the celebrations with graduates and their families at the May 2023 ceremonies.

Chair Riley then turned to President Diacon to present his report.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Diacon thanked Chair Riley. He observed that Kent State is deeply committed to being a students-first university and an institution of access not just for the fortunate few, but for the meritorious many. He said the board and administration benefit greatly from listening to the university's two student trustees and he thanked trustees Crews and Dees for always representing that student voice very well. In this spirit, he felt that his report would best be delivered through the student voice. He shared video of a May 2023 Commencement address delivered by graduate Eric Gomez, which he felt captured all the things a president would want to express about student success. He noted that Mr. Gomez earned his degree in political science, participated in the university's Washington Program in National Issues (WPNI), and soon would be working full time in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown.

After the video played, President Diacon shared that when Eric Gomez crossed the stage he was crying and gave the president a hug. He encouraged trustees to attend a commencement, which is literally the best day of the year. Eric Gomez embodies Kent State's students-first, changing lives, access, and degree completion commitments better than any presidential remarks, he said.

President Diacon then presented a photo of two Kent State student-athletes at the May graduation and asked Vice President and Director of Athletics Randale Richmond to speak about them. Vice President Richmond spoke of Sincere Carry and Malik Jacobs, two leaders of the Kent State MAC Championship men's basketball team who had left an amazing legacy at KSU.

President Diacon said in Columbus there was growing doubt about the value provided by public four-year universities in Ohio. He also encountered an associated opinion that four-year college students were pampered and maybe even spoiled or out of touch. That was usually followed up with an observation that university leaders such as himself and professors were equally out of touch. President Diacon said he had been thinking a lot about these things because of the cognitive dissonance when he saw Eric Gomez, when he saw Sincere Carry and Malik Jacobs, we know what difference we make in the lives of people, and then hear something very different in Columbus. This got him to thinking about how he would articulate those feelings in a commencement address. With that, he played his own Commencement address from May 2023.

After the video played, President Diacon thanked the Board members for attending commencement. He then shared a final slide of Associate Chief of Staff Lashonda Taylor receiving her Ed.D. degree at the May 2023 Commencement. Dr. Taylor wrote an excellent dissertation on succession planning and how new presidents select members of their leadership teams. He congratulated Dr. Taylor and concluded his presentation.

### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Chair Riley asked President Diacon to present the personnel actions. President Diacon called on Interim Vice President for Human Resources Tiffany Murray. She reported that the non-

academic personnel actions were routine in nature. He then turned to Melody Tankersley, Senior Vice President and Provost, for the academic personnel actions. She noted four recommendations for emeritus status among the highlights of the report.

Chair Riley asked if there were any questions or objections. Hearing none, the personnel actions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Riley then proceeded with reports and recommendations by the committees. He thanked trustees for giving their time for standing committee meetings held electronically the previous week and to the Finance and Administration Committee for appearing early that morning for a second meeting.

He stated that committee recommendations 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 each committee report, he would ask if any trustee wished to remove an item from the consent agenda for further discussion and if there were no objections, the resolutions would be added to the consent agenda by general consent, he said.

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE**

First, Chair Riley called on committee chair Trustee Pamela Bobst to present the report of the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee. Trustee Bobst stated that the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee met on June 20, 2023, and reviewed two naming action recommendations and three informational reports.

#### ***NAMING OF THE PEPSI LEADERSHIP CENTER***

The committee recommended board approval of the naming of the Pepsi Leadership Center. Since 2011, PepsiCo Beverages of North America has contracted with Kent State as its official pouring vendor for beverage services. The company has pledged an additional \$250,000 in endowed support to the university's Leadership Center, part of Kent State Center for Student Involvement, which offers programming to help students develop their leadership identity, capacity, and efficacy, as well as provide a space to study, meet and attend events. In recognition of the company's support, it was recommended that the physical space be named the Pepsi Leadership Center, she said. Carl Kazmierczak, a representative of PepsiCo Beverages of North America, joined the committee meeting and emphasized how happy the company was with its partnership with Kent State University, sharing how much he and his colleagues looked forward to continuing to advance student experiences outside the classroom, noted Trustee Bobst.

## **Resolution 2023-36**

### **NAMING OF THE PEPSI LEADERSHIP CENTER**

WHEREAS, PepsiCo Beverages of North America recognizes Kent State University's Leadership Center as an excellent student-centered professional development program in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, PepsiCo Beverages of North America has been the official pouring vendor for Kent State University since 2011; and

WHEREAS, PepsiCo Beverages of North America has generously supported Kent State students through scholarships within the E. Timothy Moore Student Multicultural Center, student projects in the Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and the Kent State of Well-being initiative; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of PepsiCo Beverages of North America in providing new gifts totaling \$250,000 to benefit the Leadership Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, on behalf of Kent State University's Division of Student Affairs and Leadership Center as well as the current and future students who will benefit from the center's programs, expresses sincere appreciation to PepsiCo Beverages of North America for its generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the Leadership Center's physical space in the Kent Student Center the Pepsi Leadership Center.

### ***NAMING OF MAJ RAGAIN POETRY PARK***

Trustee Bobst then presented the second recommended management decision item – the proposed naming of the Maj Ragain Poetry Park. Major “Maj” Daniel Ragain was a beloved creative writing professor and a mentor at Kent State from 1969 until his last class in 2016. He earned his Ph.D. in literature from Kent State in 1990, was a pillar of the local poetry community, and received the Outstanding Term Teaching Award in English in 2003. Dr. Ragain also led a weekly veterans' healing circle through the Wick Poetry Center. This group enabled veterans to connect with each other and heal through their participation in the arts. He also hosted open poetry readings in Kent for more than 30 years. In honor of Dr. Ragain, the Ragain Charitable Fund and Sean Ragain pledged \$100,000 to support the Wick Poetry Center's Traveling Stanzas program, announced Trustee Bobst.

## **Resolution 2023-37**

### **NAMING OF MAJ RAGAIN POETRY PARK**

WHEREAS, the Ragain Charitable Fund and Sean Ragain recognize Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center as a national and regional leader in public arts engagement and excellence; and

WHEREAS, Major "Maj" Daniel Ragain graduated from Kent State University in 1990 with a Doctor of Philosophy in English; and

WHEREAS, Maj Ragain served as a beloved faculty member at Kent State University from 1969 until 2016, during which time he was recognized with the Outstanding Term Teaching Award in English; and

WHEREAS, he made a lasting impact upon the lives of his students and mentees; and

WHEREAS, Maj Ragain's weekly veterans' healing circle helped veterans connect with each other and heal through participation in the arts; and

WHEREAS, Maj Ragain hosted open poetry readings for 30 years, helping foster a community of arts and letters that spanned the university and city of Kent; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of the Ragain Charitable Fund and Sean Ragain in providing new gifts totaling \$100,000 to benefit the Wick Poetry Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, on behalf of Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center and the current and future students and community members who will benefit from the center's programming, expresses sincere appreciation to the Ragain Charitable Fund and Sean Ragain for their generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the park outside of the Wick Poetry Center as Maj Ragain Poetry Park.

She noted that both naming actions were consistent with university naming policies and recommended for approval as a part of the consent agenda.

Next, Trustee Bobst said the committee was informed of one naming action under \$100,000 approved by President Diacon. The Republic Airways Briefing Room in the FedEx Aeronautics Academic Center recognized a \$15,000 gift from Republic Airways. The briefing room will be named for a period of 10 years.

The committee also received a fundraising and campaign update from Vice President Valoree Vargo. As of June 20, 2023, the university raised \$30.5 million surpassing its goal of \$30 million for fiscal year 2023. As of that time, giving to the Forever Brighter campaign stood at \$358.3 million, surpassing the goal of \$350 million. This attainment included \$144.5 million raised in direct support of student success. Trustee Bobst said she extended thanks to Vice President Vargo and her team for their ongoing efforts and support of our students and university. She reported that the committee also learned of the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the Kent State University Hotel and Conference Center. The hotel has played a critical role in the revitalization of downtown Kent, she said, adding that renovations to the interior of the building would soon be under way. She further noted that the committee was informed of recent and upcoming events for donors and alumni that were well attended and well received.

Trustee Bobst concluded with highlights from a legislative update by Executive Director for Government and Community Relations Nick Gattozzi. As of that time, the State of Ohio budget proposals for fiscal years 24 and 25 were in conference committee. Among issues of note to be determined were passages from Senate Bill 83, which included reducing state university trustee terms from nine to six years; proposed clinical and Medical I funding for the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine; and continuing support for the university's Columbus and Washington programs, the statewide rural university program in which Kent State participates, and the Rising Scholars Program.

With that Trustee Bobst concluded her report of the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee.

Chair Riley noted that he was unable to vote on the proposed naming of the Pepsi Leadership Center and asked that the Board of Trustees vote on that item separately. He asked for a motion to approve the naming of the Pepsi Leadership Center.

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

By general consent, the proposed naming of the Maj Ragain Poetry Park was placed on the consent agenda for approval.

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

Next, Chair Riley called on committee chair Trustee Robert Frost to provide the report of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee.

Trustee Frost reported that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met on June 22, 2023. He said that the committee meeting began with an update from Provost Melody Tankersley on the situation at the Paris American Academy, which was struck by a suspected gas explosion the prior day. She noted that the explosion destroyed the building and severely injured academy president Peter Carmen, faculty, and staff members present at that time. Thankfully, university officials in Kent were quickly able to make contact with all Kent State students who

were attending events off campus that day for Paris Fashion Week. Trustee Frost thanked her for that update and for her work confirming the safety of all Kent State students and ensuring that they had accommodations and the ability to return home and to complete their course work. He offered the Board's heartfelt prayers for the faculty member who perished in the explosion; members of the leadership, faculty and staff who were in critical condition or undergoing treatment; and to all those affected by the blast.

He then reported that the committee considered four action items presented by Provost Tankersley, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda. The academic personnel actions have already been recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, he said.

#### *ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY*

Trustees Frost presented the proposed establishment of the Center for Advanced Air Mobility within the College of Aeronautics and Engineering. The proposed center would be for research, education and collaboration between Kent State faculty, staff and students and external partners in government and industry. Advanced air mobility is the incorporation of autonomous aircraft into the national airspace with the aim to provide efficient and sustainable air transportation solutions, he noted.

#### **Resolution 2023-38**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY**

WHEREAS, the College of Aeronautics and Engineering seeks approval for the establishment of the Center for Advanced Air Mobility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed center will foster research, education and collaboration between faculty, staff and students within Kent State University and external partners in government, academia and industry to address one of the most emergent, disruptive technologies in both aeronautics and engineering: the incorporation of small, autonomous, aircraft into the national airspace and the global economy, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and clean energy; and

WHEREAS, the goal of advanced air mobility is to provide faster, more convenient and cost-effective access to cities as well as remote and under-served areas, while reducing traffic congestion, emissions and the carbon footprint of urban and aviation transportation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Center for Advanced Air Mobility will be a self-sustaining center establishing external partnerships and collaborations to enable and foster research provide avenues for workforce development in this emerging industry; contribute to establishment of policy and law nationwide; and serve as a hub for expertise, with expected outcomes of increasing and transferring knowledge of key technologies and systems; and



WHEREAS, the proposed establishment 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 formal establishment of the Center for Advanced Air Mobility within the College of Aeronautics and Engineering, effective Fall 2023.

*ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRE-LAW CENTER*

Trustee Frost then presented the establishment of the Pre-Law Center within the College of Arts and Sciences, which would facilitate pre-law advising, research, and co-curricular activities. The proposed center would provide strategic direction for several pre-law activities across the university, he said.

**Resolution 2023-39**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRE-LAW CENTER**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval for the establishment of the Pre-Law Center; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Pre-Law Center will provide an administrative structure to facilitate the various pre-law advising, research, and co-curricular activities that take place in the college and across the university; and

WHEREAS, Kent State currently provides preparatory curriculum in pre-law through a pre-law minor, and a paralegal studies major, minor, and certificate; and

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Public Health, the College of Communication and Information, and the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship all are engaged in a 3+3 agreement with law schools across Northeast Ohio, giving students the opportunity to graduate more quickly; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Pre-Law Center will provide clarity and a clear institutional purpose and strategic direction by centralizing the various existing advising, career exploration, and co-curricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment 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 establishment of the Pre-Law Center within the College of Arts and Sciences, effective Fall 2023.

*MERGING OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND THE CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION*

Next, he presented the merging of the Center for Disability Studies and the Center for Innovation and Transition and Employment to establish the Center for Disability Inclusion. The College of Education Health and Human Services proposed the merging of these centers into one interdisciplinary center that would enhance collaboration and increase extramural funding opportunities, said Trustee Frost.

**Resolution 2023-40**

**MERGING OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND THE CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION**

WHEREAS, the College of Education, Health, and Human Services seeks approval for the merging of the Center for Disability Studies and the Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment to establish a Center for Disability Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Center for Disability Inclusion will provide students, faculty, and staff with enhanced opportunities for collaboration across the university and broader community; and

WHEREAS, the center will develop value-added initiatives and the potential for additional extramural funding aimed at improving the inclusion and quality of life for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Center for Disability Inclusion will be to advance the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, increase public awareness of disabling conditions, and improve the outcomes achieved by individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, this change will build and extend the work of two longstanding and highly productive research and training centers that have successfully managed more than \$65 million in federal-, state- and foundation-funded projects since their inception; and

WHEREAS, the proposal 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 establishment of the Center for Disability Inclusion within the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, effective Fall 2023.

*ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR  
WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE*

Trustee Frost reported the recommended establishment of the Gender and Sexuality Studies major within the Bachelor of Arts Degree within the College of Arts and Sciences. The School of Multidisciplinary Social Sciences and Humanities sought to enhance the university's existing programming by growing its intellectual commitment to education and scholarship in the studies of ethnicity, cultural minorities, genders, and groups through a multidisciplinary approach.

**Resolution 2023-41**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES  
MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval of the establishment of the Gender and Sexuality Studies major within the Bachelor of Arts degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major will enhance the university's existing programming by growing the university's intellectual commitment to scholarship in the studies of ethnicity, cultural minorities, genders, and groups; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major will take a multidisciplinary and intersectional approach to examining ideas and processes that shape people's understanding about gender, sexualities and bodies throughout time; and

WHEREAS, no additional resources are needed to accommodate the proposed major as all the instruction and infrastructure already are in place; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree program has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate 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 establishment of the Gender and Sexuality Studies major within the Bachelor of Arts degree, effective Fall 2023, pending approval of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Trustee Frost stated that it was the recommendation of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee that the management decision items be placed on the consent agenda.

He then moved to present an information item, the establishment of Administrative Policy 3342-3-01-14 Regarding Accommodations for Student Religious and Spiritual Beliefs and the revision of Administrative Policy 3342-3-01-2 Regarding Class Attendance and Class Absence. These policy changes would put Kent State in compliance with the newly established House Bill 353, which required that students be reasonably accommodated in regard to academic requirements including exams and academic absences for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices.

He further shared that Senior Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate College Manfred van Dulmen and Dean of the Honors College Alison Smith provided the committee with a report on the work of the Division of Academic Affairs in re-envisioning the Kent Core. An assessment of the existing Kent Core, which is the name of the university's general education requirements for undergraduates, was underway this past year. This effort was expected to lead to the implementation of a new Kent Core during the 2024-2025 academic year, he noted.

Trustee Frost reported that Vice President for Enrollment Management Sean Broghammer had presented an update on Fall 2023 enrollment, financial-aid scholarships, and national issues. He reported a record number of first-year student applications and admits as of that time, and a year-to-date increase in graduate student registration for Fall 2023. Dr. Broghammer also noted a 31% increase in institutional aid supporting students with the greatest financial need who enroll through the university's Flashes Go Further Program, he said.

This concluded Trustee Frost's report for the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee.

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Frost and asked whether any trustee wished to remove any of the four management decision items from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing no requests, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

### **AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair Riley then called on committee chair Trustee Donald Mason to provide the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee. Trustee Mason stated that the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee met with the university's leadership team via Zoom on June 23, 2023. He first reported that Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko had opened the meeting with a summary of the agenda and welcomed Matt Garvey, the audit partner with RSM. Dr. Polatajko acknowledged that this was the fourth year that the university had worked with RSM as our independent audit firm, he said. Trustee Mason presented that Mr. Garvey reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Plan and required communications to the university and the Audit and Compliance Committee. He discussed the scope of the engagement, focus areas and county standards updates regarding GASB 96. A timetable was also presented outlining audit planning and risk assessment, interim audit work, final audit work, and reporting, stated Trustee Mason.

Trustee Mason reported that Director of Internal Audit Sarah Gampo provided the committee with a summary of the third quarter, FY23 internal audit plan as well as in-process, active, and completed activities. There were no unusual items to report, he noted.

Ms. Gampo also presented the proposed internal audit plan for Fiscal Year 2024. Details included FY24 audits continuing from FY23, consulting and advisory projects as well as the continuous auditing and follow-up on open audit recommendations. She said that the audit plans were developed using a risk-based approach and would be adjusted accordingly throughout the year, Trustee Mason further shared.

Finally, the committee also adjourned into executive session to discuss a consulting and advisory matter.

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

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Mason for his report. He then acknowledged that Trustee Mason was doing double duty by also providing the report of the Finance and Administration Committee. Trustee Mason remarked that it was hard to cover the turf of such a fine man as former committee chair and trustee emeritus Stephen Perry.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Mason reported that the Finance and Administration Committee met electronically on June 21, 2023, and in person earlier that morning to discuss proposed action items for the Board's consideration. The group recommended 14 management decisions for approval as part of the Board's consent agenda, he said.

#### *EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2024*

Trustee Mason began by presenting the proposed expenditure authorization for Fiscal Year 2024, explaining that the State of Ohio biannual budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 was still in conference committee as of June 28. Passage of this resolution would enable the university to conduct business at the expenditure level approved by the Board for FY23. A final budget would be developed and submitted for the Board's approval at its September 20, 2023, meeting, he noted.

### **Resolution 2023-42**

#### **EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2024**

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

WHEREAS, Sub. House Bill 33 (the Budget Bill) and the Ohio Senate's draft budget language now under consideration include a variety of budget considerations including tuition caps, state share of instruction, and the Ohio College Opportunity Grant; and

WHEREAS, state appropriation, tuition and fees, 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 of Ohio budget will not be concluded in time to permit Board of Trustees' action on a final Kent State University budgetary plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year at the Board's June 28 meeting; 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 2024 University Budget as further information becomes available; and

WHEREAS, as Kent State University must proceed with its operation into fiscal year 2024, which begins July 1, 2023, 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, 2023, at the funding level established by the Board for fiscal year 2023 and expenditure authorization of total funds applied equal to \$661,325,892; 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.

*APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR MEDICAL BENEFIT  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS*

Trustee Mason next presented the request for approval of the selection of Medical Mutual of Ohio to provide medical benefit administrative services for university employees and dependents. Based on a competitive process, the firm was judged to provide the best overall value, he said.

## **Resolution 2023-43**

### **APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR MEDICAL BENEFIT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS**

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 desires to provide group medical benefit administrative services for its employees and their eligible dependents effective January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal for these services issued by the Kent State University procurement department, Medical Mutual of Ohio provided the proposal with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these services is a five-year initial term of \$1,237,000 for 2024, and annual one-year fixed-cost renewals projected to increase by up to 2% for the calendar years 2025 through 2028; and

WHEREAS, the university will undertake a separate competitive process to secure stop-loss insurance for its self-insured healthcare plan in order to ensure the best pricing possible in an uncertain and highly volatile insurance coverage market, the results of which will be brought to the Board for approval at its December 2023 meeting; 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 Medical Mutual of Ohio for the provision of medical benefit administrative services for university employees and their eligible dependents for three years plus a university option to renew up to two additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

### ***APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR MICROSOFT 365 SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT***

Trustee Mason presented the request for approval of the Microsoft Software Agreement and related services. Kent State University uses Microsoft 365 to support critical university operations such as email, calendaring, and virtual meetings. Through a formal bidding process, SHI was identified as the single contractor of choice through the current Inter-University Council of Ohio contract, he said. The requested three-year agreement would cost \$2.94 million and be funded by the Division of Information Technology.

## **Resolution 2023-44**

### **APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR MICROSOFT 365 SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT**

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 software solutions and support to provide enterprise-grade productivity software applications that enable collaboration (e.g., mail, calendar, virtual meetings) and additional enterprise-level operational solutions including enterprise security and monitoring, business applications, cloud-based services, and data analytics and insights to support critical university operations; and

WHEREAS, these software solutions have been made available through formal procurement and negotiation of the Inter-University Council of Ohio and its members for the Microsoft 365 solutions and licensing available through SHI; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for this service over a three-year term is approximately \$2.94 million to be funded by the Division of Information Technology; 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 SHI for the provision of licensing for Microsoft 365 enterprise-grade productivity, collaboration, security and data tools for three years in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

### ***APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT RUNWAY REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT***

Trustee Mason presented the request for approval of the Kent State University Airport runway rehabilitation and reconstruction project. The runway pavement must be rehabilitated to meet FAA design and safety standards, he said, with some areas requiring complete reconstruction. The project will utilize \$4.6 million in FAA and State of Ohio ODOT grants and up to \$578,147 in local improvement funds. Construction was slated to begin in August to minimize impact on the Aeronautics Flight program, he noted.



### **Resolution 2023-45**

#### **APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AIRPORT RUNWAY REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Kent State University proposes to address necessary rehabilitation and reconstruction on the 1/19 runway at the Kent State University Airport in Stow; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rehabilitation and reconstruction will meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design and engineering standards; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is projected not to exceed \$5.2 million; and

WHEREAS, the FAA and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) committed to date \$4,621,853 in design and construction grants; and

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted up to \$578,147 in local funds; 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 this project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

#### ***APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF UNIVERSITY TRAINING FLEET AIRCRAFT***

Next, Trustee Mason recommended approval of the purchase of university training fleet aircraft. As enrollment in the College of Aeronautics and Engineering flight programs continues to grow, maintaining a state-of-art fleet of training aircraft is a strategic priority, he said. The proposed purchase of six new aircraft over the next three years will replace six older aircraft nearing the end of their useful life. The cost of the six aircraft under the Textron Aviation Inc., agreement is not to exceed \$3.5 million, he reported.

### **Resolution 2023-46**

#### **APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF UNIVERSITY TRAINING FLEET AIRCRAFT**

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 is requesting approval to purchase six new aircraft in order to maintain the current training fleet; and

WHEREAS, the university has the ability to purchase aircraft at a discount from Textron Aviation Inc. through December 31, 2025, under an existing acquisition agreement; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the purchase of six aircraft over three fiscal years is estimated not to exceed \$3.5 million; and

WHEREAS, the aircraft are expected to be manufactured and delivered two years after the order is placed; and

WHEREAS, a competitive process will be completed to secure capital lease financing prior to delivery of the aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the lease will be funded by the sale of older aircraft and the revenue received by the College of Aeronautics and Engineering through course fees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the purchase of six aircraft under the acquisition agreement with Textron Aviation, Inc. prior to December 31, 2025, at a cost not to exceed \$3.5 million in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

*AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE KENT CAMPUS SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT*

He then presented proposed amendments to the approval of the Kent Campus Solar Array Project, which included expansion of the project site and technical details. The proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage system conservatively will save an average of \$480,000 annually and approximately \$14.4 million over the 30-year term of the agreement, he said.

**Resolution 2023-47**

**AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE KENT CAMPUS  
SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Kent State University Board of Trustees approved Resolution 2021-17 authorizing the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into any and all agreements with American Electric Power Onsite Partners, LLC, necessary for the design, construction, and operation of a 6 Megawatt Solar PV with 3 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04, and 3342-7.1; and

WHEREAS, upon commencing final project design and site preparation, significant issues due to supply chain delays, historically high construction

inflation, and excessive wetlands on the project site made the delivery of the PPA as originally proposed unfeasible; and

WHEREAS, based upon results of final project pricing, availability of materials, awarding of Federal Investment Tax Credits, and expansion of the site to include an additional parcel, design, construction, and operation of a 5 Megawatt Solar PV with 1.5 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System PPA is feasible and economically advantageous; and

WHEREAS, under the new project scope a 30-year PPA is proposed to apply to all electricity produced by the system at an established cost of \$0.115 per kWh and to all electric storage capacity of the battery systems; and

WHEREAS, overall system savings and revenue are projected to save an average of \$480,000 annually and approximately \$14.4 million over the duration of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the developer will be responsible for all costs of installation and maintenance for the solar PV and battery storage assets for the duration of the PPA; and

WHEREAS, the design and implementation 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 enter into any and all agreements with American Electric Power Onsite Partners, LLC, necessary for the design, construction, and operation of an amended approximately 5 Megawatt Solar PV with an approximate 1.5 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System PPA in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04, and 3342-7.1.

*APPROVAL OF MCGILVERY HALL RENOVATIONS FOR PEACE AND  
CONFLICT STUDIES*

Next, Trustee Mason presented a request for approval of McGilvery Hall renovations for the School of Peace and Conflict Studies. The \$1.6-million project included renovation and modernization of the existing suite containing faculty offices and private meeting spaces, integration of enhanced technology, and additional space for mediation services, he said.

**Resolution 2023-48**

**APPROVAL OF MCGILVREY HALL RENOVATIONS FOR  
PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES**

WHEREAS, Kent State University proposes to renovate the existing McGilvrey Hall School of Peace and Conflict Studies administrative suite to provide advising offices, faculty offices, student lounge space, and school leadership spaces focusing on mediation; and

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted \$1.6 million in local funding for the construction of the proposed space; 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 once all funding is secured.

*APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TRUMBULL LIBRARY  
THEATRE ROOF REPLACEMENT, PHASE I*

Trustee Mason presented the request for approval of the Kent State University at Trumbull Library Theatre Roof Replacement, Phase I. The building's roof was out of warranty and required repair. Phase I at a planned cost of \$975,000, began last year and the scope was widened after wind damage from a severe thunderstorm in March 2023. The project cost will be funded by \$500,000 in state capital appropriations and \$775,000 in local improvement funds.

**Resolution 2023-49**

**APPROVAL OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT TRUMBULL  
LIBRARY THEATRE ROOF REPLACEMENT, PHASE I**

WHEREAS, the Kent State University at Trumbull campus proposes to address a necessary roof replacement; and

WHEREAS, extreme storm events caused considerable damage requiring the expansion of the originally planned Phase I scope area; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is budgeted at \$1.275 million, with \$500,000 coming from state capital appropriations and \$775,000 in local university funds; 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 this project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

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

He reported that the committee also requested approval for Phase III of HVAC upgrades to the Founders Hall at Kent State University at Tuscarawas. The scope of work included replacement of HVAC units and laboratory fume hoods in the Science and Technology building. Construction would be funded by \$500,000 in state capital allocation and \$500,000 in local funds, Trustee Mason stated.

**Resolution 2023-50**

**APPROVAL OF FOUNDERS HALL HVAC UPGRADES,  
PHASE III, 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, a strategic systems replacement plan was developed to ensure reliability of indoor environmental conditions and realized energy efficiency, with the project phased for implementation and funding; and

WHEREAS, With the completion of Phase II in 2022, Phase III will continue the improvements based on a prioritized list of critical equipment while maximizing energy reductions; and

WHEREAS, this proposed project will replace the laboratory fume hood controls in the Science and Technology Building that have failed and require modernization; and

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

WHEREAS, the university has budgeted \$1,000,000 for Phase III with funds coming from two sources – \$500,000 from local Tuscarawas campus funds and \$500,000 from state capital appropriations; now, therefore,

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.

*APPROVAL OF TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD RATES UNDER THE  
TUITION GUARANTEE MODEL, EFFECTIVE FALL 2023*

Trustee Mason then presented the approval of tuition, room and board rates under the Tuition Guarantee Model, effective Fall 2023. These rates were for the Fall 2023 incoming student cohort only and would be frozen for four years. He stated that the Board was asked to authorize the establishment of rates as soon as the final State budget was adopted.

**Resolution 2023-51**

**APPROVAL OF TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD RATES  
UNDER THE TUITION GUARANTEE MODEL,  
EFFECTIVE FALL 2023**

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, increasing operating costs and reinvestment in facilities necessitate fee adjustments to preserve and improve residence hall and meal plan offerings; and

WHEREAS, all tuition, fee and rate increases must be permissible within statutory limits established by the Ohio General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio operating budget for FY 2024 has not yet been finalized by the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Governor Mike DeWine; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees authorizes the establishment of rates under the Tuition Guarantee Model for the cohort entering Fall 2023, as permissible for the 2023-2024 year at the conclusion of the current State of Ohio budget deliberations.

*APPROVAL OF TUITION AND FEES NOT UNDER THE TUITION  
GUARANTEE, EFFECTIVE FALL 2023*

Trustee Mason next presented the request for approval of tuition rates not under the Tuition Guarantee Model, effective Fall 2023. He said that tuition would be frozen for continuing in-state undergraduates. Additionally, a 4% increase was recommended in graduate tuition and non-resident surcharges to preserve academic and research quality and student services.

**Resolution 2023-52**

**APPROVAL OF TUITION AND FEES NOT UNDER THE TUITION  
GUARANTEE, EFFECTIVE FALL 2023**

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

WHEREAS, no change (0% increase) is recommended in undergraduate in-state tuition rates for continuing students not included in the Tuition Guarantee Model, consistent with expected provisions in the final State of Ohio FY 2024 operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio budget annually allows flexibility in graduate tuition and out-of-state surcharges; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed in a number of areas to preserve academic program quality and services to students as well as to provide additional resources for student financial aid; and

WHEREAS, to meet these needs, changes to graduate tuition and surcharge rates for out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students have been proposed and reviewed by executive officers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached schedule of tuition and fees to be effective with the Fall 2023 semester (unless otherwise noted) and as authorized in the final FY 2024 State of Ohio operating budget.

*APPROVAL OF SPECIAL PROGRAM, COURSE, AND OTHER FEES,  
EFFECTIVE FALL 2023*

He further reported the request for approval of special course and program fees, effective Fall 2023 unless otherwise noted. A detailed rationale for each fee change was included in the Board materials. Each year the Office of the Provost in partnership with the Finance and Administration team, thoroughly reviews all fee proposals submitted by the colleges to make sure they are justified, he noted.

**Resolution 2023-53**

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL PROGRAM, COURSE, AND OTHER FEES,  
EFFECTIVE FALL 2023**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is responsible for approving fees for instruction and other education services and also is authorized to establish special purpose fees and charges for services and benefits provided to students; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed in a number of areas to preserve academic program quality and services to students and to fund unique costs associated with certain courses, services and academic programs; and

WHEREAS, proposed changes to program, course and miscellaneous fees have been reviewed extensively by university staff including executive officers for compliance with statutory requirements and to ensure that all are in the appropriate amounts and are necessary to protect program quality; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached schedule of fees to be effective with the Fall 2023 semester, unless otherwise noted, subject to required approvals from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

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

Trustee Mason presented the request for approval of special surcharge rates for non-Ohio residents. He reported 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 had five such waivers approved for FY22 and 23, which need to be renewed for the new biennium.



**Resolution 2023-54**

**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 instructional and general fees as well as out-of-state surcharge rates are allowable if approved by the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and

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

WHEREAS, an 80% waiver of the out-of-state surcharge rate currently applies for students attending regional campuses from specific counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the university currently applies a reduced special fee of \$10 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents enrolled in fully online programs; and

WHEREAS, a special reduced fee of \$10 per credit hour for non-Ohio residents currently enrolled in the English as a Second Language program is applied; and

WHEREAS, the university currently applies 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 obtained their undergraduate degree from an institution of higher education in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the university currently applies a waiver of the out-of-state surcharge, not to exceed 97.5%, for students in a dual enrollment program with PUCPR and now wish to expand this waiver to additional students attending Kent State University as part of a specific preferred partner program; and

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

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

Trustee Mason stated that as chair of the Investment Committee, he shared the May 31, 2023, committee report. In addition, the committee reviewed informational items routinely provided the Board.

This concluded Trustee Mason's report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Mason for his report and all the hard work by the members of the committee given the number of action items considered.

Chair Riley then asked that the resolution Approval of Vendor Selection for Microsoft 365 Software Solutions be removed as he was unable to vote on that matter.

**ACTION: Trustee Mason moved, seconded by Trustee Womer Benjamin, that the motion be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed, with Trustee Riley abstaining.**

Chair Riley asked if any trustee wished to remove any other items from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, the remaining recommendations were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Riley moved to new business and called on President Diacon to present a resolution regarding the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tenure Track Bargaining Unit of the American Association of University Professors Kent State Chapter.

### ***APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AND TENURE-TRACK BARGAINING UNIT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, KENT STATE CHAPTER***

President Diacon read the resolution and provided comments. He first thanked Professor of Philosophy and AAUP-KSU Tenure Track Unit President Deborah Smith, who was in attendance. He asked Dr. Smith to rise and be recognized for her great work in getting the university to this agreement. He commented that the work she and her colleagues had done during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the early phases, made Kent State better and he again thanked faculty members for their multi-faceted contributions to the university.

He next acknowledged the presence of Faculty Senate Chair Tracy Laux noting that in addition to having a wonderful amount of experience teaching our students in mathematics classes, he has a great sense of humor and is really dedicated to Kent State. President Diacon also thanked Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Kevin West who was mightily involved in these negotiations.

**Resolution 2023-55**

**APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AND TENURE-TRACK  
BARGAINING UNIT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, KENT STATE CHAPTER**

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Kent State University and Tenure-Track Bargaining Unit of the American Association of University Professors, Kent State Chapter, has a current term of August 19, 2019, through August 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to specific modified provisions to the Collective Bargaining Agreement regarding compensation and included these in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to be effective through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the AAUP membership has approved the proposed MOU, which now is recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, hereby approves the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, dated June 28, 2023.

The resolution was added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley then announced that there were two items of new business.

*ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT*

He first presented a resolution for the annual election of the President, effective July 1, 2023. He noted that while there is a multi-year employment agreement with President Diacon, the university's Constitution requires the Board to take this action annually.

**Resolution 2023-56**

**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 fifth annual term, effective July 1, 2023.

Chair Riley asked whether any trustee wished to remove this item from the consent agenda for consideration. Hearing no objections, the resolution was added to the consent agenda by general consent.

He then said that he spoke for all trustees in thanking President Diacon for his hard work and for the positive results achieved by the university.

Chair Riley next presented the final item of new business, the election of the 2023-2024 Officers of the Board. He called on Trustee Frost to present the proposed slate. Trustee Frost said the Nominating and Governance Committee recommended the following slate of Board officers for 2023-2024: Shawn Riley, Chair; Ann Womer Benjamin, Vice Chair; and Donald Mason, Board Secretary. This concluded Trustee Frost's report of the Nominating and Governance committee.

Chair Riley stated that since this was a committee report, approval of the 2023-2024 Board Officers was recommended for addition to the consent agenda. Hearing no objections, the election of officers as recommended by the Nominating and Governance Committee was added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes of the June 28, 2023, Board business meeting; the proposed academic and non-academic personnel actions; recommendations from the standing committees; approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tenure Track Bargaining Unit of the American Association of University Professors, Kent State Chapter; the annual election of the President; and the election of the 2023-2024 Board officers.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riley announced that the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at the Kent campus. He encouraged all present to move to the construction site next door for the traditional "topping-out" ceremony for Crawford Hall.

On motion duly noted, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.