

**Council of Chief Academic Officers  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

The November 15, 2023, Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Taber at 9:12 a.m. The meeting was held at Emporia State University with a virtual option through Zoom.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Chuck Taber, K-State	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Robert Klein, KUMC
	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	Howard Smith, PSU	Laura Stephenson, Washburn
	Brent Thomas, ESU	Shirley Lefever, WSU	Karla Wiscombe, KBOR

Roll call was taken for members and presenters.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the September 20, 2023, meeting minutes, and Howard Smith seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

**Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (CoFSP) Update**

Jolynn Dowling, WSU Faculty Senate President, provided the update. She noted that the Council is having monthly meetings and is discussing developing a standard set of criteria for the Faculty of the Year award. They are interested in hearing more about the open positions in academic affairs and hope to have faculty involvement in the hiring process. KBOR open positions can be found at [https://www.kansasregents.org/about/board\\_office/employment\\_opportunities](https://www.kansasregents.org/about/board_office/employment_opportunities).

**First Readings**

Howard Smith presented the first reading for a Master of Social Work at PSU. This hybrid program is housed in the School of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences. There are two courses of study: a one-year program for those with a bachelor's degree in social work and a two-year program for those with a bachelor's in another area of study. PSU and KU have had a cooperative MSW program on the PSU campus, and PSU is essentially requesting to offer this independently.

**Second Reading**

Barbara Bichelmeyer gave an overview of the BAS in Professional Performance proposal. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the program, and Howard Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. This program will go to COPS at their meeting later in the day and, if approved, will go to BAASC on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Requests**

Brent Thomas presented several name change requests for ESU. Howard Smith moved to approve the requests as presented, and Shirley Lefever seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. These requests will go to Dr. Blake Flanders for final approval.

**Other Matters**

- Chuck Taber introduced Debbie Mercer, who will be Interim Provost at K-State when Chuck departs at the beginning of the year.
- WSU will propose an AS degree to benefit STEM fields and a BBA in Hospitality.
- KU has been working to offer competency-based programs and will be moving three programs forward shortly.

- PSU is in discussions with the KBI on a possible combined shared facility.

**Adjournment**

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Shirley Lefever seconded. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.