KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 10, 2021
Meeting Held Remotely

Board Members Present
Shawn Riley, Chair
Virginia Addicott
Jasmine Bonder
Robert Frost
Robin Kilbride
Dylan Mace
Donald Mason
Stephen Perry
Catherine Ross
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
Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Trustee Kilbride called the roll, and a quorum was present.

PROOF OF NOTICE
Chair Riley said public notification was given pursuant to Ohio law and University policy. He announced that as permitted under Amended House Bill 404, the meeting was being conducted remotely. He also noted that members of the public were able to view the proceedings through livestreaming of the roll call vote, the Committee of the Whole session, and the Board’s business meeting. He thanked everyone for their flexibility and dedication to Kent State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Chair Riley said 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)]; and (iii) conference with attorney for the public body concerning disputes that are or may be the subject of court action [121.22 (G)(3)].
Trustee Addicott moved, seconded by Trustee Mason, that the Board retire into Executive Session. Trustee Kilbride took a call vote of the membership. By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:03 a.m.

The session concluded at 9:55 a.m. By approval of a motion made by Trustee Addicott and seconded by Trustee Mason, the Board returned to public session at 10:00 a.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Board’s Committee of the Whole session convened at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Riley thanked President Diacon and the team for focusing the session, as a Committee of the Whole, on the topic of Enhancing Student Success in a Post-Pandemic World. Speakers for the session included President Diacon; Melody Tankersley, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Peggy Shadduck, who would join Kent State on April 1, 2021, as Vice President for Regional Campuses and Dean of the College of Applied and Technical Studies; and Colin Koproske, Managing Director of Strategic Research, for EAB.

The Committee of the Whole session concluded at 10:20 a.m. By approval of a motion made by Trustee Addicott and seconded by Trustee Frost, the Board recessed until 11:30 a.m., at which time it returned to public session for the Board’s business meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Riley convened the Board of Trustees business meeting at 11:32 a.m. He stated that the first order of business was approval of the agenda.

He noted one addition to the agenda, which was the consideration of property matters. At the conclusion of the Finance and Administration Committee report, Senior Vice President Mark Polatajko would be called upon to present two proposed property matters. Chair Riley asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted by general consent.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Riley next asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 1, 2020, business meeting of the Board of Trustees. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by general consent.

**REPORT OF CHAIR**

Chair Riley thanked President Diacon, the faculty, staff, administration, and most importantly, all the students for enabling Kent State to get this far into the spring semester under very challenging circumstances. The university made significant progress through the semester with
very minimal outbreaks on campus, he said, noting that the efforts of all involved were deeply appreciated. Chair Riley then called on President Diacon to give his report.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Diacon thanked Chair Riley. He recalled that on this date one year ago at roughly 3:00 p.m. he sent a memo to the university community announcing Kent State would go fully remote at the end of the workday. In addition to the faculty, staff and students, he thanked the Board of Trustees for their invaluable work during this challenging time. Trustees have added real value for Kent State while also working as a board in a remote environment, he said.

President Diacon then commented upon what he sees as the essential dynamic of the pandemic at Kent State. Members of the university community have been moving mountains every single day, building the plane while flying it and still winning national awards. He described several of the national awards and recognitions received, lest they be overshadowed by the daily demands of working through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kent State University was named as an APLU Degree Completion Award finalist. This award is the highest level of recognition bestowed by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) of a university’s commitment to not just enrolling but most importantly, graduating students. Kent State was delighted to be named one of the four finalists for the award, he said. In the fall of 2020, Forbes listed Kent State as the #4 employer in the state of Ohio. Kent State has a deep commitment to its community and to its employees, which is reflected in this ranking. He observed that Kent State, which appeared on that distinguished list with truly international and outstanding businesses, is very proud of this recognition, he said. Equally important, he noted, is that Forbes also named Kent State the second-best diversity employer among higher education institutions, which is another great recognition for extensive work that that has been underway at Kent State for years.

Next, he noted the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) gave Kent State University an honorable mention for the 2021 John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership, its highest award. The honorable mention recognizes the Board’s work leading to the 50th commemoration of the events of May 4, 1970. He thanked trustees over the years for their contributions and expressed gratitude for Alan and Chic Canfora and all of the May 4 families and survivors for working together with the Board and administration to honor and remember the students killed and wounded that day as well as the history and legacy of May 4. He thanked Vice President and University Secretary Char Reed for authoring the Nason Award nomination.

President Diacon also shared highlights of recent U. S. News and World Report rankings. Kent State’s rankings included: 25th in the U.S. for best online business analytics programs within the MBA program; one of the nation’s top-100 MBA programs; one of the nation’s top 100 graduate nursing schools; and one of the top performers in the magazine’s Social Mobility category, which recognizes an institution’s success in advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating students who come from backgrounds of the highest financial need. He commented that advancing social mobility is “who we are.” He continued that Kent State has an exceptional
commitment to access, but it can't just be access alone. Access with completion and earning a degree means everything, he observed.

Kent State recently received the NASPA Excellence Award for the strength of its exploratory advising center. NASPA is the premier American association for student affairs officials and leaders, and this award recognized Kent State’s outstanding work in advising students whose majors are undeclared. He acknowledged Director of the Exploratory Advising Center Nicole Kotlan for advancing the university’s completion agenda, he noted.

For the 12th consecutive year, the Kent Campus was named a military friendly school, along with the Tuscarawas and Trumbull campuses. This award rates companies and colleges based on their programs to recruit and retain military veterans as both employees and students. Kent State is very proud of this designation, he said, commending the work of Executive Director and VA Certifying Official Josh Rider and other Student Affairs officials.

Finally, President Diacon shared Kent State’s most recent national award, which was received the previous week. The Center for First Generation Students Success awarded Kent State its “First-Gen Forward Award.” The Center for First Generation Student Success is the premier source for promoting evidence-based practices and professional development to advance first-generation student success, he said. Kent State was among a handful of universities honored this year including Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Michigan State University, Emory University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This award further reflects Kent State’s emphasis on access and completion. President Diacon shared a News 5 Cleveland report clip about the award and thanked the leaders and staffs of the University College and the divisions of Student Affairs, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Enrollment Management for working together to ensure that all students, regardless of background, graduate.

President Diacon observed while it is the results achieved that are paramount, awards and recognitions are important because they provide external validation of the outstanding work being done. He noted that the true aim, when access turns into completion, occurs when Kent State graduates go out and change the world while achieving a lifetime of success.

With that, President Diacon concluded his report.

Chair Riley congratulated President Diacon and the administration on the far-reaching awards, particularly the most recent First-Gen Forward award. He asked that the Board’s gratitude be relayed to the individuals directly involved, so they know much the Board appreciates their efforts and their successes.

Chair Riley next moved on to the personnel actions.

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

President Diacon first called on Senior Vice President and Provost Melody Tankersley to present the academic personnel actions. Dr. Tankersley stated that the academic personnel actions
were considered routine in nature, except for the request for emeritus status for seven outstanding faculty members.

President Diacon next turned to Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Polatajko to present the non-academic personnel actions. Dr. Polatajko said that the non-academic personnel actions report stood as written with all the matters being routine and customary in nature. He then brought to the Board’s attention two notable items in the report: payment of the 2.5% salary increase in the AFSCME collective bargaining agreement paid retroactively to October 1, 2019, and restoration of salary for non-represented staff who received temporary salary reductions for FY 2021.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Riley explained that the recommendations from the standing committees 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 every committee report, he would ask if any trustee wished to remove an item from the consent agenda, he said.

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

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Trustee Addicott reported that the External Relations and Development Committee met on March 1, 2021, to consider amendments to University Policy 3342-5-13 Regarding Voluntary Gift Support, Including Naming Opportunities, and to receive informational reports on recent fundraising and campaign progress and state and federal legislative updates.

**AMENDMENT TO UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-13 REGARDING VOLUNTARY GIFT SUPPORT, INCLUDING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**

She said that Valoree Vargo, Interim Vice President, Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, presented updates to University Policy 3342-5-13, which were revised to reflect the division name change from Institutional Advancement to Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement. The committee voted to recommend the amendment be placed on the consent agenda for Board approval, she said.

**Resolution 2021-1**

**AMENDMENT TO UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-13 REGARDING VOLUNTARY GIFT SUPPORT, INCLUDING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Kent State University requires the university to maintain a register of policies and procedures (University Policy Register); and
WHEREAS, President Todd Diacon approved a name change for the Division of Institutional Advancement to the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, effective November 1, 2020, to reflect better the work of that division; and

WHEREAS, the unit’s implementation of its new name includes revisions to university policies concerning its role and responsibilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed amendments to University Policy 3342-5-13 Regarding Voluntary Gift Support, Including Naming Opportunities.

Following this action item, the committee received the most recent fundraising update from Interim Vice President Vargo. Ms. Vargo reported that the university was pleased with its campaign progress to date, which was on track for a public launch in the fall of 2021. To date, the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement had raised $14.5 million toward its goal of $20 million for the year, she said, leading to confidence that annual fundraising will surpass this goal. The committee heard recent major giving highlights as Ms. Vargo had presented information on new and repeat donors. The university has added more than 19,000 new donors since 2017, which truly was a notable achievement. The committee also heard an update on Giving Tuesday, said Trustee Addicott, noting that $83,000 was given by members of Kent State’s volunteer boards. She was happy to say that there was 100% participation from Kent State’s Board of Trustees and thanked all for their contributions to Giving Tuesday.

She then stated that Ms. Vargo had concluded her presentation with some updates on alumni engagement programming including a partnership with the Office of Global Education to celebrate the 50th anniversary of study abroad at Kent State; Flashes Give Back Week of Service in late April; and Career Coffee Talks with alumni. She further shared that the Alumni Awards nominations were open at that time, with recognition to occur during Homecoming 2021. She encouraged all present to consider nominating deserving alumni of this recognition.

Next, Trustee Addicott reported that the committee heard a presentation from Nick Gattozzi, Executive Director of Government and Community Relations. Mr. Gattozzi shared updates from the Ohio General Assembly’s “lame duck” session following the November 2020 election. Actions that impacted Kent State included securing state approval for the purchase of research equipment; passage of the Trumbull campus land conveyance; and extension of remote meetings provisions. Mr. Gattozzi additionally noted that the state capital bill also was approved during this period and included more than $23 million in Kent State projects as well as $3 million in community partner projects, for which Kent State acts in the role of fiduciary, she said. Trustee Addicott further stated that during the “lame duck” session at the federal level, the omnibus spending bill and COVID-19 relief bill were passed, noting that Kent State would receive an estimated $36.8 million from these bills, with Pell Grant-eligible students a particular target for additional support.
Trustee Addicott briefly reviewed the status of the State of Ohio budget deliberations, which at that time included increases in state share of instruction (SSI) and funding for the need-based Ohio College Opportunity Grants program. Trustee Addicott said Kent State is requesting additional state funding for specific projects, including the College of Podiatric Medicine Clinic, the Rising Scholars program, the Columbus Program in Intergovernmental Issues and the Washington Program in National Issues. Trustee Addicott noted that the state budget must be passed by June 30, 2021.

Trustee Addicott said she asked Mr. Gattozzi whether the university has had community partners seek to use land on other campuses similar to the Berkshire Schools project at the Geauga Campus and the Healthcare Facility project at the Trumbull Campus. Mr. Gattozzi and President Diacon noted that Kent State recently entered a partnership with the state auditor’s office, which is renting space in the conference center at the Stark Campus. Stark County Metroparks is working to expand trails through the Stark Campus through a trail grant program, she said.

Trustee Addicott then stated that solar energy projects are complete or in progress at the Trumbull Campus and the College of Podiatric Medicine, so certainly the team is reaching out to find different partners, which was very pleasing to hear.

As a final item of note, she said the committee agreed to conduct a periodic review of its official charter, which will occur prior to the Board’s June 23, 2021, meeting.

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

Chair Riley next asked whether any trustee wished to remove the resolution presented from the consent agenda. Hearing no objections, the resolution was added to the consent agenda by general consent.

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

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

Trustee Frost thanked Chair Riley and fellow board members and stated that the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee met on March 4, 2021. He then reported that the committee had a list of action items, all of which were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, and that the academic personnel actions were routine in nature and had already been placed on the consent agenda.

**CONFERRAL OF DEGREES FALL 2020**

The committee recommended Board approval of the conferring of 2,600 degrees in Fall 2020.
Resolution 2021-2

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
FALL 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 August 15, 2020, to December 19, 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 August 15, 2020, to December 19, 2020.

Trustee Frost next presented the request for approval of the establishment of the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute and the establishment of the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute. He stated that Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Paul DiCorleto and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Mandy Munro-Stasiuk gave the committee a detailed presentation on each of these recommendations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Trustee Frost reported that Dr. DiCorleto provided an overview of the success of research institutes at Kent State, explaining how these units have helped promote an interdisciplinary approach to research and collaboration. Through the facilitation of collaborative activities where scholars can work together in multiple disciplines to attack major societal issues, has brought national and global recognition to Kent State, he said. He noted that the proposed Environmental Science and Design Research Institute, in its early efforts as a research initiative, already had garnered more than $8 million in research funding over the past five years and included extensive undergraduate and graduate research involvement.
Resolution 2021-3

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, Kent State University has supported the creation of institutes to facilitate comprehensive research on a major problem or cluster of significant related topics or issues that involves two or more departments or schools and incorporates a university-wide perspective, as exemplified by the highly successful Brain Health Research Institute and Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute; and

WHEREAS, environmental science and design represent significant existing research strengths at Kent State; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs requests the establishment of the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Environmental Science and Design Research Institute builds upon the exceptional accomplishments over the past four years of the current initiative bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines, launching pilot funding programs, supporting student research, and hosting national symposia, lectures and gallery exhibitions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Environmental Science and Design Research Institute will provide infrastructure support for researchers and opportunities for collaboration across multiple departments, colleges, and campuses; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute aligns with the university’s strategic goals to build a culture of research and innovation and increase extramurally funded research; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate college faculty and curriculum committees, the Educational Policies Council, and the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Environmental Science and Design Research Institute, effective March 10, 2021.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANTI-RACISM AND EQUITY INSTITUTE

Trustee Frost then stated that Interim Dean Munro-Stasiuk provided a report on the proposed Anti-Racism and Equity Institute. This multidisciplinary, research-oriented collaborative will bring together researchers, educators and students from across the Kent State system to advance
and promote scholarship, education and outreach about race and equity. He said that she cited several examples of significant faculty research now underway across the disciplines and shared that more than 100 faculty and staff across multiple fields will join the institute upon its formation.

Resolution 2021-4

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANTI-RACISM AND EQUITY INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, Kent State University has supported the creation of institutes to facilitate comprehensive research on a major problem or cluster of significant related topics or issues that involves two or more departments or schools and incorporates a university-wide perspective, as exemplified by the highly successful Brain Health Research Institute and Advanced Materials and Liquid Crystal Institute; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the university’s longstanding and significant strengths in academic scholarship and engagement regarding race and racism, the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs requests the establishment of the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute aligns with the university’s core values to build an inclusive culture with active inquiry and discovery that expands knowledge and human understanding; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute will create an important interdisciplinary institutional hub for faculty, students, staff, and community members engaged in race and anti-racism scholarship, activism and education and elevate Kent State University to be an exemplar in race scholarship; and

WHEREAS, the proposed institute will provide infrastructure support for researchers and opportunities for collaboration across multiple departments, colleges, and campuses, with more than 100 faculty and staff and 10 colleges already joining the initiative; and

WHEREAS, the proposed establishment has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate college faculty and curriculum committees, the Educational Policies Council, and the Faculty Senate, and carries the endorsement of the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, the Provost and the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the establishment of the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute, effective Fall 2021.
Both institutes were recommended for the Board's approval on the consent agenda.

Trustee Frost next stated there were three new majors proposed in high-demand fields, the first of which was the establishment of the Mechatronics Engineering major within the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees by the College of Aeronautics and Engineering.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE AMD DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES**

Mechatronics is an emerging multidisciplinary field focusing on the principles of mechanical, electrical, computer and control systems, and provides a unified solution that connects stages of design and production into a single streamlined system, he said. Trustee Frost further noted that graduates will find careers in industrial robotics, computer-driven machinery, automotive engineering, medical imaging, and healthcare automation, among other mechatronics design fields.

**Resolution 2021-5**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF SCIENCE AMD DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES**

WHEREAS, the College of Aeronautics and Engineering requests the establishment of the Mechatronics Engineering major within the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees; and

WHEREAS, mechatronics is an emerging multidisciplinary field that focuses on the principles of mechanical, electrical, computer and control systems, and provides a unified solution that connects stages of design and production processes into a single, streamlined system; and

WHEREAS, many complex devices are designed as an integrated hardware-software system combining hardware components with software components, resulting in more companies adopting a less-conventional philosophy of interdisciplinary collaboration; and

WHEREAS, common mechatronics application areas include industrial robotics, computer-driven machinery, automotive engineering, machine vision and inspection, medical imaging, healthcare automation, robotic surgery, computer-aided design, smart sensing and control systems and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Ohio ranks second in the nation for aerospace manufacturing attractiveness; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degrees will help meet the projected demand for
employees worldwide and provide opportunities for collaborating with the technology and manufacturing corridor in Ohio, capitalizing on and strengthening existing relationships; and

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

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

Trustee Frost next presented the proposed establishment of the Aviation Maintenance Management major within the Bachelor of Science Degree, also within the College of Aeronautics and Engineering.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AVIATION MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

He said this program will provide further training of certified aviation maintenance technicians. These technicians typically hold associates degrees, and the aviation maintenance management major will allow them to achieve their bachelor's degrees. The program will be offered fully online so it can reach students across the nation and globe, he noted.

Resolution 2021-6

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AVIATION MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

WHEREAS, the College of Aeronautics and Engineering requests establishment of the Aviation Maintenance Management major within the Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program will serve as a completer program to prepare certified aviation maintenance technicians with the skills to further develop their careers; and

WHEREAS, Boeing, the world’s largest aerospace company, projects that 192,000 new aviation maintenance technicians will be needed nationally and 769,000 worldwide in the next 20 years; and
WHEREAS, Ohio ranks 10th nationally in the employment of aircraft mechanics and technicians; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program has been designed to meet Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI) standards; and

WHEREAS, the Aviation Maintenance Management major within the Bachelor of Science degree will be offered in an online delivery format to meet the needs of working professionals; and

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

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

Finally, Trustee Frost presented the proposed establishment of the Business Analytics major within the Bachelor of Business Administration degree by the College of Business Administration.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUSINESS ANALYTICS MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE

The proposed program will prepare students for data analytics careers in diverse fields of business including banking, healthcare, retail markets, manufacturing and the public sector, he said. Trustee Frost further stated there is a critical need for more analytics professionals in the industry, offering promise that students with a background in business analytics will have a competitive advantage when entering the job market, he observed.

Resolution 2021-7

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUSINESS ANALYTICS MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE

WHEREAS, the College of Business Administration seeks approval of the establishment of the Business Analytics major within the Bachelor of Business Administration degree; and

WHEREAS, data analytics is the science of turning data into meaningful information for businesses to use competitively; and
WHEREAS, the proposed program will prepare students for data analytics careers in a diverse field of businesses including banking, healthcare, retail markets, manufacturing, finance and the public sector; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree program aims to educate students to become cross-functional decision-makers at multiple levels of an organization’s complex data-driven decision-making process for competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, the proposed major aligns with the standards of the college’s accredditor, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International; and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree program 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 establishment of the Business Analytics major within the Bachelor of Business Administration degree, effective Fall 2021, pending approval of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Trustee Frost went on to share that the committee recommended five additional curricular proposals be placed on the consent agenda. All these changes were reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate, the Provost and the President, he said.

Resolution 2021-8

REVISION IN NAME OF THE PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES MAJOR TO THE AFRICANA STUDIES MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks approval of the revision in name of the Pan-African Studies major to the Africana Studies major within the Bachelor of Arts Degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used at peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, through an analysis of internal and external data, the College of Arts and Sciences found that the program name did not adequately convey the contemporary subject matter of the curriculum; and
WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will increase the program’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 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 Pan-African Studies major to the Africana Studies major within the Bachelor of Arts Degree, effective Fall 2021.

Resolution 2021-9

REVISION IN NAME OF THE ACTING FOR THE RETURNING PROFESSIONAL MAJOR TO THE ACTING–INTENDED FOR THE RETURNING PROFESSIONAL MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE

WHEREAS, the College of the Arts seeks approval for the revision in name of the Acting for the Returning Professional major to the Acting–Intended for the Returning Professional major within the Master of Fine Arts Degree; and

WHEREAS, the College of the Arts established the program in Fall 2020 to provide theatre artists with substantial professional experience a terminal degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name was requested by the National Association of Schools of Theatre to more accurately clarify the intention of the program; 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 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 Acting for the Returning Professional major to
the Acting – Intended for the Returning Professional major within the Master of Fine Arts Degree, effective Fall 2021.

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT MAJOR TO THE HOSPITALITY AND EVENT MANAGEMENT MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

Resolution 2021-10

**REVISION IN NAME OF THE HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT MAJOR TO THE HOSPITALITY AND EVENT MANAGEMENT MAJOR WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

WHEREAS, the College of Education, Health, and Human Services seeks approval of the revision in name of the Hospitality Management major to the Hospitality and Event Management major within the Bachelor of Science Degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used in the hospitality industry, aligning event planning and food and beverage with hospitality management; and

WHEREAS, significant growth in the event planning and food and beverage industries are expected in the next decade according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the proposed name change, three specialized concentrations with focused skillsets in Event Management, Hotel and Resort Management, and Food and Beverage Management will be added; 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 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 Hospitality Management major to the Hospitality and Event Management major within the Bachelor of Science Degree, effective Fall 2021.
REVISION IN NAME OF THE JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION MAJOR TO THE MEDIA AND JOURNALISM MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Resolution 2021-11

REVISION IN NAME OF THE JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION MAJOR TO THE MEDIA AND JOURNALISM MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

WHEREAS, the College of Communication and Information seeks approval of the revision in name of the Journalism and Mass Communication major to the Media and Journalism major within the Master of Arts Degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will more accurately reflect the current terminology used within the discipline; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision in name will align with the revision in name of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to the School of Media and Journalism that was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2020; 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 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 Journalism and Mass Communication major to the Media and Journalism major within the Master of Arts Degree, effective Fall 2021.

INACTIVATION OF THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

Resolution 2021-12

INACTIVATION OF THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR WITHIN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

WHEREAS, the Office of the Provost seeks approval of the inactivation of the Clinical Psychology major within the Master of Arts degree; and

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences suspended admission to the major in
2016 due to students earning their Master of Arts degree in Psychological Science instead; and

WHEREAS, per the policy on suspended programs, the provost will declare a program inactive if the college does not reopen admission to the program within five years of suspension; and

WHEREAS, there have been no students in the Clinical Psychology major since Fall 2018; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the inactivation of the Psychology major within the Master of Arts degree, effective Fall 2021.

Trustee Frost reported that the committee also recommended Board approval of the endorsement of the university’s annual report regarding the remediation of students. Interim Dean Munroe-Stasiuk presented this action item to the committee, explaining that this is the fourth remediation report that has been presented to the Board of Trustees for its endorsement. The report was submitted on time to the Chancellor, and the Board’s ratification will complete this phase of the process, he noted.

ENDORSEMENT OF UPDATED UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO STATE BUDGET LEGISLATION RELATED TO REMEDIATION OF STUDENTS

He said that Interim Dean Munro-Stasiuk stated that since the original report submitted in 2017, Kent State has dramatically reduced the number of students enrolled in remedial courses. Since 2017, there have been 21.8% and 30.8% decreases, respectively, in students enrolled in remedial courses at the Kent Campus and the Regional Campuses, he reported.

Resolution 2021-13

ENDORSEMENT OF UPDATED UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO STATE BUDGET LEGISLATION RELATED TO REMEDIATION OF STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Kent State University is committed to advancing student success while keeping true to its mission of providing an accessible education for the citizens of Ohio and beyond; and

WHEREAS, throughout the State of Ohio budget deliberations for fiscal years 2018 through 2021, policymakers and university leaders alike were committed to
assisting Ohio students and families in accessing a college education; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly ultimately passed House Bill 49 that requires the boards of trustees of public universities to issue a report regarding the remediation of students and submit it yearly to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, consistent with that requirement, the university administration has conducted a yearly review of remediation of students; and

WHEREAS, results of this review indicate a significant decline in the number of Kent State freshmen placed into remedial coursework, resulting in a reduction of costs of remedial coursework to the university, students, and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 University Remediation Report carries the endorsement of the President and the Provost; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby endorses the 2020 University Remediation Report and its submission to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Trustee Frost asked that all proposed resolutions be placed on the consent agenda for Board approval.

Members of the committee also received two informational presentations. First, Vice President Mary Parker provided an update on enrollment management, which focused on Fall 2021 enrollment and scholarship strategies, Trustee Frost reported. Kent State has seen a 78% increase in admitted first-generation students and a 79% increase in admitted students of color to date, he said. In response to the pandemic’s disruption, the university is working hard to leverage institutional and private scholarship dollars to support increased access, affordability and completion. Second, Provost Tankersley provided an update on Fall 2021 return to campus planning. Kent State plans to approach the fall semester with more opportunities for students to be physically present with instructors in classroom settings, she explained to the committee. The Fall 2021 plan was being built on the assumptions at the time that vaccines will be readily available to faculty, staff and students by the time fall classes begin, and that the university will continue to follow health guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and state and local health departments.

Trustee Frost noted that at the end of the Provost’s report, Dr. Eboni Pringle, Dean of University College, shared that Kent State had received the First-Gen Forward Designation from NASPA, the national association for student personnel administrators.

Trustee Frost then concluded his report of the Academic Excellence and Student Success committees.
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 Trustee Mason to provide the report of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

**AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Trustee Mason stated that the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee met on March 4, 2021. The committee had a robust discussion of proposed changes to the Audit and Compliance Committee Charter and Office of Internal Audit Charter, he said. Since some questions remained and these items were not time sensitive, the committee decided to continue its discussion. The committee did not recommend Board action on the charter at that time, and expected to bring these items forward at the June 23 meeting.

Trustee Mason then shared the committee also heard two informational reports. Director of Internal Audit Sarah Gampo provided a report of internal audit activities conducted through the second quarter of fiscal year 2021. She also reviewed the Internal Audit Plan Update comparing budget hours to actual hours, and there were no unusual items to report, he said.

Trustee Mason further presented that Paula DiVincenzo, Manager of Treasury and Tax, provided a Tax Compliance presentation to the committee. Ms. DiVincenzo discussed Kent State University’s tax status and managed tax risks as well as described tax withholding practices and the required information reporting, he noted.

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

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

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Perry stated that the Finance and Administration Committee met remotely on March 3, 2021. Several items were presented for consideration by the Board of Trustees. In addition to the non-academic personnel actions, 11 management decision items were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda, he said.

Trustee Perry first presented a request for approval of special tuition rates, program course fees and other fees, effective Fall 2021. He observed these additional resources are needed in a number of areas to preserve academic program quality and services to students and to fund unique costs associated with certain courses, services and academic programs.
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL TUITION RATES, PROGRAM, COURSE AND OTHER FEES, EFFECTIVE FALL 2021

Trustee Perry explained that fee increases are subject to considerable internal review and approval to ensure the necessity of the fees and or the changes proposed as well as compliance with statutory requirements. The proposed fee changes include the elimination of fees, a shift to actual cost basis, or new and/or increases in existing fees, he said. A schedule depicting the proposed changes was provided to the Board along with the resolution.

Resolution 2021-14

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL TUITION RATES, PROGRAM, COURSE AND OTHER FEES, EFFECTIVE FALL 2021

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached schedule of fees to be effective with the Fall 2021 semester, unless otherwise noted, subject to required approvals from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Trustee Perry next presented a request for approval of tuition and fees for the College of Podiatric Medicine for the academic year 2021-2022. He noted that the college operates under a different academic calendar than the rest of the university, as third-and fourth-year students begin their new academic year in May.

APPROVAL OF TUITION AND FEES COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

Trustee Perry said a 2% increase in both in-state and out-of-state students was requested. The proposed increase in fees will result in approximately $365,000 in additional resources that are needed to preserve academic program quality, services to students, and repairs and maintenance to academic facilities. Approval is requested so that student billing can occur prior to the beginning of their semester, he said.
Resolution 2021-15

APPROVAL OF TUITION AND FEES
COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

WHEREAS, the College of Podiatric Medicine (KSUCPM) operates under a different academic calendar than the rest of the university, with billing for the Fall 2021 semester occurring in the spring prior to the next Board of Trustees meeting; and

WHEREAS, tuition for KSUCPM is not subject to tuition increase limitations set forth in the State of Ohio’s budget bill; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed in a number of areas to preserve academic program quality and services to students and to repair and maintain academic facilities; and

WHEREAS, proposed changes to KSUCPM tuition and fees have been reviewed extensively by university staff including executive officers, to ensure that all are in the appropriate amounts and are necessary to protect program quality; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached schedule of proposed fee changes for the College of Podiatric Medicine, to be effective for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Trustee Perry recommended Board approval of the purchase of COVID-19 antigen testing and lab processing services required to support enhanced Spring 2021 testing protocols for students living on campus, students living off campus, and at-risk faculty and staff.

APPROVAL OF COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING AND LAB PROCESSING SERVICES

He shared that MinuteClinic, LLC, a subsidiary of CVS, Inc., was selected by University Health Services to provide COVID-19 antigen testing and lab processing services. Under terms of the proposed selection, total expenditures have been estimated at $6.2 million and will be funded by federal emergency relief funds.
Resolution 2021-16

APPROVAL OF COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING AND LAB PROCESSING 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 an agreement to provide COVID-19 testing and lab processing services throughout the Spring 2021 semester to support students, faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, in response to an emergency waiver issued for the purchase of COVID-19 antigen testing and lab processing services, the Division of Student Affairs through University Health Services selected MinuteClinic, LLC, a subsidiary of CVS, Inc., as the vendor for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for this initiative will be $6.2 million and will be funded by federal dollars provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to commit to the above expenditure for the provision of COVID-19 antigen testing and lab processing services in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry then presented a request for Board approval of a solar array project for the Kent Campus. Kent State continues to be recognized as a national leader in energy management with strategic emphasis on both supply- and demand-side economics, he noted.

APPROVAL OF KENT CAMPUS SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT

He reported that through a competitive process, American Electric Power OneSite Partners, LLC, was selected as the vendor providing the overall best value for this project. The company will be responsible for all costs of installation and maintenance of the solar PV and battery storage assets during the 20-year Power Purchase Agreement. Trustee Perry further noted that the system is projected to save an average of $250,000 annually, for a total of $5 million over the contract period. The project will be installed on a 33.5-acre site, which has been listed as surplus real estate, located across the street from the Summit East parking lot near State Route 261.
Resolution 2021-17

APPROVAL OF KENT CAMPUS SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT

WHEREAS, Kent State University’s priority of sustainability and continuous improvement demonstrates its commitment to the stewardship of public funding, responsible cost containment for students, and environmental impact reduction including renewable energy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University continues to be a recognized national leader in energy management with strategic emphasis on both supply and demand-side economics; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University continues to demonstrate its preservation of the environment and to empower generations of students to carry that mission forward; and

WHEREAS, currently available federal programs incentivize solar photovoltaic (PV) panel and Battery Energy Storage System projects; and

WHEREAS, the university publicly solicited proposals for a 6 Megawatt Solar PV with 3 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System PPA installation at the Kent Campus, and American Electric Power OnSite Partners, LLC, was deemed the best overall value; and

WHEREAS the solicitation and evaluation were completed in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3345.761-3345.65 and Power Purchase Agreement procurement guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the 20-year Power Purchase Agreement applies to all electricity produced by the system at an established cost and to all electric storage capacity of the battery systems; and

WHEREAS, overall system savings and revenue are projected at an average of $250,000 annually, estimated at a total of $5 million over the duration of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the overall project will be used to enhance community engagement, support K-12 and university academic programs, improve local air quality and environmental assets (native pollinator gardens), and educate about renewable energy installations; and

WHEREAS, the developer will be responsible for all costs of installation and maintenance for the solar PV and battery storage assets for the duration of the Power Purchase Agreement; and
WHEREAS, the design and implementation of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to enter into any and all agreements with American Electric Power OnSite Partners, LLC, necessary for the design and construction of 6 Megawatt Solar PV with 3 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System PPA in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04, and 3342-7.1.

Next, Trustee Perry presented the proposed HVAC and safety improvements to White Hall, the home of the College of Education, Health and Human Services. He noted that much of the HVAC equipment serving the building is original to its construction in 1966.

APPROVAL OF WHITE HALL HVAC AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Trustee Perry reported that along with replacement of the air handlers, heat exchangers, heating-water pumps and terminal devices, the proposed project will address critical life safety improvements, including a new fire suppression system and a new fire alarm system throughout the building. The university budgeted $13 million for this project, which is available from state capital appropriations (House Bill 481 and Senate Bill 310), he said.

Resolution 2021-18

APPROVAL OF WHITE HALL HVAC AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system in White Hall is original to the building’s 1966 construction: and

WHEREAS, the air handlers and HVAC system are inefficient, antiquated and increasingly difficult to repair in a consistent manner; and

WHEREAS, the project will be phased and a strategic systems replacement plan will be developed and implemented to ensure reliability of indoor environmental conditions and realized energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, this proposed project also will address critical life safety code requirements through the installation of a new fire suppression system and replacement fire alarm system in White Hall; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; and
WHEREAS, the total cost of this project is $13 million, which is available from the university’s State of Ohio capital appropriations (HB 481 and SB 310); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to proceed with this project in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-04.

Trustee Perry then noted the request for approval of a new computerized maintenance management system. University Facilities Management currently is using a system implemented in 2008 that is outdated and no longer supported by the vendor, he said.

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMMS)**

He briefly described that a request for proposal was issued, and University Facilities Management selected AssetWorks LLC, as the vendor that offered the best overall value. The proposed purchase agreement for the initial term of six years was recommended at a cost of $1,881,149, with a university option to renew for up to four additional years at an average cost of $275,282 each year. The total cost of this agreement will be funded by University Facilities Management.

**Resolution 2021-19**

**APPROVAL OF VENDOR SELECTION FOR COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMMS)**

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 replace its current computerized maintenance management system (CMMS); and

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

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for these goods for six-year term and four optional one-year extensions is $3,094,277 to be funded by University Facilities Management operating budget resources; 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 AssetWorks LLC for the provision of a computerized maintenance
management system (CMMS) for six years plus a university option to renew up to four years in accordance with University Policy 3342-7-12.

Trustee Perry went on to present proposed amendments to three university policies, the first of which was University Policy 3342-4-09 Regarding the Operation, Regulation and Control of Motor Vehicles on Campus.

**AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-4-09 REGARDING THE OPERATION, REGULATION AND CONTROL OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON CAMPUS**

He said the amendments update the policy to include current names for Police Services and the Department of Public Safety.

**Resolution 2021-20**

**AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-4-09 REGARDING THE OPERATION, REGULATION AND CONTROL OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON CAMPUS**

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

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly has granted the Board of Trustees the authority to adopt Title 45 of the Revised Code for the regulation of motor vehicles on campus; and

WHEREAS, Police Services is authorized to enforce all sections contained within Title 45 of the Revised Code on all applicable streets, roads and access drives on the Kent campus, and the Department of Public Safety is directed to enact speed limit guidelines and erect and maintain traffic control devices, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has proposed language changes to University Policy 3342-4-09 Regarding the Operation, Regulation and Control of Motor Vehicles on Campus that reflect current names of the units; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached language changes to University Policy 3342-4-09 Regarding the Operation, Regulation and Control of Motor Vehicles on Campus.

Next, Trustee Perry presented the request for amendment of University Policy 3342-5-05 Regarding Additional Police Assistance.
AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-05 REGARDING ADDITIONAL POLICE ASSISTANCE

Trustee Perry noted the Department of Public Safety is responsible for requesting assistance of other law enforcement agencies in situations where time is of the essence. The current policy has a pre-understood tactical and mutual aid agreement; the proposed revision would add the mutual aid agreement statement to the policy.

Resolution 2021-21

AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-05 REGARDING ADDITIONAL POLICE ASSISTANCE

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

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly has granted the president of the university the authority to request assistance of other law enforcement agencies in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the resolution does not prohibit the university police department from requesting the assistance of other law enforcement agencies under pre-understood tactical arrangements, mutual aid agreements or where time is of the essence; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has proposed the addition of mutual aid agreements to University Policy 3342-5-05 Regarding Additional Police Assistance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached changes to University Policy 3342-5-14 Regarding Emergency Management Plan.

Finally, Trustee Perry introduced the request for amendment to University Policy 334-5-14 Regarding Emergency Management Plan. The amendment proposes a language change to include all Kent State campuses in this policy.

AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-14 REGARDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

He noted that adoption of the proposed changes will ensure that all campuses are under the Emergency Management Plan in the event of a proclamation of a university emergency.
Resolution 2021-22

AMENDMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-5-14 REGARDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly has granted the president of the university the authority for initiating a response to the threat to lives and property in an emergency or disaster situation; and

WHEREAS, the proclamation of a university emergency is a statement that the president of the university or designee has invoked those portions of the Revised Code that are applicable to the emergency situation, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has proposed language to include all Kent State campuses in University Policy 3342-5-14 Regarding Emergency Management Plan, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached changes to University Policy 3342-5-14 Regarding Emergency Management Plan.

Trustee Perry said the proposed amendments were recommended for inclusion on the consent agenda.

Trustee Perry noted that the Finance and Administration Committee also heard several information reports.

He then called on Trustee Donald Mason, Chair of the Investment Committee, to present a report on the committee’s meetings of December 2, 2020, and February 17, 2021. Both meetings were held via Zoom with representatives from SEI in attendance, he said. He added that the January 2021 report on investment performance also was provided in the Board book.

During the December meeting, Mark Morgan, Client Portfolio Manager provided an update on the investment performance of the university’s portfolio through October 31, 2020. Market performance for this period was very similar to the prior year but COVID-19 continues to drive market volatility, he said. The long-term pool had a 1.45% return for the quarter while the intermediate term pool had a return of 3.88%. It was another positive quarter for risk assets, thanks to continued economic reopenings, ongoing fiscal and monetary support, and encouraging rebounds in economic activity, he noted.

Trustee Mason then shared that Jeannie Reifsnyder, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, provided an update on the university’s working capital and liquidity. She
noted that the short- and intermediate-term pools will be adequate to fund operations through the end of the fiscal year. Any changes to this projection as a result of enrollment for spring or changes in state funding will be reflected in the cash forecasting and will be reported at a future meeting.

Trustee Mason noted that SEI provided a presentation on private assets and core property. Rodney Lumpkin, Portfolio Manager, indicated that Kent State has a good mix of investments. Mr. Lumpkin noted that the core property fund performance showed gains, mainly due to the industrial sector while other sectors like retail have struggled during the pandemic. He also indicated that portfolio managers are continually monitoring real estate investments as the pandemic will continue to have an impact in this area. Trustee Mason further stated that during the February 17, 2021, meeting, Mr. Morgan provided an update on the university’s investment performance through December 31, 2020. In 2020, the long-term pool returned 10.8% compared to 15.7% in 2019 and since inception in 2017 returned 8.1%. The intermediate pool returned 9.8% in 2020 compared to 12.8% in 2019 with a return of 6.7% annualized since 2017. As of December 31, 2020, total portfolio value is $461.5 million, it was reported.

Mr. Morgan then reported that U.S. economic activity has continued to improve from April’s low and is now 2.5% off its year-ago level, implying that the economy is still operating almost 5% below capacity. Despite a second COVID-19 wave in the northern hemisphere, risk assets had a very solid quarter thanks to encouraging news on the vaccine-development front. Equity gains were broadly positive, bond returns were modest with the exception of emerging markets debt, and commodities performed well for the second straight quarter, he said.

Finally, Trustee Mason noted that Mark Polatajko, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a recommendation for rebalancing the two investment pools. It was recommended to lock in gains from the long-term pool and as a result, move $50 million to the intermediate term pool. He reported that after discussion, the committee members unanimously voted in favor of the recommendation. Following this action, university management worked with SEI to implement the approved rebalancing strategy. These actions were completed on February 26, 2021.

With that, Trustee Mason concluded his report of the December 2020 and February 2021 Investment Committee Meetings.

Trustee Ross asked whether current volatility in emerging markets had any impact for Kent State University. Dr. Polatajko replied that the university’s exposure is minimal due to the diversification of its investment pools. The university relies on SEI to continue to manage the portfolio in accordance with investment policy statement targets, he said.

Hearing no other questions, Trustee Perry thanked Trustee Mason for his report and continued with his presentation of the Finance and Administration Committee report.

Trustee Perry noted that Dr. Polatajko had presented the committee with a midyear budget update. He said he was pleased to share that the revenues were trending favorably, and operating expense projections appeared to be at or below the approved budget. Other items of note were
that in December 2020, the Ohio General Assembly passed the state capital appropriations bill for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 as proposed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Total funding of $23 million to Kent State will be used to address many high-priority basic renovations and deferred maintenance projects. Dr. Polatajko also presented an overview of COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses, which were budgeted separately for FY 2021. Fiscal Year 2022 budget planning assumptions and timelines were under development at that time, he said. The committee also was briefed on revisions to four administrative policies as well as other informational items routinely provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

With that, Trustee Perry respectfully concluded his report on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Chair Riley thanked Trustee Perry for a very comprehensive report and asked whether any trustee wished to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda. Hearing no such request, the resolutions were added to the consent agenda by general consent.

At that point Chair Riley called on Senior Vice President Polatajko to present two property matters for the Board’s consideration. Dr. Polatajko presented two requests for the sale of surplus real estate located in Franklin Township, Ohio.

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 59, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

Dr. Polatajko noted the purchase agreement approved by the Board on March 4, 2020, to sell 25 acres of parcels B and C of the Kent State University Golf Course/Slates Parcels had been terminated. The university has received an offer from another buyer to purchase all 41.77 acres of this vacant land, he said. The Board’s authorization was requested to enter into a new purchase agreement for the real property.

**Resolution 2021-23**

**AUTHORIZATION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 59, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

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

WHEREAS, certain real estate parcels were 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 purchase agreement previously approved by this Board on March 4, 2020, to sell 25 acres of parcels B and C of the Kent State University Golf Course/Slates Parcels to another buyer has been terminated; and

WHEREAS, the university has received an offer to purchase 41.77 acres of vacant land identified as Portage County Permanent Parcel Nos. 12-019-00-00-002-001 and 12-019-00-00-002-000 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 41.77 acres of the real property located on State Route 59, Franklin Township, Ohio.

Dr. Polatajko then moved to the second item, which was a request to revise the authorization to sell real property located on vacant land on Powder Mill Road in Franklin Township, Ohio.

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

He explained that on September 16, 2020, the Kent State University Board of Trustees authorized the sale of 25 acres of vacant land on Powderrmill Road in Franklin Township, Ohio. A recent survey determined that the actual size of the proposed parcel is 39 acres rather than 25 acres as previously authorized. The prospective buyers have increased their purchase offer to reflect the new fair market value of the property consisting of 39 acres. Therefore, the Board was asked to revise its authorization of the purchase agreement to permit the sale of 39 acres of vacant land located at Powder Mill Road, Franklin Township, Ohio, at fair market value, he stated.

**Resolution 2021-24**

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

WHEREAS, through approval of Resolution 2020-60 on September 16, 2020, the Kent State University Board of Trustees authorized the sale of 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; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey determined that the size of the proposed parcel is 39 acres rather than 25 acres as previously authorized; and

WHEREAS, the prospective buyers have increased their purchase offer to reflect the new fair market value of the property consisting of 39 acres; 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 39 acres of vacant land located on Powdermill Road, Franklin Township, Ohio, at fair market value.

Chair Riley asked if there were any objections to placing the two proposed property matters on the consent agenda. Hearing none, the resolutions were placed on the consent agenda. Chair Riley then asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Riley noted one item of New Business to come before the Board.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE REV. DR. TODD C. DAVIDSON**

Chair Riley then presented a resolution of appreciation for a valued colleague who stepped down from the Board in December 2020 as required by Ohio law, due to his relocation out of state for employment.

**Resolution 2021-25**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE REV. DR. TODD C. DAVIDSON**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Todd C. Davidson was appointed to the Kent State University Board of Trustees by Governor John Kasich on June 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Davidson gave dedicated and insightful service to the Board of Trustees as a member of the External Relations and Development Committee (2018-2020), and as a member (2018-2020) and Chair (2019-2020) of the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee; and

WHEREAS, he contributed to the history of the university as a member of the Presidential Search Committee that recommended Dr. Todd Diacon as Kent State University’s 13th President, effective July 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Davidson has demonstrated his devotion to helping all students reach their full potential as a longtime school board member in his native Virginia and in Northeast Ohio, serving as a member of the Shaker Heights School Board, the organizing committee that brought Say Yes to Education to Cleveland, the board of the Community Connectors organization that supported mentoring
programs in Ohio schools, and service as Senior Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his unwavering devotion to student success, his collaborative style, and his deep commitment to educational excellence and access; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ohio law, the Rev. Dr. Davidson resigned as Trustee of Kent State University due to his out-of-state relocation to become Senior Pastor of the Hampton Roads Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson for his distinguished stewardship and wishes him well in his future pursuits.

Chair Riley asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Several Board members commented that the Rev. Dr. Davidson would be deeply missed and wished him well in his future endeavors.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riley announced the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021. He shared a recent projection by McKinsey healthcare experts that by May 31, 2021, anyone in the state of Ohio who wants a vaccine will be able to receive one, which bodes very well for Ohioans and for Kent State University. Chair Riley said he mentioned that projection because he looked forward to the possibility that the June 23 meetings of the Board could be held in person or in a hybrid mode, with many trustees in person and others who are still cautious participating via Zoom. Chair Riley then thanked everyone for their time and hard work that day.

On motion duly made and approved, he declared the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.