

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

**MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

The March 17, 2021 meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Regent Kiblinger at 10:21 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	Travis White Sam Christy-Dangermond	Tara Lebar Marti Leisinger
Others:	Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Brad Bennett, SCCC Chuck Taber, K-State Howard Smith, PSU Jean Redeker, KU Linnea GlenMaye, ESU Mickey McCloud, JCCC Robert Klein, KUMC Shirley Lefever, WSU	Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Brian Niehoff, K-State David Cordle, ESU Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Jerry Pope, KCKCC Matt Melvin, KU Rija Khan, WSU Shelly Gehrke, ESU	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Elaine Simmons, Barton County CC Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Kaye Monk-Morgan, WSU Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC Sarah Robb, Neosho County CC Susan Klusmeier, KU

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Regent Van Etten moved to approve the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes, and Regent Schmidt seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

**Review University Qualified Admission Policies (Consent)**

Sam Christy-Dangermond presented updated University Qualified Admission (QA) policies for approval. Sam provided the background and a brief history of proposed changes, QA requirements universities followed, an option for admission by exception, and a summary of relevant changes. Sam noted that these changes were for freshman applicants under the age of 21. The Committee is being asked to approve the 6 state universities' admission policies that align with the QA requirements and regulations the Board has already approved and adopted. Minimum requirements that guarantee admission and the option for admission by exception are outlined in each university admission policy and can be found at [https://kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/qualified\\_admissions/university-admission-policies](https://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/qualified_admissions/university-admission-policies). Sam noted Board and university staff worked together to ensure each item required by regulation and approved criteria were addressed in each policy.

Regent Brandau-Murguia motioned to place the updated University Qualified Admission (QA) policies on the Board consent agenda in April, and Regent Van Etten seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

### **KU Request to Change Qualified Admission Requirements (Discussion)**

Barbara Bichelmeyer, Matt Melvin, and Susan Klusmeier presented KU's request to change its Qualified Admission requirements. Barbara stated KU is requesting approval to change freshman admission requirements, allowing for a more transparent test-flexible approach. KU provided background information, a comparison of their current and proposed requirements, and their rationale. During the pandemic in spring 2020, Barbara noted that ACT and SAT testing sites shuttered, and KU needed to offer applicants an admission option that didn't require one of these test scores. KU was able to admit freshmen without test scores through an existing option outlined in current regulations. This option allows for a special review process but does not guarantee admission. KU would like to ensure that qualified freshman applicants without test scores be guaranteed admission without going through the review process. Barbara provided admission requirements for both options: either a minimum ACT of 21 AND a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0, OR a 3.25 cumulative high school GPA regardless of test score or no test score. She stated that this approach is consistent with test-optional policies recently approved at other state universities. In the national market, KU is working to align and be more competitive with other states that have gone test-optional. Regionally there is less emphasis on standardized test scores, so having a guaranteed test-optional pathway allows them to stay competitive in regional and national markets. Barbara noted this option would also provide transparency to stakeholders and support qualified high school students whose academic abilities aren't accurately reflected with standardized testing. It is anticipated that if approved, all changes would become effective for applicants for the Spring 2022 semester. However, because the new requirements will require changes to the associated regulations, the effective date will depend on the amount of time required for the regulatory change process.

Regent Van Etten confirmed this would replace the KU Qualified Admission Policy the Committee just passed on the previous item. Regent Kiblinger asked what percentage of students were admitted this year under the test-optional policies in place due to the pandemic. Matt Melvin responded they are seeing fewer students nationally able to sit for standardized tests, and Regent Kiblinger noted this had gained national popularity as a way to remove a barrier for students. Matt confirmed 16% of their admissions are entering without a test score, and they expect this to increase. Regent Kiblinger stated they are interested in knowing what percentage of students are admitted through the new test-optional route in the future and would like an update on these students' success. Matt and his team at KU will be tracking this data.

Susan Klusmeier discussed the work KU is doing to support, retain, and ensure completion for students. Susan stated this new admission option aligns with how they think about expanding student support prior to a student's campus orientation by doing proactive outreach. Susan said KU would spend the next academic year emphasizing their first-year courses, including university orientation and first-year seminars. This will ensure their student support is intentional, proactive, and interwoven from setting expectations at orientation through a student's first year. Susan discussed how academic advisors monitor students, provide outreach to ensure students don't fall through the cracks, and ensure students get intentional support throughout their time at KU.

Regent Schmidt asked about the regulatory process of the request. Daniel Archer stated the Board office would work with the KBOR General Council and KU for finalization, and he anticipates the process will take 6-9 months. No further questions were presented.

Regent Schmidt motioned to place the KU request to change their Qualified Admissions (QA) on the Board Discussion agenda later in the day (March 17), and Regent Van Etten seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

### **Update to Board Qualified Admission Policy (Consent)**

Sam Christy-Dangermond presented an update on changes to the Board Qualified Admission Policy. Detailed changes were provided on pages 8 and 9 of the agenda. After the Board approved changes in 2019 to Qualified Admission (QA), Sam stated that board staff went through the regulatory change process, which took close to 9 months to complete. The updated regulations were finalized in summer 2020 and adopted by the Board in

September 2020. The regulatory change process included replacing some older regulations. Since the policy references the regulations, which are numbered, the references needed updating. Those references were the only updates to the policy, as shown on pages 8 and 9 of the agenda.

Regent Van Etten motioned to place the updates to Board Qualified Admission (QA) Policy on the Board consent agenda in April, and Regent Brandau-Murguia seconded the motion. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

### **Apply Kansas Update**

Tara Lebar provided an updated 2020 Apply Kansas report and went over the data. Out of 151 registered high schools, 108 submitted summary data. Those schools had 4,897 seniors submitting a total of 5,910 applications, 3,600 of which were to Kansas public institutions. Tara noted this is the first time KBOR has tracked the number of applications to Kansas public institutions. Since it is the first year for this metric, she is unclear if this number is accurate. Tara will provide additional training to the high school site coordinators and better survey questions to ensure this new metric's accuracy in years to come. Tara stated data compared to previous years showed an increase in school participation and a slight decline in the number of students participating and application submissions, noting this was positive in light of pandemic challenges. Data shows that 67% of schools held an in-person event, 23% of schools held an entirely virtual event, and 10% of schools held a hybrid event. Tara stated a positive that may come from having a variety of event formats is these different avenues can be used to allow coordinators flexibility in holding future events. Tara stated the goal is to continue increasing the number of participating schools to eventually include all high schools in Kansas and specifically target high schools with lower FAFSA completion and college-going rates. This information can be found at the KBOR Apply Kansas website at <https://www.kansasregents.org/students/apply-kansas>.

Regent Kiblinger believes recognizing schools or students who participate is a good direction and noted using a banner or t-shirts could generate excitement and help market Apply Kansas events. She noted local businesses might show an interest in sponsoring shirts for participants if they knew this opportunity was available. Regent Schmidt pointed out that 4,897 seniors submitting applications are around 14% of total Kansas high school students and asked how the Regents could support expansion and challenges. Tara responded the Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO) started this program, and this is the first year for KBOR to manage the entire program. Getting the information disseminated to all high schools and getting counselors and administrators to take on events is an area of focus, and these are the biggest challenges so far. Regent Schmidt stated another avenue could be working with Kansas foundations who provide scholarships, and explicitly looking at counties that do not have schools participating in those programs. He noted the Dane G. Hansen Foundation also provides funding to counties for strategic initiatives. Regent Kiblinger stated using foundations and alumni associations could be an avenue to obtain additional manpower to help promote Apply Kansas in their service areas.

### **Coordinating Council Update**

Regent Kiblinger noted the Council has not met since the last update. The Council's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 24 at 1:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The next BAASC meeting is March 30, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:23 a.m.