

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 16, 2020
Meeting Held Remotely and In-Person
Kent State University, Library, Room 1018**

Board Members Present

Shawn Riley, Chair
Virginia Addicott
Ralph Della Ratta
Robert Frost
Jasmine Hoff
Robin Kilbride
Dylan Mace
Donald Mason
Stephen Perry
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 Shawn Riley called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Trustee Kilbride called the roll, and a quorum was present. Chair Riley welcomed Undergraduate Student Trustee Dylan Mace, who was joining the Board that day for the first time since his recent appointment.

PROOF OF NOTICE

Chair Riley stated that public notification was given pursuant to state law and university policy. He announced that as permitted under Substitute House Bill 197, the meeting was being conducted in a hybrid manner. The meeting was livestreamed for public access and members of the Board and the university administration participated both in-person and remotely.

He thanked everyone for their flexibility and dedication to Kent State. Chair Riley noted for the record that all meetings with all in-person participation was conducted with strict adherence to the university's Flashes Safe Seven principles and requirement that university-sponsored in-person meetings be limited to 10 or less participants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Riley 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)]; (ii) considering matters of real estate for public purposes [121.22 (G)(2)]; (iii) conference with attorney for the public body concerning disputes that are or may be the subject of court action [121.22 (G)(3)]; (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)]; and (vi) details relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office [121.22 (G)(6)].

Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Della Ratta that the Board retire into Executive Session. Trustee Kilbride took a roll call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:24 a.m.

The session concluded at 10:27 a.m. Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Frost, that the Board recess the meeting until 10:30 a.m. when it would return to public session for the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Committee of the Whole session convened at 10:30 a.m. and covered several aspects of the Fall reopening of the university. President Todd Diacon made opening remarks and then called upon Interim Senior Vice President Melody Tankersley and Faculty Senate Chair Pamela Grimm to discuss the work of Academic Affairs and faculty leadership in developing and executing the reopening plan. Vice President for Student Affairs Lamar Hylton discussed the work of Student Affairs, particularly the extensive efforts of University Health Services, Residence Services, and Dining Services. Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Polatajko discussed infrastructure required for reopening face to face including the installation of plexiglass throughout classes and offices, rigorous cleaning protocols, and other preparations.

Chair Riley thanked President Todd Diacon and the team for the informative report on reopening and praised the university's herculean efforts to return to face-to-face instruction and operations in a safe and effective manner. Upon conclusion of the session, Trustee Della Ratta moved, seconded by Trustee Addicott, that there be a brief recess for lunch with the full Board reconvening at 1:00 p.m. for the business portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board reconvened for the business portion of the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Riley began by recognizing trustees Dylan Mace and Donald Mason, who were appointed to the Board of Trustees since the group's last regularly scheduled business meeting in June. Undergraduate Student Trustee Dylan Mace was appointed to the Board by Governor Mike DeWine on July 27, Chair Riley announced. Trustee Mace is a top student, with a 3.962 GPA,

majoring in Finance and minoring in Data Analytics and Computer Science. He has led several campus organizations including serving as president of the KSU Interfraternity Council, president of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, an officer of the Kent State Financial Management Association, and a member of the Business Professionals' Roundtable. Chair Riley then expressed gratitude on behalf of the Board to Trustee Donald Mason for continuing his service under a full nine-year term, following his reappointment by Governor DeWine on June 25.

Chair Riley recognized several special guests who joined the meeting in person or online: Nick Kollar, the Board's recently retired Undergraduate Student Trustee, who would be recognized under New Business; John Elliot, Chair of the Kent State University Foundation Board of Directors; Dr. Pamela Grimm, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Larry Armstrong, Co-chair of the Campaign Executive Committee with his wife, Sandy Armstrong.

Chair Riley then moved to the approval of the agenda. He noted the addition of three proposed sales of university real estate, which were discussed with the Board earlier that day and would be recommended for approval as part of the consent agenda. Hearing no further additions or corrections, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES

Chair Riley asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 3, 2020, business meeting of the Board. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by general consent.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Board, Chair Riley thanked and congratulated President Diacon, the faculty, staff, and students for achieving a safe return to in-person learning and campus operations for the Fall 2020 semester, notwithstanding the enormous challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed appreciation for everyone's extraordinary efforts to keep students on track toward their degrees. Chair Riley also said the Board and administration are grateful for the support of state and local government leaders who have assisted in the university's transition back to campus and for the support of the federal government and donors in providing emergency funding for students in need.

Chair Riley stated that earlier that day trustees met as a Committee of the Whole and heard a comprehensive report regarding the return to campus. He thanked the president and his team for not only the presentation but especially for the extraordinary work that went into accomplishing the safe and effective return to on-campus instruction, living and other operations.

Chair Riley then noted for the record, the Board committee chairs for the 2020-2021 year:

- Trustee Robert Frost, Chair of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee;
- Trustee Donald Mason, Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee;
- Trustee Virginia Addicott, Chair of the External Relations and Development Committee;
- Trustee Stephen Perry, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee;

- Trustee Donald Mason, Chair of the Investment Committee;
- Trustee Virginia Addicott, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee.

He thanked them for their willingness to lead and their dedication to Kent State University.

Chair Riley next called on President Diacon to give his report.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Diacon said he thought it appropriate to begin his Board report by addressing institutional challenges and celebrating institutional successes.

He remarked that Kent State and the broader society are in unprecedented times as we face two public health crises: combating racism and living up to our core values, and the COVID-19 pandemic. On the exterior of the university library, which is the tallest building in Portage County, there is a multi-story photo of graduating students that states, “You Belong Here.” The banner was installed to reflect Kent State’s commitment to being a welcoming, affirming, diverse and safe institution as part of its core values. Yet recently, racist paintings appeared on the Rock including the phrase, “Blacks Have No Home Here,” he said. The incident showed that Kent State has both a challenge and an opportunity to square its core values with its actions and the reality faced by members of the university community. He declared that Kent State must double-down on establishing and maintaining a positive environment on campus. He commended students, and particularly the Black United Students (BUS) organization, for showing the way forward. President Diacon said he was pleased to hold two meaningful meetings with Black United Students and one very powerful meeting with the Undergraduate Student Government. He commended BUS for continuing its long and powerful history at Kent State. Founded in 1968, BUS played a fundamental role in creating the Black History Month observance celebrated nationally today and protected Black students from harm on May 4, 1970, he said. Students proposed several action items that are being implemented this semester to ensure student safety. The Department of Public Safety is conducting a security review to identify enhancements of lighting, security cameras, and other campus safety improvements. Students will walk along with university police officers to identify their concerns. Lighting, signage and security cameras will be improved on the Front Campus including in the area of the Rock. He noted that many of the nation’s higher education institutions that feature a rock, wall, bridge or other structure where students paint messages have incorporated its use into their student codes of conduct. Kent State will do that as well, he said. The university is hiring more student security escorts and expanding their availability at night and by day, and is reaching out to the city of Kent and other communities to offer cultural competency training for law enforcement officers. He thanked BUS and its president Tayjua Hines, and Undergraduate Student Government and its president Tiera Moore, for providing valuable ideas for change.

President Diacon then turned his attention to several recent successes that merit celebration. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* earlier that week announced its 2020 *Great Colleges to Work For* award-winners. Kent State was recognized in the Great Colleges honor roll in three categories—its most ever. While Kent State has appeared in the honor roll five times since 2011, it had been listed in just one category, compensation and benefits. For the first time this year, Kent State was

recognized in three categories: (1) confidence in senior leadership; (2) quality of facilities, workplace and security; and (3) work/life balance for employees. He noted that fewer than 70 universities nationwide were recognized in three or more categories, placing Kent State in good company such as Baylor University, University of Kentucky, and the University of Notre Dame.

He reported that *Forbes* Magazine recently ranked Kent State as the fourth best employer in the state of Ohio and number-one in Northeast Ohio. Again Kent State is in very good company, sharing top-four honors with Proctor & Gamble, Cincinnati's Children's Hospital, and Nationwide Children's Hospital, and top-10 honors with world-class organizations such as University Hospitals and Sherwin-Williams.

He commended Kent State's remarkable success in increasing graduation rates, reporting that the six-year graduation rate has risen from 49.9% (beginning with the 2004 cohort) through the current 65.6% rate set by the 2014 cohort. Four- and five-year graduation rates also rose dramatically during the same time period. The four-year graduation rate nearly doubled from 25.2% to 49.8%; and the five-year rate increased nearly 20 percentage points, from 44.8% in to 64.3%. He stated these outstanding results came from the intentionality and commitment to building a students-first, student-ready university. He thanked all of the members of the university community who worked tirelessly to support students in reaching their goal of a college degree.

President Diacon said one of the things that makes Kent State so powerful and so unique is the size and reach of its university system, which is larger than the state of Connecticut. He shared an update on what he termed "deep infrastructure development" occurring through a deep partnership between the Berkshire Local Schools and the Geauga Campus. The district's construction of a \$41.6-million, PreK-12 building including athletics and vocational facilities at the Geauga Campus in Burton is proceeding well. He reminded those present that the Board of Trustees in September 2018 approved a long-term ground lease and shared services agreement with the district to share 30 acres of land on the Geauga Campus. The new school is slated to open in Fall 2021 and among other benefits, will provide field experiences for students in Education, Health and Human Services and other disciplines as well as a natural pipeline to post-secondary education for Berkshire students at the Geauga Campus.

Kent State continues to be recognized nationally for excellence in college and professional journalism. The university was ranked in the top 10 nationwide in the prestigious Hearst Photojournalism and Radio/TV student competitions, he noted. Several Kent State students won individual 2019 Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) awards and the Kent Stater won the ACP's prestigious Pacemaker Award. Student Sara Donato earned the National Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Award in Sports Photography. TV2 earned first place for Best TV Special Event Coverage in the College Media Association awards competition. Student Nathaniel Bailey was awarded the runner-up prize in the 2019 White House "Eyes of History" Student Photographer of the Year competition. WKSU won seven first-place journalism awards at the Press Club's Ohio Excellence Awards competition, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to WKSU and IdeaStream Northeast Ohio to explore opportunities for enhancing public radio and news reporting in Northeast Ohio.

He cited a recent virtual event with Pulitzer Prize-winner and Kent State Professional in Residence Connie Schultz as an example of faculty excellence. The event centered on Schultz's New York Times-bestselling debut novel, *The Daughters of Erietown*, an historical novel that takes place in Ashtabula and is about generations of women in Northeast Ohio. A 1979 KSU journalism graduate, Ms. Schultz in 2016 joined the College of Communication and Information where she is a student-favorite, spellbinding speaker and teacher, he said.

President Diacon closed noting the success of Kent State's turnaround of student enrollment from a downward trend of -17.9% in early May to a 3.2% decline in official Fall 2020 enrollment statistics. He praised the outstanding work of Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker and her team for leading in the accomplishment of these results. Regional campuses also achieved relative stability in their fall enrollments, reflecting the fruits of a renewed emphasis on enrollment management. He gave a special shoutout to Dean Eboni Pringle of University College and her team for their work in supporting the retention of students. Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, freshman retention increased to 81.6% this fall.

With that President Diacon concluded his report.

Chair Riley asked if there were any questions. Trustee Della Ratta asked how Kent State fared in enrollment compared to peer institutions. President Diacon replied that all Ohio public universities except Ohio State were down or flat.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Chair Riley asked President Diacon to present the personnel actions.

President Diacon called on Interim Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley to present the academic personnel actions. She reported that the academic personnel actions were relatively routine in nature. Dr. Tankersley further noted that during their committee meeting, she highlighted the request for emeritus status for six members of faculty and administration, the retirement of 42 faculty members, and the appointment of Dr. Emily Metzgar as the new Director of the School of Media and Journalism. Dr. Metzgar comes to Kent State after serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Media School at Indiana University, which is ranked seventh internationally. With that, Dr. Tankersley concluded her report.

He next called on Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Polatajko to present the non-academic personnel actions. Dr. Polatajko stated the non-academic personnel actions report stood as written. He noted that the personnel actions included the full implementation of two measures approved at the Board's special meeting in May – the fiscal year 2021 salary adjustment model and resignations and retirements resulting from the voluntary separation incentive program for staff and faculty. With that, Dr. Polatajko concluded his report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Riley proceeded with reports and recommendations from the Board's standing committees. He thanked trustees for giving their time for standing committee meetings held remotely the previous week. Committee recommendations would be placed on the consent agenda and acted upon in one motion, unless any trustee wished to remove an item for further discussion. At the end of each committee report, he asked if any trustee wished to remove an item from the consent agenda for further discussion. If there were no objections, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

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

Committee Chair Frost thanked Chair Riley and reported that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met remotely on September 10. The committee considered a list of action items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, he said.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES SPRING 2020

Trustee Frost stated that the committee recommended the conferral of 5,089 degrees in Spring 2020 for approval by the Board.

Resolution 2020-49

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES SPRING 2020

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 December 15, 2019, to May 9, 2020 – 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 December 15, 2019, to May 9, 2020.

He then presented proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Charter and Bylaws.

REVISIONS OF THE FACULTY SENATE CHARTER AND BYLAWS

Trustee Frost stated that the proposed revisions to the Charter and the Bylaws were meant to clarify language and update terminology and procedures surrounding committees. Specifically, the Educational Policies Council, once divided into two bodies (one responsible for undergraduate education and the other responsible for graduate education), would now be combined into one council that will consider curricular matters for the entire university, he noted.

Resolution 2020-50

REVISIONS OF THE FACULTY SENATE CHARTER AND BYLAWS

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 revisions were recommended by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Charter and Bylaws Commission following a comprehensive review; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to University Policy 3342-2-05 Regarding the Faculty Senate Charter and University Policy 3342-2-06 Regarding the Faculty Senate Bylaws were reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Office of the Provost and approved by the Faculty Senate on May 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions clarify language and update terminology and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions have also been reviewed and approved by the Office of General Counsel and the President's Cabinet, and carry the endorsement of the Provost and President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the revisions of University Policy 3342-2-05 Regarding the Faculty

Senate Charter and University Policy 3342-2-06 Regarding the Faculty Senate Bylaws, effective September 30, 2020.

Trustee Frost then presented two curricular recommendations for the upcoming academic year. Both of these curriculum changes were reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate, the Provost and the President, he said.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CYBERSECURITY MAJOR WITHIN THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED BUSINESS DEGREE

He stated that the program was created as an entry-level degree with the intention of accommodating varied educational backgrounds and preparing both traditional and non-traditional students for careers in information security.

Resolution 2020-51

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CYBERSECURITY MAJOR
WITHIN THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED BUSINESS DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Applied and Technical Studies seeks approval of the establishment of the Cybersecurity major within the Associate of Applied Business degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program will be offered fully online or in hybrid mode on all seven regional campuses with Kent State Trumbull Campus being the admitting campus for first-time applicants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Cybersecurity Major prepares students for careers in information security, as graduates of the program will develop the tools necessary to address current security issues; and

WHEREAS, the need for cybersecurity positions in the United States is expected to increase by 38% by 2028 with the expectation that job openings will triple over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the proposed program are to accommodate varied educational backgrounds, develop competencies needed for success in a variety of work settings, and offer major courses in schedules attractive to both traditional and non-traditional students; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Cybersecurity major within the Associate of Applied Business degree, effective Fall 2021, pending approval of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Next, Trustee Frost presented the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence major within the Master of Science degree, a program that will focus on the areas of intelligent analytics, robotics, and smart communities and automation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

He further shared that trustees heard during the committee presentation that the need for artificial intelligence professionals in the U.S. is growing at an annual rate of 30 to 40 percent.

Resolution 2020-52

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MAJOR
WITHIN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval of the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence major within the Master of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program, offered by the Department of Computer Science, prepares students for career paths where they will apply artificial intelligence to industry, community, and military sectors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Artificial Intelligence program will focus on the areas of intelligent analytics, robotics, and smart communities and automation; and

WHEREAS, the need for artificial intelligence in the United States is growing at an annual rate of 30 to 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, there has been significant career growth in artificial intelligence since the United States Congress enacted H.R. 4829 in 2018 to identify and promote industries that can benefit from artificial intelligence applications to improve both the labor force and enhance life in various fields; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence major within the Master of Science degree, effective Fall 2021, pending approval of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission.

Trustee Frost then stated the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee recommended that the academic personnel actions under Tab 2, the conferral of 5,089 degrees under Tab 5, and the management decision items found under tabs 6 through 8 be placed on the consent agenda for Board approval.

Finally, Trustee Frost said that the committee was provided with two informational presentations:

Vice President Hylton and Tiffany Murray, Director and Title IX Coordinator of the Office of Gender and Equity and EOAA, gave the committee an update on Kent State's compliance with revised Title IX requirements. The university has reviewed its policies and procedures relative to Title IX in order to comply with new federal requirements as of August 14, 2020. During the update Vice President Hylton informed the committee that one of the policy changes enacted focuses on regulations for student behavior and administration of student conduct. He presented the revised Administrative Policy 3342-4-02.1 Regarding Regulations for Student Behavior and the Administration of Student Conduct, which was approved by the administration effective August 1, 2020, and was provided for the Board's information.

Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker gave the committee an update on enrollment management. She reviewed the university's Fall 2020 statistics, which were not final at the time of the committee meeting. Final official numbers were reported earlier in the business meeting by President Diacon, he said.

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

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Frost 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 Riley then called on Committee Chair Trustee Donald Mason to present the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Trustee Mason said the Audit and Compliance Committee met remotely on September 8, 2020.

He stated that Director of Internal Audit Sarah Gampo provided the committee with a report of internal audit activities conducted in FY 2020, noting the retirement of JoAnn Gustafson on March 31, 2020. There were no unusual items to report, and Ms. Gampo indicated that follow-up on open audit findings will continue to be monitored until all corrective actions have been made, he said. Director Gampo also provided the Internal Audit plan review for FY 2020, comparing budget hours to actual hours.

He then noted that John Rathje, Vice President for Information Technology, and Bob Eckman, Chief Information Security Officer, provided the annual presentation on cybersecurity, this year focusing on the topic of building and strengthening security discipline. Mr. Eckman reviewed cyber controls, security policies, data protection, and management of cyber risk. Keeping software and devices free of threats is ongoing as indicated by the 2020 security statistics shared with the committee, he said.

With that, Trustee Mason concluded his report for the Audit and Compliance committee.

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

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Perry thanked Chair Riley and fellow Board members. The Finance and Administration Committee met remotely on September 11, 2020, and discussed several items to be considered by the Board. In addition to the non-academic personnel actions, the committee reviewed several agenda items recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

He first presented the proposed resolution requesting approval of the university's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNIVERSITY BUDGET

Chair Perry stated that a balanced FY 2021 university budget was recommended, representing a 10% or \$65-million reduction from FY 2020. He stated that Dr. Polatajko shared with the committee that the university's continued ability to present balanced budgets is a testament to the dedicated leadership and strategic focus of all university stakeholders including deans, department heads, Cabinet and faculty, all responding to develop a reduced budget under the most extreme circumstances, he said.

He explained that given the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of the Board's meeting on June 3, 2020, Resolution 2020-41 (Expenditure Authorization) was adopted to ensure the continuation of university operations in the first quarter of the new fiscal year. At

the June meeting, the Board also approved Resolution 2020-42 (Approval of Tuition, Room and Board Rates Under the Tuition Guarantee Model, Effective Fall 2020). Now that the university has had time to plan for campus reopening and see the impact of the reopening on enrollment levels, it was possible to approve a final university budget for the current year, he said. Overall, the recommended university budget for fiscal year 2021 recognizes the importance of affordability and encouraging student success. It addresses critical commitments and strategic investments and reflects the keen emphasis the Board and the university community have placed on effectiveness, efficiency and resource optimization.

Key revenue assumptions upon which the university budget was based included:

- State Share of Instruction (SSI) was projected at \$145.3 million, a decrease of \$13.7 million from the prior-year budget based upon an actual reduction of 4.5% for the first quarter of FY2021 and the potential for further reduction in SSI (up to 10%) for the remainder of FY2021 depending upon the state economy;
- Tuition and Fee revenue was projected at \$383.4 million, which is \$18.2 million less than the approved Fiscal Year 2020 budget and is the product of a conservative assumption of a 6.5% reduction in enrollment coupled with a 4.1% increase in tuition for the Fall 2020 cohort under the tuition guarantee. All other tuition rates (in-state, undergraduates not included in the tuition guarantee, graduate tuition and non-resident surcharges) remained at the same level as the prior year;
- Due to the reduction in on-campus classes and activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, auxiliary operations have been challenged, resulting in \$28.9 million less in auxiliary revenues;
- Investment income dedicated to the current funds, unrestricted budget was budgeted at \$2.0 million; and
- All other major revenue categories were projected to grow by approximately \$3.8 million, in the aggregate.

Key expense assumptions included:

- The university will continue to dedicate significant resources to fund financial aid, with particular focus on students with the greatest financial need.
- The university's budget for employee compensation included the salary adjustment model and memorandums of understanding with the Kent State University bargaining units as approved at the May 6, 2020, Board meeting
- Healthcare benefits expense were expected to decrease by 2% due to the strategic management of rising healthcare costs through wellness, employee engagement relative to understanding healthcare plan options, and the reduction in covered employees due to the Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan.
- New funding commitments included an additional \$1.6 million dedicated to enhancing student mental health services, \$1.2 million in support of off-campus and distance learning, \$560,000 for the Health Center, and \$120,000 for eSports.

Resolution 2020-53

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNIVERSITY BUDGET

WHEREAS, an annual budget is prepared to provide a financial plan to guide the university for the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, due to the uncertainties relative to the pandemic's impact on university revenues, the Kent State University Board of Trustees adopted an expenditure authorization resolution (2020-41) on June 3, 2020, which permitted continuing university operations at 80% of the fiscal year 2020 levels into the new fiscal year that began July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the university is prepared to approve a final FY 2021 budget now that additional information has been obtained regarding the campus reopening and the anticipated impact on enrollment along with State Share of Instruction; and

WHEREAS, the recommended university budget of \$595,150,639 recognizes the importance of affordability and encouraging student success, addresses critical commitments and strategic investments, and reflects the keen emphasis the Board and the university community have placed on effectiveness, efficiency and resource optimization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2020-21.

Next, Trustee Perry noted that Policy 3342-7-12 requires Board of Trustees approval of any single agreement to purchase goods or services with an estimated total cost of \$1 million or more. The following items meet that criteria and were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, he said.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICES

Chair Perry explained that through a competitive RFP process, two vendors were selected to provide natural gas services to Kent State University. Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC was judged to provide the best overall value for natural gas services to the regional campuses, the College of Podiatric Medicine, and certain accounts at the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). IGS Energy was identified as providing the best overall value for natural gas services to the Kent Campus and certain accounts at NEOMED. He explained that NEOMED, which is located in nearby Rootstown, traditionally has been included in Kent State's natural gas service contracts to realize the benefits of combined purchasing. The proposed purchase agreements have a duration of five years with five optional one-year extensions and the total Kent State costs will be funded by University Facilities Management, Energy Operation, he said.

Resolution 2020-54

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, Kent State University desires to enter into purchase agreements for the provision of natural gas services; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by Kent State University for natural gas service for two service account types, Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC provided the best overall value for natural gas service to the regional campuses, the College of Podiatric Medicine and certain accounts at the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and IGS Energy provided the proposal with the best overall value for natural gas service to the Kent Campus and certain accounts at the Northeast Ohio Medical University; and

WHEREAS, the proposed purchase agreements are five-year agreements with five additional one-year periods exercised at the university's option; 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 purchase agreement for natural gas service with Direct Energy Business Marketing LLC, and a purchase agreement for natural gas service with IGS Energy, each for five years with an option for the University to renew the agreement for up to five one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Next, Trustee Perry recommended approval of the vendor selection for a new learning management system and related implementation services. This action will ensure Kent State is providing the best framework through which learning content may be managed by faculty and delivered to students in the judgment of the selection committee, he noted.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR A NEW LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND RELATED IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

Chair Perry noted that Instructure/Canvas was selected as the solution that best met the RFP requirements after an extensive internal review process. The proposed contract has a term of three years at a total of \$1,560,332, with a university option to renew up to two additional one-year periods at approximately \$605,218 each year, for a potential total contract duration of five years and a cost of \$2,770,768.

Resolution 2020-55

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR A NEW LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND RELATED IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

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 a new learning management system (LMS) and related implementation services in order to ensure the university is providing the best framework through which learning content may be managed by faculty and delivered to students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract will be for a term of three years at \$1,560,332 with a university option to renew up to two additional one-year periods at approximately \$605,218 each year, for potential total contract duration of five years and a cost not to exceed \$2,770,768; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by the Kent State University procurement department, Instructure/Canvas provided the proposal with the best overall value; 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 Instructure/Canvas for a new learning management system and related implementation services for a term of three years with a university option to renew up to two additional one-year periods in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry then presented the request for the approval of vendor selection for a network data center firewall for Kent State University.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR A NETWORK DATA CENTER FIREWALL

He explained that in the absence of a network data center firewall, the university would be unable to use or provide access to critical systems that support its administrative and academic functions. Using a request for proposal issued by the Inter-University Council (IUC) Purchasing Group, university leaders have identified CDW-G/Palo Alto as the vendor providing the best overall value for this project. The proposed purchase agreement will be for five years at \$1.26 million and will be funded by the CARES Act funding, he said.

Resolution 2020-56

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR A NETWORK DATA CENTER FIREWALL

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 a network data center firewall and related services; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by Inter-University Council Purchasing Group, CDW-G/Palo Alto provided the proposal with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the network data center firewall, including the five-year maintenance warranty, is \$1.26 million to be funded by the CARES Act funding; 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 CDW-G/Palo Alto for the provision of a network data center firewall including a five-year maintenance warranty, in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

He then shared the request for approval of the vendor selection for network equipment refresh and modernization.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT REFRESH AND MODERNIZATION

Chair Perry stated that approval of the proposed agreement would provide network equipment and services enabling Kent State to operate effectively, especially during this heightened period of remote coursework and telework due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to an RFP issued by the IUC Purchasing Group, CDW Government LLC, was judged to provide the best overall value for the project. The estimated cost for the network equipment was not to exceed \$4.0 million and would be funded by CARES Act funding, he said.

Resolution 2020-57

APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT REFRESH AND MODERNIZATION

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 network equipment and related services to operate effectively, especially in this time of remote coursework and telework; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request for proposal issued by the Inter-University Council Purchasing Group, CDW Government LLC (CDW-G) provided the proposal with the best overall value; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the network equipment is not to exceed \$4.0 million and would be funded by CARES Act funding; 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 CDW-G for the provision of network equipment and related services in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry said that Committee Chair Donald Mason gave a report on the Investment Committee meeting held on June 24, 2020.

Chair Perry further noted that the Finance and Administration Committee received information regarding recent revisions to selected administrative policies including:

- Administrative Policy 3342-5-12.12 Regarding the Handling of Radioactive Materials
- Administrative Policy 3342-5-12.3 Regarding Acquisition, and Inventory Control, and Sales or Other Disposal of University Property
- Administrative Policy and Procedures 3342-5-16.1 Regarding Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment
- Administrative Policy 3342-5-16.2 Regarding Complaints of Title IX Sexual Harassment

Additionally, the committee learned that preparations had begun on the 2020 Efficiency Report and Master Recommendations Report to the State of Ohio, as required by the Ohio General Assembly. He will review the report as committee chair prior to its submission to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education on the deadline of November 13, 2020. The committee and the full Board will have the opportunity to review and ratify the report at the Board's December meeting.

He noted that the committee also was updated on the administration's consideration of extending Kent State's current multimedia rights agreement with Learfield/IMG, which is set to expire in June 2021. In addition, the group reviewed information reports under tabs 22-24, which are routinely provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

Trustee Perry then concluded his report of the Finance and Administrative Committee.

Chair Riley announced that Trustee Addicott asked that the proposed vendor selections under tabs 15-16 be removed from the consent agenda for a separate vote. As a member of the CDW Board of Directors, Trustee Addicott had recused herself from all participation in these matters. Chair Riley noted that the proposed vendor selections were made under a statewide competitive process led by the IUC Purchasing Group. He asked for a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the selection of CDW-G/Palo Alto for a network data center firewall, as proposed under Tab 15.

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

Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the selection of CDW-G for network equipment refresh and modernization, under Tab 16.

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

Chair Riley asked if any trustee wished to remove any of the items under tabs 12-14 from the consent agenda for further discussion. There were no objections and the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

Chair Riley then called on Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko to present three proposed real estate matters for the Board's consideration. If there were no objections, the three resolutions would be placed the consent agenda for approval, he said.

*CONVEYANCE OF VACANT LAND ON SOUTH SIDE OF EDUCATIONAL
HIGHWAY, CHAMPION, OHIO*

Dr. Polatajko presented the first of three property matters for the Board's consideration: the proposed conveyance of vacant land located on the south side of Educational Highway in Champion, Ohio. He said that the proposal included 62.88 acres of vacant land located at the Trumbull Campus, which was recommended for sale at the appraised value of \$395,000.

Resolution 2020-58

**CONVEYANCE OF VACANT LAND ON SOUTH SIDE OF
EDUCATIONAL HIGHWAY, CHAMPION, OHIO**

WHEREAS, Kent State University owns 62.88 acres of vacant land located along and between Educational Highway NW and State Route 5, Champion Heights, Ohio 44483 and further described as Trumbull County Permanent Parcel No. 46-901688 (“the Property”); and

WHEREAS, the university has received an offer to purchase the Property for fair market value; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University has been unable to identify a strategic use for the Property, given its location and restrictions on use; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University desires to convey the Property to the buyer, provided the university can obtain approvals from the appropriate state agencies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to take any action necessary to convey the Property located along and between Educational Highway NW and State Route 5, Champion Heights, Ohio 44483 and further described as Trumbull County Permanent Parcel No. 46-901688, subject to approvals required by the State of Ohio.

***AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6029
POWDERMILL ROAD, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO***

Dr. Polatajko sought the Board’s authorization to sell property located at 6029 Powdermill Road and State Route 59 located in Franklin Township, Ohio. This parcel represented a total of 6.93 acres located at State Route 59 and Powdermill Road. The university had an offer to purchase the property at its appraised value of \$165,000, he said.

Resolution 2020-59

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6029
POWDERMILL ROAD, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

WHEREAS, Kent State University has completed its Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State master plan; and

WHEREAS, certain real estate parcels have been identified as surplus real estate assets by the university and available for disposition; and

WHEREAS, at its December 5, 2018, meeting the Board of Trustees authorized the marketing and sale of the parcels; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the sale of the parcels in legislation passed on July 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the university has received an offer to purchase 6.93 acres of land improved by a 6,300 square-foot commercial building, identified as Portage County Permanent Parcel No. 12-020-00-00-033-000, at fair market value; 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 purchase agreement for the sale of 6.93 acres improved by a commercial building located at 6029 Powdermill Road, Franklin Township, Ohio.

*AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON VACANT LAND,
POWDERMILL ROAD, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO*

Finally, Dr. Polatajko presented that the third item – the proposed sale of property located on vacant land on Powdermill Road in Franklin Township. The parcel represents a total of 25 acres at the intersection of State Route 261 and State Route 59, he said. The university at that time had an offer for purchase at the appraised value of \$312,500.

Resolution 2020-60

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON
VACANT LAND, POWDERMILL ROAD, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP,
OHIO**

WHEREAS, Kent State University has completed its Gateway to a Distinctive Kent State master plan; and

WHEREAS, certain real estate parcels have been identified as surplus real estate assets by the university and available for disposition; and

WHEREAS, at the December 5, 2018 meeting the Board of Trustees authorized the marketing and sale of the parcels; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly authorized the sale of the parcels in legislation passed on July 18, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the University has received an offer to purchase 25 acres of vacant land, identified as a part of Portage County Permanent Parcel No. 12-019-00-00-005-000, at fair market value; 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 purchase agreement for the sale of 25 acres of vacant land located on Powdermill Road, Franklin Township, Ohio.

Chair Riley then asked if there were any objections to placing these three real estate matters on the consent agenda for approval. There were no objections, and the resolutions were placed on the consent agenda for approval.

Chair Riley then called on the Chair of the External Relations and Development Committee Virginia Addicott to present her report.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Addicott reported that the External Relations and Development Committee met on September 10, 2020, to receive updates on the Division of Institutional Advancement, fundraising, and naming actions approved by President Diacon.

She thanked and recognized John Elliot and Larry Armstrong for joining the Board meeting that day, noting that their engagement reflects the deep dedication and support of alumni and friends for Kent State University and most of all, for supporting the success of our students.

Chair Addicott said the committee heard an informative status report by Interim Vice President Valoree Vargo on the Division of Institutional Advancement. Interim Vice President Vargo shared an overview of the restructuring of the division over the summer, its new and more fully integrated approach to alumni engagement, its projected fundraising goals for the next four years, and an update on plans for a public launch of the comprehensive campaign in 2021. She emphasized that the division's focus will continue to be student success in the coming years. Ms. Vargo explained that Institutional Advancement has developed a strong collaborative partnership with the Division of Enrollment Management so that volunteer engagement in student support can be implemented efficiently and effectively. A new, data-driven approach and donor-centered engagement will help move the needle on fundraising over the next four years, she said. Finally, Trustee Addicott announced that the Division of Institutional Advancement was renamed the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, effective November 1, to reflect its commitment to integrate alumni and volunteer engagement in all aspects of advancement operations. Alumni Relations no longer is a stand-alone unit and has been restructured and integrated throughout the division, she said.

Trustee Addicott said that the committee reviewed the most recent fundraising report, which showed fundraising activity during the first two months of the fiscal year. She observed that the university saw a decline in total dollars raised in fiscal year 2020 due to the loss of an entire quarter of donor meetings and events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The division, however, was very proud of efforts that raised \$1.1 million in just 90 days for emergency funds to support students during this challenging time. This effort has engaged many first-time donors and demonstrated the university's students-first commitment, according to Ms. Vargo. Trustee

Addicott again gave a shoutout to John Elliot, Larry Armstrong, Michael Solomon and all of the Foundation board members who stepped up immediately to meet the compelling needs of students by giving generously to the Kent State Student Emergency Fund.

Finally, the committee was informed of President Diacon's approval, consistent with university naming policy, of the naming of The Pillai Family Graduate Student Office – Honoring Padmanabha, '73, and Gowri Pillai, Lakshmikumar, '80, and NithyaPriya, '10 on the second floor of the Integrated Sciences Building.

With that Trustee Addicott concluded her report on behalf of the External Relations and Development Committee.

Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Chair Riley stated that the consent agenda was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Riley then moved to new business. He announced that there was one very important item of new business to come before the Board – a series of resolutions of appreciation. He then proceeded with the presentation of four such resolutions for the Board's consideration.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO RONALD L. BURBICK

Chair Riley asked President Diacon to present the first proposed resolution of appreciation. Dr. Diacon praised the late Ronald L. Burbick as a visionary leader and philanthropist who left an indelible mark on the Kent community before his passing earlier in September, and presented the resolution below.

Resolution 2020-61

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO RONALD L. BURBICK

WHEREAS, Ronald L. Burbick was a key business and civic leader whose foresight and perseverance changed the face of downtown Kent and the quality of life throughout Portage County; and

WHEREAS, a long-time executive of Schneller Inc., Mr. Burbick adopted Kent as his hometown and set upon a bold course to spur its redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, it was Mr. Burbick who took the first – and pivotal – leap of faith when he purchased several buildings on Main Street eventually transforming them

into Acorn Alley 1 and 2, creating a dynamic new town center housing shops, restaurants, agencies, galleries and more; and

WHEREAS, through both his ground-breaking investments and his staunch advocacy, he is widely regarded as the individual most responsible for the city of Kent's stunning, award-winning revitalization; and

WHEREAS, beyond his commitment to positioning Kent as a rising college town, Mr. Burbick was a generous supporter of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, he also gave generously of his time, serving on local boards of organizations including Town Hall II, the Portage Foundation, Kent Area Chamber of Commerce, Robinson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Leadership Portage County, Main Street Kent, and the Children's Advocacy Center; and

WHEREAS, the Kent area community lost one of its greatest champions when Mr. Burbick passed away at age 75 on September 6, 2020; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses deep gratitude to Ronald L. Burbick for his extraordinary vision and dedication to revitalizing downtown Kent and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of the region, and extends its condolences to members of the Burbick family and the broader community.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chair Riley commented that it is always bittersweet when the Board has to recognize student trustees who retire after two short years of service. He said that it was particularly bittersweet to honor Nick Kollar whose term expired in May 2020. He was completing an internship with Citizens Capital Markets in Atlanta in June, but was able to be present that day to attend a final meeting and receive this recognition in person, Chair Riley noted.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR NICHOLAS KOLLAR

He then asked Trustee Jasmine Hoff to present the resolution honoring Nick Kollar.

Resolution 2020-62

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO NICHOLAS KOLLAR

WHEREAS, Nicholas (Nick) Kollar was appointed to the Kent State University Board of Trustees by Governor John Kasich, effective May 17, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Kollar is respected by his Board colleagues as a highly motivated, hard-working, and principled individual who participates actively in all aspects of the trustee role; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Kollar has served as a member of the Board's Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Audit and Compliance Committee, External Relations and Development Committee, and Investment Committee; and

WHEREAS, along with fulfilling his responsibilities as Undergraduate Student Trustee, he has excelled in his studies and will earn his Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance and Economics, degree in December 2020; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Kollar has demonstrated his passionate commitment to student success and to sound stewardship of resources not only through his trusteeship but also through internships with Citizens Capital Markets and Hometown Bank and participation since 2018 as a member of the Golden Flash Asset Management student-managed investment fund; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Kollar has played a special role in the history of Kent State, serving as one of two student representatives on the May 4 50th Commemoration Advisory Committee and sharing his perspectives on the lessons of May 4 for today's students as part of the "Armed with Our Voices" traveling exhibit and the university's virtual Commemoration on May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board, the administration and the university community applaud him for his high performance and dedication to Kent State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University expresses sincere gratitude to Nicholas Kollar for his outstanding service and wishes him the very best in his future pursuits.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chair Riley asked President Diacon if he would like to make a few comments.

President Diacon often observes that the two best days at Kent State University are commencement and freshmen move-in day but today added a third special event – the chance to work with the university's student trustees. He said it was such a pleasure to be able to work with Nick Kollar from his arrival as a new freshman through the Provost Leadership Academy. He commended Mr. Kollar for his hard work, his attitude, his commitment, and his leadership. Every time a Board member wanted a student opinion over the past two years, Trustee Kollar

gave such a powerful response and observation. Through his participation and insights he helped Board members better understand the world of Kent State University, said President Diacon, wishing Mr. Kollar well upon his graduation in December.

Chair Riley then asked Mr. Kollar if he would like to comment.

Trustee Kollar thanked his fellow Board members, the President's Cabinet and gave a special thank-you to Vice President Lamar Hylton. During his freshman year he got a job in Dr. Hylton's office helping with the budget and finance operations. Through that opportunity, he got his first taste of what Kent State was all about, said Mr. Kollar. That experience led him to apply for the position of undergraduate student trustee, which allowed him to have a big influence on the student body and that was something that he did not take lightly. He said his challenge to new Undergraduate Student Trustee Dylan Mace was not to take that lightly as well. As a student trustee you have a responsibility to reflect your own opinions on the Board but also to represent the student body well. In today's world and with the challenges for the future of higher education, it is important that students continue to have a voice, he said. He further remarked that he will continue to cultivate the lessons he learned from everyone and try to be a better leader and a better self as he continues to grow and pursues his career. Mr. Kollar acknowledged that student trustees face some limitations due to their two-year terms, but he is confident that trustees—students, voting members national trustees alike—will continue to lead Kent State to benefit future generations of students such as his sister Brooke, who is a freshman studying Environmental Sciences. He said it was a privilege to work alongside all of the board members and administration, and it was a privilege to walk the campus and directly see the changes and impact the board and administration are making on a day-to-day basis. With that, he thanked all for the outstanding experience he received and for their friendship.

President Diacon then presented Mr. Kollar with a framed resolution and gifts of appreciation.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR MICHAEL D. SOLOMON

Chair Riley next noted that the Board also celebrates a retiring colleague who has set a very high bar for all national trustees who follow him. He asked Trustee Addicott to present the resolution honoring Michael Solomon.

Resolution 2020-63

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MICHAEL D. SOLOMON

WHEREAS, Michael D. Solomon was elected as the first-ever National Trustee of Kent State University by the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, through his committed service to alma mater and his success as an entrepreneur, investor, senior executive and board member in early stage technology companies and emerging growth companies, Michael Solomon has

demonstrated the premier leadership, cutting-edge thinking and commitment the Board envisioned in creating this role; and

WHEREAS, as National Trustee he has served on the Board's Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee and the External Relations and Development Committee, represented trustees on the Kent State University Foundation Board of Directors, and joined the Campaign Executive Committee planning the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of the university; and

WHEREAS, an entering freshman at Kent State in Fall 1970, Trustee Solomon provided tireless and inspired leadership as the National Chair of the 50th Commemoration of May 4, 1970, contributing his time and philanthropy generously to advance national initiatives such as the May 4 traveling exhibit, speakers tour, and external film projects; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Solomon's impact will endure on many fronts, as he has relished working arm in arm with enterprising students, faculty and staff through the College of Business Administration's annual pitch competition, the Michael D. Solomon Entrepreneurship Speaker Series, LaunchNET and other university initiatives to support and encourage entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, his third and final term as National Trustee will expire on September 30, 2020; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation to Michael Solomon for his distinguished stewardship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because of his deep commitment and contributions to the advancement of Kent State University as a member of the Board of Trustees, Michael D. Solomon is hereby designated Trustee Emeritus of Kent State University with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

ACTION: Trustee Della Ratta moved, seconded by Trustee Kilbride, that the motion be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Chair Riley asked President Diacon if he would like to make a few remarks.

President Diacon said he and Trustee Solomon became joined at the hip a few years ago when they led efforts to develop the 50th Commemoration of May 4, 1970. He appreciated Trustee Solomon's ability to listen to the community, which in turn helped in fashioning such a meaningful series of events and activities. He commended Trustee Solomon for his generosity to his alma mater, noting his philanthropy has and will continue to make a difference at Kent State. President Diacon told Trustee Solomon that a heartfelt gift was on its way to him as a token of Kent State's appreciation for his years of service, visionary leadership, and kind demeanor.

Trustee Solomon reflected briefly on his 20-year journey since reconnecting with Kent State. What makes Kent State such a special place for him, according to Trustee Solomon, are the people who work here and those who come here for an education. The trait that he sees most in them is heart. He believes the Kent State May 4 legacy attracts a different type of person and impacts those who attend or work here in rich and profound ways. It deepens their connection to what really matters in life, he added. Trustee Solomon said he felt fortunate to have had a front-row seat to the university coming to grips with an event that for decades carried a burden of shame, finally to be overcome by a sense of pride and importance, healing through the wound. He cited many individuals he has gotten to know through Kent State and the positive impact they've had on his life. Trustee Solomon then thanked all of the members of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board with whom he has served, and the Board chairs for their tireless work and exceptional leadership.

Based upon his personal experience, Trustee Solomon encouraged Kent State to rethink the role of the university in the future of American culture. Instead of following an antiquated model of alumni relations, Kent State should forge a new path, he said. The university should reconceive alumni engagement, empowering each department and college to find ways to express what they know to their former students and to deliver to alumni an educational experience that never ends throughout their careers and lifetimes. One thing he has learned about Kent State is that there is a bottomless well of knowledge and brilliant people across a huge breadth of domains. While some alumni may just want to know how the football team is doing, he thinks a vastly broader range of graduates will be more involved through a dynamic, ongoing, trusted relationship for life. He said he leaves this idea in very capable hands to consider. In closing he offered a sincere thank-you to every person he has encountered at Kent State, for making his life bigger and better. For the rest of his life, he will go forward with his heart expanded and his head held high with respect, pride and appreciation for this institution.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR RALPH M. DELLA RATTA

Chair Riley commented that trustees now would celebrate and honor an individual who has provided exceptional leadership to this Board, and whose impact will be long be felt at Kent State University. He asked Trustee Frost to present the proposed resolution of appreciation for Trustee Ralph Della Ratta.

Resolution 2020-64

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO RALPH M. DELLA RATTA

WHEREAS, Ralph M. Della Ratta was appointed to the Kent State University Board of Trustees by Governor John Kasich on July 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Della Ratta has given superb service to the Board of Trustees including exceptional leadership as Vice Chair of the Board (2016-2018), Chair of the External Relations and Development Committee (2015-2018) and Chair of the

Investment Committee (2013-2018) who spearheaded key changes to the university's investment model and policies and forged greater collaboration with the Kent State University Foundation Board, moves that have led to significant growth in returns from the investment of university resources; and

WHEREAS, as Board Chair from 2018 to 2020 he provided inspired leadership at a momentous time for Kent State including the national search and selection of Dr. Todd A. Diacon as the university's 13th president effective July 1, 2019; preparations for the 50th Commemoration of May 4, 1970; planning of the largest comprehensive campaign in the university's history; and steady navigation of the institution during an unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University applauds Trustee Della Ratta for his extraordinary leadership in founding the highly successful Western Reserve Partners and assuming regional, national and global leadership roles across the financial services industry as well as throughout the Northeast Ohio community; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Della Ratta's colleagues and friends at Kent State will forever appreciate his laser-focus on students-first in all we do, keen business insights and analytical mind, commitment to excellence in stewardship of all resources entrusted to the university and fervent school spirit, gratified that he now bleeds blue and gold for the Golden Flashes along with devotion to his beloved Blue Devils of Duke University; and

WHEREAS, due to unforeseen circumstances Trustee Della Ratta has indicated his intention to retire from the Board of Trustees effective September 30, 2020; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation to Ralph M. Della Ratta for his distinguished stewardship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because of his deep commitment and contributions to the advancement of Kent State, Trustee Della Ratta is hereby designated Trustee Emeritus of Kent State University with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Chair Riley asked President Diacon if he would like to make a few comments.

President Diacon said he was thinking about when universities succeed over an extended period of time, the trustees have a lot to do with that. During Trustee Della Ratta's term, Kent State

University has advanced and improved because of his leadership, wise counsel, and steady hand both as a member and as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. He said it has been a great pleasure to work with Trustee Della Ratta. President Diacon said he always has appreciated Trustee Della Ratta's sense of humor and humility, especially given how much he has accomplished in life. He remarked that Trustee Della Ratta truly has become an honorary Golden Flash through his dogged commitment to accessibility and to degree completion, and his unshakeable belief in humanity. The Kent State community is grateful for all Trustee Della Ratta has done, said President Diacon, adding that he has made us better and we are thankful to honor his service.

Trustee Della Ratta said he saw the most beautiful sunrise ever on his drive to Kent that morning. He said it struck him how important it is to think about things like that because now is such a hard time in America not just because of COVID-19, but also due to racism, polarization, distrust, and so many other problems. But the beautiful sunrise demonstrated there is always hope and a new day. Trustee Della Ratta expressed gratitude for the wonderful and fascinating experience of serving on the Kent State board. He felt blessed to have worked with three of the 13 presidents in the university's history, all of whom were very different, very talented, and the right person at the right time. Trustee Della Ratta shared that excellence doesn't end at the top, commending members of the President's Cabinet for their dedication and competence. Kent State has a very well-functioning leadership team, something that should not be taken for granted. He regretted that time prevented him from thanking all those for whom he is grateful – from the staff and the students he has gotten to know to the outstanding faculty members who believe in students first. He said he is so in awe of the faculty at Kent State and does not think we can thank them enough for the work that they do.

President Diacon then presented Trustee Della Ratta with a framed copy of the resolution and a personalized golf bag used exclusively by the Kent State men's golf team. He urged Trustee Della Ratta to use the bag proudly, as have three former Golden Flashes who qualified for the prestigious U.S. Open that began the day after the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Riley announced that the next regular business meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

He then commented that the day's hybrid meeting went incredibly well and he thanked staff members who made it happen including Jason Forbes and his tech team, Ann Myers from the Kent Student Center, and Charlene Nichol and Karen Keenan from the Office of the President.

On motion duly made and approved, he declared the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.