

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 6, 2019**

Resolution

**ENSURING THE UNIVERSITY'S ONGOING COMMITMENT
AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF
AND EDUCATION REGARDING MAY 4, 1970**

WHEREAS, the events of May 4, 1970, represent a significant milestone in the history of Kent State University, the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, the university has the responsibility not only to honor and remember the lives lost and forever affected as well as to educate leaders, students, faculty and staff, and citizens across the world about this legacy and the lessons learned; and

WHEREAS, the remembrance and preservation of Kent State's May 4 legacy has taken a number of forms over the years, including annual commemorations since 1971; the establishment of the Center for Peaceful Change in 1971; the creation of the May 4 Task Force in 1975; the creation of the May 4 Archives and Special Collection; the dedication of the May 4 memorial in 1990; the installation of permanent markers in the Prentice Hall parking lot in 1999 to mark the locations where Jeffrey Miller, Allison Krause, William Schroeder and Sandra Scheuer lost their lives; the establishment of the Democracy Symposium in 2000; the development of the site's walking tour and listing on the National Historic Register in 2010; the opening of the May 4 Visitors Center in 2012, and the offering of classes, programs, and exhibits far too numerous to cite here, conducted through the dedicated efforts of individual faculty, staff, students, families, alumni, and the community; and

WHEREAS, with full support of the Board of Trustees and the university leadership, the May 4, 1970, site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2016, giving additional historical significance and visibility to the legacy of May 4, 1970, preserving and protecting the physical site for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees commends the legions of those responsible for these efforts over the years, with special appreciation to the Miller, Krause, Schroeder and Scheuer families and survivors Alan Canfora, John Cleary, Thomas Grace, Dean Kahler, Joseph Lewis, Donald MacKenzie, James Russell, Robert Stamps and Douglas Wrentmore; the May 4 Task Force, for planning and executing the annual commemoration since the university discontinued its support in 1975; and the dedicated faculty and staff responsible for the development of the visitors center, walking tour, and proposals for the State and National Historic Landmark designations; and

WHEREAS, as we approach the 50th commemoration in 2020, and to ensure the sustainability and continuity of our collective efforts, the time is right for Kent State

University to make a lasting commitment to the preservation of the May 4 legacy by providing the leadership, resources and support that places the annual commemoration and ongoing educational efforts as university-level commitments and responsibilities, under the auspices of the Office of the President; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of President Beverly Warren and the President's Cabinet, the Kent State University Board of Trustees hereby:

1. Expresses appreciation to the May 4 Task Force and all those whose dedicated efforts have preserved the legacy and advanced the lessons learned from the events of May 4, 1970;
2. Affirms that for the continuity and sustainability of these efforts, the time is right for the university to assume responsibility for the annual May 4 commemoration and ongoing educational events through the Office of the President, beginning with the 50th commemoration in 2019-2020 year and continuing from that time forward;
3. Commits to holding the annual commemoration as a university-level event and the preservation of important traditions that have been established over the years, including the annual observance of Remembrance Day on May 4, in which no final exams or classes are scheduled from noon through 2 p.m.;
4. Requires and supports the development of ongoing educational efforts reaching both current and future generations of Kent State students and the public beyond our campuses; and
5. Acknowledges the need for inclusive excellence in the development of the annual commemoration and ongoing educational initiatives through the establishment of a broad-based planning and advisory committee, reporting to the Office of the President, to assist in developing a unified and strategic plan for leading university-level May 4 initiatives in the future.