

**Kansas Board of Regents
Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee**

**MINUTES
Tuesday, November 18th, 2020**

The November 18th, 2020 meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Regent Kiblinger at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.

In Attendance:

Members:	Regent Kiblinger, Chair Regent Brandau-Murguia	Regent Schmidt	Regent Van Etten
Staff:	Daniel Archer Amy Robinson Cindy Farrier	Karla Wiscombe Sam Christy-Dangermond Scott Smathers	Tara Lebar Steve Funk Diane Lindeman
Others:	Jean Redeker, KU Melinda Roelfs, PSU Howard Smith, PSU Shirley Lefever, WSU Linnea GlenMaye, WSU Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC David Cordle, ESU Robert Klein, KUMC Erin Shaw, Highland CC	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Brian Niehoff, K-State Monette DePew, Pratt CC Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Lori Winningham, Butler CC Jerry Pope, KCKCC Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Kim Zant, Cloud CC	Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Kim Morse, Washburn Elaine Simmons, Barton County CC Sarah Robb, Neosho CC Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Kaye Monk-Morgan, WSU Mickey McCloud, JCCC Jennifer Brown, NCKCC Jason Sharp, Labette CC

Regent Kiblinger welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken for members and presenters.

Approval of Minutes

Regent Schmidt moved to approve the November 3rd, 2020 meeting minutes, and Regent Van Etten seconded the motion. With no corrections or discussion, the motion passed.

2020 TAAC Quality Assurance Subcommittee Report

Melinda Roelfs presented the report. This report was also presented at the 2020 KCOG Conference on October 16th, 2020. Melinda shared from the report a brief overview of TAAC and their responsibilities, how they have approached quality assurance over time, underscored work being done by faculty across the state within core outcome groups, and shared specific data on student performance in sequential courses. The report can be found on the KBOR website at:

https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/Academic_Affairs/TAAC/2020_Quality_Assurance_Report_v4-2_FINAL.pdf.

Melinda highlighted Kansas's accomplishments. The National Student Clearinghouse has an annual report with completion rates for students who start at a two-year public institution and receive a degree from a four-year institution within six years, and Kansas was ranked #1 in 2020.

During the 2020 KCOG Conference, faculty articulated core outcomes for 6 new courses and reviewed 13 previously approved courses for core outcomes updates. Once approved, courses are placed under review every five-years. Melinda noted that over 300 faculty participated in the 2020 conference. The six new courses will be reviewed through TAAC and presented to the Board for approval and inclusion in systemwide transfer.

Melinda reviewed marketing efforts for Kansas transfer. She encouraged everyone to use #TransferKS and utilize and share the Kansas Transfer portal found at https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/transfer-articulation. She noted the portal helps streamline academic advising and provides transparency.

Regent Schmidt and Regent Van Etten asked for clarification if technical colleges were included in the data presented. Technical colleges are included in the transfer data. Committee members discussed how the transfer data could be used for the Board's Strategic Plan metrics and how it speaks to affordability and student success.

Apply Kansas

Tara Lebar provided an update on Apply Kansas. Apply Kansas college application month runs throughout October and is a statewide application event focusing on completing college applications. The program was launched five years ago by April Cozine with some financial contributions from KBOR. This is the first year KBOR is providing oversight for the program. Tara discussed program details and provided past and 2020 data. She noted in 2020, high school participation was up 50%; however, student participation was slightly down, probably due to the pandemic. Events were conducted in person and through Zoom, and KBOR institution partnerships provided valuable assistance to increase student participation. Tara anticipates future increases in college, student, and high school participation. Committee members used the provided map of participating schools to discuss areas to encourage for future participation.

Regent Schmidt asked if data on student diversity and underserved populations, such as how many first-generation students participate, can be tracked. Regent Kiblinger noted that anything highlighting impact with underserved populations could encourage increased participation with more school districts. Apply Kansas has the potential to impact underserved populations in Kansas positively.

Information on Apply Kansas, including resources for participation and a map of participating schools, can be found on the KBOR website at <https://www.kansasregents.org/students/apply-kansas>.

Low Enrollment Program Reviews

Last spring, the Board discussed low enrollment programs as one of the 2020-2021 Board Goals. At that time, the Board concluded state universities would review all their undergraduate low enrollment programs under strategic program alignment. K-State and WSU presented today, KU and FHSU will present in December, and ESU and PSU will present in January. The process will include an introductory review by BAASC and a second and final review by the Board.

Chuck Taber presented K-State's report as provided in the agenda. K-State has seven programs listed for low numbers of majors and graduates and are recommending continuation of all. Chuck noted that they have a continuous internal evaluation process, resulting in the elimination of 14 programs over the last five years. Chuck provided K-State's reasons for recommending the continuation of each as outlined in his report. Each of the seven programs has been reviewed through K-State's evaluation process, and K-State believes they serve their mission and serve their students.

Regent Van Etten asked for additional data on enrollment numbers. Chuck provided the five-year average number of majors and graduates for each program:

1. BS in American Ethnic Studies has 10 majors and 4 graduates
2. BS in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies has 15 majors and 7 graduates
3. BA in Humanities has 8 majors and 7 graduates
4. BS in Physical Sciences has 12 majors and 3 graduates
5. BA/BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences / 12 majors and 1 graduate
6. BS in Statistics has 21 majors and 6 graduates
7. AS in Applied Business has 16 majors and 6 graduates

Regent Van Etten expressed concerns with programs that do not meet the determined criteria used for the elimination of programs. She questioned if K-State has considered modifying courses by putting them into other majors or programs. Chuck responded that these students have opportunities to move into other majors associated with other programs and there are natural connections through faculty. Chuck noted they have begun conversations on potential modifications to increase the number of majors and asked that they be allowed to continue pursuing those modifications instead of eliminating the programs. Chuck stated they have data to show substantial employment opportunities and believes letting students know about potential job markets can make these programs more attractive. Regent Van Etten asked if there was a way to combine programs or create minors within related majors in an effort to follow criteria set for each university. She understands the reason to allow #6 and #7 a chance to grow, but asked if #1 and #2 could be converted to a minor or modified. Chuck responded they are looking along those lines through their current conversations and noted there is little to no cost in offering those programs. Chuck stated these courses must be offered, and the question for him is more about how to structure these programs to be more attractive to students.

Regent Kiblinger commented that given this is a Board goal, the reports being reviewed by BAASC first allow Regents to provide feedback before the report goes to the Board to help each institution be prepared for questions. She believes the Board expects to see recommendations for changes, which could include deleting programs or making changes to viable programs. Regent Kiblinger stated from the presentation provided she feels it lacks a clear explanation of the cost-effectiveness. While reviews are not solely based on cost-effectiveness, Regent Kiblinger stated this would be a driving factor due to the current economic climate and declining enrollment. She noted when K-State presents to the Board in December they should include internal conversations, timelines, cost analysis, and occupational economic outlooks, and asked if K-State has this type of information available. Chuck responded they can include this in the report to the Board next month. Committee members discussed briefly the sense of urgency that surrounds potential future cuts in funding. Universities should also be looking at a plan if this happens.

Shirley Lefever presented the WSU report as provided in the agenda, and also provided a PowerPoint presentation, which will be emailed to all institutional representatives. She discussed the WSU review process and how it feeds into the KBOR review cycle. They have listed seven programs that fell below the minimum enrollment threshold. Four of these programs have either merged, changed names, or were discontinued. Shirley focused her presentation on the three remaining programs and shared their progress and the reasoning to keep each.

Regent Kiblinger asked for future clarification on what merging programs means and specifically what potential cost savings this creates for efficiencies. Regent Van Etten stated they would also like to see a more inclusive data chart with recent years. Regent Schmidt encouraged WSU to look at a plan for potential cuts to funding. Regent Kiblinger encouraged WSU to add more detail on how merging programs creates efficiencies and the economic outlook for employment in these areas.

Additional Updates

Regent Schmidt provided an update from the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Working Group. He noted the WSU Work Group has led the way and has held meetings with key players. He believes they may launch a badge program for high school curriculum followed by dual credit opportunities as soon as fall 2021. Shirley Lefever is leading WSU efforts, and she provided a brief overview. Shirley stated they have been working with several community agencies that serve older adults and individuals with disabilities to create badge courses that will provide training to individuals who want to pursue careers in this area. She noted they are also working with area high schools to put together CTE pathways for students to obtain dual credits that will feed into majors such as Special Education, Social Work, or health care professions. These efforts will help address the shortage of DSP workers in Kansas.

Regent Kiblinger provided a brief update from the Coordinating Council. Regent Kiblinger stated the next meeting would be on December 7th. She noted that working groups have been formed, and she is impressed with the variety of representation from across the state and all institutions. These groups will provide an update at the next BAASC meeting.

Adjournment

The committee noted they may want to take a more detailed look at the low enrollment report metrics. If the criteria were spelled out in more detail, it might help the universities and the Regents reviewing these programs. KBOR staff will provide information that the committee can discuss at the next meeting.

The next BAASC meeting is scheduled for December 1st at 11:00 a.m.

Regent Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting, and Regent Brandau-Murguia seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.