

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

March 22-23, 2023

The March 22, 2023, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 1:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the Board Office located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Rolph, Chair
 Carl Ice, Vice Chair
 Blake Benson
 John Dicus
 Cheryl Harrison-Lee
 Cynthia Lane
 Diana Mendoza
 Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT: Shelly Kiblinger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Lane moved that the minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Benson, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Mason introduced Fort Hays State University's incoming Faculty Senate President, Elodie Jones.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Rolph reported that last month the Board had dinner with the community and technical college leaders and discussed their vision for higher education, the barriers and challenges facing the system, and where the system needs to be in five years. The group discussed the importance of being student centric and being able to adjust to the evolving educational environment. The following barriers and challenges facing higher education that the institutions and the Board need to further examine were identified – addressing societal perceptions that devalue the worth of higher education, adapting to serve a more diverse population, and retaining talent for the Kansas workforce. In the next five years, the group believes the system needs to continue to evolve to meet the needs of business and industry and continue to work together to grow transfer including program to program transfer. Chair Rolph then reported that he and President Flanders attended WSU Tech's Excel in CTE celebration that highlighted the accomplishments of the program over the last ten years. He also noted that the campus feedback on the rpk recommendations was received and is being reviewed.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders reported that the Kansas Promise Scholarship application process opened on March 1 and noted that the colleges are currently reviewing over 2,500 applications. He thanked the colleges and Board staff for all their work to implement the new scholarship, which will benefit many students. President Flanders announced that the Board was again appropriated \$20,000 for the Governor's scholarship program for FY 2023. This year, funds will be awarded to three community colleges and one technical college with the highest student success index rating that have not already received funding in the past two years – Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Pratt Community College, and WSU Tech. Each college will receive \$5,000 to award five \$1,000 Governor's Scholarships to students with financial need who are enrolled at the colleges. President Flanders thanked the Governor and Legislature for funding this scholarship. He also highlighted Manhattan Area Technical College's early college algebra pilot program that allows high school students to take this program at no cost to them.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Nate Brunsell presented the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents report. In September the Board asked the Council to recommend ways to improve communication between the faculty and the Board. Now that the Council has a better understanding of their role within the Board structure, the members developed the following recommendations for the Board to consider: 1) have the Regent three person committees meet with the governance leaders when the committees are on campuses, and 2) formalize the faculty senate presidents' membership on the Board committees by making them ex-officio members. Dr. Brunsell noted that the faculty senate presidents attend the different Board committee meetings as guests but would like to be able to engage more in the discussions. The Council believes formalizing some of these processes and increasing engagement with the faculty can improve communications. Dr. Brunsell then highlighted the Council's concerns regarding the timeline for adopting a workload policy and the timeline and process for filing exceptions to the Board's General Education policy. It is their understanding that the deadlines to complete these initiatives are approaching, and the faculty would like more time for review and discussion. Dr. Brunsell also noted that the faculty would appreciate information on how the approval process for filing exceptions will work at the Board level. Regarding the rpk recommendations, the Council is waiting to hear on what the Board's next steps are in the process, and Dr. Brunsell asked if the Council could review the feedback that was received on the recommendations. Chair Rolph stated that the feedback would be provided to the Council, and asked Regent Lane to provide an update on the rpk timeline. Regent Lane stated that the university provosts will bring recommendations for a new program review process to the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) next month, and depending on the Committee's discussion, the recommendations will be presented to the Board either in May or June. Regarding the development of a workload policy, Regent Lane stated that BAASC is not developing a policy but may recommend to the Board that each university have a workload policy.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sadie Williams presented the Students' Advisory Committee report. Student Body President Williams announced that the universities are in the process of electing their new student body officials and the newly elected student body presidents will join the Committee at the end of the academic year. She reported that the Committee is looking forward to presenting the different student fees proposals to the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee in the next couple of

months. Student Body President Williams stated in January the Board asked the Committee to share their ideas on how the higher education system can increase access to high school dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities. The Committee developed a proposal that outlines the challenges and highlights opportunities for change regarding access, teacher qualifications, and costs. The students also provided feedback on the Board's Dual Credit Enrollment policy. Chair Rolph noted that the students have been active with providing their feedback to the Board and thanked them for their work.

(Proposal Filed with Official Minutes)

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Lane reported that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee received the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) report. SARA is a voluntary agreement among member states that allow accredited degree-granting institutions to offer distance education in other member states without having to seek individual authorization from those states. The Committee may have further discussions on strategies to attract more students into the state. Board staff then provided an update on the Open Educational Resources initiative and reminded the Committee that there is an OER showcase display at the Statehouse tomorrow. Regent Lane noted that last month the Board approved the additional foundational metrics under Pillar One that will be displayed on the Board's strategic plan dashboard. Board staff is currently designing that dashboard so that users can easily search and download the information. It is anticipated that the dashboard website will be fully functional on or before June 1, 2023. Joan Brewer, Dean of the Teachers College at Emporia State University, provided an update on the work of the Educator Work Force Task Force. The Task Force is focusing on the systemwide elementary education licensure degree transfer program, which will include a 60-credit hour transfer framework that will align with the Board's General Education policy. The Task Force will be working with the community colleges on this initiative and anticipates completing the transfer framework by fall of 2024. Additionally, the Committee discussed the next steps for the university program review process and instructional workload.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Ice presented the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee report. The Committee reviewed the funding scenarios for the two-year college instructional cost model, which is on the Board agenda for consideration later in the meeting. Regent Ice reported that the Committee agreed that the input from the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority for Tier 6 course instructor rates and the Interim Legislative Task Force for applying a three-year average would both have a positive effect on application of the cost model. Jim MacMurray from the Kansas Development Finance Authority then presented information on the state universities' rates of indebtedness and the current bond market. He recommended that the Board consider requiring the universities to include their debt burden ratio, debt service coverage, and viability ratio at the time of each debt authorization request in their submission to the Board. Regent Ice stated that he believes the Board already requires this information with the submissions, but Board staff will confirm. Mr. MacMurray also volunteered that KDFFA could do a capacity analysis for each of the universities, but there would have to be clarity on what assumptions the Board would want them

to make as constraints on the debt limit – whether to approach it as an absolute dollar amount or debt coverage percentage. The Committee also received presentations from Kansas State University, Emporia State University, and the University of Kansas on their financial outlook.

GOVERNANCE

Regent Rolph reported that the Governance Committee received Emporia State University’s annual campus safety and security report. The Committee approved the Board President’s execution of an agreement with the University of Kansas and reviewed the new Regent orientation process. Board staff presented proposed changes to the 2024 CEO assessment tool. The Committee plans to further discuss the assessment tool and evaluation process in April. Regent Rolph noted that the Committee will seek feedback from the university CEOs on any proposed changes to the tool or process before presenting its final recommendations to the Board for consideration.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Regent Harrison-Lee reported that the Retirement Plan Committee met on March 21, 2023. The Board’s financial consultant, Advanced Capital Group (ACG), presented its semi-annual investment review. Based on ACG’s recommendations, the Committee voted to keep three funds available through TIAA on a watch list. The Committee also received ACG’s analysis of plan lineup changes submitted by TIAA and Voya. The Committee wanted further evaluation of TIAA’s proposal to execute share-class changes for eight proprietary funds and voted to approve TIAA’s proposal to execute share-class changes for five non-proprietary funds. Under this change, lower-expense-ratio share classes of each affected fund would be utilized. Regarding Voya, the Committee rejected two and approved nine of the plan lineup changes and adopted ACG’s recommendations on specific fund selection relative to each supported change. Regent Harrison-Lee noted that the recommendations for TIAA and Voya plan lineup changes will be presented to the Board for consideration at its next meeting. She also reported that the Committee went into executive session to discuss legal matters.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Ice moved, with the second of Regent Harrison-Lee, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried.

Academic Affairs

ACCREDITATION FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELING – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received approval to pursue programmatic accreditation for its new Master of Science in Genetic Counseling from the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). The following costs are associated with the accreditation:

Costs for Accreditation	
Fee	Amount
Initial Application Fee for Candidacy	\$4,500
New Program Application	\$7,000

Total for Initial Accreditation	\$11,500
Continuing Accreditation Annual Fee (FY24 & thereafter)	\$6,000
Required Site Visit Cost (FY27)	\$5,000

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT – KU

The University of Kansas received approval to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Operational Management (52.0205). This program will total 120 semester credit hours and will be taught in a hybrid format on the KU Edwards campus. The University’s estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$334,263, year two - \$346,287, and year three - \$457,573. Student tuition and state funding along with Johnson County Education and Research Triangle funds will finance the program.

STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA) REPORT

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) report was accepted.

(Report Filed with Official Minutes)

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

AMEND THE FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ACCEPT PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR THE WILKINS STADIUM EXPANSION PHASE 1 – WSU

Wichita State University received authorization to amend its FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan to include the building expansion project at Wilkins Stadium. The Phase 1 expansion will include an approximately 12,000 new square foot team facility and a 14,400 square foot indoor infield facility that will be located on the west side of the stadium adjacent to the Heskett Center. The anticipated total project cost for the Phase 1 expansion project is \$9.65 million (construction cost of \$7.3 million). Funding for the project is through private gifts. The project’s program statement was also approved.

AMEND THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ACCEPT THE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR ALLEN FIELDHOUSE RENOVATIONS PHASE 2 – KU

Approval was given to the University of Kansas to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement plan to include the revised Allen Fieldhouse renovation project (Phase 2). The projects budget is increasing from \$20 million to \$49,346,000. This increase is a result of changing the scope of work and escalating construction costs due to inflation. Total costs, including architectural fees, construction, and contingencies, is estimated at \$49.3 million. The project will be funded with private gifts and Kansas Athletics funds. It is anticipated that the project will be completed

in September 2024, dependent on supply chain and other external issues. The revised project program statement was also approved.

AMEND THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ACCEPT THE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR THE FACILITIES MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AT THE AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to include the construction of a new facilities maintenance complex on the Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus. The estimated cost for all three buildings is \$1,940,184, which will be financed with general use revenue and private funds. The buildings will be constructed in phases as funds become available. Construction of the first building is anticipated to begin Summer 2023. The program statement for this project was also approved.

RAZE BUILDING – CATTLE LOAFING SHED AND SILOS – KSU

Kansas State University received authorization to raze a cattle loafing shed, building #967, and two silos located at 13072 Elk Road, Mount Valley, Kansas. The shed's facility condition rating is a D+. The total project cost to demolish the three structures is approximately \$32,120 and will be financed with departmental funds. Following demolition, the sites will be returned to green space until funds for a new shed are available.

LEASE WITH VANGARD WIRELESS – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to enter into a thirty-year lease agreement with Vanguard Wireless, LLC. This is a renewal of a revenue generating lease for the use of a communication tower that exists on land owned by the University. The original term of the lease is from August 1, 2022, through July 30, 2027 (five years). The agreement allows for no more than five additional five-year renewal terms and may not exceed thirty years. Vanguard Wireless will make monthly payments of \$2,500 beginning August 1, 2022. On each August 1 thereafter, monthly payments will increase by 3% of the then-current monthly rental payment rate (year after year over the thirty-year lease term). The annual revenue for the first year will be \$30,000.

AMEND THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUEST AND ACCEPT PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR RENOVATIONS TO EISENHOWER HALL – KSU

Kansas State University received authorization to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to include the Eisenhower Hall renovation project. The estimated project cost is \$3.5 million, which will be financed using a combination of private gifts, academic infrastructure fee revenue and a portion of the University's allocation from the Educational Building Fund.

RELINQUISH ALLOCATION OF FY 2023 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUNDS FOR RAZING SMITH HALL – KU

The University of Kansas relinquished its FY 2023 allocation of \$650,000 of Building Demolition Funds for razing Smith Hall. KU is working on its 2024 Master Plan and decided that no facilities will be liquidated until the Plan is updated. The University anticipates having its Plan updated by June 2023.

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FY 2023 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND FOR RAZING MORSE HALL CENTRAL – ESU

Emporia State University received an additional allocation of \$465,000 from the FY 2023 Building Demolition Fund. The funds will be used to cover the remaining cost to raze Morse Hall Central.

AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS (LAWRENCE CAMPUS) AND THE KANSAS UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER’S ASSOCIATION

The amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of Kansas and the Kansas University Police Officer Association was approved. The MOA involves approximately 14 Police Officers, 16 Security Officers, and two Police Investigators in the KU Police Department at the University of Kansas Lawrence campus who are represented by the Kansas University Police Officers Association. Areas amended in the MOA include salary, shift bids, staffing, and apparel. The Board’s Chair was authorized to execute the Agreement, as amended, on behalf of the Board.

Technical Education Authority

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Garden City Community College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate B (31 credit hours) and an Associate in Applied Science (60 credit hours) in Computer Support Specialist (11.1006). The College estimates the initial cost of the program at approximately \$92,451.37. Funding will be provided from the Title III HSI STEM Grant. The College plans to begin offering the program in the fall of 2023.

PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST)

The below program was approved to become a Promise Eligible program:

- Garden City Community College: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006), which falls under the Information Technology and Security category specified in legislation.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Academic AffairsBACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE – KU

Provost Bichelmeyer presented the University of Kansas' request to offer a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (43.0104). This program will total 120 semester credit hours and will be taught in a hybrid and online format on the KU Edwards campus. Provost Bichelmeyer stated that the purpose of the program is to meet the workforce needs of law enforcement and corrections in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and she noted that Kansas City is in KU's service area. As part of the program approval process, the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the Council of Presidents discussed the program and three of the universities (Wichita State University, Fort Hays State University, and Emporia State University) opposed the program because of duplication concerns. Provost Bichelmeyer stated that generally it is local students in the institution's region who are enrolling in these types of programs and does not believe that KU will be competing with the other state universities. She also highlighted that included in the Board agenda materials are letters of concern from the universities and letters of support from local officials in the Kansas City area. Regent Dicus asked how this program aligns with the rpk study regarding duplication. Provost Bichelmeyer stated that some duplication is necessary when there is a market demand and the market data in the Kansas City area indicates a need for this program. Regent Benson stated that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee had a lengthy discussion on the duplication concerns and heard from all the universities. The Committee recommended approval of the program based on the local workforce needs and the enrollment data that indicates that most of the students who will enroll in these types of programs are located in a university's service area. Regent Lane asked about the low projected enrollment numbers, which shows 35 full-time and 30 part-time students in the third year. The Provost noted that it will take time to advertise and grow the program, but KU believes enrollments will trend up once the advertisement and recruitment efforts are maximized. Following discussion, Regent Benson moved to approve. Regent Mendoza seconded, and the motion carried.

(Letters Filed with Official Minutes)

Fiscal Affairs and AuditTIER RATES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL COST MODEL – SYSTEM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented information on the two-year college instructional cost model and proposed rates that would impact FY 2024 state aid to the two-year public colleges. In 2011, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 143 which created a new postsecondary technical education funding formula for technical courses as well as transfer or general education (non-technical) courses offered at the public two-year colleges. The model identifies the colleges' direct and indirect expenses to deliver technical and non-technical courses to Kansas resident students. Annual inflation adjustments have built into the model. The model is also used to calculate colleges' state aid amounts for high school students in technical courses. Vice President Frisbie noted that the colleges, Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, and other subject matter experts were involved with the development of the legislative formula. Vice President Frisbie reviewed the financial structure outlined below that shows the funding sources of the model for the community and technical colleges.

- Community College In-District Credit Hours = 1/3 student, 1/3 property tax, 1/3 state
- Community College Out-District Credit Hours = 1/3 student, 2/3 state
- All Technical College Credit Hours = 1/3 student, 2/3 state
- Secondary Students in Excel in CTE = 100% state

She then explained how the instructional costs are calculated in the model. For tiered courses, the funding formula adds the course's instructor costs, instructional support costs, institutional support costs, and extraordinary costs to get the course rate. For non-tiered courses, the funding formula adds the course's instructor costs, instructional support costs, and institutional support costs to get the course rate. Vice President Frisbie noted the total course costs are aggregated at the college to calculate total costs. She then explained that extraordinary costs are those required, program-specific equipment and consumable materials for technical course in technical programs. These costs are grouped into tiers and are adjusted annually either for inflation or for actual expenses. Tier 6 contains the courses with the highest rates and because the cost model data will play a more substantive role in determining state aid for the colleges in the coming year, the Technical Education Authority recommends holding the Tier 6 instructor rate at the same level as the prior year.

Vice President Frisbie then reviewed the funding for the cost model. The Board of Regents distributes state aid in accordance with the statutes and budget provisos passed by the Legislature. In the past the formula has not been fully funded, which created funding gaps. There have also been provisos attached to appropriations bills that have prevented full implementation of the cost model. These provisos generally held the colleges' state aid at a consistent level from year to year rather than adjusting state aid to enrollments. Vice President Frisbie stated the 2022 Legislature provided adequate state funds to cover the state's calculated share of cost model expenses and enacted a proviso to begin a three-year process to recenter the state aid that says in FY 2023 colleges with no gap are held at their FY 2022 state aid level, in FY 2024 colleges with no gap retain 50 percent of funding over calculated costs, and in FY 2025 state aid is distributed according to the instructional cost model calculations.

Vice President Frisbie reviewed the four gap report scenarios for the instructional cost model tiered and non-tiered rates and noted that black numbers indicated that the college has a gap in funding. The first scenario shows the traditional gap report that highlights the funding needed at each college to close the gap for tiered and non-tiered courses. The second scenario alters the Tier 6 instructor rates to hold the rate flat per the TEA's recommendation. The third scenario incorporates the TEA's recommendation on the Tier 6 rates, the Legislative task force recommendation to adopt a three-year average approach to calculate the gap, and the Legislative proviso for FY 2024. Scenario four adds a five percent inflationary adjustment for operating expenses. Regent Ice stated that the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee recommends the third scenario because it includes the recommendations from the Legislature, the Legislative task force, and the TEA. He noted that the Legislature is considering inflationary adjustments and does not believe the Board needs to weigh in on that component at this time. Representatives from the community and technical colleges noted their support for implementing scenario three. Following discussion, Regent Ice moved to approve scenario three, which contains the TEA's recommendation on the Tier 6 rates, the Legislative task force recommendation to adopt a three-year average approach to

calculate the gap, and the Legislative proviso for FY 2024. Regent Winter seconded, and the motion carried.

(Gap Report Scenarios and PowerPoint Filed with Official Minutes)

BREAK

Chair Rolph called for a break at 2:46 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:04 p.m. He stated that Regent Lane had some additional information to report from the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Regent Lane reported that the Educator Work Force Task Force is doing significant work with the structured literacy initiative. Over the summer there will be training to go over the different modules of structured literacy and the training will also focus on high needs populations such as special education, English limited language learners, and dyslexia. Regent Lane noted that the Task Force is also developing a long-term plan to make sure all in-service teachers have access to resources and support.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Vice President Frisbie presented the report on system enrollments for Academic Year (AY) 2022. In 2022, the enrollment headcount for the public higher education sector was 219,604 and the full-time equivalency (FTE) student count was 123,781. Vice President Frisbie noted the headcount enrollment for the public higher education system is down 2.2 percent from AY 2021 and is down 15.2 percent from its peak enrollment in AY 2012. FTE is also down 2.5 percent from last year. Vice President Frisbie stated that the system enrollment decline appears to have been impacted by the pandemic. For state universities, headcount had been steady in recent years but is down 2.3 percent from last year and down 4.8 percent from 2012. FTE has continued to decline every year since 2015. It is down 2.5 percent from last year and 6.5 percent from 2012. The universities' international student enrollments have decreased 10.2 percent from the 2012 count and have experienced losses from the peak enrollment year in 2015 (-26.0 percent). Vice President Frisbie noted that Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University did increase their international student enrollments from last year. Washburn University's headcount is down 24.7 percent from 2012 and decreased 3.2 percent from last year. Its FTE has also decreased 24.9 percent from 2012 and 3.2 percent from last year. The community colleges are experiencing similar enrollment trends with headcount down 28.8 percent and FTE down 28.0 percent since 2012. Vice President Frisbie noted the community colleges have experienced the most significant enrollment losses. This, in part, is influenced by a high number of part-time adult learners and a low unemployment rate. Technical colleges have experienced the highest gains in headcount over the last decade; however, the pandemic has influenced the last two years. The technical colleges' headcount is up 52.9 percent from 2012 and up 3.2 percent from last year. Their FTE has also increased 8.7 percent from 2012 but is down 5.5 percent from last year. Vice President Frisbie also reviewed the system's overall enrollments by race/ethnicity, age, and residency. She noted that the demographics of the Kansas population are changing, and the system can expect more persons declaring Hispanic as their ethnicity and fewer declaring White as their race. Regarding age groups, the system has seen decreased enrollments over the past decade in all age groups except

for those under the age of 20, which has increased 20.2 percent in a decade. Vice President Frisbie stated that this growth is connected to the Excel in CTE initiative, which allows Kansas high school students to take state-funded technical courses.

Vice President Frisbie also reviewed data regarding Kansas high school graduates entering college. She noted the demographics of high school students has changed over the last ten years. There are fewer students who self-identify as White, and more students who self-identify as Hispanic or as multi-racial. Vice President Frisbie reported that college readiness for Kansas high school graduates, based on ACT benchmarks, has worsened since 2013. Beginning in 2019, Kansas high school juniors and seniors can take the ACT for free, and the data trends show as more students test, the percentages in the benchmarks have decreased. This is the same trend that is occurring in other states that have implemented similar policies. Vice President Frisbie reviewed the ACT benchmark data. In 2022, 26,885 Kansas graduating seniors took the ACT and of those, 21 percent met all four ACT benchmarks (English, math, reading, and science) with an average composite score 19.9. Vice President Frisbie stated that the data shows that students who meet an ACT Benchmark have at least a 50 percent chance of earning a B or higher grade and approximately a 75-80 percent chance of earning a C or higher grade in the corresponding college course or courses. The ACT benchmarks broken-down by race and ethnicity shows significant gaps between Hispanic and Black students compared to their Asian and White peers. Vice President Frisbie also noted there are gaps based upon family income levels. The lower the family income, the fewer students who meet the benchmark.

Vice President Frisbie reviewed the College-Going Rate, which is the percentage of high school students entering postsecondary education. In the last year, 43.7 percent of Kansas high school graduates entered Kansas public postsecondary institutions within one year of high school graduation and 44.8 percent the two years previous. The overall Kansas college going rate, which includes the Kansas private institutions' enrollment, is almost 49 percent. Students going to out-of-state institutions (either public or private) would make up about another 11 percent of the total high school graduates entering postsecondary institutions (Total 2021 High school class = 59.5%). Vice President Frisbie noted that the college going rate has decreased for every demographic subgroup in the past five years. The college going rate for Hispanic students compared to their white peers has more than doubled to 16.2 percentage point in 2021. While in 2015 the gap was 7 percentage points. For Black students, the gap is 15.4 percentage points compared to 10 percentage points in 2015. Vice President Frisbie stated that ensuring access for all students is a key area of focus in the Board's strategic plan, *Building a Future*.

Vice President Frisbie reported that the attainment gaps for Kansans are more pronounced than with the college going rate. In Hispanic to White, there is a 29 percentage point gap, and in Black to White, a 17 percentage point gaps. She also reviewed data for on-time graduation at the state universities. For typical academic load and financial aid purposes, undergraduate students are considered full-time at 12 hours per fall and spring semester (24 hours). However, to earn a bachelor's degree within four years, students must earn a minimum 120 hours or 30 hours per academic year. For the state universities, only 53 percent of the full-time undergraduate students who enroll in at least 24 hours take a load of 30 hours, or what it takes to graduate on time. Vice President Frisbie then reviewed the data regarding Pell-Eligible students, developmental education, dual enrollment, and distance education.

The Board discussed the importance of addressing the declining Kansas college going rate. Regent Winter stated that the system needs to have a better understanding of why students are not enrolling in the higher education system after high school. The university CEOs believe there are multiple factors that are influencing people's decisions on whether they to go to college including the cost of attendance and the societal perceptions that devalue the worth of higher education. The system needs to do a better job of making people aware of the different financial aid options that are available to students, identifying and reducing the access barriers, retaining current students, and building a vision that shows the positive impacts of obtaining a postsecondary credential. Regent Winter noted that implementing the recommendations in the National Institute for Student Success institutional playbooks should impact enrollments by increasing retention rates.

(PowerPoint Filed with Official Minutes)

Other Matters

GRANTING OF HONORARY DEGREE – KSU

Provost Taber presented Kansas State University's request to bestow an honorary Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree on Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin is a world-renowned livestock industry expert on animal behavior and is an autism spokesperson. Regent Lane moved to approve, and Regent Rolph seconded. The motion carried. The honorary degree will be conferred at KSU's College of Veterinary Medicine Commencement on May 12, 2023.

NAME A FACILITY – KU

Chancellor Girod recommended naming the University of Kansas' outdoor football practice fields in honor of Dave and Janet Murfin. Dave, Janet and their three children are KU graduates, and they continue to serve the University in many significant ways. Regent Dicus moved to approve. Regent Winter seconded, and the motion carried. The practice fields will be named the Murfin Family Practice Fields.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Matt Casey, Director of Government Relations, presented the legislative update. He noted first adjournment, which marks the end of the regular legislative session, is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, and veto session will begin on Wednesday, April 26. The House and Senate are focused on creating a tax plan and are looking at the expected state revenues along with spending. The Senate has included several of the Board's items in its budget but will do a final review during the omnibus session. The House is still working its budget. Director Casey noted that in April the Legislature will see the updated revenue consensus estimates, which will factor into their decisions on the budget. Regarding the non-budgetary bills, Director Casey highlighted that HB 2290 – the affiliation between Fort Hays State University and Northwest Kansas Technical College and with North Central Kansas Technical College, and HB 2234 – increasing and changing the measure of the cost threshold when state construction projects require a negotiating committee and the selection of professional services from a list of qualified firms, are on the Senate's General Orders waiting to be worked by the Senate. Regent Winter asked about the status of the bill that would discontinue state property tax levies for the Kansas educational building fund and the state institutions building fund. Director Casey noted that staff has had productive conversations with

the Tax Committee members on the importance of having stable funding for the EBF and believes there will be not further movement on the bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:05 p.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Rolph, to recess into executive session for 30 minutes in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was to prepare for two CEO evaluations, and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual Board employees involved. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, President Flanders (for a portion), General Counsel John Yeary, and Project Specialist Julene Miller. The motion carried. At 4:35 p.m., the meeting returned to open session. Regent Ice moved to extend five minutes, and Regent Winter seconded. The motion carried. At 4:40 p.m., the meeting returned to open session.

RECESS

Chair Rolph recessed the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chair Rolph reconvened the meeting at 9:54 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2023 in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jon Rolph, Chair
- Carl Ice, Vice Chair
- Blake Benson
- John Dicus
- Cheryl Harrison-Lee
- Cynthia Lane
- Diana Mendoza
- Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT: Shelly Kiblinger

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:54 a.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Rolph, to recess into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was to prepare for a CEO evaluation, and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual Board employee involved. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, General Counsel John Yeary, and Project Specialist Julene Miller. The motion carried. At 10:14 a.m., the meeting returned to open session. Regent Ice moved to extend fifteen minutes, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. The motion carried. At 10:29 a.m., the meeting returned to open session. Regent Ice moved to extend five minutes, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. The motion carried. At 10:34 a.m., the meeting returned to open session. Regent Ice moved to extend five minutes, and Regent Harrison-Lee seconded. The motion carried. At 10:39 a.m., the meeting returned to open session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:40 a.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Benson, to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss matters deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. The subject of this executive session was litigation the Board is named as a respondent in which is currently pending before the Kansas Supreme Court and related matters, and the purpose was to maintain the confidentiality of attorney-client privileged communications. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, Board President and CEO Blake Flanders, and General Counsel John Yearly. The motion carried. At 10:50 a.m., the meeting returned to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rolph adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Jon Rolph, Chair