

**KANSAS POSTSECONDARY
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES**

A virtual meeting of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) was held via ZOOM on October 28, 2021.

Members Present

Mark Hess, Vice Chair	Tiffany Anderson
Jason Cox	Eddie Estes
Keith Humphrey	Rita Johnson
Debra Mikulka	Mike Beene
Mike Johnson	
Amber Shultz	

Others Present

Heather Morgan, Kansas Association Community College Trustees
Cloud County Community College
Fort Scott Community College
Hutchinson Community College
Manhattan Area Technical College
Seward County Community College
Washburn Institute of Technology

Kansas Board of Regents Staff Present

Scott Smathers	Tobias Wood
April Henry	Elaine Frisbie
Sue Grosdidier	Matt Casey
Vera Brown	Cindy Farrier
Eric Tincher	Lisa Beck
Charmine Chambers	Steve Funk
Hector Martinez	Susan Henry
Susanna Lee	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hess at 10:00 A.M. Vice Chair Hess provided members with virtual meeting guidelines.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Hess called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2021 and September 30, 2021 meetings.

Motion: Member Estes moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 and September 30, 2021 meetings. Following a second by Member Beene, the motion carried.

REPORTS

Introductions

Vice Chair Hess asked for introductions. Vice President Smathers introduced new Associate Director for Adult Education, Susanna Lee.

Vice Chair's Report
None.

Member Liaison Reports
Vice Chair Hess invited TEA member activity reports.

Member Estes reported that over 750 high school and middle school students from area Kansas and Oklahoma schools attended Dodge City Community College's Tech Career Exploration Day last Wednesday at the Western State Bank Expo Center, and it included informational booths, demonstrations, exhibits, games, and giveaways.

Member Beene reported that the Department of Commerce recently hired Shonda Atwater as a Director of Internships and Apprenticeships. She will be leading the internships and apprenticeship initiatives from an agency perspective.

Member Anderson reported that Board Staff presented to the Commission for Racial Equity and Justice and gave information and recommendations related to postsecondary education, including credit transfer from the two-year colleges to the four-year universities. She shared that the Inner-Council governmental group meets monthly with Washburn Tech, and more details are forthcoming on a new initiative regarding the expansion of tech classes in the juvenile justice system. She reported that Shawnee County held a college fair, hosted by T-CALC, with just over 90 colleges participating, and career opportunities we also showcased.

Vice President for Workforce Development Report

Vice Chair Hess called on Vice President Smathers to provide members with a Workforce Development report. Vice President Smathers reported work continues with the Promise Act, including developing a trailer bill, speaking with legislators and colleges, making presentations, and reaching out to the colleges regarding their distribution needs for the spring. In addition, Board Staff is working on the Promise Act rules and regulations and will provide drafts to the colleges for their feedback. He reported that there have been multiple discussions regarding institution service areas and the importance of providing a better understanding for Unified School Districts, businesses, and the educational institutions. He reported that Board Staff is in the process of creating some short marketing videos funded by a \$10,000 grant from ITC Holdings. He reported that he shared a presentation at the National Advanced CTE Conference regarding Kansas military articulation efforts and attended the annual Workforce Innovation Conference in Wichita at the beginning of October. He reminded members that the TEA will pay for their attendance at the Mid-America Workforce Summit, which is being held January 19th and 20th in Topeka

Report from the Community Colleges

Vice Chair Hess called upon Fort Scott Community College President Johnston to provide members with a report from the community colleges.

Report from the Technical Colleges

Vice Chair Hess called upon Manhattan Area Technical College President Genandt to provide members with a report from the technical colleges.

CONSENT AGENDA

Budget and Finance Committee

State Innovative Technology Grant Recommendations

Garden City Community College - Industrial Machine Mechanic

Northwest Kansas Technical College - Diesel Technology
Seward County Community College - Grain Elevator Operator
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology - Welding

Program and Curriculum Committee

New Program Proposals

Barton Community College: Plumbing (46.0503)
Washburn Institute of Technology: Sterile Processing (51.1012)
Washburn Institute of Technology: Plumbing (46.0503)

Excel in CTE Fees

Barton Community College: Plumbing (46.0503)
Washburn Institute of Technology: Sterile Processing (51.1012)
Washburn Institute of Technology: Plumbing (46.0503)

Promise Act

Washburn Institute of Technology: Sterile Processing (51.1012)
Washburn Institute of Technology: Plumbing (46.0503)

Vice Chair Hess called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items from the Budget & Finance Committee and Technical Program and Curriculum Committee.

Motion: Member R. Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda items. Following a second by Member Estes, the motion carried by roll call vote.

OTHER MATTERS

Excel in CTE Fee Process

Vice Chair Hess called on Director Henry to lead discussion regarding the Excel in CTE Fee Process. Director Henry reminded members the fees are collected on an annual basis. The initial year data was provided through an Excel spreadsheet. The second-year data was backfilled on those spreadsheets by Board staff and institutions were asked to review and update that information. Director Henry asked members how they would like Board Staff to organize and compile the third-year data to present the information to them. Director Henry added that in efforts to keep fees transparent for students, Board staff are now asking for additional specific details regarding the breakdown of program fees that are grouped together (i.e., kits). Members indicated that they would prefer to focus only on program fees that have been altered for the upcoming year.

Motion: Following discussion, Member R. Johnson moved to approve the Excel in CTE Fee review process, redefined to provide information to the TEA for review on those programs with fee changes for the upcoming year only, organized by program. Following a second by Member Beene, the motion carried by roll call vote.

Legislative Update

Vice Chair Hess called on Director Casey to provide members with a legislative update. Director Casey gave a brief report to members on the recent and upcoming activities of the Legislature. He shared that Board staff have been requested to present in front of the Special Committee on Government Overreach and COVID 19 vaccines to discuss the federal vaccine mandate that affects federal contracts at the universities, including public and private institutions. He added that the Department of Education is anticipated to release further guidance on the impact of the mandate as well. He reported that last week

the Governor, legislators, engineering community and higher education representatives attended a bill signing ceremony that was held at Bartlett and West Engineers for the reauthorization of the Engineering Initiative Act. Representatives celebrated the ten successful years of this program, but also the reauthorization and the bill signing of ten more years.

GED Update

Vice Chair Hess called on Associate Director Grosdidier to provide a GED update. Associate Director Grosdidier gave a brief background of the Kansas GED program. She explained that there are two options for high school equivalency in the state of Kansas; the GED, for which students take four tests in language arts, math, science and social studies, and the Kansas Pathway to Careers diploma. She provided a data sheet to members for the number of GED tests taken, which has been adversely affected by the pandemic. She explained that Kansas has always fared very well in its pass rate, consistently above the nation's average of 77% with the average for Kansas above 80%. She explained she believes the data for next year, due to the pandemic, will reflect a larger number of 16- and 17-year-old students choosing to take the GED. She informed members that also due to the pandemic, GED online test taking became an option for the first time, with very strict guidelines, and reflected a 92% pass rate. She shared with members that Kansas Pathway to Careers is an additional option for students 21 and older, who will complete a technical certificate as well as completing their high school diploma at the same time. She explained this option is being utilized in the state's Department of Corrections facilities. She provided information on the advertising campaign that includes signs on the sides of buses and billboards for both GED testing and the Kansas Pathway to Careers, and details of the Cox media campaign, sharing that the success of the advertising campaigns is reflected in the number of Kansas Board of Regents website hits for more information that have been tabulated. She reported that data reflects more people in Kansas are completing their high school education.

Adult Education Update

Vice Chair Hess called on Director Hector Martinez to provide an Adult Education Update. Director Martinez informed members that Board staff continues to provide high-quality professional development to local adult education programs, monitor programs for compliance, report federal data on professional development and develop initiatives for career readiness and teaching skills. He provided members with data on adult learner enrollment, status, and characteristics. He informed members that online professional development initiatives included the online College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) training, 'Becoming an Adult Educator', the Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) initiative and Teaching Skills That Matter (TSTM). He explained that due to the pandemic, there have been challenges to provide adult education programs online or face to face with restrictions and the programs need to adapt to new ways of learning and providing opportunities for students. Enrollment for 2021 was impacted and although programs successfully implemented online learning, overall state enrollment decreased by 1,851 (-29.92%) compared to 2020. While enrollment decreased, programs were still able to effectively serve students with 61.63% achieving a measurable skill gain; a slight increase compared to the fiscal year 2020 (60.54%). Director Martinez reported that moving ahead, the first quarter collection for FY22 programs reports a 50% enrollment compared to FY21, which is a positive, and Board staff will continue to adopt new ways to provide services to programs blending face to face and hybrid options.

AO-K @ Work Update

Vice Chair Hess called on Associate Director Beck to provide an AO-K @ Work update. Associate Director Beck reminded members that Employees participating in the AO-K @ Work program can further their education at no cost with assistance in earning a high school diploma. Instruction is available in English language learning, skills for the workplace, and is held at the workplace, compatible with employee work schedules. She reported that as the COVID restrictions begin to ease, Kansas adult education providers are getting back into the workplaces they serve, and employers are recognizing the importance of offering employees new and creative benefits to attract and retain staff. She reported that

there are currently five adult education centers serving sixteen businesses through the AO-K @ Work project. She provided members with a list of the institution and business participants. She informed members that 229 students have completed the program, exceeding the original grant application goal. She shared student success stories, and comments from the business partners.

TEA Election of Officers

Vice Chair Hess called on Vice President Smathers to lead discussion regarding the election of TEA Officers. Vice President Smathers explained that upon resignation of the Chair, TEA policy does not direct for the promotion of the Vice Chair and an election must be held. Vice President Smathers shared that he had contacted TEA members over the last two weeks requesting input for nominations. He reported that member input recommended electing Vice Chair Hess as Chair, and nominating Member Cox for the Vice Chair role. He also informed members that he spoke with Member Hess and Member Cox and they indicated to him they are willing to accept the officer roles.

Motion: Member Shultz moved to elect Member Hess as Chair of the TEA and Member Cox as the Vice Chair. Following a second by Member Anderson, the motion carried by roll call vote.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER

Vice Chair Hess reminded members that the next regular TEA meeting is scheduled to be in-person at the KBOR office on December 2, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice Chair Hess adjourned the meeting at 11:19 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan Henry, Executive Assistant