

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
February 14-15, 2024

The February 14, 2024, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 2:01 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
	Alysia Johnston
	Cynthia Lane
	Diana Mendoza
	Neelima Parasker
	Wint Winter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Winter moved that the minutes of the January 17-18, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Dicus, the motion carried.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Rolph provided a statement regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

“I am using my opening remarks today to speak primarily to our internal audience, those in this room and those who are watching back on campus, all of you who are working hard to advance the quality, availability, and sustainability of higher education in our state. It’s important for you to know where your leaders stand on issues that affect your work. I hope to make it clear where I stand on the issues that are now commonly tied together as DEI - Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Let me be clear. My comments that follow are both my own and a reflection of the convictions of the Board of Regents. I believe the presidents and leaderships of our institutions have deep convictions on these issues and will lead in their own way to support the students with whom they are entrusted.

When I am asked about my position on Diversity Equity and Inclusion, I am curious as to what the person posing the question understands about the meaning of these terms individually and whether their understanding is informed by their own examination of the issues and personal experience or whether it is just an abstraction of things they have heard said about DEI. I hope to offer my personal reflections on DEI acknowledging that I remain a work in progress and that I am continuing to learn through this process.

Diversity in Kansas is a fact. Here in Kansas, we don’t have to create or manufacture it. We have the unique opportunity to reflect it. Maybe at other institutions, to achieve meaningful diversity,

they must take extraordinary measures to accomplish it. Here in Kansas, we need to keep the doors open, cultivate a welcoming learning environment, and work diligently to serve the needs of our constituents. With diversity comes a new set of opportunities and we need to have the people and policies in place to effectively serve an ever-evolving student body.

With respect to equity, which I take to mean fairness of opportunity to participate, it appears that there is considerable controversy over in the legislature. And I have trouble understanding the objections. I can only assume that there are those who hold to the belief that if you do anything at all to advantage one group you are taking something away from another. This is not, in my opinion, a zero-sum game. In Kansas we are more concerned about the trend of falling enrollment than limits of capacity. We can, however, clearly see the obstacles faced by some of our students that result in under representation of certain groups and, often, the failure to continue to completion. It is my hope that we are creating programs that help every student achieve success.

I am even most perplexed by the objections to inclusion. I see inclusion as creating environments where all students, faculty, and staff feel like they belong. I know there are people who equate exclusivity with value. Again, the people in this room work every day trying to create dynamic learning environments where belonging is the foundation. The challenge we are faced with in Kansas is recognizing that our campuses include adult learners, veterans, first generation Americans, and people attending school at night to further their education and make themselves more valuable in the workforce. All ethnicities are represented. All ages are represented. All Kansans are represented. We are trying to meet the needs of our people, not as groups but as individuals. It takes effort and intention to cultivate a learning environment that supports inclusion and belonging. It is our aspiration to enhance all students' chances of success, academically and economically, and harness all the positive implications that has for our state and our nation.

I think it is imperative to address the pending legislation and on-going negotiations that may impact the work on our campuses. The first is HB 2460 outlining limitations to admissions and hiring practices at our institutions. Since the bill was first introduced in 2023, the Board and our institutional leadership have continued to work in good faith to honor the request of our peers in the legislature. HB 2460, from my perspective, creates significant confusion and potential conflict where unity and collaboration have been actively pursued. We remain open to continual dialogue related to both concerns raised in the bill believing that legislative action must be reserved as the final step and not the first step in any meaningful change.

The second area is with our higher education budgets. The resources allotted to our institutions are of great significance to student success. Reductions in funding, particularly related to DEI programs and services for students, will impact the lives of real people. I hope all involved will choose to engage in deep, meaningful conversations. Veterans receiving critical mental health services, food insecure students having access to food pantries, first generation students being supported through their families' new experiences, or adult learners needing flexible course schedules to accommodate for their needs are examples of what is vulnerable in this legislative session. Any effort to reduce or cut programs in our higher education system are best informed by constituents immediately impacted, our students, and the taxpayers of Kansas.

Third, it is being suggested that Kansas follow other states by dropping the DEI titles on campus to avoid conflict altogether. This concession, and its possible implications, are concerning. If we need to change to better serve our students and steward the resources of the state, let's do the hard work of reviewing and revising together. Yet, just as I am asking our colleagues in the legislature to serve our state and resist the national discourse, I am compelled to ask our institutions to do the same hard work. Build programs and hire people that will advance the well-being of all Kansans. Go back to your campus, visit with key stakeholders around the table, and make decisions that best serve our students. If you do this with an open heart and courageous spirit, you have my support.

The legitimate question is can we do it better? I believe we can. It's who we are as Kansans. We differentiate ourselves by loving our neighbor, offering kindness in times of need. Look to your right and look to your left. The person next to you has a unique story and has unique needs. It is who we are as Kansans to listen and learn and meet every individual where they are and work to meet the need that would benefit them the most. Same is true of our students. Friends...this is not the time to do less. It is not the time to reduce resources or silence those who have been addressing the real-world issues we face as a country and as a state. Now is the time to lean into the work, to embrace our diversity, to ensure equality of opportunity and to engage all Kansans including those who otherwise may have missed out on the chance to get a quality, life changing education. We need to keep identifying and moving the obstacles out of the way for our students. As somebody who can see the work you have done and are doing in this regard, and I must say I'm very proud of what you have accomplished, and I am very proud to stand with you."

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Don Von Bergen, Kansas State University's Faculty Senate President, presented the report for the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents. The Council is ready to submit its final draft criteria for the tenure-track and tenured Faculty of the Year award. Dr. Von Bergen expressed gratification for recognizing faculty through this award. The Council will bring forth nominations in the spring. Recipients will be recognized at the September Board meeting. The Council is planning a luncheon with next year's faculty senate presidents.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Caleb Stout presented the Students' Advisory Committee report. He thanked the Regents and university CEOs for joining the students at Higher Education Day at the Capitol today. Students advocated for securing more need-based aid, access to open educational resources, and capital improvements.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Lane presented the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) report. BAASC held a virtual meeting on January 30. At that meeting, the Committee reviewed the Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality program from Wichita State University and the PhD in Clinical Translational Science from the University of Kansas Medical Center. They reviewed the State Universities and Washburn University Off Campus Delivery of Courses and

Programs policy revisions and request to offer a BS in Aeronautical Technology, Professional Pilot option at the Kansas State University Olathe Campus. Regent Lane stated they received an update on the pillar 1 dashboard metrics.

At today's BAASC meeting, the Committee reviewed the program review framework. Recommendations are due April 19th. The Committee reviewed the AY 2024-2026 performance agreements. It also received an update on program-to-program articulation, a report by Dr. Wiscombe on the general education framework, and celebrations of good news on campus from the state university provosts. Regent Lane thanked Dr. Wiscombe and Heather Morgan for leading the program-to-program articulation effort.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson presented the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee report. He stated Tammy Norman, internal auditor for ESU, joined join the Committee today to talk about what ESU is doing to assess enterprise risk. Cybersecurity and talent management were the top two risks noted. The auditors and Committee will meet within this calendar year to discuss how best to apply the new international global standards that will change the "essential conditions" for the internal audit function and ensure adherence to the new standards within our system. Troy Bruun, WSU's Associate Vice President Financial Reporting/Analysis, presented on the composite financial index, a benchmarking tool used in higher education, as one indicator of financial health. He stated the composite financial index is heavily influenced by the university's endowment or foundation returns and does not reference the quality of academic programs nor student services. It is not the only benchmarking option that should be considered. PSU, WSU, and KU presented their mid-year budget updates. Regent Benson stated the Committee was pleased to hear how the state investment in the student success playbooks is having an impact on student recruitment and retention. There was discussion about the dangers in growing student enrollment with unwise financial aid strategies, and efforts that are underway to examine how financial aid awards are made to best leverage those funds. Regent Benson reported the delays in rolling out the FAFSA for next year will hinder the universities' ability to forecast enrollments and tuition revenues. The Committee approved the items on today's Board consent agenda under Fiscal Affairs. Director Bristow reminded the Committee of the work underway to finalize a space analysis planning tool to be launched this spring. Regent Benson reported the audit on state university DEI and foreign gifts and contracts will be released next Wednesday and the community college athletics audit was presented a week ago by the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Regent Rolph added a legislative update from Fred Patton to the discussion agenda under item VI.F.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Rolph reported that the Governance Committee received the student health insurance proposal and received a campus safety and security report from KU and KUMC.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Parasker moved to approve the consent agenda; Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*Academic Affairs*BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN HOSPITALITY - WSU

Wichita State University received authorization to offer a Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality (52.0901). The program modality will be online and hybrid. The program will total 120 semester credit hours. The estimated costs of the program for the first three years are as follows: year one - \$104,000, year two - \$102,000, and year three - \$102,000. Student tuition and fees will finance the program.

PHD IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE - KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received authorization to offer a PhD in Clinical and Translational Science (51.1402). The program modality will be face-to-face, hybrid, and online. The program will total 61 semester credit hours. The estimated costs of the program for the first three years are as follows: year one - \$313,526, year two - \$322,630, and year three - \$332,009. Student tuition and fees will assist in financing the program. Program directors will actively apply for new sources of funding [e.g., training programs (existing and new)] and will encourage eligible students to apply for fellowships with the goal of achieving a self-sustaining funding model.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit*REAL ESTATE LEASE AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - KSU

Kansas State University received approval to enter into a real estate lease and interlocal agreement with the City of Manhattan. The City of Manhattan fire department headquarters, fire station and training grounds are located on property owned by KSU. KSU and the city also have an interlocal agreement in which the city agrees to provide fire services to university property located outside city limits. The city will relocate its training grounds to a different site but retain the headquarters and fire station at the current location. The lease splits the current leased premises into a north tract, which includes the training area and parking lot, and a south tract, which includes the headquarters building, fire house and surrounding parking lot. The lease will expire December 31, 2028, for the north tract and December 31, 2075, for the south tract. The new interlocal agreement does not require the university to pay for fire services provided by the city.

APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING - KSU

Kansas State University received approval to accept the program statement to construct an equipment storage building at the Hays Agricultural Research Center. The estimated project cost is \$372,500 which will be paid for by Federal Emergency Management Agency and departmental funds. The project is expected to be completed in September 2024.

AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE WILKINS STADIUM EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE 1 - WSU

Wichita State University received authorization to amend the FY 2024 capital improvement plan for the Wilkins Stadium Phase 1 project to update the funding source for the project. The project will be funded by a combination of private gifts and \$3 million from the WSU Board of Trustees. The project scope has not changed from what was approved by the Board of Regents at the March 2023 meeting. The University will seek approval to utilize the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method for non-state funded projects as authorized in K.S.A. 76-7,131. The Board delegated authority to appoint individuals to the procurement committee, as authorized in K.S.A. 76-7,131(b), to the Director of Facilities in consultation with the Board President and CEO.

AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER IMAGING SUITE RENOVATION- KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received approval to amend its FY 2024 capital improvement plan to add the Clinical Research Center (CRC) Imaging Suite Renovation and to accept the program statement. The total project cost is \$7,528,467 and has a proposed renovation area of 9,250 square feet. The funding source is non-general fund KUMC sources.

AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR AXE LIBRARY STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT - PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to amend the FY 2024 capital improvement plan and to accept the revised program statement for the Axe Library Student Success Center Expansion project to reflect an increase in the total project cost from \$2,000,000 to \$2,228,000. The construction cost to complete the remaining renovations as a change order to the existing construction project will be \$518,705, funded with EBF. PSU previously sought and received approval from the Joint Committee for State Building Construction (JCSBC) in January 2024 for the change order to this large capital improvement project, contingent on the Board's approval.

AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO REMOVE GORILLA RISING-STUDENT HOUSING - PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement plan to remove Gorilla Rising - Student Housing. The housing is no longer planned to be on state property and no longer a University capital project. The project will be delivered as a public-private partnership project with the renovation being completed by a private entity and then leased to the University for operation as additional student housing.

Retirement PlanSELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR DISCONTINUED INVESTMENT OPTION IN THE BOARD'S VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLAN

A fund in the KBOR Voluntary Plan lineup will be closed and liquidated as of March 8, 2024; a replacement fund needs to be identified by March 1, 2024. Vanguard Value Index Fund-Admiral Shares has been approved as the replacement fund.

Other MattersAPPOINTMENT TO RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Shanna Legleiter, Kansas State University's Chief Human Resources Officer, was appointed to the Board's Retirement Plan Committee to replace Jay Stephens, who is leaving KSU. She will serve the remainder of the term ending on June 30, 2026, as a human resource representative

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDAOther MattersUNIVERSITIES REPORT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - SYSTEM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President of Finance and Administration, introduced the regional universities' presenters on their funding for research and development activities and how their work impacts Kansans and the Kansas economy.

FHSU

President Mason provided an overview of the Docking Institute's 34 projects and five public affairs activities and faculty research engagements. She introduced Dr. Melissa Hunsicker-Walburn, Interim Dean of the College of Business, to provide an update on the Cybersecurity Institute and Technology Incubator (CITI). Dr. Walburn reported that since 2009 their program has earned the National Security Agency's Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. She stated small businesses are especially vulnerable. The CITI partners with the Docking Institute to study the state of cybersecurity among small and medium businesses across Kansas. Dr. Walburn provided updates and challenges experienced by the CITI initiative. They are evaluating the structure and considering adjustments, opportunities for an affiliation, and development of the venture incubator. Regent Parasker suggested working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to better support small businesses. Dr. Walburn stated they are partnering with the SBA and look forward to building upon that progress. Chair Rolph thanked her for the presentation.

ESU

Diana Kuhlmann, Senior Vice President for University Planning and KBOR Relations, provided a presentation on ESU's research focus and activities. She reported their focus is on instruction with programs that feed into workforce shortage areas such as teacher education, cybersecurity technology, and nursing and health sciences. ESU offers faculty mentored research opportunities

that go along with their instructional programs with most projects being in collaboration with other institutions. She stated many of their research opportunities have an outreach component. Ms. Kuhlmann provided an update and future plans for the Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach Center and Cybersecurity Research and Outreach Center. Chair Rolph thanked ESU for its presentation.

PSU

President Shipp introduced Shawn Naccarato, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Engagement, to provide PSU's research presentation. President Shipp stated PSU is a micropolitan institution serving a rural and regional mission. Dr. Naccarato stated PSU's goal is to become a regional research university. Growing the research enterprise will help PSU keep tuition affordable, make research opportunities accessible to students, and increase the work experience of PSU's students. PSU is creating a new division, focusing on translational research, with alignment in workforce development and economic prosperity planning. Dr. Naccarato reported on PSU's strengths and strategic growth areas. He highlighted the National Institute for Materials Advancement (NIMA) which develops the technologies, applications, partnerships, facilities, and highly-qualified workforce that will reimagine and reshape what is achievable with emerging materials. He attributed much of the student growth with the NIMA research to Dr. Ram Gupta, Associate Vice President for Research and Support and a top 2% scientist in the world. PSU's emerging research and development park will encompass the Tyler Research Center, NIMA, emerging technology, prove out facility, and the planned KBI/PSU facility. Dr. Naccarato presented plans for the LTR institute and reading centers to improve the reading skills of elementary and secondary students across the state. He also provided an overview of their collaborative efforts on economic development.

(PowerPoints filed with Official Minutes)

BREAK

At 3:11 p.m., Chair Rolph called for a break. At 3:32 p.m., the meeting resumed.

Academic Affairs

STATE UNIVERSITIES AND WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SERVICE AREAS POLICY REVISION

Karla Wiscombe, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented an amendment to Board policy that reflects 2022 changes to the Johnson County Education Research Triangle Authority Act. The policy amendment will impact courses and programs offered by Kansas State University only at its Johnson County location. The amendment also includes a stipulation that those courses and programs must be approved by the Board Vice President of Academic Affairs, which approval shall only be given if the courses and programs are properly supported by JCERTA funds. Regent Benson moved to approve the state universities and Washburn University service areas policy amendment, Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried. The following Board policy was adopted:

e. State Universities and Washburn University

i Credit awarded by a state university or Washburn University for off-campus academic courses shall be accepted for transfer by one another. Application of transfer credit toward fulfilling degree requirements shall remain the prerogative of the faculty of the receiving institution.

ii Service Areas

(1) In-State Responsibilities and Requirements

(a) The State shall be divided into three geographic areas to ensure that needs for off-campus face-to-face courses and programs are met without unnecessary duplication. These areas shall be served dually by the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University, Wichita State University and Emporia State University, and Kansas State University and Fort Hays State University. These geographic service areas shall be established by the Board. (See "Map of State University and Washburn University Service Areas" at the end of this policy.) In addition, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Emporia State University, and Washburn University will share responsibility for serving Shawnee County. Instances of apparent duplication in Shawnee County among the state universities and Washburn University shall be evaluated and resolved by the Board's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

(b) Assignment of particular service areas to specific state universities and Washburn University applies only to off-campus academic courses and programs that are offered for credit and delivered on a face-to-face basis. These service areas do not apply to distance education courses or programs or to credit courses offered as part of a conference.

(c) The universities that share a service area have primary responsibility, in coordination with one another, for meeting the needs of the area that are within the university's mission, and have priority in offering off-campus face-to-face academic courses and programs within the area over other state universities and Washburn University.

(d) The universities that share a service area have the responsibility, in coordination with one another, to request that other public institutions in Kansas serve identified or expressed needs in that area when the home institutions are unable to do so.

(e) ~~With the exception of the Kansas City metropolitan area, o~~Off-campus face-to-face academic courses that are not part of an approved off-campus academic specialty program and offered by a state university or Washburn University outside the university's service area must be

approved by the home universities and by the Vice President for Academic Affairs prior to any public announcement of the course or program. This paragraph shall not apply to off-campus face-to-face academic courses and programs offered by a state university or Washburn University outside the university's service area in the Kansas City metropolitan area of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, which are subject to paragraph (f).

(f) Off-campus face-to-face academic courses and programs that are not part of an approved off-campus academic specialty program and offered by a state university or Washburn University outside the university's service area in the Kansas City metropolitan area must be approved by the Board and require additional documentation concerning the need/demand and a justification for any duplication. This paragraph (f) shall not apply to face-to-face academic courses or programs that Kansas State University seeks to offer at its Olathe location, which are subject to paragraph (g). Animal health and food safety and security courses and programs may be offered by Kansas State University at its Olathe location in accordance with the approval requirements of K.S.A. 19-5001 et seq.

(g) Johnson County Education Research Authority Act (JCERTA Act): Any face-to-face academic course or program that Kansas State University seeks to offer at its Olathe location shall be subject to approval by the Vice President of Academic Affairs prior to any public announcement of the course or program. Before receiving such approval, the university shall demonstrate compliance with any applicable requirements of the JCERTA Act, K.S.A. 19-5001, et seq. The Vice President of Academic Affairs shall not approve the course or program unless it is an animal health or food safety and security course or program as described by K.S.A. 19-5005(a)(2); or an undergraduate or graduate course or program, not including pre-baccalaureate programs, lower-division courses or courses for students attending high school, as described by K.S.A. 19-5005(a)(3).

~~(g)~~(h) Institutions shall maintain a record of off-campus academic courses and programs and provide information to the Board as requested.

OFF CAMPUS FACE-TO-FACE PROGRAMS IN KC METRO FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Karla Wiscombe, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented Kansas State University's request to offer a degree completion program for the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Technology – Professional Pilot at the New Century Airport located in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Board policy requires approval to offer courses and programs in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. Regent Dicus moved to approve KSU's request to offer face-to-face programs in KC metro. The motion was seconded by Regent Mendoza. The motion carried.

LITERACY EDUCATION

Regent Lane presented the Kansas Blueprint on Literacy. She reported that in 2022, the Regents established a taskforce charged with developing recommendations to meet the educator workforce needs in Kansas. The taskforce developed a series of recommendations and provided priority actions to address the urgent and future educator workforce needs. One of the priority areas was to develop and implement a comprehensive literacy plan based on the science of reading and structured literacy. Regent Lane provided an overview of the Blueprint on Literacy. Chair Rolph moved to accept this into the Board's legislative agenda and budget request, and Regent Benson seconded that motion. Regent Johnson thanked Regent Lane and the Deans, noting her support for the blueprint. President Flanders extended his appreciation and thanked Ed McKechnie for his work. Regent Lane thanked President Flanders and Kelly Oliver for their work. Regent Parasker reiterated the importance of microcredentials. Regent Mendoza extended her support, and mentioned considerations with multi-lingual learners as they move forward. President Shipp extended his appreciation and support. The motion carried.

(Blueprint filed with Official Minutes)

Strategic Plan

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BOARD'S STRATEGIC PLAN, *BUILDING A FUTURE*

President Flanders presented the annual report on the Board's strategic plan, *Building a Future*. Work on the new strategic plan began in 2018 and was adopted as the strategic plan for the system in June 2020. The strategic plan was designed to measure how the public higher education system can better serve Kansas families, Kansas businesses, and the state's economic prosperity, which are the messaging pillars in the plan. President Flanders highlighted the plan's structure which contains areas of focus, foundational metrics (lagging), supporting metrics (leading), and promising practices. The Building a Future dashboard has been launched on the Board of Regents website.

President Flanders highlighted some of the metrics under pillar I. In the affordability category, he shared data and systemwide approaches on need-based aid, on-time pace to graduation and student loans. Under the access category, President Flanders provided data and systemwide approaches on the college going rate, high school graduate projections, and enrollment projections. Under the success category, he provided data and systemwide approaches on persistence rates, and graduates in jobs with sustaining wages.

Pillar II emphasizes systemwide approaches that help build a skilled workforce for businesses and employers. In the talent pipeline category, President Flanders provided progress and data on the engineering initiative and Excel in CTE. He presented the systemwide approaches for the talent pipeline. In the innovation category, President Flanders provided updates and data on the research and development funding.

On pillar III, Economic Prosperity, President Flanders presented some intentional economic development activity. He highlighted recent successful partnerships and presented the systemwide approaches to advancing prosperity. He provided recommendations including continued advocacy for student financial aid, concurrent enrollment partnerships, and leveraging

the higher education system to help all Kansans, regardless of enrollment status. Regent Benson asked about replicating the success the medical field has had in partnering with students while in they are still in high school. President Flanders noted the ability to predict a student's success in certain programs and mentioned the need to investigate this further. Regent Lane stated the real-world learning initiative in the KC metropolitan area is a work-based learning opportunity starting in the middle school giving students exploration opportunities. Regent Parasker stated the Society for Women Engineers in Kansas City engages engineers as mentors alongside middle and high school students. President Flanders noted the importance of establishing deeper partnerships.

Governance

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS AND PREMIUM RATES FOR PLAN YEAR 2024-2025

Wesley Wintch, Fort Hays State University's Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chair of the Student Insurance Advisory Committee, presented a proposal for health insurance plans available to students in plan year 2024-2025. He stated that United Health Care (UHC) is the carrier for student health plans. UHC proposes no increases to the premiums and no changes to the benefits for the upcoming plan year. Regent Parasker moved to approve the student health insurance proposal; Regent Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Matters

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented a memorandum of agreement with the Kansas State Board of Education to create the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education. This agreement will set expectations for how the two boards and the Council will collaborate on matters related to Indigenous education in Kansas. It includes the four tribal nations in Kansas, and there are currently signed resolutions from three of the four tribal nations. Dr. Alex RedCorn, KSU Department of Education Leadership, reported our state did not have many collaborative structures in working with tribal nations. He stated tribal nations have a unique sovereignty and their citizens attend state run schools for secondary and postsecondary education. Relationships were built with tribes to figure out how this could work. Chair Rolph extended his appreciation. Regent Parasker made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement contingent upon the fourth tribal nation signing. A second was made by Regent Mendoza. The motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fred Patton reported that the Legislature is approaching its turnaround deadline – Friday, February 23, 2024. Both chambers are working to pass non-exempt bills out of their chambers before this date. He reported the Senate Ways & Means Subcommittee on Higher Education worked the unified appropriations request. The committee made a few enhancements to the Governor's budget, then directed that nearly all of the Governor's recommendations be removed and reviewed later in the budget process. Patton reviewed the following bills:

- HB 2644 – amends service scholarships to unify and equalize interest rates and adjusts accrual date of interest incurred for service scholarship non-compliance
- HB 2645 – amends the Nursing Service Scholarship program to expand access for nursing students in Kansas
- HB 2646 – makes changes to the Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act by unifying the financial limitations and expanding the eligibility requirements for a scholarship
- SB 438 – clarifies eligibility for all AO-K students to receive the \$500 program stipend authorized by the 2023 Legislature
- HB 2640 – creates the Kansas strategic research fund

RECESS

Chair Rolph recessed the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chair Rolph reconvened the meeting at 9:52 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024 in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Rolph, Chair
Carl Ice, Vice Chair
Blake Benson
John Dicus
Alysia Johnston
Cynthia Lane
Diana Mendoza
Neelima Parasker
Wint Winter

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:54 a.m., Regent Ice moved followed by the second of Regent Johnston, to recess into executive session for thirty minutes in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room to discuss matters relating to security measures pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(12). The subject of this executive session is matters relating to security measures to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(12), and the purpose is to not jeopardize such security measures by discussing them in an open meeting. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, President and CEO Blake Flanders, Kansas State University President Richard Linton, and KSU Staff members Marshall Stewart, Debbie Mercer, Ethan Erickson, and Thomas Bunton. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried. At 10:24 a.m., the meeting returned to open session. At 10:24 a.m., Regent Ice moved to extend for five minutes, seconded by Chair Rolph. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Jon Rolph, Chair