CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Jane Timken called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine. Trustee Stephen Colecchi called the roll, and a quorum was present.

PROOF OF NOTICE

Chair Timken stated that public notification was given pursuant to state law and university policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Chapter 121.22, section G of the Ohio Revised Code, Chair Timken announced the Board had a need to meet in Executive Session for the purpose of: (i) considering the employment and compensation of a public employee or official [121.22(G) (1)]; and to meet in conference with the university’s external auditors. Trustee Eckart moved, seconded by Trustee Marsh, that the Board retire into Executive Session.

By virtue of a unanimous roll call vote, the Board adjourned into Executive Session. The session concluded at 1:53 p.m.
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board reconvened for the business portion of the meeting at 1:53 p.m. in the Boardroom. Chair Timken asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda, hearing none, the agenda was approved by general consent.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Chair Timken then asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 18, 2013 and November 8, 2013 meetings. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved by general consent.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Timken began her report by congratulating the administration, faculty, staff and students for a highly successful fall semester, one in which the university saw a record freshman class and important accomplishments in education, research and service. On behalf of the board she expressed the pride trustees have in the accomplishments of Kent State students, faculty and staff, and she wished everyone a successful conclusion to the semester and a happy holiday and winter break.

She then stated that one of the most important responsibilities of the board is to oversee the financial performance of the university. Toward that end, Chair Timken reported that trustees met with Robb Rose, of Plante & Moran, the university’s external auditors. The board was informed that auditors have recommended an unqualified report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, she said. She commended President Lefton, the vice presidents, deans, and staff for their efforts to ensure that the university’s financial condition is sound and that operations are conducted with the highest standards of practice.

Turning her attention to the presidential search, Chair Timken stated that the most important duty of the board is to select the university president. She stated that she has had the opportunity to observe the work of the Presidential Search Committee since July and thanked the members, including Search Chair Marsh and Search Vice-Chair Eckart, for their commitment and leadership. She then asked Trustee Marsh to make a few comments. Trustee Marsh stated that the search committee continues its work to find the best person for Kent State University. He thanked President Lefton for his eight years of leadership, and noted that the search committee intends to take the time necessary to achieve the best result for Kent State University.

Chair Timken stated that on December 14, 2013, more than 2,000 graduates will receive their degrees as part of fall commencement exercises. Commencement is the high point of the academic year, and an occasion trustees value greatly, she said. Members of the class will hear from three distinguished speakers including former NASA astronaut Carl Walz, Senior Associate Provost Dr. Melody Tankersley, and Kent City Manager Dave Ruller. On behalf of the board, Chair Timken extended congratulations to all the graduates and their families.

Chair Timken then asked President Lefton to give his report.
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Lefton began his report with some good news. He announced the appointment of Dr. Barbara Broome as the new dean of the College of Nursing. Dr. Broome is the associate dean of the College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama, and is a Kent State alumnus and former professor. President Lefton then remarked that Kent State continues to meet the highest of national standards through continuing accreditation, mentioning recent successes from the colleges of Business Administration and Podiatric Medicine. He stated that student applications continue to rise and are now 9% ahead of this time last year. In Kent State athletics, President Lefton noted the impressive start to the men’s basketball season, and congratulated the team. He then updated trustees on construction on the Kent Campus, noting that the foundation is almost complete for the College of Applied Engineering, Sustainability and Technology building and the next phase of design work for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design building is underway. Online learning at Kent State continues to increase, he reported, as online enrollment grew 14.7% to 15,251 students this fall. President Lefton stated that 634 fully online courses were available Fall 2013 – a 19% increase over the previous year.

He then discussed the launch of a new initiative entitled See You @ College, a collaboration between the divisions of Academic Affairs and University Relations. See You @ College is a Kent State-led, long-term college access initiative designed to increase the number of first-generation, high-achieving students going to and being prepared for college, he explained. It is a collaboration among community-based organizations and corporations to assist promising students in vaulting over barriers, he said. President Lefton stated that the goal of See You @ College is to engage trusted community leaders and empower them with the right resources and information to help students.

President Lefton shared screenshots of the See You @ College website, which will seek to explain the benefits of going to college, how to best prepare academically for college, how to choose the type of post-secondary education that fits best for the student, and how students can afford the cost of college. He announced the first conference will be held on the Kent Campus February 13, 2014. More than 300 community leaders are expected to attend, and they will hear from distinguished keynote speakers and diverse panels.

In the end, President Lefton explained that See You @ College demonstrates leadership and active engagement in Complete College Ohio; it serves as an additional recruitment tool for high-achieving students; supports retention and presents a fundable concept.

With that, President Lefton concluded his report.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Chair Timken asked President Lefton to present the personnel actions. President Lefton called on Provost Diacon to present the academic personnel actions and Interim Vice President Joseph Vitale to present the non-academic personnel actions.
ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Provost Diacon highlighted the granting of emeritus status to 15 retiring faculty members, and the appointment of Dr. Barbara Broome as dean of the College of Nursing. The remaining academic actions were routine in nature, he said.

NON-ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Interim Vice President Vitale commented that the non-academic actions were routine in nature.

ACTION: There were no objections to placing personnel actions on the consent agenda.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair Timken announced that the Board of Trustees was meeting as a Committee of the Whole, proceeding with consideration of management decision items as recommended by the university administration. She reviewed the management decision items behind tabs three, four, seven and eight, and asked if any trustee wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. There were no objections.

Resolution 2013-57

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Summer 2013

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 May 17, 2013, to August 17, 2013 – the various requirements of the respective programs of study they pursued; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby confirms the conferral of their respective degrees upon those persons who have been officially recorded by the Kent State University Registrar as having completed the requirements during said period May 17, 2013, to August 17, 2013.
Resolution 2013-58

AMENDMENT OF SALARY STRUCTURES FOR UNCLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL EXEMPT STAFF AND UNCLASSIFIED NONEXEMPT STAFF NOT REPRESENTED IN A BARGAINING UNIT

WHEREAS, Section 3345.31 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the Board of Trustees of Kent State University to establish compensation plans, including pay structures for all employees not represented in a bargaining unit, and to establish rules or policies for the administration of the compensation plans; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of an Administrative and Professional pay structure for unclassified exempt administrative and professional staff with continuing appointments, effective August 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the pay structures associated with the plan are reviewed and amended periodically to reflect changes in economic and market conditions; and

WHEREAS, the attached revised pay structures have been recommended by the interim Vice President for Human Resources and approved by the President; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the creation of separate functional/divisional structures for Unclassified Administrative and Professional Exempt Staff and Unclassified Nonexempt Staff, effective November 1, 2013, as follows: President, Academic Affairs and Regional Campuses, Institutional Advancement, Information Services, University Relations, Business and Finance, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Human Resources, Diversity, Cross Divisional, and Athletics – Support Positions and Coaches.

Resolution 2013-59

COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE PARKING LOT REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the College of Podiatric Medicine was constructed in the 1970’s and the parking lot and roads completed in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the college has designated $1.2 million from its capital improvement reserves for the design and reconstruction of the 35-year-old roadway and parking areas; and

WHEREAS, the college will phase the work over the next three years, allocating $1.2 million for the overall design and work scheduled for the summer of 2014,
with the remaining work to be completed during the summers of 2015 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the consolidated design phase with multiple construction phases is anticipated to lower overall costs and improve installation consistency; and

WHEREAS, the work will involve the removal of the existing pavement and drainage systems and the installation of new pavement and drainage systems; and

WHEREAS, the design, bidding, and construction of this project will follow all state laws and regulations; now, therefore,

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

Resolution 2013-60

TRUMBULL CAMPUS EASEMENT FOR WESTERN RESERVE GREENWAY BIKE TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners is seeking a non-exclusive easement over approximately .044 acres of university property in Trumbull County for the purpose of completing the Western Reserve Greenway Bike Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Western Reserve Greenway Bike Trail is critical to the completion of the Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway that encompasses four counties and over 120 miles of multi-use trails; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation has made funding for the Western Reserve Greenway Trail contingent upon obtaining and recording all necessary easements by December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the granting of the easement will inure to the benefit of the university and contribute to economic development and quality of life on the campus and in the surrounding communities; 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 25-year non-exclusive easement agreement with the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners for the purpose of constructing the Western Reserve Greenway Bike Trail.

ACTION: There were no objections to placing these management decision items on the consent agenda.
REVISION OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-4-05 REGARDING STUDENT HOUSING

Chair Timken asked President Lefton to present the resolution; he in turn asked Vice President Jarvie to comment. Vice President Jarvie explained that the resolution revises the policy to properly recognize junior class status, aligning the policy language with its original intent.

Resolution 2013-61

REVISION OF UNIVERSITY POLICY 3342-4-05 REGARDING STUDENT HOUSING

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

WHEREAS, the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs and the Office of General Counsel have reviewed and approved revision to University Policy 3342-4-05 Regarding Student Housing; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy was revised to ensure appropriate application and to update terminology; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby approves the adoption of revision to University Policy 3342-4-05, effective Spring 2014.

ACTION: There were no objections to placing the management decision item on the consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF SIX-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2020

President Lefton then asked Senior Vice President Floyd to present the resolution behind tab six. Senior Vice President Floyd commented that the Ohio Board of Regents requires that each institution in Ohio prepare and submit a six-year capital plan. Senior Vice President Floyd explained that the projects being recommended are considered important for addressing academic program needs, upgrading the campus infrastructure, and addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance.

Resolution 2013-62

APPROVAL OF SIX-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2020

WHEREAS, the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) requires that each institution of public higher education in Ohio prepare a six-year capital plan; and
WHEREAS, the plan submitted to the OBR is to be consistent with the nature and level of anticipated appropriations as estimated by the OBR; and

WHEREAS, the exact amount of the capital funding will not be known until the funds are actually appropriated; and

WHEREAS, Kent State University, following the completion of its planning and consultation process, has identified specific capital projects for each campus for each biennium of the six-year plan; and

WHEREAS, the projects being recommended are considered important for addressing academic program needs, upgrading the campus infrastructure, and addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Kent State University approves the Kent State University Higher Education Six-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-2020.

ACTION: There were no objections to placing the management decision item on the consent agenda.

Chair Timken asked for a motion approving the consent agenda, which includes the personnel actions, and resolutions behind tabs three through eight.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Timken remarked that at the October 4, 2013 dedication of the Esplanade, the Board of Trustees surprised President Lefton with the announcement of its intention to name the Esplanade in his honor. She then asked Trustee Eckart to present a resolution ratifying this action, in recognition of President Lefton’s outstanding service to Kent State.

Trustee Eckart began his remarks by recalling famous roads and pathways throughout history, and the cultures they represented. So when the trustees discussed how best to honor President Lefton, he said, it was decided that a simple building would not be sufficient. A road, however, is a means, an end and a journey, remarked Trustee Eckart. The Esplanade will take its place among the great named roads, because through it, President Lefton has connected destinations and created a safe pathway for future generations. Trustee Eckart commented that it also is fitting because President Lefton has kept the university on a steady and secure path to success. Choosing a road to honor President Lefton continues a great tradition in civilized society of recognizing great accomplishments, he said. Trustee Eckart then remarked that a road lives on, and future travelers will walk the Esplanade and understand something about the culture it represents. Naming the Esplanade for President Lefton recognizes his great achievements, most
notably his ability to bring the best of the city and the university together. Trustee Eckart stated that President Lefton has given Kent State a sense of direction, a safe harbor, and most importantly, a real sense of place. He wished President Lefton luck, and asked that he continue to walk this path for many years to come and to reflect on the great value he has given to this institution.

Resolution 2013-63

NAMING OF THE UNIVERSITY ESPLANADE IN HONOR OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT LESTER A. LEFTON

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester A. Lefton has served with distinction as Kent State University’s 11th president since July 1, 2006, successfully leading the university through a remarkable period of growth, transformation and positive momentum; and

WHEREAS, with clear vision, a commitment to excellence and unshakable optimism, he has led Kent State to new heights of achievement, making student success Kent State’s top priority, setting new records in enrollment and fundraising, elevating the university’s academic strengths and standing, launching new programs in high-demand and emerging fields, increasing its international presence; and modernizing facilities to meet the aspirations of our students and their families; and

WHEREAS, President Lefton’s leadership legacy includes efforts to forge a new era of town-gown cooperation, to make Kent one of America’s best college towns, and to transform Kent State’s campuses into 21st century learning environments that will cultivate student success for decades to come, which surely will stand among his crowning contributions; and

WHEREAS, the University Esplanade serves as a symbol of the dynamic relationship between the university and the city, physically connecting a vibrant campus with a newly vibrant city, connecting the resources of a revitalized downtown with the rich resources of a university undergoing its own historic transformation, and connecting our communities in ways that enhance the quality of life for everyone who comes here to learn, live, work and play; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that as a symbol of the high esteem in which President Lefton always will be held throughout the Kent State community and far beyond, with great pleasure and pride, the Kent State University Board of Trustees names the University Esplanade as the Lester A. Lefton Esplanade.

ACTION: Trustee Eckart moved, seconded by Trustee Colecchi, that the resolution be approved. There were no objections. The motion passed.
President Lefton thanked Trustee Eckart for those comments, and thanked the board for its continued efforts for Kent State University and for the support they have given to him personally.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Timken announced that the next regular business meeting of the Board of Trustees would occur March 12, 2014, at the Kent Campus in Kent, Ohio. On motion duly made and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.