

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 9, 2020
Meeting Conducted Remotely**

Board Members Present

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

KSU President's Cabinet Present

Todd Diacon, President
Alfreda Brown
David Dees
Paul DiCorleto
Nick Gattozzi
Lamar Hylton
Rebecca Murphy
Joel Nielsen
Mark Polatajko
John Rathje
Charlene Reed
Steve Sokany
Melody Tankersley
Willis Walker

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Ralph Della Ratta called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. electronically via Zoom Meetings. 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 this special meeting was being held electronically as permitted under amended Substitute House Bill 197.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Della Ratta noted that the special meeting was called for the sole purpose of considering the proposed resolution, Approval of Special Surcharge Rate for Non-Ohio Residents.

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.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SURCHARGE RATE FOR NON-OHIO RESIDENTS

Again, he announced that the sole item of business was consideration of the resolution, Approval of Special Surcharge Rate for Non-Ohio Residents. On behalf of the Board, he thanked President Diacon, the administration, faculty, staff and students for their amazing response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. He further remarked that the Board was pleased that Kent State students have been able to complete their educations without interruption.

Chair Della Ratta said the resolution was brought forward so the university can secure Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Randy Gardner's final approval of the special surcharge rate, and then promote it in the recruitment of graduate students for the Fall 2020 semester. He called on President Diacon to present the recommendation.

President Diacon explained that non-Ohio residents who earn their undergraduate degrees in Ohio colleges and universities have been identified as a target of opportunity to grow the state's workforce and population. If these graduates can be retained in Ohio as they pursue advanced degrees, they are more likely to stay as permanent residents. He noted that this objective aligns well with Kent State's own data and research. University officials were very pleased when Governor Mike DeWine and Chancellor Gardner created this mechanism to dramatically reduce and all but eliminate the difference between in-state tuition and out-of-state tuition for incoming graduate students who received their undergraduate degrees from Ohio institutions of higher education, he shared. President Diacon then asked if there were any questions. Hearing no questions, he read aloud the final "Be it Resolved" portion of the resolution for the convenience of those joining remotely.

Resolution 2020-33

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SURCHARGE RATE FOR NON-OHIO RESIDENTS

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

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

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education issued a memorandum asking colleges and universities to adopt policies to provide in-state tuition rates to newly enrolled graduate students who have received their bachelor's degrees in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, to retain talent in the state of Ohio and to increase graduate enrollment, Kent State University proposes to add a special graduate out-of-state surcharge rate

for students who obtained an undergraduate degree from an institution of higher education in the state of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the university proposes to apply a reduced rate of \$1 per credit hour, not to exceed \$11 per term, for new non-Ohio residents enrolled in a graduate degree program, except non-degree programs or those at the College of Podiatric Medicine, who obtained their undergraduate degree from an institution of higher education in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education conditionally approved the Kent State University waiver request; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the special out-of-state surcharge rate for new graduate students with an undergraduate degree from an Ohio institution of higher education for the 2020-21 academic year, effective with summer terms beginning after June 30, 2020, subject to any required approvals from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

President Diacon added that under this mechanism, the university would need to request the Chancellor's renewal of the special rate for each biennium.

Chair Della Ratta then asked if there were any comments or questions and called for a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Frost thanked President Diacon for bringing this matter forward for the Board's consideration. He shared that he too had attended the fall Statewide Trustees Conference. When Governor DeWine reached the end of his remarks at the conference, Trustee Frost asked President Diacon about the idea. He said he was pleased to learn that Kent State was already working on it, as President Diacon had sent an email to Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko during the course of the Governor's speech. Trustee Frost said that it was great to see the initiative come to fruition here today. Chair Della Ratta said that with the Board's action, Kent State was the only Ohio university to offer the incentive at this time.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Della Ratta announced that the next regular business meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020. On motion duly made and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.