

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
June 22, 2022

The June 22, 2022, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Cheryl Harrison-Lee at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the ESU Memorial Union in the Preston Family Room on the Emporia State University campus (1331 Market Street, Emporia KS 66801). Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:                   Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair  
  Jon Rolph, Vice Chair  
  Mark Hutton  
  Carl Ice  
  Shelly Kiblinger  
  Cynthia Lane  
  Allen Schmidt  
  Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT:                   Bill Feuerborn

**NAMING THE EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY 18<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT**

Chair Harrison-Lee welcomed everyone to the Emporia State University campus and stated that the Board is delighted to be on campus to appoint the 18<sup>th</sup> president of Emporia State University. Chair Harrison-Lee thanked Interim President Ken Hush for his service. President Hush stepped into the Interim position last November and the Board was thrilled to have someone with his expertise and talents in the role.

Chair Harrison-Lee stated that selecting a new President is an important moment for an institution, the students it serves and the state of Kansas. Throughout the process, the search committee and the Board have relied on the principles in the Board's strategic plan, *Building a Future*, to guide the search for the next president of Emporia State. The plan focuses on the system's efforts to serve Kansas families, help Kansas businesses, and advance economic prosperity for all Kansans. Chair Harrison-Lee stated that the Board sought a president who would share that focus, while also bring a strong commitment to the mission of the University and its values. The Board wanted a President who would be student-centered with unfailing support for access and affordability, while also recognizing and seizing opportunities for collaboration with the Emporia community, alumni, and business leaders. To help with the search process the Board created the Presidential Search Committee, and Chair Harrison-Lee thanked and recognized Greg Kossover, the Chair of that Committee. She also thanked and recognized the Search Committee members for their dedication and commitment to Emporia State University.

Regent Lane also extended her appreciation to the Chair Kossover and the members of the Search Committee. She then moved to appoint Ken Hush as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of Emporia State University. Interim President Hush has leveraged his leadership experience, business acumen, strong understanding of data and financial analysis, to guide the University during a time of transition and necessary change. Throughout his career, Mr. Hush has provided action-oriented,

team focused leadership positioning the organizations he served for long-term success. He is a graduate of Emporia State and was inducted into the ESU Athletics Hall of Honor in 1995. Prior to assuming his current role, Mr. Hush served as CEO of BLI Rentals, as President and Executive Officer at Kock Minerals and Carbon LLC, and as General Manager and Director at Senior Commodity Company. Regent Lane also moved that the Board direct the Chair and the Board President and CEO to negotiate the compensation package and authorize the Chair to sign the letter of appointment. Regent Hutton seconded, and the motion carried.

Chair Harrison-Lee introduced Ken Hush. President Hush thanked the Regents for their support and the faculty and staff who understanding the need for change. He also thanked ESU's leadership team for the work they have done and will be doing in the future. President Hush stated that his life has been positively shaped by the Emporia community and the University. He spoke about his time as an ESU student and the wonderful memories of playing on the Hornet tennis team and being a member of the Blue Key Honor Society. President Hush stated his philosophy is simple and expressed by Thomas Edison when he said, "If there is a way to make it better – find it". President Hush stated he is committed to making ESU a university of Excellence and looks forward to working with faculty, staff, and students.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Harrison-Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Jon Rolph, Chair-Elect