

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

April 19, 2023

The April 19, 2023, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 12:10 p.m. The meeting was held in the Scott Performance Hall located in the Pittsburg State University Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, 1711 S Homer St, Pittsburg, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:10 p.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Rolph, to recess into executive session for 45 minutes in the Elliott Greenroom 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 and CEO Blake Flanders, General Counsel John Yeary, and Project Specialist Julene Miller. The motion carried. At 12:55 p.m., the meeting returned to open session and moved to the Scott Performance Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Mendoza moved that the minutes of the March 22-23, 2023, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Kiblinger, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Regent Rolph introduced President Shipp who welcomed everyone and thanked and recognized the Bicknell Center staff, Pittsburg State University Information Technology staff, Chief of Staff to the President, Ms. Jaime Dalton, and the rest of his team for helping to make arrangements for the Board meeting to be held at Pittsburg State University. President Shipp stated the university's jazz ensemble led by Professor Robert Kehle had been asked to open the meeting by performing live music if the Chair would entertain it. Chair Rolph agreed and the jazz ensemble performed. At Chair Rolph's request, the ensemble also played Happy Birthday in recognition of Regent Winter's birthday, which was that day. President Shipp then noted Professor Kehle will be retiring after 45 years of service to Pittsburg State University. President Shipp thanked Professor Kehle for his service and recognized the ensemble students for a job well-done. Chair Rolph also thanked the ensemble and wished Regent Winter happy birthday.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Regent Rolph reported the Board was grateful to be at Pittsburg State University and that the Board was looking forward to its campus visit the following day. He recognized the amount of work needed to prepare for a campus visit and stated the Board's appreciation for all the work done by the Pittsburg State University team and thanked President Shipp. Chair Rolph thanked KBOR staff member Renee Burlingham and noted it would be her last meeting with the Board before beginning her new position as Executive Assistant to Washburn University President Julie Mazachek. He recognized and thanked Renee for her 16 years of service to the Board and all the work she has done to serve the state in this way. Chair Rolph stated the Governor signed a bill the previous day addressing dyslexia and special education, which corresponds with the work of the task force, the work of the Deans of Education, and other work being done on campuses. He noted that progress is being made quickly around structured literacy and how teachers are taught and can serve students across the state in a more complete way. He thanked Regent Lane for her service in this area.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President and CEO Flanders brought to the Regents' attention that the materials provided to them at the meeting included a report and evaluation of student rights that was given to him by Students' Advisory Committee President Sadie Williams. President and CEO Flanders also thanked Renee for all she has done and stated that Washburn University will benefit from her skills, personality, and talent. President and CEO Flanders thanked the systems' government relations officers for their work at the statehouse on behalf of the system. He recognized that collaboration on special projects between universities, such as the one between Wichita State University and the University of Kansas, can be rare in systems and noted it is great to have it here in Kansas. He noted the newly enacted adult learner grant can be promising for the system. He also highlighted a new Career and Technical Education credential and transition incentive for employment success. These will help students get and pay for credentials, create registered apprenticeship programs and provide funding that can help bring more teachers to underserved geographic areas in Kansas. President and CEO Flanders also noted a new engineering education matching grant program will incentivize our universities to produce engineering graduates above and beyond the goals established ten years ago in the Engineering Act, and the program will allow other universities and colleges to perhaps participate in the funding.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Karen Johnson, Faculty Senate President at Pittsburg State University, welcomed the Board and reported that in response to legislative efforts related to DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents believes preserving DEIB efforts on all of the campuses is essential for faculty, staff and students. She noted that many faculty are subject matter experts in these areas at their respective institutions and encouraged the Board to work with the chief academic officers to craft policies on how these issues should be addressed across all of the institutions. She noted that at the previous meeting the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents asked for ex officio status on some of the Board's committees, particularly the Board Academic Affairs

Standing Committee, and stated they would appreciate being able to contribute to the discussions during the meetings.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Students' Advisory Committee President Sadie Williams reported that all of the student body presidents were either wrapping up their election seasons or were in the midst of them and that the Board should have newly elected representatives present at the May 2023 Board meeting. She noted that the current representatives also plan on attending the May meeting to help present their fee and tuition proposals to the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. She then discussed the report she provided evaluating student rights. Regarding the brief resolutions section of the report, she noted the Committee was seeking the Board's support and being cognizant of the need for additional student protections in the classroom and keeping that conversation going with leadership at the institutions. Regent Winter complimented President Williams on the great job she has done representing all the students and student leaders in the State. Chair Rolph thanked all the student body presidents for everything they've done this year and stated it had been one of the most robust years he can remember as far as the feedback the Board received from them, their participation, and the give-and-take. He stated they had made the Board better this year and the Board appreciates President Williams' leadership. He congratulated the student body presidents for wrapping up a great year.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Kiblinger reported that in the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) meeting held that morning Dr. Daniel Archer presented proposed revisions to the baccalaureate degree definition, which were on the Board's agenda to be voted on later in the meeting. She noted the Committee approved academic calendars for 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 which was on that day's Board consent agenda. She noted that once approved, the dates would be provided to the Kansas State Department of Education for collaboration purposes so that spring break schedules can continue to be aligned. She noted Dr. Archer also presented the proposed -project-based performance funding system and proposed revisions to the developmental education policy. Feedback was being collected from campuses on those items through May 5. Lastly, the provosts presented a plan to improve their program review process, which is something the Board has been working on and interested in for the last several years. Regent Kiblinger praised the quality of the work in the proposal that was presented and noted BAASC was excited about it. The Committee's goal is to have a high-level framework and proposed timeline for implementation to the Board as soon as June for consideration and possible approval.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Ice reported the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee had its agenda call on April 4 and when it met the morning of April 19, it began with a first read of the three Johnson County Education Research Triangle budgets for Fiscal Year 2024, which the committee will continue to take up in future meetings. Those budgets will eventually come to the Board. The Committee received its mid-year update from Fort Hays State University. The Committee had a good discussion of the impact of cost on the perception of higher education and the CFOs suggested that

topic could potentially be discussed at the Board's retreat. Regent Ice reported that Fort Hays State University has healthy reserves and continues to drive cost efficiencies. The Committee discussed the University of Kansas Cancer Center and its collaborative project on the clinical side with the health system. The Committee previewed the universities' five-year capital plans and discussed the deferred maintenance standing topic they have. Regent Ice reflected on the great progress they've had on that item and thanked everyone for all their work in that area.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Rolph reported the Board's Governance Committee met that morning and, after approving the March meeting minutes, the Committee received the annual Pittsburg State University safety and security report from Chief Stu Hite. Chair Rolph said the Committee appreciates Chief Hite's service to the community. At the request of Regent Harrison-Lee the Committee reviewed her reported potential conflict of interest of being accepted as a doctoral student at Wichita State University. Chair Rolph congratulated Regent Harrison-Lee and noted the Committee's recommendation for managing the potential conflict would be on the Board's May agenda and will be similar to its recommendation regarding Regent Mendoza's similar potential conflict. Chair Rolph noted the Committee further discussed the 2024 University CEO assessment tool and process and made recommendations for updates and improvements. The Committee will now seek the Chancellor's and Presidents' feedback on proposed changes before bringing final recommendations to the Board in June. Finally, the Committee had an executive session to begin discussing CEO compensation for FY 2024.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Academic Affairs

AY 2025-2028 ACADEMIC CALENDARS

The calendars for academic years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 were approved as submitted by the universities and presented in the Board agenda materials.

(Academic Calendars Filed with Official Minutes)

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

AMEND THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN WITH UPDATES FOR THE CANCER RESEARCH BUILDING – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received approval to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to update the Cancer Research Building project. Based upon further assessment of KUMC's capacity to fund such a large project, the University decided to reduce the amount of research space included in the project. This revised project scope now reflects a building of approximately 250,000 gross square feet with an estimated cost of \$250 million. KUMC plans to finance the project with a combination of philanthropy, federal funding, internal discretionary

funds, and bond financing. The new facility will be operated and maintained by KUMC using revenue received from incremental cancer research dollars, as well as other institutional funds redirected for this purpose. The Medical Center also received approval to utilize the state's vendor selection process defined in K.S.A. 75-1250 to select and contract with a design firm to create a revised program statement to further define space configuration for the reduced \$250 million project.

AMEND THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE MARCUS WELCOME CENTER ADDITION – WSU

Wichita State University received authorization to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to increase the budget for the Marcus Welcome Center Addition project from \$4 million to \$5.275 million. The increased funds will be used to address four deferred maintenance items and expenses such as inflation associated with the scope of the project. WSU plans to use the Educational Building Fund, capital renewal funds, and other University funds to finance the project.

ALLOCATION OF EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND FOR AMENDMENT TO RELATED CONSULTANT CONTRACT – SYSTEM

Approval was given to allocate \$170,000 from the Educational Building Fund to execute an amendment to the original contract with Gordian for consultant services. The funds will come from available uncommitted money in the EBF.

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FY 2023 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND FOR THE GREENHOUSE D CONSERVATORY AT THE GARDENS – KSU

Kansas State University received approval for an additional \$75,000 from the FY 2023 Building Demolition Fund. These funds will be used to complete the demolition of the Greenhouse D Conservatory at The Gardens located at 1500 Denison Avenue, Manhattan, KS. The total cost of the project is \$425,000, and KSU received \$350,000 from the Building Demolition Fund in September 2022.

Technical Education Authority

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Cowley County Community College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate A (21 credit hours) in graphic Imaging Design (10.0303). The College estimates the initial cost of the program at approximately \$62,900. Funding will be provided from the Visual and Performing Arts budget from institution general funds. The College plans to begin offering the program in the fall of 2023.

Cowley County Community College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate A (24 credit hours) and a Technical Certificate B (39 credit hours) in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (51.0904). The College estimates the initial cost of the program at approximately \$18,448. Funding will be provided from the institution HHS department budget. The College plans to begin offering the program in the summer of 2023.

Flint Hills Technical College received authorization to offer a Technical Certificate B (34 credit hours) and an Associate of Applied Science (65 credit hours) in Early Childhood Education (19.0708). The College estimates the initial cost of the program at approximately \$97,798. Funding will be provided from the institution general fund, the City of Emporia Grant and state capital outlay and student fees. The College plans to begin offering the program in the fall of 2023.

PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

- Cowley Community College: Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (51.0904), which falls under the Mental and Physical Healthcare category specified in legislation.
- Flint Hills Technical College: Early Childhood Education (19.0708), which falls under the Early Childhood Education and Development category specified in legislation.

EXCEL IN CTE FEES FOR COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Excel in CTE fees for the below program were approved:

- Cowley Community College: Graphic Imaging Design total \$244. Fees include \$29 for knives, \$80 for matting materials, \$30 in drawing materials, \$15 for toolbox and \$10 for USB drive.
- Flint Hills Technical College: Early Childhood Education total \$635. Fees include \$250 for Cengage access, and \$385 for textbooks.

PROMISE ACT ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

The attached programs were approved to be removed from the existing Promise Act Eligible Program list as recommended by the Kansas Technical Education Authority. These programs are being removed because they no longer meet the statutory standards. It was noted that the Certified Medication Aide is being retained because it is a critical need program. Any programs removed from eligibility will be removed on June 30, 2024, effective for academic year 2025. Students enrolled prior to the start of AY 2025 may continue through the program for as long as they remain eligible. No new Promise scholarship applicants may start classes effective AY 2025.

(Programs Filed with Official Minutes)

Retirement Plan

FUND INVESTMENT LINE-UP CHANGES IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS

The Retirement Plan Committee recommendations were approved.

(Recommendations Filed with Official Minutes)

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Academic Affairs

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STUDENT SUCCESS RECOMMENDATIONS – PSU, KSU, & KU

Pittsburg State University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Howard W. Smith, stated that the NISS study has been very beneficial, has been a good initiative and presented opportunities for them to self-assess. He explained he would provide an update on activities that have occurred since the update provided to the Board the prior September.

The first recommendation had to do with advising, and that was to establish an advising structure and staff it to ensure all students receive consistent, proactive advice and support. Provost Smith explained that they are doing that in three phases. The first phase is in place. They have identified the directors and each member of the freshman class now has an advisor. They are working on the additional remodeling of space in the Axe Library. They are advising just over 1,000 students in this first phase. They have faculty mentors assigned to all students being advised under this model. Results they are starting to see include that their most recent freshman retention number for this class is the highest it has been in four years. It went from 70 percent last year to 75 percent this year. Also, their transfer number has jumped from 65 percent to 80 percent.

The second major recommendation that came from the NISS report had to do with strengthening financial aid through collaboration with other units and coordinated proactive outreach to students. They have implemented a new student financial assistance system that allows them to process aid packages much quicker than under their previous system. They have enhanced their outreach with high schools and student financial counseling. They met with a lot of students and parents in the Fall.

The third major recommendation was to develop intentional ways for students to learn about, select and transition between majors. They've built that in as part of their Gorilla Gateway which is their freshman orientation. They've also trained all their academic advisors on this topic. All these activities are ongoing.

The fourth major recommendation for PSU was to use actionable data to improve student outcomes. Provost Smith stated they are not as far along on this recommendation but are working with an outside consultant on how best to accomplish it. They have hired two staff in the data area and have one more to hire. He estimated that they are about 25 percent complete with this item based on the pieces they have in play. They have also been conducting a comprehensive review of their financial support and scholarships utilizing an outside expert who has asked good questions. They are beginning to figure out how to package scholarships better. They are also looking at a program to incentivize students to stay in college, particularly in their second and third years. They do have a hardship program in place. They've developed a completion grant program for upper-level students to help them persist to graduation. They've created a new automatic

associate degree which he shared at BAASC that morning. They are partnering with the vendor EAB to build an early alert system. Lastly, they are looking for a Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management to fit their new mission statement, which is to make life better through education. They believe these steps will help to accomplish certain goals they have established. Regent Lane thanked Provost Smith for his report and his enthusiasm and asked him to share what has been most surprising about this work and what he is most hopeful for. Provost Smith replied that he is most hopeful for being able to realize that they've made a difference for a large number of students. He is also hopeful to aid their staff and faculty in their ability to support students. He is most surprised by the amount of support for this initiative.

Next, Kansas State University Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Thomas Lane presented regarding their progress on NISS work. He noted KSU's NISS work is under the auspices of its strategic enrollment management governance team, which he has the honor of co-chairing with Provost Chuck Taber. Vice President Lane stated that strengthening undergraduate retention efforts and improving student success have been key strategies at K-State even prior to launching the NISS initiative. These efforts have resulted in positive student outcomes. KSU's overall retention rate of 86.1 percent and its six-year graduation rate of 68.4 percent are the highest in the State of Kansas. According to Vice President Lane this is noteworthy given their admissions acceptance rate of 96 percent, so, congruent with their land grant mission, they are providing a high level of access to higher education and opportunity while also focusing on ensuring students stay with them and graduate. Vice President Lane stated that K-State is also making progress in reducing student success gaps among student demographic groups. Between 2014 and 2021 they improved six-year graduation rates for first generation students by 5.1 percent and 10.6 percent for underrepresented minority students. Additionally, during that same period they've increased first to second year retention rates by 2.4 percent for first generation students, 1.7 percent for underrepresented minority students, and 7 percent for transfer students. They take a holistic approach to student success recognizing that a student's overall well-being plays an important role in whether a student stays at K-State. They are in the 4th and final year of their JED campus initiative which saw an increased emphasis in supporting student mental health through programs and services like the initiation of their Morrison Family Center for Student Well-Being and launching 24/7 online mental health support and crisis support through the My SSP app.

They have initiated academic early alerts through their EAB Navigate platform helping ensure students who may be struggling academically get connected to resources, such as tutoring or academic coaching, that can help get them back on track. Their first-year student on campus housing requirement is moving into its second year. As they move their NISS work forward, they will be focusing on creating consistent, standardized advisor on-boarding and training so that all students can be confident knowing there is an advisor that can help them achieve their goals. They will move forward with creating individual paths to completion for students. They intend to pilot a sophomore year experience that builds from the success they've seen in retaining first year students and carry that supportive intentionality forward to their pivotal second year.

Next, Vice President Lane stated that in November of 2022, KSU shared with the Board its timeline for NISS projects, and he stated they are making good progress. He noted they developed the timeline with the hope of receiving additional state funding for the NISS initiative. He stated they have made significant investments and progress in the widespread adoption of Navigate to manage

data and inform proactive student advising. They will continue to move forward with optimizing that system. They will also continue to work on expanding retention and completion grants to the extent that they can with philanthropic support and will continue to move forward with developing a robust sophomore year experience with the intent to improve graduation rates. He shared that they have met all their identified Spring 2023 goals, they have launched their pre-professional advising center to support their current pre-health, pre-law and pre-veterinary students and recruit new students into pre-professional areas. SLATE, their new CRM, is now fully implemented for undergraduate students, and they've turned to developing the graduate student version as well as porting over legacy data for historical analysis. Their one-stop student services have been launched and they are planning renovations to make registrar, financial aid and other student services more efficient. They've developed student success micro grants, retention bridge grants, and a completion grant, and will continue to work with the K-State Foundation to expand financial aid for retention and completion grants both centrally and within the colleges. Through a targeted investment from their strategic investment fund, their Vice Provost for Student Success has catalogued student success opportunities and DEIB opportunities for underrepresented students that exist across their university. This cataloging will allow them to identify best practices where they might be able to scale up programs and where collaborative partnerships might be realized to better serve more students and to reduce opportunity gaps.

They are currently creating their project management structure to guide their ongoing NISS work and they are creating four working groups that Vice President Lane leads. The four workgroups correspond to the four NISS themes. Vice President Lane thanked the Board for the opportunity to share their student success initiative and for the Board's attention and commitment to this important area and stood for questions. Regent Winter asked what has changed on campus regarding student success after having received the NISS playbook. Vice President Lane replied the first is the highlighted recognition of how critical student academic advising is to enabling student success, and the second is that they've put a strong structure in place to help institutionalize this work. Regent Lane asked how to evaluate impact. Vice President Lane answered one of the important pieces is how they get closer to a standardization of experience for their students with regard to advising across the colleges and figuring out how to measure that. He said they are very early in the process of determining what gets measured to evaluate that.

University of Kansas Vice Provost for Academic Success Susan Klusmeier next presented KU's update regarding NISS implementation. KU was given four recommendations: strengthening financial wellness; strategically aligning academic advising; aligning their student-facing communications; and developing intentional pathways for their students. Regarding financial wellness there are two big initiatives relating to this area. First and foremost, they've been focused on scholarship alignment. They have initiated a coordinated process where they are going to align all their scholarships whether it is done centrally through the university or through academic departments. They launched this process in the Fall. The goal is to make sure they can prioritize the early and full packaging for their students. They expect full alignment by Fall of 2024. The second initiative related to financial wellness is focused on their student financial experience and having more cross collaboration. They are making sure additional information in this area is available to first year students.

In Fall 2022 KU launched a new “embedded advising” academic advising structure. This model that has all their academic advisors reporting through a central unit called Jayhawk Academic Advising. Their goals for this initiative included making sure students have dedicated professional staff academic advisors in addition to faculty mentors. They have one advisor for every 300 students. They needed to standardize the training and development for all their academic advisors and they wanted to make sure that they were looking at advisor pay scales to make sure they were doing what they need to do to retain their advisors. Vice Provost Klusmeier reported that as of January they have hit those goals. They have launched a student digital experience advisory working group. In the Fall, they did a refresh of their “My KU” student digital hub. The goal was to make sure they were putting all important information in one place for their students. Next they will look at how to leverage using SLATE for their current students. They use EAB Navigate, which they have branded Jayhawk GPS. They started using this with their academic advisors and are bringing in student support services. The next phase is to integrate career services. They are making sure to utilize the program’s early alert tool to ensure they are doing critical proactive outreach. They have also been working on a degree maps initiative, Major Pathways, which is part of their HLC quality initiative and alignment of their KU Core with the systemwide general education framework. They have identified that the platform they will use for their academic planning software is Stellic, which they will begin implementing in June. They are about 91 percent complete in collecting the information they will load into the platform and expect to be at 100 percent by June 1.

Additionally, they’ve been looking at their student pathways. KU had an exploratory pathways program and a career communities initiative. They sounded very similar but were not always connected in a way that they needed to be. They have reimaged those and rebranded them as student pathways to combine degree options with career pathways, introducing it to current and prospective students and making sure they understand the different available pathways to those career opportunities. They are also leveraging these pathways to create new learning communities and this Fall they will be launching a learning community focused on pre-health pathways. Vice Provost Klusmeier stated she appreciated the opportunity to present to the Board and then stood for questions. Chair Rolph thanked her for her presentation. Regent Winter asked if there was a role for faculty in student success. Vice Provost Klusmeier answered that faculty are a critical part of student success and this Fall KU will be talking to faculty about their role in supporting students. Regent Winter asked whether the timeliness of grading is an issue based on a comment in a Chronicle article he had read. Vice Provost Klusmeier replied it is an important factor. She said providing feedback to students is a simple thing all instructors can be doing, and those basic things are a starting point for creating partners in student success and also impact engagement with student services. Regent Lane asked what the Board needs to be considering in the future to continue this momentum and help with the work. Vice Provost Klusmeier answered that, given the endless need for resources, the Board could help to ensure they are able to tap into the resources needed to expand this work, not just for undergraduates but also for graduate students. Regent Lane asked if they’ve found when communicating to stakeholders an effective way to describe what this is all about. Vice Provost Klusmeier replied that it depends on the stakeholder and showing them supporting data and student feedback is powerful. Chair Rolph asked where the 1 to 300 ratio comes from. Vice Provost Klusmeier answered NACADA, the National Association for Academic Student Advising, doesn’t have a set ratio they focus on, but in looking across the models they landed on 300 to make sure their advisors have the bandwidth to be proactive. Regent

Harrison-Lee asked what KU will do differently with new students the first semester to make sure they are on track. Vice Provost Klusmeier said they have a couple of initiatives including a program they call Jayhawk Jumpstart that targets incoming students to help set the tone the week before classes begin to inform them of things that can help them be successful at KU. They also leverage their first-year courses to set the tone as well. They hope to build relationships with advisors from the beginning to guide students on things they need to be doing to be successful at KU.

RECESS

Chair Rolph recessed the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chair Rolph reconvened the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DEGREE POLICY TO REVISE THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE DEFINITION

Kansas Board of Regents Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Daniel Archer provided background on what led to this proposed amendment. He stated that in 2002 the Board established a policy requiring students to earn at least 60 credit hours at a university to earn a baccalaureate degree from that university. Over time, this proved to be a challenge for two-year college transfer students in terms of both the time and cost to earn degrees. There were cases in which students who met all the course and credit hour requirements for a baccalaureate degree could not graduate because they had not completed sixty hours at the university. These students had to complete extra credit hours that weren't necessarily required in their field of study because they needed the sixty hours in order to graduate. At times, this required an extra semester or summer of college and required the student to pay additional tuition and fees. The students also lost out on higher wages associated with baccalaureate completion. KU Edwards Campus asked to conduct a pilot program with Johnson County Community College in March of 2019. The Board approved that pilot program which allowed KU Edwards to accept more than 60 hours from Johnson County Community College in certain programs. The pilot went well. As a result, the Board amended its policy to allow universities to accept more than 60 hours from two-year colleges under program-specific transfer agreements. Obtaining the required transfer agreements for each transfer partner and each transfer program was a laborious and time-consuming process for the two-year colleges and the universities. KU approached Board staff last Fall for an exemption from the transfer agreement requirement. The other universities were supportive of the proposal to strike the transfer agreement requirement from Board policy. Under the proposed amendment, a baccalaureate degree still requires 45 hours of Junior and Senior level coursework, as it does under the current policy. But the number of transfer hours that can be accepted from a two-year college will change from 60 to 75. The amendments also codify work previously completed regarding the rule that baccalaureate degree requirements cannot exceed 120 hours unless an exception is granted by BAASC. Dr. Archer then stood for questions. Regent Winter said this seems like a positive thing for students and community colleges and asked whether they look at it that way. Dr. Archer replied that they do. Regent Winter asked if the community colleges will make students aware of the change. Dr. Archer replied that they would and noted it won't apply to every academic program as some are very prescriptive regarding hour requirements, but this will be a good fit for

programs that have more flexibility. Regent Kiblinger moved to approve the amendments. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

INCREASE TUITION FOR EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM – WSU

Wichita State University President Dr. Richard Muma presented the university's off-cycle request to increase tuition for its newly retooled executive MBA program. Their business school has just gone through a planning process and a new strategic plan was recently approved. The executive MBA program curriculum has been updated and some of the content has been reset to focus on executive level education. They are requesting a \$9,000 tuition increase for the program which will make the total cost \$47,000 for the program, encompassing everything including food. Students in the program will meet weekly on Saturdays. More details are provided on page 57 of the Board agenda materials. Even with the increased tuition rate it will still be the second lowest cost program of this kind in the region. Chair Rolph asked if there were any questions and there were none. Regent Lane made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Regent Harrison-Lee and the motion was carried.

UPDATE ON PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS MASTER PLAN PROCESS

Pittsburg State University President Dr. Dan Shipp noted campus master plan updates occur on a three-year cycle. Their last major update was in 2017 and they are coming up on a refresh in 2023-2024. Regarding challenges, President Shipp stated two-thirds of their buildings date from 1908 through the 1960's. Some of their buildings from the 1940's, 50's and 60's are coming up on renewal efforts. Their average building age is 48 years old. This is leading to increased maintenance requirements. They have a B- composite FCI score. Their concern is with buildings graded B falling to C and C's falling to D's, which encompasses a lot of their 1960's and 70's buildings. Their facilities team does a great job of extending the life of their buildings. They are examining their utilization to be more efficient. They have demolition projects that are underway. Their Gorilla Rising project will bring the Kelce College of Business downtown which will vacate some space where they have some significant facility challenges right now. They are coming up on finishing their simulation hospital and getting it ready for next Fall. Extensive updates have been made to Axe Library. Their new Success Center will serve as a one-stop shop for students on campus. The library has provided an amazing opportunity to connect those resources. President Shipp stated there is a lot of potential with science lab updates. The work they are doing in materials science allows them to compete for additional federal and state dollars in the future to get in and rehab those science facilities for their students.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS AND FIVE-YEAR PLANS FOR FY 2025 – UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (FIRST READ)

Kansas Board of Regents Director of Facilities Chad Bristow directed the Board's attention to pages 56 through 58 of their Board books which contained a summary analysis of the new projects on the plan this year including total cost by project category and an analysis of what projects have been approved mid-cycle since last July. There is a 14-page supplement that shows 154 projects the universities have identified in their five-year plans specifically for FY 2025. The funding sources are identified in the table and some might be aspirational or change in future years. Director Bristow noted that all these projects are for \$1 million or more that the state identifies as

large capital projects. There are a range of small capital projects that the universities deliver over the course of a year that require President and CEO approval or Chancellor and President approval and all of those roll up into the facilities capital renewal initiative. Director Bristow noted that the accounting and reporting for the facilities capital renewal initiative is a separate process from this five-year plan. Universities will report beginning in October of each year that shows progress on the facilities renewal initiative. This was a first read of this item and it will be on the Board's May agenda for action.

Other Matters

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kansas Board of Regents Director of Government Relations Matt Casey presented the legislative update. He stated the Legislature is in the middle of a two-week break. Their first adjournment was April 6 and they will return on April 26 to begin veto session. On April 24 and 25 conference committees will consider items from the omnibus appropriations bill. Before they adjourned on April 6, they did pass a mega budget bill that included many items for higher education. Governor Kelly currently has the budget bill and will take action by April 25. She has line-item veto authority on the budget bill. Included in the bill are increased funding for need based aid, increased funding for cyber security and IT infrastructure, increased funding for the facilities renewal initiative for the second year running, capital outlay for community colleges and increased funding for community and technical colleges for apprenticeships and workforce development programs. Director Casey reported a few items for omnibus that we will still be working on are the inflationary request for the state universities and the funding for implementation of the NISS playbooks, as well as consideration for a state employee pay plan for all state employees. Non-budgetary items included the HB 2336 increase of the threshold for on call architectural, engineering and land surveying services that was signed that day by the Governor, and the HB 2290 affiliation between Fort Hays State University, North Central Technical College, and Northwest Technical College that was signed by the Governor on April 14, 2023. Regent Winter asked what the status was of the tax bill. Director Casey said that was a high priority for the Legislature this year and it looks like it could have a fiscal note of around \$500 million, something the Legislature has been watching very closely as they consider the budget's spending and tax sides. They have been scrutinizing the budget so that whatever plan they put together doesn't put them underwater in the next couple years. Director Casey believes there is pretty solid legislative support for the tax plan, but he is not able to speculate how things will shape up going forward. Regent Lane expressed appreciation for the impressive communication this year and thanked Director Casey.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

At 3:30 p.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Rolph, to recess immediately following a 10-minute break into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was a regular annual 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 and President Mason (for a portion). The motion carried. At 4:10 p.m., the meeting returned to open session.

At 4:15 Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Lane, to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was a regular annual 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 and President and CEO Flanders. The motion carried. At 4:45 p.m., they returned to open session and Regent Ice made a motion to extend for five minutes, which was seconded by Regent Rolph. The motion carried. The meeting returned to open session at 4:50.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Jon Rolph, Chair