

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
December 7, 2022  
Kent Student Center, Room 306**

**Board Members Present**

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

**KSU President's Cabinet Present**

Todd Diacon, President  
Sean Broghammer  
Doug Delahanty  
Nick Gattozzi  
Amoaba Gooden  
Lamar Hylton  
Mark Polatajko  
John Rathje  
Randale Richmond  
Charlene Reed  
Valoree Vargo  
Willis Walker  
Stephen Ward

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Trustee Stephen Perry 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**

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)]; (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 to meet in audit conference with representatives of the university's external auditors as permitted by Ohio law.

Trustee Kilbride moved, seconded by Trustee Bobst, that the Board retire into Executive Session. Trustee Perry took a roll call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:35 a.m. The session concluded at 10:00 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

By approval of a motion duly made and seconded, the Board returned to public session for the Committee of the Whole session at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Riley asked President Todd Diacon to begin the Committee of the Whole session, which was dedicated to the topic of “Pivoting for Success: A Transformational Journey at Kent State University.” President Diacon said he and his co-presenter, Perkins & Will Senior Project Architect Jill Vowels, had delivered an extended version of this talk at a recent conference of the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) in Chicago. They described how Kent State applied the principles of resilience to achieve its goal of constructing a state-of-art home for the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship. The presentation was followed by a robust Q&A period with trustees.

The Committee of the Whole session concluded at 11:20 a.m., and the Board of Trustees convened the business meeting at 11:21 a.m.

## **BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Riley acknowledged three special guests present that day: President Janet Gilbreth and Chief of Staff Cameron Kwiatkowski of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG); and Chair Pete Holway of the Kent State University Foundation Board of Directors.

He asked the USG leaders to share a few words on behalf of the organization. USG President Gilbreth thanked the Board for the opportunity to join the meeting. Student leaders have watched these meetings virtually, but it was exciting to be in the room, she said. She then provided updates on USG priorities and activities including the development and release of a DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) strategic plan for Undergraduate Student Government. The strategic plan holds all members accountable and requires training and outreach to other students on campus. The USG membership was proud of the work, she said, adding that it upholds the values of USG at Kent State. Chief of Staff Kwiatkowski shared the organization’s plans to conduct another advocacy trip to the Ohio Statehouse before the end of the academic year. Earlier in 2022, several USG members went to Columbus to advocate against proposed House Bill 616. Students met with various legislators, were acknowledged in the Senate chambers, and toured the Statehouse, she said.

Chair Riley thanked them for their leadership of the student body and for attending the Board meeting that day.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Riley presented the first order of business, the approval of the agenda. He asked if any of the trustees had additions or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Riley asked whether trustees had additions or corrections to the minutes of the Board's September 21, 2022, business meeting. Hearing none, approval of the minutes was added to the consent agenda. (Upon conclusion of the committee reports prior to the approval of the consent agenda, Chair Riley noted that the minutes of the Board's special meeting of October 24, 2022, were also found under Tab 1. Upon his recommendation, the minutes of the special meeting of October 24, 2022, were placed upon the consent agenda by general consent.)

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Riley began his report by thanking President Diacon, the faculty, staff, and students as they were wrapping up another successful and productive semester at Kent State University. He noted that immediately prior to the business meeting, the Board heard a report from President Diacon and Perkins & Will Senior Project Architect Jill Vowels. They spoke on the topic of pivoting for success at Kent State University, which was adapted from a presentation they delivered at a recent conference of college and university planners. They reminded all present at the Board meeting and at the national meeting in Chicago of how a university like Kent State can apply principles of resilience to achieve its bold goals – in this case, building a visionary new home for the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Chair Riley said. President Diacon did a great job of reminding all of the very long and winding road Kent State traveled to achieve this goal. He stated it is a credit to the Board as well as the administration and the entire university community that Kent State is being recognized as a national example for other higher education institutions.

Chair Riley congratulated the 2,571 students who were graduating Saturday, December 17, 2022, during Fall Commencement exercises. He stated that while the trustees celebrate all graduates and families upon reaching this milestone, he congratulated Trustee Perry and his family who will be cheering on their grandson, Donny Swain, who will receive his Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Chair Riley then called on President Diacon to present his report. President Diacon said his remarks were inspired by a recent conversation with Trustee Barry Fetterman. Trustee Fetterman expressed appreciation for the president's transparency in discussing challenges such as demographic trends and funding, but also expressed interest in hearing more about the many great things happening at the institution. With that in mind, President Diacon shared a series of successes in the last six months as a reminder of the great work occurring at Kent State University.

The national non-partisan organization, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, named Kent State as one of 394 ALL IN Most Engaged Campuses for college student voting, said President Diacon. He thanked the USG leaders for their activities including hosting four voter registration

events in the fall and Senior Vice President Lamar Hylton and the Student Affairs team for publicizing these efforts literally from the day freshmen moved into the residence halls.

In fall 2022 the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General released a report on workforce mental health opportunities, challenges, and best practices, highlighting Kent State was one of four exemplars in mental health support for employees. The report cited Kent State's commitment to employee wellbeing and noted the institution's successes in serving employees through comprehensive mental health and wellness initiatives and in minimizing the stigma of accessing mental health support services. Other employers highlighted included The Gap, Inc. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He congratulated Dr. Hylton and his team for their leadership.

President Diacon then announced that Ohio Magazine recently named Kent as one of the state's best hometowns for 2022. He congratulated Mayor Jerry Fiala, City Manager Dave Ruller, and their teams and Kent State Associate Vice President of University Engagement and Outreach Dana Lawless Andric for their leadership. This recognition reflects our shared, strong commitment to the town-gown relationship, he said.

Kent State received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the 10th year in a row, being the only public university in Northern Ohio to receive this honor, said President Diacon. Supporting students of all backgrounds in completing their degrees is imperative, he observed, congratulating Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Amoaba Gooden and her team for their award-winning leadership.

For the 11<sup>th</sup> time Kent State was named a Great College to Work For by the Chronicle of Higher Education. Kent State was the only Ohio public university and one of only 68 schools nationwide to achieve this designation for 2022. Kent State was honored in five categories of excellence: Compensation and Benefits, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Shared Governance, Faculty Experience, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He thanked all members of the President's Cabinet, deans, department chairs and school directors, faculty, and staff for making this happen as the designation is based on results of employee surveys. He expressed special kudos to the Faculty Senate leadership, faculty union leadership, and to the AFSCME leaders and members, because it is together that we create the conditions that lead to this kind of honor, he said.

As part of Intel Corporation's massive expansion into Ohio, the company launched a competition for \$5 million in grant funding to be distributed to institutions of higher education. Intel made five awards including one to Kent State as the principal investigator for a three-year, \$1.1-million grant to improve the alignment of associate degree programs to meet major workforce needs. He thanked Vice President for Regional Campuses and Dean of the College of Applied and Technical Studies Peggy Shadduck and Interim Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Doug Delahanty for their leadership on this initiative.

President Diacon reported that Kent State University was halfway into a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, marking the birth of modern collegiate women's sports. More than 30 women student-athlete alumni and legendary KSU field hockey coach and athletics administrator Judy Devine served as grand marshals for the university's 2022 Homecoming Parade. He said it was a joy to hear their stories of breaking barriers and to know that their participation not only changed their lives but also set the foundation for Kent State to become one of the best women's athletics programs in the Mid-American Conference (MAC). He

explained the conference annually bestows its Jacoby Trophy to the MAC's best overall women's athletics program. Kent State has won this award 11 times and finished in second place nine times. This means that Kent State has finished in first place or runner up in 20 of the 39 years the award has been in existence. He commended Coach Devine for her legacy of excellence and equity and thanked Director of Athletics Randale Richmond for his commitment to women's athletics excellence.

President Diacon closed with a photograph from an American Academy Commencement ceremony at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR) in Curitiba, Brazil. The American Academy is a Kent State-operated program in which students take courses from Kent State faculty and earn a Kent State associate degree upon completion of their program of study. Graduates then can complete their bachelor's degree at the Kent campus or at PUCPR. The first graduate to earn his bachelor's degree in Kent finished the two-year program in just one year and now is pursuing a Ph.D. with full funding at a university in Spain, he noted. Four more students would earn their bachelor's degrees at the 2022 Fall Commencement. Provost Tankersley was leaving immediately after the Board's business meeting to preside at Commencement for another 55 American Academy students who were receiving their associate degrees, he said. Trustees would have the opportunity to meet a dozen Brazilian students now studying in Kent and faculty serving the program at lunch following the Board meeting. He congratulated Provost Tankersley and Vice President for Global Education Marcello Fantoni and his team for their leadership. He added that the path-breaking KSU-PUCPR partnership was cited in Kent State's selection for the prestigious 2022 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization.

Chair Riley thanked President Diacon for his report.

### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Chair Riley then asked President Diacon to present the personnel actions. President Diacon called on Provost Tankersley to present the academic personnel actions. She stated that they were routine in nature and drew attention to the emeritus status for three faculty members who had served the university well during their tenures.

President Diacon next called on Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Polatajko to report the non-academic personnel actions. Dr. Polatajko stated that the report stood as written with all matters being routine and customary in nature.

The personnel actions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Riley proceeded with reports and recommendations by the standing committees. He stated that unless there were objections, the recommendations from the committees would be added to the consent agenda and the Board would vote with one motion on all items. At the end of each report, he would ask if any trustees had any objections or wanted to remove any item from the consent agenda for further discussion, he said.

Chair Riley first called on Committee Chair Trustee Pamela Bobst to present the report of the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee.

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

Trustee Bobst thanked her fellow Board members and President Diacon and reported that the External Relations and Philanthropy Committee met electronically on December 2, 2022. She praised Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement Valoree Vargo and her team for their excellent work that resulted in several naming actions recommended for Board approval. She noted that the committee was joined by several donors who were honored through naming actions.

#### ***NAMING OF THE LAWRENCE R. AND SANDRA C. ARMSTRONG ARCHITECTURE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM***

First, Trustee Bobst presented the proposed naming of the Lawrence R. and Sandra C. Armstrong Architecture Study Abroad Program, which recognizes the couple for their \$1-million lead gift in support of the Global Education Endowment. With this action, the architecture program at the Florence Center will be named in their honor. Larry Armstrong received a Bachelor of Science with a major in Architecture from Kent State University in 1979 and a Bachelor of Architecture in 1980. He joined the Kent State University Foundation Board of Directors in 2007, served a term as Chair of the Board, and he and Sandra presently serve as the co-chairs of the Forever Brighter Campaign Executive Committee. Sandra Armstrong attended Kent State University and studied theater and dance.

#### **Resolution 2022-82**

#### **NAMING OF THE LAWRENCE R. AND SANDRA C. ARMSTRONG ARCHITECTURE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Lawrence R. and Sandra C. Armstrong recognize Kent State University as a leader in higher education and excellence in Northeast Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Armstrong graduated from Kent State University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and received a Bachelor of Architecture in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Armstrong attended Kent State and studied theater and dance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have given generously to Kent State University, supporting areas across the university with a particular focus on Architecture and Environmental Design and Theatre and Dance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong serve as Co-Chairs of the Campaign Executive Committee of Forever Brighter campaign, the university's largest-ever comprehensive campaign rapidly approaching its \$350-million goal; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has launched an initiative to raise \$20 million for the Global Education Endowment, which will provide study-abroad scholarships to hundreds of students with demonstrated financial need; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence and Sandra Armstrong are among the earliest principal donors to the Global Education Endowment; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of Lawrence and Sandra Armstrong in providing gifts totaling \$1,000,000 to provide study abroad support through the Global Education Endowment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Office of Global Education and current and future students who will benefit from the program, expresses deep appreciation to Lawrence and Sandra Armstrong for their generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the Architecture Program in Florence the Lawrence R. and Sandra C. Armstrong Architecture Study Abroad Program.

#### *NAMING OF THE PHARES PROGRAM IN GLOBAL ISSUES*

Trustee Bobst next presented the proposed naming of the Phares Program in Global Issues, recognizing donors Judith and Thomas Phares for their lead gift of \$1.25 million in support of the Global Education Endowment. This action will name the Global Issues Program at the Florence Center in their honor, she noted. Judith Phares earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Kent State in 1966 and Thomas is an alumnus of the University of Akron. They have created a scholarship to support students studying abroad as they both believe in the benefits of an international education. With their additional gift to the Global Education Endowment, they will help ensure that even more Kent State students have opportunities to study abroad, Trustee Bobst stated.

#### **Resolution 2022-83**

#### **NAMING OF THE PHARES PROGRAM IN GLOBAL ISSUES**

WHEREAS, Judith M. and Thomas B. Phares recognize Kent State University as a leader in higher education and excellence in Northeast Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Phares recognize that study abroad opportunities provide substantial benefits in students' educational and life-skills development; and

WHEREAS, Judith Phares graduated from Kent State University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Phares have given generously to Kent State University, so that students who otherwise could not afford the costs of studying abroad will be able to experience such opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has launched an initiative to raise \$20 million for the Global Education Endowment, which will provide study-abroad scholarships to hundreds of students with demonstrated financial need; and

WHEREAS, Judith and Thomas Phares are among the earliest principal donors to the Global Education Endowment; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of Judith and Thomas Phares in providing gifts totaling \$1,250,000 to support study abroad through the Global Education Endowment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Office of Global Education and current and future students who will benefit from its academic programs, expresses deep appreciation to Judith and Thomas Phares for their generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the Global Issues Program in Florence the Phares Program in Global Issues.

*NAMING OF THE DONALD S. AND JOHNNA F. GRANT ATRIUM*

Trustee Bobst recommended the naming of the Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant Atrium in Crawford Hall. This action recognizes donors Donald and Johnna Grant for their \$1-million gift to support the construction of Crawford Hall. Donald Grant earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Economics from Kent State in 1970 and has led a successful career in finance and wealth management. Upon completion, the atrium will provide a wonderful gathering and event space for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, she noted.



## **Resolution 2022-84**

### **NAMING OF THE DONALD S. AND JOHNNA F. GRANT ATRIUM**

WHEREAS, Donald S. Grant recognizes Kent State University's Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship as a leader in higher education and excellence in Northeast Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Crawford Hall, the new home of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship, will be constructed as a cornerstone of the university's Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State facilities master plan to transform the Kent Campus and improve facilities over 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Donald S. Grant graduated from Kent State University in 1970 with a BBA in Economics; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grant was an early and generous supporter of the Crawford Hall building project for which the Kent State University Board of Trustees previously named the Donor Recognition Lounge in his honor; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of Donald Grant in providing an additional gift totaling \$1,000,000 to benefit the students, faculty, and staff of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship and the current and future students who will benefit from its new facility, expresses sincere appreciation to Donald S. Grant for his generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the atrium in the future Crawford Hall the Donald S. and Johnna F. Grant Atrium.

### ***NAMING OF THE DIXIE LEE DAVIS MUSEUM STORE***

Trustee Bobst presented the proposed naming of the Dixie Lee Davis Museum Store in Rockwell Hall. She reported that the action honors donor Dixie Lee Davis for her \$100,000 gift in support of the Kent State University Museum. Dixie Lee Davis has had a career spanning almost 70 years in the fashion industry and currently serves as a consultant-on-call for Saks Fifth Avenue. Her gift will help improve and maintain the visitor experience at the museum, which serves as a resource in advancing the understanding of world cultures through the collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting of fashion, textiles, and related arts. The museum also promotes Kent State students and faculty work in its exhibitions and in the museum store merchandise.

## **Resolution 2022-85**

### **NAMING OF THE DIXIE LEE DAVIS MUSEUM STORE**

WHEREAS, Dixie Lee Davis recognizes Kent State University as a leader in higher education and excellence in Northeast Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University's School of Fashion is recognized worldwide as one of the top fashion design and merchandising programs; and

WHEREAS, the Kent State University Museum provides opportunities for visitors to experience historical fashion exhibits and view contemporary works by Kent State faculty and students; and

WHEREAS, Dixie Lee Davis has worked in the fashion industry for almost 70 years and has been recognized as an authority on women's fashion trends, a subject on which she continues to advise the luxury department store Saks Fifth Avenue; and

WHEREAS, through this proposed naming action, the university wishes to recognize the generosity of Dixie Lee Davis in providing gifts totaling \$100,000 to enhance the visitor experience at the museum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Kent State University Museum and the current and future students, faculty, staff, and visitors who will benefit from the museum's collection and exhibitions, expresses sincere appreciation to Dixie Lee Davis for her generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, in accordance with university policy, hereby names the store in the Kent State University Museum the Dixie Lee Davis Museum Store.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Bobst expressed gratitude to these transformational donors who had done so much to support students and the university. The actions were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, she said.

Trustee Bobst said the committee received several informational reports. The first was a naming action under \$100,000 approved by President Diacon – the Cheryl Swinehart Dariushnia Laboratory. This facility was named in honor of a gift made in her memory by her son, Ali Dariushnia. Next, she thanked Foundation Board Chair Holway for all of his good work and that of the board reflected in the fundraising and campaign update by Vice President Vargo. As of December 2, 2022, the university raised \$15.7 million toward its goal of \$30 million for fiscal year 2023. With campaign giving of \$346.6 million to date, the Forever Brighter campaign goal will be met this fiscal year, she said. Additional highlights included the 2022 Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised \$3.6 million in new gifts and commitments; and the Renaissance Scholars Society, which received \$3.1 million in commitments for the new Global Education

Endowment. Trustee Bobst thanked her fellow Board members who contributed to Giving Tuesday matching funds.

Trustee Bobst then reported three additional updates provided to the committee: a listing of the university's federal and state legislative delegations following the November 2022 election; a sneak preview of findings from Kent State's new economic impact study that will be released in the spring; and early results from the university's brand health study that included a survey of 2,000 participants and revealed key opportunities for Kent State to improve its positioning with prospective students and families.

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

Hearing no objections or requests, the naming resolutions were added to the consent agenda.

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

#### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Frost stated that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met electronically on November 29, 2022. The committee reviewed the academic personnel actions and six management decision items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

#### ***CONFERRAL OF DEGREES SUMMER 2022***

The committee recommended the conferring of 1,163 degrees in Summer 2022 for approval by the Board, Trustee Frost reported.

#### **Resolution 2022-86**

#### **CONFERRAL OF DEGREES SUMMER 2022**

WHEREAS, Section 3341.05 of The Revised Code of Ohio provides that "...On the recommendation of the (KSU) faculty, the (KSU) Board of Trustees may confer such honorary and academic degrees as are customarily conferred by colleges and universities in the United States..."; and

WHEREAS, the faculties, deans and directors of Kent State University's colleges and schools recommend that appropriate degrees be conferred on those Kent State students who completed – during the period of May 15, 2022 to August 20, 2022, – the various requirements of the respective programs of study they pursued; and

WHEREAS, the university has recognized completion of said programs of study by awarding diplomas as appropriate at a suitable time, during the period cited, upon such persons listed in the accompanying Summary of Candidates for Degrees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby confirms the conferral of their respective degrees upon those persons who have been officially recorded by the Kent State University Registrar as having completed the requirements during said period May 15, 2022 to August 20, 2022.

*ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES MAJOR  
WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE*

Trustee Frost then presented the proposed establishment of the Peace and Conflict Studies major within the Master of Arts degree. The proposed major would prepare students for careers as practitioners for doctorate study and aims to meet the growing needs of the field of conflict management.

**Resolution 2022-87**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES MAJOR  
WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval of the establishment of the Peace and Conflict Studies major within the Master of Arts degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Peace and Conflict Studies major within the Master of Arts degree will be offered in person on the Kent campus; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major will prepare students for careers as practitioners in the fields of peace and conflict management and for doctorate study; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major aims to meet sustained growth the broad field of conflict studies has undergone over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major 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 Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Peace and Conflict Studies major within the Master of Arts degree, effective Fall 2023, pending approval of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

***REVISION IN DEGREE DESIGNATION OF THE ART EDUCATION MAJOR  
FROM BACHELOR OF ARTS TO BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS***

Next, Trustee Frost presented the proposed revision in degree designation of the Art Education major from the Bachelor of Arts to the Bachelor of Fine Arts. The National Association of Schools of Art and Design, which accredits this program, defines the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree as the most common designation for professional undergraduate degrees in art and design, he noted. The proposed revision will align Kent State's Art Education major with accreditation standards and allow the College of the Arts to represent the nature of the curriculum more accurately to prospective students who are seeking a professional degree.

**Resolution 2022-88**

**REVISION IN DEGREE DESIGNATION OF THE ART EDUCATION  
MAJOR FROM BACHELOR OF ARTS TO BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

WHEREAS, the College of the Arts seeks approval of the revision in degree designation of the Art Education major from the Bachelor of Arts to the Bachelor of Fine Arts; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Fine Arts is the preferred undergraduate degree for those seeking careers in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Art Education major has been successful as a Bachelor of Arts degree, but has been operating as a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in structure for several decades; and

WHEREAS, the revision in degree designation will allow the College of the Arts to accurately promote the program to prospective students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate 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 degree designation for the Art Education major from the Bachelor of Arts degree to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, effective Fall 2023.

***REVISION IN NAME OF THE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY MAJOR TO  
THE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS MAJOR WITHIN THE  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE***

Trustee Frost presented the proposed revision in name of the Speech Language Pathology major to the Communication Sciences and Disorders major within the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

The proposed addition of sciences to the major's name will align with nomenclature of other R1 universities and better represent and communicate the broad range this cohesive research doctoral degree offers to prospective students, he said.

**Resolution 2022-89**

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
MAJOR TO THE COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS  
MAJOR WITHIN THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Education, Health and Human Services seeks approval of the revision in name of the Speech Language Pathology major to the Communication Sciences and Disorders major within the Doctor of Philosophy degree; and

WHEREAS, all Carnegie-classified R1 universities in Ohio offering a research doctorate in the communication disorders field use the word “science” in their program title, except Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, other R1 programs surveyed by the Kent State faculty were found to use the title Speech Language Pathology for their terminal master’s degree and Communication Sciences and Disorders for their research-focused doctoral degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will allow the College of Education, Health and Human Services to better communicate to prospective students the nature of this cohesive research doctoral degree that offers a range of educational opportunities to study communication sciences and disorders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate 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 Speech Language Pathology major to the Communication Sciences and Disorders major within the Doctor of Philosophy degree, effective Fall 2023.

***INACTIVATION OF THE LEGAL ASSISTING TECHNOLOGY MAJOR  
WITHIN THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE***

Trustee Frost then presented the proposed inactivation of the Legal Assisting Technology major within the Associate of Applied Science degree. The proposed inactivation is due to lack of enrollment and demand for an associate degree in the legal assisting profession, it was noted.

Students interested in the legal field would be encouraged to declare a Bachelor of Arts degree in Paralegal Studies.

**Resolution 2022-90**

**INACTIVATION OF THE LEGAL ASSISTING TECHNOLOGY  
WITHIN THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Applied and Technical Studies seeks approval for the inactivation of the Legal Assisting Technology major within the Associate of Applied Science degree; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Assisting Technology major was established at Kent State University at East Liverpool in 1991 and at Kent State University at Trumbull in 1996 to prepare students for positions within the legal assisting field; and

WHEREAS, there has been a steady decline in enrollment at both regional campuses with the last students graduating from East Liverpool in Spring 2007 and the last student who enrolled in the program at Trumbull graduated in Spring 2022; and

WHEREAS, workforce need for legal assisting is projected to decline by 2.4% by 2030 with a decreased demand for the associate degree as a job qualification; and

WHEREAS, inactivation of the major has no adverse fiscal impact and no impact on faculty, staff, library, facilities, or equipment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed inactivation of the Legal Assisting Technology major has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate college and campus faculty 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 inactivation of the Legal Assisting Technology major within the Associate of Applied Science degree, effective Fall 2023.

***ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-3-05 REGARDING  
HOSTING ACADEMIC VISITORS***

Finally, Trustee Frost presented the proposed establishment of University Policy 3342-3-05 Regarding Hosting Academic Visitors. The proposed policy establishes clear parameters and requirements for both the university and the academic visitor, he noted.

**Resolution 2022-91**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-3-05 REGARDING  
HOSTING ACADEMIC VISITORS**

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

WHEREAS, the proposed policy creates clear parameters for effectively hosting academic visitors at Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy establishes the responsibilities of university personnel and the responsibilities and privileges of the academic visitors throughout the visitor engagement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy sets forth requirements in the visitor application and approval process that are necessary for meeting compliance requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment of University Policy 3342-3-05 Regarding Hosting Academic Visitors was approved by the Faculty Senate on November 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate, Office of General Counsel, and the President's Cabinet, 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 University Policy 3342-3-05 Regarding Hosting Academic Visitors, effective January 1, 2023.

Trustee Frost stated that all management decision items were reviewed by the committee and recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

The committee also heard three informational reports, according to Trustee Frost. Senior Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Manfred van Dulmen presented revisions to Administrative Policy and Procedures 3342-3-01.5 Regarding Grade Point Average Adjustment. Revisions to the policy were necessary to remove unintended barriers for students to receive a second chance at pursuing their academic goals. Vice President for Enrollment Management Sean Broghammer presented an update on Spring 2023 registration and Fall 2023 applications to date. He noted that all enrollment reports will be presented by FTE (full-time enrollment) rather than headcount.

The third informational report focused on the university's accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Trustee Frost stated. Dr. van Dulmen noted that accreditation is a key tool to ensure Kent State University offers high-quality academic programs and follows all necessary



state and federal policies and procedures. The university's participation in the accreditation process is required for its students to be eligible for federal funds including federal student financial aid. Assistant Provost for Accreditation, Assessment and Learning Susan Perry then discussed the higher education regulatory triad, which includes accrediting agencies, state government, and federal government through the Department of Education. The HLC reviews assumed practices and criteria, federal compliance, quality initiatives, locations, campuses, reporting, and notifications. Kent State is on the commission's 10-year review cycle and in April 2025, the university will undergo a comprehensive evaluation. Kent State will submit comprehensive evaluation materials for institution reaffirmation and will host a peer review team site visit in which members of the Board of Trustees will participate, said Trustee Frost.

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

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Frost for his report and asked whether any trustees wished to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda. Hearing no such requests, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

#### **AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair Riley called on Committee Chair Trustee Donald Mason to present the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee. Trustee Mason stated that the Audit and Compliance Committee met electronically with the university's leadership and the external audit firm of RSM on December 1, 2022, for the Fiscal Year 2022 Audit Exit Conference.

Trustee Mason reported that an unqualified, or "clean," opinion was issued on the university's Fiscal Year 2022 financial statements. In the opinion of RSM, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and activities of Kent State University as of and for period ending June 30, 2022. The committee wished to acknowledge the finance and internal audit staff for their outstanding work on behalf of the university, he said. Trustee Mason reported that the group also reviewed financial statement highlights for FY 2022. The university remains committed to managing the operating budget effectively by aligning expenses to projected revenues along with careful and thoughtful spending of one-time funds, he noted.

Committee members also received the Internal Audit plan performance report for the first quarter of FY 2023, prepared by Director of Internal Audit Sarah Gampo. The report summarized internal audit project highlights and activities for the period. There were no unusual items to report, noted Trustee Mason.

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

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Mason for his report and called on Committee Chair Trustee Stephen Perry to present the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Perry reported that the Finance and Administration Committee met electronically on November 29, 2022. The group discussed several items to be considered by the Board. In addition to the non-academic personnel actions, the committee recommended four management decision items for inclusion on the consent agenda, he summarized.

### ***RATIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 EFFICIENCY REPORTING***

Trustee Perry first recommended that the Board ratify the university's Fiscal Year 2022 Efficiency Report, which was submitted to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). As in past years, this report was compiled and submitted to Committee Chair Perry for his review prior to the ODHE's October 14, 2022, deadline. The final report was being brought forward for the Board for its consideration and ratification, he stated.

### **Resolution 2022-92**

#### **RATIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 EFFICIENCY REPORTING**

WHEREAS, Section 3333.95 of the Ohio Revised Code requires the Chancellor to maintain an Efficiency Advisory Committee to generate optimal efficiency plans for campuses, identify shared services opportunities, streamline administrative operations, and share best practices in efficiencies among Ohio's colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the law additionally requires an annual report be completed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), which has created the Fiscal Year 2022 Efficiency Reporting Template to capture the data required to produce the 2022 Efficiency Advisory Committee Report; and

WHEREAS, per Ohio Revised Code 381.550, an annual report must be completed by each institution, authorized by its board of trustees and submitted to the ODHE, which demonstrates progress and realized savings from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the Chancellor's stated deadline of October 14, 2022, the university's Fiscal Year 2022 Efficiency Reporting was completed and submitted on that date, following a review by the Chair of the Board's Finance and Administration Committee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the Fiscal Year 2022 Efficiency Report as submitted to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education on October 14, 2022, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 381.550.

*APPROVAL TO CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY*

Next, Trustee Perry presented the committee's recommendation that the university administration be authorized to contract for the supply of electricity. He explained that Kent State uses a strategic approach to securing the best possible price for electricity by way of a reverse auction. Results of the last reverse auction conducted by the university in May 2022 were higher than the standard service offer (SSO) at that time, so the SSO was accepted for one year with the intent to go back to the market in early spring 2023 to bid the contracts. Accordingly, a request for qualifications (RFQ) was planned for winter/early spring 2023 to identify vendors for participation in a reverse auction pricing event for Group 1 accounts, which includes all electricity accounts not associated with the Summit Street Power Plant. Once the reverse auction pricing event is concluded, results will be analyzed and compared to the SSO at that time. If the reverse auction pricing event results in lower cost than the SSO cost, a recommendation would be made to the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a contract, he explained. Senior Vice President Polatajko will keep the committee apprised of the results of this process, Trustee Perry concluded.

**Resolution 2022-93**

**APPROVAL TO CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY**

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 can procure electricity through participating in the deregulated electric power market through a reverse auction, participating in the Standard Service Offer (SSO) from the regulated utility, or entering an aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the university has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to pre-qualify potential bidders for participation in a reverse auction to determine the lowest cost qualified supplier for the Kent State campuses; and

WHEREAS, the results of the reverse auction will be compared with the Standard Service Offer to determine the method that provides the best value, and;

WHEREAS, the electric power spend is estimated to be no more than \$4 million per year for a maximum three-year contract term, exclusive of any catastrophic events associated with the university's Summit Street Power Plant; 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(s) with the selected vendor(s) for the purchase of electricity, if the cost is

lower than the Standard Service Offer, and not to exceed \$4 million on an annual basis, for up to a three-year term, in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

*SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF ROCKWELL HALL  
ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS*

Trustee Perry presented a request that the current budget of the Rockwell Hall Addition and Renovations project be amended from \$7.9 million to \$8.08 million. He noted that the university had experienced higher-than-expected HVAC repairs and replacements and the building's terrazzo floor had to be replaced rather than refinished. The budget amendment of \$180,000 would be funded from university local funds, he said.

**Resolution 2022-94**

**SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF ROCKWELL HALL  
ADDITION AND RENOVATIONS**

WHEREAS, at its May 25, 2022, meeting the Kent State University Board of Trustees approved renovations to Rockwell Hall with a project budget of \$7.9 million; and

WHEREAS, unprecedented instabilities in the construction market and building commodities have resulted in historic inflation levels; and

WHEREAS, due to the complexity of renovations within an occupied building that includes deferred maintenance HVAC equipment, the university has spent nearly \$300,000 to correct failing piping, valve replacement, and new terrazzo floor tile; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in the cost of the proposed renovations would result in a loss of programming space, having an undesirable impact on the spaces serving students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the university proposes to amend the project budget to \$8.08 million, with the additional \$180,000 coming from university 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 the design and construction of this project at an amended cost of \$8.08 million in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

*SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF  
AERONAUTICS AND ENGINEERING BUILDING ADDITION*

Trustee Perry reported that the committee's final management decision item was the proposed amendment of the College of Aeronautics and Engineering Building Addition project budget from \$23.1 million to \$24.1 million. The change was necessary due to extreme construction cost inflation as well as \$500,000 in additional water and sewer infrastructure improvements caused by unforeseen ground conditions. Both factors exhausted the original project contingency and an additional \$1 million was required to complete the project. The budget amendment would be funded from university local funds, noted Trustee Perry.

**Resolution 2022-95**

**SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE OF  
AERONAUTICS AND ENGINEERING BUILDING ADDITION**

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2021, the Kent State University Board of Trustees approved the construction of an addition to the Aeronautics and Engineering Building and established the project budget as \$23.1 million; and

WHEREAS, since that time the university has witnessed unprecedented instabilities in the construction market and building commodities that have resulted in historic cost inflation; and

WHEREAS, unforeseen below-ground conditions also required the expenditure of an additional \$500,000 to correct storm water and domestic water utilities; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in the cost of the proposed addition would result in a loss of programming space, having a undesirable, negative impact on the spaces serving students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, to maintain the scope and impact of the project, the university seeks to increase the current \$23.1-million project budget by \$1 million to address the construction market and unforeseen site conditions; and

WHEREAS, the amended project budget will be financed by \$14.1 million from bond funds reallocated from the rescinded Main Street Parking Deck project, \$8.5 million from local funds, and \$1.5 million from philanthropic gifts; 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 design and construction of this project at an amended cost of \$24.1 million in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

All management decision items were reviewed by the committee and recommended for Board approval as part of the consent agenda, Trustee Perry said. The committee also heard a report of the Investment Committee from Committee Chair Trustee Donald Mason. The group met electronically on November 17, 2022. Additionally, the committee was presented with informational items routinely provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

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

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Perry for his report and then asked whether any trustees wished to remove any of the proposed resolutions from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next, Chair Riley stated that there was one item of new business to come before the Board, which was approval of University Policy 3342-5-23 Regarding Campus Free Speech.

#### ***APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-23 REGARDING CAMPUS FREE SPEECH***

Chair Riley called on President Diacon to present the proposed resolution. He explained the proposed policy was recommended to ensure Kent State's compliance with Section 3345.0215 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Campus Free Speech Standards subsequently issued by Chancellor Randy Gardner. The proposed resolution gives Kent State the opportunity to codify the deep commitment to campus free speech the university has held throughout its 112-year history, he observed.

#### **Resolution 2022-96**

#### **APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-23 REGARDING CAMPUS FREE SPEECH**

WHEREAS, given its standing as one of the nation's top research universities and its unique history, Kent State University has a deep and abiding commitment to freedom of speech and freedom of expression, which is reflected throughout its core values and institutional policies; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly has passed legislation establishing campus free speech principles and requirements as the state's public policy including Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.0212 (SB 40), which was effective March 24, 2021, and Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.0215 (SB 135), which was effective July 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Randy Gardner of the Ohio Department of Higher Education issued Ohio Campus Free Speech Standards to provide specific guidance to state universities; and

WHEREAS, following a review of existing policies and processes, the university administration has recommended that the proposed policy be adopted to ensure conformity with Ohio law and the Ohio Campus Free Speech Standards; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of University Policy 3342-5-23 Regarding Campus Free Speech, effective January 1, 2023.

Chair Riley recommended that the resolution be placed on the consent agenda unless any trustee wished to remove the resolution for further discussion. Hearing no requests, the resolution was added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Before moving on to approval of the consent agenda, Chair Riley noted that the minutes of the Board's October 24, 2022, special meeting also were presented for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections, approval of the Board's October 24, 2022, meeting minutes was added to the consent agenda.

Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes of the September 21, 2022, Board business meeting and the October 24, 2022, Board special meeting; the proposed academic and non-academic personnel actions; recommendations from the standing committees; and approval of University Policy 3342-5-23 Regarding Campus Free Speech discussed under New Business.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riley stated that before adjourning the meeting, he wanted to take a moment to express the Board's appreciation to a special team member who has contributed greatly to the success of Board meetings in recent years. Associate Chief of Staff Karen Keenan will retire on January 31, 2023, and thus she was attending her final Board meeting that day. Chair Riley remarked that Karen Keenan was one of the unsung heroes who has made Board meetings go so smoothly. She has been instrumental since the onset of the pandemic in supporting the Board's moves to remote and hybrid meetings and increasing public access to board meetings via livestream. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, he thanked Karen Keenan for her outstanding contributions and wished her well in her retirement. He then asked her to stand and be recognized, upon which she received a standing ovation.

Chair Riley announced that the next business meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for March 9, 2023, in Columbus, Ohio. Trustees will have the opportunity to interact with elected officials, members of the Kent State University Foundation Board of Directors, and other guests.

On motion duly noted, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.