

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 3, 2020  
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

**Board Members Present**

Ralph Della Ratta, Chair  
Virginia Addicott  
Todd Davidson  
Robert Frost  
Jasmine Hoff  
Robin Kilbride  
Donald Mason  
Stephen Perry  
Shawn Riley  
Catherine Ross  
Michael Solomon  
Ann Womer Benjamin

**KSU President's Cabinet Present**

Todd Diacon, President  
David Dees  
Paul DiCorleto  
Nick Gattozzi  
Amoaba Gooden  
Lamar Hylton  
Rebecca Murphy  
Joel Nielsen  
Mary Parker  
Mark Polatajko  
John Rathje  
Charlene Reed  
Melody Tankersley  
Valoree Vargo  
Willis Walker

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Ralph Della Ratta called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Trustee Addicott called the roll, and a quorum was present.

**PROOF OF NOTICE**

Chair Della Ratta stated that public notification was given pursuant to state law and university policy. He announced that the meeting was being held electronically as permitted under amended Substitute House Bill 197.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

He stated that in accordance with Chapter 121.22, section G of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board had 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 that are or may be 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 Kilbride moved, seconded by Trustee Frost, that the Board retire into Executive Session. Trustee Addicott took a roll call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session. The session concluded at 10:15 a.m. and it was properly moved and seconded that the Board return to public session.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Board reconvened for the business portion of the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Chair Della Ratta stated that there was one addition under New Business, which was the annual election of the President.

Chair Della Ratta then moved to approval of the agenda. He asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing no corrections or additions, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

### **DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Della Ratta asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 4, 2020, business meeting of the Board, and the special meetings of the Board on April 9, 2020, and May 6, 2020. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by general consent.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Della Ratta thanked and congratulated President Diacon, the faculty, staff and students for completing another successful academic year despite the enormous challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He remarked how efficient and incredible the work was by the Kent State University administration.

Chair Della Ratta stated that the safety of the university's constituents was first and foremost and this unprecedented public health and economic crisis deeply affected the Kent State community, the broader society, and the economy. He observed that it was so important at times like these that an organization must have a strong board. He felt that the Kent State Board of Trustees was performing at its best, especially given the special meetings and discussions that have been necessary to lead the institution through this difficulty. He further expressed that most of all, where Students First is a reality at Kent State, the Board members need to help students through unexpected financial hurdles and hardships caused by the pandemic. Anything trustees can do would be appreciated, and he asked members to be generous in providing help and counsel.

He also thanked Governor Mike DeWine and other government leaders for their support during this crisis. The citizens of Ohio are fortunate to have strong government leadership, which has demonstrated an extreme interest in Kent State University and all of the state universities. He further noted the time the administration has spent with the university and the higher education community, and that state leaders have always opened their doors and been helpful.

Chair Della Ratta observed that President Diacon speaks of "planning for the worst but working for the best." Board members are confident that following this approach, Kent State will be well positioned to open in the coming academic year, he said. He further remarked how excited he was to hear the news

from President Diacon and others that Kent State will be opening up in the fall. Reopening for face-to-face instruction and residential living will require doing things differently, and he expressed high confidence that the university will take advantage of all needed precautions to do so safely and effectively.

Chair Della Ratta went on to note that at the conclusion of the meeting, he would pass the gavel to a newly elected chair of the Board of Trustees. He observed it has been a phenomenal and rewarding experience to serve as Board Chair, as trustees and administration have worked together through everything from a presidential transition to a global pandemic. He further shared that he has enjoyed being involved in the university's campaign executive committee and knows that Kent State will continue to take fundraising to the next level. He said it was a singular honor to represent a university like Kent State and to be a part of it, and he really appreciated all of its support. Chair Della Ratta said that while trustees and administrators may not have agreed 100% on every matter or decision, everybody has always come to discussions wanting to do what was best for Kent State. Chair Della Ratta said he feels he leaves the university in good shape in spite of COVID-19 and that he was excited about its future, given the high caliber of the trustees and the university leadership.

On that note of gratitude, Chair Della Ratta concluded his remarks and called on President Diacon to give his report.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Diacon thanked Chair Della Ratta for his leadership and wise counsel that always was appreciated. He began his report with a few reflections on the troubled times in which we live and further explanation of what he meant by "planning for the worst but working for the best."

He remarked that institutions of higher education such as Kent State are built to lead in difficult times. The university's professors and researchers, many of them in our great College of Public Health, are helping us understand better, and respond more effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular he thanked Kent State professor and epidemiologist Dr. Tara Smith, and Kent State professor and Environmental Health scientist Dr. Chris Woolverton for their expertise and wise counsel.

President Diacon then went on to say that he is an historian, and while he would never claim that history repeats itself, he would say that we can identify elements in our past events and past history that are present in the current difficulties. Having just observed the passing of 50 years since the tragic shootings on Kent State's campus, we understand how explosive the mix of long-standing inequities and escalating official rhetoric can be, he said.

He emphasized again that Kent State was built to lead during such difficulties. He concluded his opening statement by quoting from a message the university distributed recently concerning the death of George Floyd. In doing so, he particularly wanted to acknowledge the leadership of Interim Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Amoaba Gooden, and Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lamar Hylton.

He read aloud, “It is the hope and aspirations of our students, combined with the history and lessons of May 4, 1970, that remind us of the need to study the root causes of current troubles as we search for a better future. We are called on to learn more about the structures, histories, assumptions, prejudices and cultures that lead to disparate outcomes in healthcare, in the judicial system and in myriad aspects of our lives. We are thankful that our Kent State historians, sociologists, public health professors, Peace and Conflict Studies and Pan African Studies professors, and many, many others are participating in these national conversations. Understanding and improving the world we inhabit are central to what we do at Kent State, as is our commitment to kindness and respect in all that we do.”

President Diacon observed that leading in tough times is what we do at Kent State, and then turned his presentation to what is meant by “preparing for the worst but working for the best.” He did so by examining two topics: the budget, and the plans for reopening. He shared that for fiscal year 2020, the university’s coronavirus-related unexpected expenses and a 20% reduction in state support in the last quarter of the year totaled \$22 million. Kent State recouped \$9 million of this amount with federal CARES Act funding, leaving \$13 million to be covered through cost savings and budget reductions. Because of quick and aggressive actions to save on travel, utilities, purchases, and other expenses, the university would finish the fiscal year with a positive fund balance, which would then become a source of one-time funds to cover COVID-19 expenses as the institution reopens for the fall semester.

He further noted that planning for the worst but working for the best continues as the university builds its final budget for fiscal year 2021. The worst-case scenario for planning at this time projects the possibility of nearly a 20% budget cut of \$109 million. Based upon current projections from the state leadership, Ohio’s public universities could face a 20% reduction in state funding, which for Kent State would amount to \$32 million. If Kent State suffered a 20% reduction in enrollment, revenues would decline by an additional \$77 million, he said. Thankfully, as of his report, the university was trending more toward the best-case scenario of a 10% budget cut, he said. The revenue reduction resulting in a 10% budget cut would be twice as large as any budget cut Kent State experienced in the years of the Great Recession, he observed.

President Diacon stated that Kent State was up to this challenge because of the strength of its people. Our great faculty voted to pause our collectively bargained agreement, accepting no raise for the coming year, when the contract had called for a 2% raise. Our dedicated non-represented employees will see an income-based reduction of salary ranging from 0% for those making less than \$38,000, to 12.5% for myself. We are freezing travel and hiring, and we will have to reduce personnel, he reported. Nearly 300 employees to date have elected to participate in the Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan (VSIP), and additional job abolishments likely would be necessary on top of these departures, he noted.

President Diacon reported that the vice presidents were asked to reduce their budgets by 20% and this includes Intercollegiate Athletics. The academic colleges also have contingency plans to reduce budgets up to 20%; however, the leadership was focused first and foremost on cutting central administrative expenses. He remarked that given Kent State’s Students First commitment, the university would protect and support instruction even during this most challenging time.

President Diacon then observed he would finish his presentation by explaining how the university community was working for the best in planning for the return to campus for the fall semester. The university is committed to the safest possible return to residential living on the Kent campus as well as a combination of in-person, remote and hybrid courses throughout the system. In doing so, the university pledged to follow its **Flashes Safe Seven** principles:

- The use of facemasks or facial coverings when not in a private space
- A commitment to rigorously practicing hand washing and other measures
- An enhanced cleaning of classrooms and other spaces
- The practicing of physical distancing, particularly with the reduction of class sizes
- Daily self-monitoring for symptoms, with testing, tracing, and isolation
- Encouraging those who have health questions to contact our professionals in the DeWeese Health Center, and
- The practicing of kindness and respect in all we do.

President Diacon declared that Kent State would meet the challenges of these times due to the strength of its people. He acknowledged the vice presidents for their sustained ability to make the most difficult of decisions in a compressed period of time. President Diacon also thanked the great faculty and their effective and empathetic leaders, especially Dr. Pam Grimm, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and AAUP presidents Dr. Deb Smith and Mr. Tracy Laux. He additionally thanked the director of the reopening effort, Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, and the members of the various reopening committees. President Diacon then remarked that he was especially grateful for the leadership, advice and wise counsel offered by the trustees.

He concluded by saying that planning for the worst but working for the best means that at Kent State we lean into the storm, and it means that we will continue to communicate frequently and transparently about our budgets and our plans for the return to our campuses. Through it all, Flashes will continue to take care of Flashes, and the university will continue to lead the region, state and nation through times good and bad, he said.

With that President Diacon ended his report.

## **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Chair Della Ratta asked President Diacon to present the personnel actions.

President Diacon called on Dr. Tankersley to present the academic personnel actions. She reported that the personnel actions to be considered were routine in nature. He next called on Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko to present the non-academic personnel actions. He stated that all non-academic personnel actions were customary in nature and stood as written.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Della Ratta proceeded with reports and recommendations from the Board's standing committees. He thanked the trustees for giving their time for standing committee meetings held the previous week. Chair Della Ratta then stated that committee recommendations would be placed on the consent agenda and acted upon in one motion unless any trustee asked to remove an item for further discussion. If there were no objections, the resolutions would be added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Della Ratta called on Committee Chair Trustee Todd Davidson to present the report of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee.

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

Committee Chair Davidson reported that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met remotely on May 27, 2020, and had a list of action items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

#### ***REVISION OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-3-02 REGARDING INSTRUCTORS IN COURSES CARRYING ACADEMIC CREDIT***

Trustee Davidson proposed revisions to University Policy 3342-02 Regarding Instructors in Courses Carrying Academic Credit.

### **Resolution 2020-38**

#### **REVISION OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-3-02 REGARDING INSTRUCTORS IN COURSES CARRYING ACADEMIC CREDIT**

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 revision of University Policy 3342-3-02 Regarding Instructors in Courses Carrying Academic Course Credit was recommended by the Professional Standards Committee and approved by the Faculty Senate on March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees provided clarification regarding its expectations for the qualifications of faculty, necessitating a revision in policy; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the policy was revised to include clarifying information regarding the qualifications of each instructor of record; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy revision also has been reviewed and approved by the 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 revision of University Policy 3342-3-02 Regarding Instructors in Courses Carrying Academic Credit, effective August 27, 2020.

Trustee Davidson shared that the committee also proposed two curricular recommendations. Both of these curriculum changes were reviewed and approved by Faculty Senate, the Provost and the President.

*REVISION IN NAME OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS  
COMMUNICATION TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND JOURNALISM  
WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION*

He then presented a recommended revision in name of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to the School of Media and Journalism within the College of Communication and Information.

**Resolution 2020-39**

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS  
COMMUNICATION TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND JOURNALISM  
WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

WHEREAS, the College of Communication and Information seeks approval of the revision in name of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to the School of Media and Journalism; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used within the school's disciplines; and

WHEREAS, through an analysis of internal and external data, the College of Communication and Information found that the school name did not adequately convey to students, parents, or employers the subject matter of the school or its programs; and

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revision in name of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to the School of Media and Journalism, effective Fall 2020.

*REVISION IN NAME OF THE EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT MAJOR  
TO THE RESEARCH, MEASUREMENT AND STATISTICS MAJOR WITHIN  
THE MASTER OF EDUCATION AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES*

Trustee Davidson next presented a recommended revision in name of the Evaluation and Measurement major to the Research, Measurement and Statistics Major within the Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees.

**Resolution 2020-40**

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT  
MAJOR TO THE RESEARCH, MEASUREMENT AND STATISTICS  
MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF EDUCATION AND DOCTOR OF  
PHILOSOPHY DEGREES**

WHEREAS, the College of Education, Health and Human Services seeks approval of the revision in name of the Evaluation and Measurement Major to the Research, Measurement and Statistics Major within the Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degrees; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has offered graduate degrees in evaluation and measurement since 1964; and

WHEREAS, renaming the program to the Research, Measurement and Statistics major aligns the program with other universities, allowing better marketability of the program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed change will not affect other programs, course offerings, faculty or students; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revision in name of the Evaluation and Measurement major to the Research, Measurement and Statistics major within the Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, effective Fall 2021.

Trustee Davidson said that it is the recommendation of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee that the academic personnel actions and the management decision items be placed on the consent agenda.

Trustee Davidson next stated that for informational purposes, revisions and establishments of several policies were presented to the committee as follows:

- Revision in Administrative Policy Regarding Academic Requirements, Courses and Policies
- Revision in Administrative Policy Regarding Graduate Faculty
- Establishment of Administrative Policy Regarding Institutional Biosafety Committee
- Establishment of Administrative Policy Regarding Institutional Safety and Compliance Committee

The committee also heard two informational presentations: an update on Kent State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic from Interim Provost Melody Tankersley, Interim Associate Provost Manfred van Dulmen and Vice President Lamar Hylton; and an update on Enrollment Management from Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker.

With that Trustee Davidson concluded his report for the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee.

Chair Della Ratta thanked Trustee Davidson for his report and asked if any trustee wished to remove any of the proposed resolutions from the consent agenda for further discussion. There were no objections and the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Della Ratta then asked Committee Chair Trustee Stephen Perry to present the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee

### **AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Perry stated that the Audit and Compliance Committee met remotely on May 28, 2020. He shared that Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko introduced committee members to Kent State University's new Director of Internal Audit, Sarah Gampo. Ms. Gampo shared her thoughts about taking over the audit function and shared her background. Trustee Perry commented that as a former employee of Kent State, she was able to hit the ground running despite the pandemic.

He presented that the committee reviewed the Office of Internal Audit's performance report for the third quarter of fiscal year 2020. The report summarized the audits completed in the quarter and compared the Internal Audit Plan budgeted hours to actual. In this case there was a wide variation due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the auditing staff, he said. He continued that the committee also reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021 Internal Audit Plan. Committee members encouraged Senior Vice President Polatajko and Director Gampo to continue the practice of bringing to the audit committee reports by faculty and executives throughout the organization on how their compliance with the audit, policies and procedures are functioning. Trustee Perry stated there was nothing unusual in terms of the audits that had been conducted.

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

Chair Della Ratta thanked Trustee Perry and called on Trustee Shawn Riley to present the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Riley stated that the Finance and Administration Committee met remotely on May 28, 2020 and discussed several items to be considered by the Board. He noted that in addition to the non-academic personnel actions presented earlier, the committee requested Board approval of the following items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

He first presented the proposed resolution seeking expenditure authorization for fiscal year 2021.

#### ***EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2021***

Trustee Riley noted that Kent State University has experienced significant impacts related to the coronavirus pandemic. Due to the uncertainty of fall student enrollment and projected cuts in the state share of instruction (SSI), it was recommended that the final operating budget for fiscal year 2020-21 be submitted when appropriate information was available. Trustees were asked to approve a temporary authorization of expenditures for the new fiscal year, with consideration of the final university budget to occur at the next scheduled Board meeting in September. Under the proposed resolution, beginning July 1, 2020, the President and the Chief Financial Officer would be authorized to expend monies from the educational and general and auxiliary funds at 80% of the fiscal year 2020 budget established by the Board last year, with the total expenditure authorization of \$572,635,362, he explained.

#### **Resolution 2020-41**

#### **EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees will be included in ongoing planning and development of the Fiscal Year 2021 University Budget as further information becomes available; and

WHEREAS, as Kent State University must proceed with its operation into fiscal year 2021, which begins July 1, 2020, 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, 2020, at 80% of the funding level established by the Board for fiscal year 2020 and expenditure authorization of total funds applied equal to \$527,635,362; 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.

Trustee Riley then presented the proposed resolution seeking the approval of tuition, room and board rates under the tuition guarantee model, which was approved by the Board with Resolution 2017-54 at the December 13, 2017 meeting.

*APPROVAL OF TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD RATES UNDER THE TUITION  
GUARANTEE MODEL, EFFECTIVE FALL 2020*

He noted that the 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 for four years. The proposed 2020-2021 rate would be frozen for four years and represented an increase of 4.1% from fall 2019. No increases were recommended in the annual rates for continuing undergraduates, graduate students or out-of-state surcharges, he said.

**Resolution 2020-42**

**APPROVAL OF TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD RATES UNDER THE  
TUITION GUARANTEE MODEL, EFFECTIVE FALL 2020**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the university intends to utilize approximately one-third of the incremental revenue to fund need-based student aid; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees approves the attached tuition, room and board rates for the cohort entering Fall 2020.

Kent State University was implementing wide-ranging measures to counter the expected budgetary impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Trustee Riley noted. He presented a proposed resolution seeking approval for a Voluntary Transitional Opportunity for full-time faculty members as a complement to the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) for Faculty.

*APPROVAL OF A VOLUNTARY TRANSITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY*

He noted this plan would allow up to three years of tiered part-time employment opportunities based on the needs of the academic unit. This program would be an option for eligible full-time faculty members who choose to retire pursuant to the Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan, which closes for faculty enrollment on June 24, 2020.

**Resolution 2020-43**

**APPROVAL OF A VOLUNTARY TRANSITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**

WHEREAS, Kent State University is implementing a variety of measures to counter the expected budgetary impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University implemented a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) for faculty members and staff on May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University wishes to offer full-time faculty members who voluntarily choose to retire pursuant to the VSIP an opportunity to return to part-time employment with the university; and

WHEREAS, the program would establish a cadre of experienced faculty members who could provide part-time instruction and/or administrative duties across academic units contingent on the needs of the academic unit; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University hereby approves a Voluntary Transitional Opportunity for full-time faculty members who voluntarily choose to retire pursuant to the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program as approved by the Board of Trustees at its special meeting on May 6, 2020.

Next, Trustee Riley presented the request for authorization for the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into a contract with Solar Turbines Inc. for replacement of Gas Turbine #2 in the Summit Street Power Plant.

*APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR GAS TURBINE #2 REPLACEMENT AT THE SUMMIT STREET POWER PLANT*

He stated that a waiver of competitive bid was issued in accordance with university policy due to a service agreement with Solar Turbines Inc. that provided for turbine replacement at less than retail price. The proposed purchase price of \$1,250,000 would be funded by renewal and replacement funds as well as revenue received from the economic load demand response program, he said.

**Resolution 2020-44**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR GAS TURBINE #2 REPLACEMENT AT THE SUMMIT STREET POWER PLANT**

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

WHEREAS, Kent State University requires an agreement to provide for the replacement of the combustion turbine (Gas Turbine #2) in the Summit Street Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, a waiver of competitive bidding was issued and approved by Kent State University for Solar Turbines Incorporated, which is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and the only company that can provide the combined level of maintenance, repair, and service for the combustion turbines; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for this combustion turbine is a single expenditure of approximately \$1,250,000, which is less than the retail price and to be funded by revenues from the economic load demand response program; 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 a contract with Solar Turbines Incorporated for the provision of the proposed combustion turbine replacement in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Riley then presented the request for authorization to enter into a contract for electrical service for Kent State University regional campuses.

***APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE FOR REGIONAL CAMPUSES AND ANCILLARY ACCOUNTS***

He noted that Kent State University participates in the deregulated electrical power market and purchases more than 99% of the electricity from a Certified Retail Electric Service (CRES) provider. The 12-month term of the existing contract will expire soon and requires a new contract for the regional campuses. Trustee Riley explained that Kent State conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to prequalify bidders in a reverse auction pricing event to determine the supplier that would offer the best overall value. The event occurred on June 2, 2020, with Dynegy Energy Services East, LCC as the winning bidder. The proposed contract for the purchase of electricity will not exceed \$850,000 on an annual basis and the total spend over the 22-month contract will not exceed \$1.56 million, he reported.

**Resolution 2020-45**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE  
FOR REGIONAL CAMPUSES AND ANCILLARY ACCOUNTS**

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 generates a portion of its electricity while a portion is purchased on the open market; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to pre-qualify potential bidders in a pricing event to determine the supplier that offered the best overall value for the Kent State campuses; and

WHEREAS, the pricing event was held on June 2, 2020, and Dynegy Energy Services East, LLC offered the best overall value with a rate of \$0.044/kWh for the Kent Campus ancillary accounts and Regional Campuses accounts; and

WHEREAS, the electric power spend will not be more than \$0.85 million per year and the total spend over the 22-month contract term will not exceed \$1.56 million; 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 contracts with Dynegy Energy Services East, LLC for the purchase of electricity, not to exceed \$0.85 million on an annual basis, and \$1.56 million for the contract term, in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Riley then presented a resolution seeking the approval of vendor selection for an air traffic control simulator system.

*APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIMULATOR SYSTEM*

He said the College of Aeronautics and Engineering requested the purchase of a new air traffic control simulator system to replace the current outdated system. A formal bidding process was completed and UFA, Inc. was selected as the vendor that offered the best overall value. Trustee Riley further noted that the proposed purchase agreement would be for an initial term of three years at \$770,000, with a university option to extend the software licensing for up to seven years at \$60,000 per year.

**Resolution 2020-46**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR  
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIMULATOR SYSTEM**

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 seeks to replace its current outdated air traffic control simulator system (ATCSS) used by students and faculty; and

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

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these goods is an initial three-year term of \$770,000, with the potential of up to seven licensing and update renewal periods at approximately \$60,000 each, to be funded by the College of Aeronautics and Engineering; 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 UFA, Inc., for the provision of an air traffic control simulator system (ATCSS) for three years plus a university option to renew up to seven years in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Riley next stated that the Finance and Administration Committee received several informational items routinely provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

With that, Trustee Riley concluded the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Chair Della Ratta thanked Trustee Riley, noting that he presented many items and reported them well. Chair Della Ratta further remarked that he was glad to see the savings on the electrical services especially for the regional campuses.

Chair Della Ratta asked whether any trustee wished to remove any of the above items from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

He then called on Chair of the Investment Committee Trustee Don Mason to present the report of the Investment Committee.

Trustee Mason presented the Investment Committee report stating that the committee met on April 29, 2020. Representatives from SEI Corporation were in attendance and presented an overview of the portfolio and economic outlook through March 31, 2020. He stated that in terms of portfolio performance, the university's long-term pool returned 15.7% in 2019 but due to the pandemic the return ending the first quarter in March 2020 was -10.1%. The intermediate term pool returned 12.8% in 2019 whereas the end of the first quarter in March 2020 returned -5.5%. The portfolio did begin to rise and see a small recovery in April. All asset allocations were in line with policy and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) guidelines. SEI indicated that the future market conditions were still uncertain but noted that a radical change in the university's investment allocation was not recommended at that time, he said.

Trustee Mason noted that SEI also shared some insights on financial implications of COVID-19 based on the firm's work with other higher education institutions. SEI will continue to work with university leadership to create baseline and downside operational projections to incorporate into future strategic asset allocation discussions, he said.

Trustee Mason reported the committee discussed the three cash and investment pools and how the pools assist in balancing investment objectives with the university's working capital needs. A gradual rebalancing of cash and investments over time will be needed in order to meet ongoing working capital needs in support of university operations. He stated that university management will continue to look at opportunities to balance the portfolio among the three pools, the local depository relationships, the possibility of a line of credit, and the use of facility master plan funds and the intermediate pool to enhance operating cash and working capital needs.

Finally, Trustee Mason noted the committee agreed to the recommendation to utilize the intermediate-term pool for working capital needs as discussed. The committee will continue to review updated cash forecasts at future meetings as well as ongoing rebalancing strategies.

With that, Trustee Mason respectfully submitted his report of the Investment Committee.

Chair Della Ratta thanked Trustee Mason and the Investment Committee members and then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Chair Della Ratta stated that the consent agenda was approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Della Ratta then announced there were three items of new business to come before the Board. However, he first noted that the Board will recognize retiring Undergraduate Student Trustee Nick Kollar at the September 16, 2020, Board meeting. Trustee Kollar was participating in an internship with Citizens Capital Markets in Atlanta and was unable to be present that day, he said. He remarked that Trustee Kollar has done a fabulous job as a member of the Board and is a terrific young man who represents the university well.

Chair Della Ratta then moved to the first item of new business, which was a resolution for the Annual Election of the President, effective July 1, 2020.

### *ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT*

He noted that the annual election of the president is a routine action required by the Kent State University Constitution. Chair Della Ratta then thanked President Diacon for his leadership, sharing that the Board looks forward to working with him in the year ahead.

### **Resolution 2020-47**

#### **ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, Todd A. Diacon was elected as the 13th 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 second annual term, effective July 1, 2020.

Chair Della Ratta then asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

***RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO BARBARA BROOME***

Chair Della Ratta then announced the second item of new business. He commented that an outstanding nursing alumna would soon be leaving the university and asked another outstanding nursing alumna, Trustee Hoff, to present a resolution honoring Dean of Nursing Barbara Broome. Dean Broome will retire from Kent State on June 30, 2020, he said.

Trustee Hoff said that it was a great honor to speak about Dean Broome as she is an incredibly accomplished contributor to the Kent State community and also a role model in Trustee Hoff's life. When reflecting on her accolades Trustee Hoff thought of something Dean Broome once told her, which was that no one in her family had ever completed high school. Despite these challenges Dean Broome not only excelled in academia, she became a two-time alumna of Kent State University where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. Dean Broome then continued her education and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2014 Dr. Broome became the first African American Dean of the College of Nursing at Kent State University, she said. Trustee Hoff went on to note that because of Dean Broome's leadership and motivation, more than 40% of practicing nurses in Northeast Ohio come from Kent State and over 90% of Kent State's Baccalaureate in Nursing students pass the national board, which is one of the highest rates in the country. Trustee Hoff expressed that Dean Broome has positively impacted health care and improved the quality of academics for nurses. Her determination, achievements and leadership have made an everlasting impression on nursing and the Kent State community. Trustee Hoff then stated that it was safe to say that Dean Broome not only has become her role model, she was a role model for all.

**Resolution 2020-48**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO BARBARA BROOME**

WHEREAS, Dr. Barbara Broome returned to her alma mater and native Northeast Ohio when she joined Kent State University as Dean of the College of Nursing in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, she began her career as a licensed practical nurse in the region and went on to earn both her BSN and MSN from Kent State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, her ties to Kent State and the College of Nursing have been a constant throughout her distinguished career, serving as an instructor, recruiter and mentor to students as the nursing coordinator at Kent State University at Trumbull from 1991-1999, and continuing her research collaborations with the university's nursing faculty as a faculty member, department chair and associate dean at the University of South Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dean Broome has led Kent State's College of Nursing at a dynamic time in its history as it has extended its reach and impact as one of the largest and

most highly respected colleges of nursing in the state and nation, earning continued recognition as a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education from 2013 through 2022, and producing the largest number of nursing graduates annually in Ohio and more than 40 percent of the practicing nurses in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure the college has enhanced the scope and quality of its academic programs, advanced research, expanded collaborations with healthcare systems, improved technology and other learning resources, and increased the engagement of alumni and the professional community; and

WHEREAS, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Dean Broome has received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership in the field and research in mental health, women's health, and minority issues and aging issues in urinary incontinence in men and women; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Broome will retire from Kent State University on June 30, 2020; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses its deep gratitude to Barbara Broome for her contributions to the education of students and the advancement of Kent State University and wishes her great contentment and joy as she begins this new chapter in her life.

Chair Della Ratta asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chair Della Ratta then asked President Diacon if he would like to make a few comments.

President Diacon said that it would be his great pleasure to do so and that it was bittersweet for him and for Kent State. While Dean Broome has earned the right to retire and we all wish her the best, her departure will leave an enormous hole at Kent State and in the nursing profession. He recalled that Dean Broome once gave him a shirt that said "It's all about nursing." It is all about nursing because of her leadership and because year-in and year-out, Kent State graduates in all levels of nursing more graduates per year than any other program in Ohio. Kent State graduates in a year nearly twice as many nurses as the second largest program in the state, he said.

President Diacon remarked that it was so appropriate that Graduate Student Trustee Hoff presented the proclamation because she herself has earned her associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing from Kent State and currently pursuing is her doctorate even while she serves as assistant nurse manager at the Cleveland Clinic Heart and Lung Transplant Center. He further shared that he mentioned Trustee Hoff along with Dean Broome because it is all about nursing and at Kent State University it is all about Barbara Broome. Not only is Dean Broome a first-generation college student, she was first in her family to finish high school – that is Kent State – Barbara Broome's history, Barbara Broome's success. He further noted that Dean Broome's

leadership demonstrates the transformative power of a Kent State University degree. Her career included great service as associate dean of the College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama; reaching the pinnacle of nursing success in 2008 when she was named a fellow of the Academy of Nursing; and her two years of service as the national president of the Association of Black Nursing Faculty.

Chair Della Ratta then asked Dean Broome if she would like to make any remarks. Dean Broome stated that this was a bittersweet moment for her too as Kent State has been home. She recalled starting out in nursing at Kent State Trumbull with fears of failure. Kent State embraced her, really giving her the chance to do everything she desired, she said. Dean Broome observed that her decision to go to the University of South Alabama was difficult, but she was deeply honored to return home and to serve as dean. She said she feels she has made a difference and hopes others will look at her experience and say “yes, you can” when feeling self-doubt. Kent State has given her such a remarkable career and opportunity and she was thankful from her heart. She said that while it is hard to leave, she looked forward to retirement.

Chair Della Ratta wished Dean Broome and her family the best in retirement. He thanked her for her tireless devotion to Kent State and for educating nurses, the importance of which has become even more evident in the recent months of the pandemic.

Next, Chair Della Ratta turned to the final item of New Business, which was the election of 2020-2021 Board Officers. He reported the Nominating and Governance Committee had met and recommended the following slate of 2020-2021 Board Officers for election:

Trustee Shawn Riley, Chair  
Trustee Virginia Addicott, Vice Chair  
Trustee Robin Kilbride, Board Secretary

Chair Della Ratta then asked for a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Della Ratta congratulated and thanked Trustee Riley for his willingness to serve as Board Chair. He stated that Trustee Riley would take the helm of the Board at the conclusion of the meeting that day and joked that the Board was “trading up.” He then asked Trustee Riley if he would like to say a few words.

Trustee Riley remarked that he has enjoyed his four years on the Board immensely and is honored by the group’s selection and vote. He disagreed with Chair Della Ratta’s remark about “trading up” and expressed his hope that he would do as great a job as Chair Della Ratta has done.

Chair Della Ratta thanked Trustee Riley and asked President Diacon if he would like to make a few remarks.

President Diacon thanked Chair Della Ratta for his leadership, stating that it continues to amaze him how members of the Board of Trustees sign up for long commitments and do not just go through the motions but become leaders as trustees. He further remarked that the entire Kent State family has benefitted from Trustee Della Ratta's leadership and he personally appreciated working with Ralph Della Ratta in his position as Chair during the past year.

Chair Della Ratta followed by giving thanks and appreciation to President Diacon.

He then announced that the next regular business meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

On motion duly made and approved, he declared the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. With the adjournment, he noted the proverbial gavel was hereby passed to the new Board Chair, Shawn Riley. Trustee Della Ratta concluded, saying he looked forward to staying in touch with Kent State University in the future.