

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
November 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:33 p.m. on November 20, 2024. The meeting was held at the Kansas State University Campus, Student Union, 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Ice, Chair
Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
Alysia Johnston
Blake Benson
John Dicus
Neelima Parasker
Wint Winter

MEMBER ABSENT: Diana Mendoza

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board's September 18, 2024 meeting. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Linton welcomed attendees to Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. He introduced Dr. Christopher DePerno, an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow who will spend the next semester at K-State as part of a leadership fellowship. Dr. DePerno has degrees from Central Michigan University, Purdue University, and South Dakota State University. He has served as a senior research scientist and professor, with notable achievements, including awards for his contributions to wildlife conservation and academia.

The ACE Fellows program offers aspiring higher education leaders opportunities for in-depth learning, mentorship, and collaboration. Nominated by their home universities, ACE Fellows partner with host institutions to gain experience in areas of leadership interest. Dr. DePerno, joining from North Carolina State University, selected K-State for its strong leadership and innovative initiatives. He will focus on contributing to the "Next Gen K-State" strategic plan, helping shape the university's future as a next-generation land-grant institution. Dr. DePerno emphasized his goal to make a meaningful impact by collaborating with the university's leadership, students, faculty, and staff to ensure continued success.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice welcomed those in attendance to Kansas State University for the Board's biennial campus visit to the university. He thanked President Linton and his team for their hospitality and anticipated a successful visit. Reflecting on the Board's recent visit to Wichita State University, Chair Ice highlighted the Shocker Success Center's alignment with student success initiatives, the impressive national aviation campus, and valuable discussions on applied learning. He commended President Muma and the WSU team for their efforts.

Chair Ice also provided updates on the Board's strategic plan, which is centered on three pillars: supporting Kansas families, advancing Kansas businesses, and promoting economic prosperity. He shared several encouraging outcomes, including enrollment growth contrary to national trends, improved graduation rates, a quadrupling of need-based financial aid, and a 16 percent reduction in student debt. Additionally, more graduates are staying in Kansas, further contributing to the state's workforce.

He emphasized the collaboration between higher education, state policymakers, the Legislature, and the Governor in driving these successes, including investments like the multi-year maintenance bill to support campus infrastructure. Chair Ice expressed pride in the progress made and thanked all involved in achieving these milestones, reiterating the importance of continued efforts to advance higher education in Kansas.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders discussed his recent attendance at the Midwest Higher Education Compact meeting in Overland Park and at the University of Kansas campus. He thanked Chancellor Girod for hosting. He highlighted the Compact's contributions, including bulk purchasing and insurance support, which previously helped restore K-State's library after significant fire and water damage.

During the meeting, Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, presented a "Blueprint for Literacy," which revealed surprising student reading scores across the region and emphasized the critical role of colleges of education in addressing literacy challenges. President Flanders called it the largest workforce development effort in Kansas history, with institutions leading the charge to solve the problem from within.

He also discussed the state budget appeal process, noting the caution from Budget Director Adam Proffitt regarding revenue uncertainties due to recent tax policy changes. Senator Rick Billinger, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, joined the session, reflecting a new state budget process.

Lastly, President Flanders and Regent Mendoza met with school superintendents at the Kansas Association of School Boards to discuss the goal of offering the first 15 college credit hours at no cost to high school students. The group recognized the need for consistent district policies for efficiency and equitable financing. President Flanders concluded by expressing optimism about these initiatives and ongoing efforts.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Pittsburg State University Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, reported on the Council's activities since the September Board meeting. He reported that the Council reviewed updates to the Credit for Prior Learning policies, with no additional recommendations deemed necessary. He also highlighted a productive and engaging breakfast meeting with the Regents in September, which sparked ongoing initiatives. The Council's key projects include revising faculty awards to reflect the expanded roles of faculty beyond teaching, research, and service, incorporating areas such as clinical work and extension. The Council is also exploring adding a third award to recognize full-time non-tenure-track faculty.

Recently, the Council began addressing a charge it received to foster discussions on artificial intelligence (AI). This effort aims to enhance understanding and guide potential policy development across institutions.

Looking ahead, the Council plans to engage more actively with state legislators. Council members are considering participating in Higher Education Day or hosting a lunch session with the state's legislative committees to showcase faculty engagement in advancing higher education's role in Kansas. Professor Philipp emphasized the Council's commitment to representing faculty effectively and supporting the prosperity of higher education statewide.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pittsburg State University Student Government Association President Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, thanked Kansas State University President and Vice President for facilitating and hosting the Committee's meeting. Chair Eckstein highlighted the productive in-person gathering of student leaders, noting a sense of shared commitment to their respective institutions and Kansas students.

Chair Eckstein reported that universities are wrapping up the semester, with many already addressing key administrative goals, discussing student fee allocations, and preparing for upcoming elections. The Committee's discussions emphasized goals such as increasing interaction with Board members, expanding the use of open educational resources, and attracting more students to Kansas schools. Chair Eckstein conveyed excitement for the upcoming breakfast with the Board, where the Committee plans to discuss these initiatives in greater depth, seek feedback, and gain support.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Johnston gave the report for the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) for Chair Mendoza. Regent Johnston reported that Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director for Academic Affairs, presented the systemwide course placement plan for English Composition I, which is recognized as a critical gateway course. A multiple-measures approach to placement was developed, shifting away from reliance on a single high-stakes test.

BAASC next heard a report from Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, on the Blueprint for Literacy. Director Lane emphasized the critical need to address the fact that one-third of Kansas children read at or below grade level. The Blueprint initiative, vital for individual, community, and state goals—including addressing workforce gaps—has involved close collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education. Remarkably, the Blueprint for Literacy Advisory Committee established in July has already prepared to launch a course and credentials program alongside centers of excellence at Kansas' seven public universities next semester.

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs, provided updates from the Systemwide Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAAC). TAAC approved six new courses for systemwide transfer, which will go to the Board for approval next month. TAAC also finalized four systemwide associate degrees, in business administration, computer science, pre-BSN nursing, and social work. Community colleges will align their pathways and degree plans with these programs.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson, Chair of the Board's Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 5 and again this morning.

Next, Chair Benson reported Wichita State University's internal auditor, Chris Cavanaugh, presented WSU's annual audit plan to the Committee and discussed the University's "digital badge" on internal control. This non-credit badge, free for WSU employees, allows employees to demonstrate their knowledge of their role in enhancing internal control. Regent Benson commended WSU for making risk management a collaborative effort across the campus, emphasizing that everyone has a role. To date, 283 employees have earned the badge, with President Muma being the first to do so.

Becky Pottebaum, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the Board Office's operating budget. Director Pottebaum also reviewed the annual internal audit for the alumni account for fiscal year 2024, which found no issues and confirmed that all transactions were in line with allowable uses.

The Committee discussed the state universities' Fiscal Year 2026 housing and food service rate proposals, which will be presented for a first reading at today's meeting. The Committee examined how universities manage inflationary pressures while maintaining affordable student rates. Regent Winter emphasized the importance of considering the needs of homeless students and addressing food insecurity.

Director Bristow reviewed with the Committee proposed changes to Board policies on capital projects. Jeff Dewitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor for Finance, reviewed capital projects

at KU, including the School of Architecture and the purchase of Rock Chalk Park. The Committee recommended approval of all items, with Regent Dicus abstaining from the vote on purchasing Rock Chalk Park due to his role with the KU Endowment Association.

Finally, the Committee reviewed and endorsed proposed changes to the appropriation language for the FY 2026 state budget.

GOVERNANCE

Board Governance Committee Chair Carl Ice reported that the Committee met this morning to discuss three items. First, the committee granted the Board President and CEO authority to execute a contract with the University of Kansas. Second, the Committee heard a report from Kansas State University as part of the regular updates from each institution on safety and security. Chair Ice acknowledged the work done by Kansas State, especially considering the timing of the meeting. Lastly, the Committee considered an updated Board member conflict-of-interest disclosure and made a recommendation that will be discussed later on the Board's agenda.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Board Retirement Plan Committee Chair Carl Ice noted that the Committee only gathers a few times per year. The Committee's most recent meeting took place on October 15. The Committee's responsibilities include overseeing the retirement plans for employees at the institutions and for KBOR staff. These plans consist of mandatory and voluntary plans, with the mandatory plan holding \$5.41 billion in assets and the voluntary plan holding \$1.3 billion.

During the October meeting, the Committee received updates from Advanced Capital Group, which provides periodic advice regarding the performance and functioning of the plans, including fees and manager performance. Based on that advice, the Committee recommends removing the Nuveen Mid-Cap Growth Fund from the investment options and replace it with the JP Morgan Mid-Cap Growth Fund. The Nuveen fund has been on the Committee's watch list. This recommendation is on the Board's agenda this afternoon.

As part of its fiduciary responsibility, the Committee ensures that fees are as reasonable as possible while maintaining good returns. The Committee heard a presentation from TIAA, one of the financial institutions at which plan participants' accounts may be held, regarding a share-class change for eight investment options that would lower fees for plan participants invested in the eight funds. Following further discussions, the Committee recommended approving this change. Additionally, the Committee received advice regarding the reasonableness of fees for both financial institutions through which plan participants may choose to have their accounts.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Rolph moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Academic Affairs

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CYBER SYSTEMS DESIGN AND DYNAMICS – KSU

The Board approved Kansas State University's request to offer a new Bachelor of Science in Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics (CSDD) through the College of Technology and Aviation. Launching in August 2024, this innovative program integrates digital design, human-computer interaction, data science, and intelligent computing systems. The 120-credit-hour curriculum includes two tracks: Immersive Systems Design and Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit*ACT ON REQUEST TO ALLOCATE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND FOR AMENDMENT RELATED TO CONSULTANT CONTRACT– KBOR

The Board approved an \$85,000 allocation from uncommitted Educational Building Fund (EBF) revenues, intended to continue consulting support from Gordian, the firm managing the universities' facilities condition data system. The funds are designated for consultant services through FY 2026 and FY 2027. This allocation does not affect the universities' existing EBF allocations.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE HOGLUND BRAIN IMAGING CENTER – KUMC

The KU Medical Center received approval to demolish the Hogleund Brain Imaging Center (state building #68300-00069). Hogleund was constructed in 2002 as a one-story, 12,446-square-foot outpatient research imaging facility with an estimated deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$2.44 million and a Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 0.26 (B- grade). The building has no historical status or designations, and no environmental hazards were anticipated. The \$350,000 demolition cost will be covered by KU Cancer Center project funds.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE NEFF HALL AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to demolish Neff Hall (state building #71500-00034) and received a \$950,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. Neff Hall, built in 1951, is a two-story, 30,197-square-foot building currently housing the Department of Anthropology offices, labs, classrooms, and the Holmes Museum of Anthropology. Demolishing Neff Hall will create space for an expanded campus quad near the student center. With no historical designation, the building has a deferred maintenance backlog of over \$5.6 million and an FCI of 0.57 (grade D).

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the maintenance building on its Salina campus and received a \$215,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Demolition Building Fund to pay for the demolition. The 5,537-square-foot building was constructed in 1956. The building has no historical status and an FCI rating of 0.60 (F grade). Remediation for potential asbestos is expected. A new facilities maintenance building is under construction, with completion anticipated in August 2025. After demolition, the site will be used for parking or paved storage.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE COMPOSITES BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the composites building on its Salina campus and received a \$35,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. The 2,100-square-foot composites building was constructed in 1996 and has an FCI rating of 0.42 (C-). It houses the composites lab and classroom. It is being removed to make way for the Aerospace Education Hub, which will feature new composites space, unmanned aircraft system (UAS) labs, and aviation maintenance labs. No environmental issues are anticipated.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE TULLIS BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the Tullis Building on its Salina campus and received a \$150,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. Built in 1956, the 5,774-square-foot structure houses faculty offices, the Veterans Center, and TRIO offices. With an FCI rating of 0.33 (C grade), the building has structural cracks

and water leaks. Employees will be relocated to other campus buildings. No environmental issues are expected. After demolition, the site will become green space or parking.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR KANSAS FOREST SERVICE – KSU

Kansas State University received approval of the program statement for a new head house facility and for improvements to the Kansas Forest Service's existing head house and greenhouse. The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) state facilities, which house the state forester, program coordinators, statewide specialists, and support staff, are located on KSU property. A greenhouse was constructed in 1974 to support the Conservation Tree Planting Program that produces, receives, and distributes tree and shrub seedlings for in-person and mail-order sales to landowners.

The two-phase renovation project will address hazards and inefficiencies within the KFS facilities and expand nursery operations to meet regional and statewide demand for plant materials. A new 2,000-gross-square-foot head house will be constructed to provide an efficient and flexible nursery operations and equipment workspace. The existing greenhouse exhaust fans and evaporative cooling systems will be replaced, and a new control system will be installed to allow remote monitoring of greenhouse conditions. The estimated project cost is \$1.0 million and will be funded with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR DAIRY TEACHING & RESEARCH CENTER – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend its Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement for a new Dairy Teaching and Research Center. The new center will replace aging facilities, improve teaching, research, extension, and milk production capabilities, and strengthen the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry's national and global leadership in dairy science. The current facilities, built in 1977, are in poor condition and beyond their useful life. The new center will include a milking parlor, free stall barn, heifer barn, and other support facilities. The project's estimated cost is reduced from \$46.6 million to \$43.2 million, with funding from state, philanthropic, and industry partner contributions.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR RENOVATIONS TO TROTTER HALL - KSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Kansas State University received approval to amend its Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement for renovations to the second-floor laboratory facilities in Trotter Hall, used by second-year veterinary students. The current space, built in 1973, no longer meets modern biohazard safety and sterilization standards. The proposed renovations will update and reconfigure the 11,000 square feet to include diagnostic pods, a medium-sized classroom, and a student success center with study areas, lockers, and a kitchenette. The estimated project cost increased from \$4.0 million to \$7.76 million, with funding from philanthropic gifts.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT TO EXPAND EQUINE PERFORMANCE TESTING CENTER – KSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement to expand the Equine Performance Testing Center. The expansion, covering 7,375 square feet, will provide space for rehabilitation services and regenerative medicine, enabling K-State clinicians to teach these areas to veterinary

students while offering treatment options to regional horse owners. The center will feature advanced rehabilitation equipment and specialized facilities for regenerative therapies. The estimated project cost is \$5,158,325, to be funded through philanthropic gifts.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR SUNNYSIDE AVENUE AND NAISMITH DRIVE – KU

The University of Kansas Lawrence received approval for additional project costs and a revised Sunnyside and Naismith Drive Reconstruction schedule. The estimated cost increased from \$11,160,000 to \$13,397,900 due to high construction inflation and extended construction time resulting from phasing changes. These changes are intended to improve building access during the project. The total estimated cost, including fees, construction, and contingencies, is \$13,397,900. Funding is provided through the University's allocation from the Educational Building Fund, KU funds, and KU Transportation Services funds. The project is now scheduled to be completed by 2028.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE MASTER LEASE – KU EDWARDS

KU received approval from to enter into a 20-year Master Lease Agreement with CB Holdings, LLC, for the Jayhawk Central building. CB Holdings will manage the property, which was transferred to KU in 2018. The Lease Agreement includes transferring existing leases, requiring the lessee to carry out \$1 million in capital improvements, and adding a fitness center. KU will receive a share of the lessee's revenue; that share is projected to be \$37,500 annually. In addition, KU will save \$1 million in deferred maintenance costs. The property will remain tax-exempt as long as it serves student union purposes. With the lease transaction, KU aims to improve the building's safety, aesthetics, and tenant mix.

Technical Education Authority

ACT ON REQUESTS FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS SUBMITTED BY WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) received approval for two new programs to enhance the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry. The proposed programs are:

1. Accounting: A 42-credit hour Technical Certificate B and a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science.
2. Quality Assurance Inspection: A 24-credit hour Technical Certificate A and a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology received approval for its Quality Assurance Inspection program to be designated as a Promise Act-eligible program. This program aligns with the Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades category and is recognized as a high-demand, high-wage occupation by the Kansas Department of Labor.

ACT ON COURSE AND BUCKET REASSIGNMENTS

The Board approved the reassignment of technical courses into program-specific buckets within the Kansas Higher Education Data System. This decision aims to ensure the accurate calculation of institutional state shares for all reported enrollments.

[Reassignment details filed with official minutes]

Retirement Plan Committee

ACT ON INVESTMENT OPTION SHARE CLASS CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS AND MANDATORY PLAN CONTRACT CHANGE

The Board approved moving from the R3 to R4 share class for eight CREF funds available as investment options through TIAA in the Board's Mandatory and Voluntary Plans. Along with this change, the Board approved updating the TIAA Mandatory Plan contract must be updated from TIAA's "Retirement Annuity" to the "Retirement Choice" contract.

ACT ON INVESTMENT OPTION LINE-UP CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS

The Board approved removing the Nuveen Mid-Cap Growth fund as a TIAA investment option within the Board's Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans and replacing the fund with the JP Morgan Mid Cap Growth R6 fund.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Other Matters

SOME COLLEGE NO CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, explained that as part of the Board's strategic plan to improve access to higher education, the Board has been exploring alternative solutions to increase enrollment and strengthen the talent pipeline to meet future workforce needs in the state. The Board had been looking at practices in other states and systems to find effective methods for recruiting students who have "stopped out" (those who have discontinued their college education). Chief of Staff Oliver introduced Scott Lomas, Chief Strategy Officer at ReUp Education, who was invited to provide further insights on the topic.

Lomas presented on the issue of "some college, no credential," which affects 41 million adults nationwide, including approximately 400,000 in Kansas. He highlighted the significant opportunity for both enrollment and workforce development by re-engaging this group, which typically consists of adults aged 20-55. Lomas pointed out that while Kansas is doing well with high school graduation rates, it faces a growing skills gap that cannot be closed by simply increasing high school graduations. To address this, Kansas must tap into the 400,000 adults with some college but no degree.

Lomas discussed the challenges of re-engaging these individuals, noting the difficulty of re-enrollment due to complicated personal lives, such as job and caregiving responsibilities. He mentioned that nationally, only 54 percent of adults who have stopped out for over a year persist in their education. The competition from online institutions with large marketing budgets also poses a challenge.

Lomas stressed three key elements to successfully re-engaging these individuals: student incentives (scholarships, debt relief), institutional support (wraparound services), and effective outreach (data-driven marketing). He noted that some states are seeing success with these strategies, but many overlook adults who have stopped out for several years. Lomas emphasized the need for centralized, statewide initiatives to support this diverse group. The discussion also included the potential to attract students currently enrolled in out-of-state programs, capturing around \$100 million in tuition revenue for Kansas. The state could leverage existing online learning capacity at institutions like Wichita State and Fort Hays State, expanding these offerings to attract more out-of-state students. Additionally, aligning programs with workforce needs is crucial for addressing the state's workforce gap.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

Academic Affairs

ACT ON AY 2024 PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Rusty Monhollon, Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the Academic Year 2024 performance reports, which are primarily plans for the 2025 academic year. These plans focus on implementing math pathways, co-requisite developmental support for math and English courses, and system-wide course placement measures for math and English, and on creating degree maps for all programs. The degree maps will be made available on a single landing page on each institution's website, and each institution's AY 2024 performance report will reflect this.

Vice President Monhollon explained that each institution had outlined its processes and timelines for implementing math pathways and developmental co-requisite support for gateway math and English courses. They also specified the individuals on their campuses who would lead these projects. Additionally, institutions were tasked with ensuring that anyone involved in this work who couldn't attend professional development sessions or webinars would still receive the necessary information.

Earlier this month, the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) reviewed the AY 2024 performance reports. One institution did not meet the required layout for its degree maps, resulting in a recommendation for 90 percent funding. However, since that meeting, academic affairs staff have received additional information from the institution and confirmed that the degree maps are now in the proper format. As a result, BAASC recommended approving 100 percent funding for all institutions, and Vice President Monhollon requested that the Board accept this updated recommendation.

Regent Benson motioned to approve, with a second from Regent Rolph. The motion was approved.

RECEIVE THE APPLY KANSAS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

Mistie Knox, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, presented the Apply Kansas All-Star High School award winners. The All-Star High Schools program is aligned with the broader strategic plan to expand access to higher education and support student success, as well as the Board's goal to promote initiatives like Apply Kansas and FAFSA completion efforts. Each year, schools recognized as All-Star High Schools receive a banner, and subsequent recognitions are marked with a sticker noting the year. In 2024, 148 high schools were recognized, representing 75.9 percent of Apply Kansas schools. This year, over 300 high schools are working toward All-Star recognition.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

BREAK

Chair Ice called for a break at 2:34 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:50.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

RECEIVE FY 2026 HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY STATE UNIVERSITIES (FIRST READ)

Regent Benson noted that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee spent significant time reviewing proposals related to food and housing rates at the state universities. He acknowledged the challenges posed by inflation, particularly concerning food costs, and appreciated the institutions' efforts to manage these cost increases. He reminded the Board that the committee had reviewed the proposals earlier and recommended them for approval.

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, emphasized that the proposals aim to balance student affordability with the universities' need to cover operating and capital costs for their auxiliary services. Vice President Frisbie highlighted the importance of on-campus housing as a retention tool, noting that students who live on campus tend to retain and graduate at higher rates.

The information that was presented included various rate options and a national perspective on food and housing rates at public four-year universities. Five of the six state universities require first-year students to live on campus, with some exceptions. The University of Kansas currently does not have the capacity to adopt a similar policy. Additionally, four state universities have contracted out their food service, while Kansas State and the University of Kansas operate their own in-house food services. A correction was made to a table on pages 70 and 71 of the Board agenda materials regarding occupancy rates for Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University.

As this was the first reading of the proposals, no action was taken.

ACT ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN – FHSU

Fort Hays State University President Tisa Mason shared an overview of the university's comprehensive master plan. She described the plan as a strategic vision designed to enhance teaching and learning experiences at FHSU. The master planning process was initiated in July 2020, involving the campus and greater Hays communities. The goal was to establish a framework that would prioritize the efficient use of physical spaces and rehabilitating existing facilities.

In addition to improving the physical environment, President Mason emphasized the importance of the digital landscape in modern education. As part of the broader strategy, FHSU also developed a digital master plan aimed at creating robust digital systems that facilitate meaningful interactions between students, faculty, and content. By integrating this digital framework with the physical master plan, FHSU aims to provide students with engaging and enriching learning experiences.

Dana Cunningham, FHSU Director of Facilities Planning, discussed FHSU's 2024 Master Plan, updated from the 2013 version. The new plan focuses on addressing deferred maintenance and improving existing facilities rather than constructing new ones. Cunningham highlighted that the plan integrates both physical and digital strategies, aligning with the university's academic mission and strategic goals. Input was received from various stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Key aspects of the plan include repurposing underused spaces, improving pedestrian circulation, and addressing long-term facility needs. The plan also emphasizes the importance of renovating existing buildings such as Cunningham Hall, Gross Coliseum, and Forsyth Library. Except for a proposed addition to Stroop Hall, no new buildings are planned in the near term. The plan focuses on maintaining and improving current infrastructure.

Looking ahead, FHSU expects enrollment numbers to stabilize and has no immediate need to expand student housing. However, there are plans to enhance wellness facilities, including a possible wellness trail through campus. Additionally, several parking lots and landscaping improvements are planned to reduce water consumption.

Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the institution's first digital master plan. Provost Arensdorf emphasized the plan's focus on student success and online learning. The plan was developed with input from students, faculty, and staff and is based on data collected through surveys and focus groups. It aligns with both the university's strategic goals and the NIST playbook.

The plan has five key recommendations:

1. **Actionable Data:** Build a data infrastructure to track student progress and address challenges faced by online learners, using both leading and lagging indicators for decision-making.
2. **Consistent Course Design:** Establish best practices for online course design to create a consistent, engaging, and interactive experience for students, including the transition to BlackBoard Ultra and streamlining educational technologies.
3. **Fostering Student Connections:** Intentionally create opportunities for online students to connect with peers and instructors, simulating the in-person community experience.
4. **Faculty Training and Support:** Provide faculty with training, resources, and ongoing support to integrate technology effectively into their teaching practices.
5. **Effective Communication:** To enhance the online learning experience, ensure a centralized and coordinated communication strategy for online learners, faculty, and staff.

FHSU has already made progress, including transitioning to BlackBoard Ultra and implementing new engagement strategies for online students. The University is measuring success through clear metrics aligned with FHSU's strategic goals.

Provost Arensdorf said the main challenge in implementing the digital master plan was rolling it out and helping people understand its nature. The plan was a new concept, and when work began in 2021, there were no other higher education institutions with similar plans. The effort now focuses on effective communication and ensuring the work is done collaboratively.

President Mason added that moving to BlackBoard Ultra includes both Fort Hays Tech campuses, ensuring they all use the same learning management system.

Regent Parasker asked about the security of student information. Provost Arensdorf answered that, although cybersecurity is not explicitly part of the digital plan, the university's IT services collaborate closely with the teaching innovation and learning technologies team to ensure safety in technology use.

Regent Benson praised the university's efforts to create connections for online students, acknowledging the difficulty virtual learners have in building study groups and finding support. Provost Arensdorf responded that while it requires intentional effort, providing these opportunities for connection is possible and is being prioritized in the plan.

Regent Benson moved to approve the master plan. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

DISCUSS AND ACT ON BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS – SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, discussed the evolution of the facilities' capital renewal initiative, which began in 2021 with the Board's approval of a new framework and the implementation of a maintenance assessment. This initiative has been supported by additional funding and advocacy, but as the Campus Restoration Act period of six years approaches, policy refinements are seen as necessary to sustain the initiative.

The Board heard a first reading of the proposed amendments at its September meeting. Director Bristow noted the following updates to the proposed amendments that were made since the first reading:

1. Refined the language on federal funding requests, linking it to the \$1.5 million statutory threshold for large capital projects, as suggested by Regent Parasker.
2. Revised the language identifying statutes that authorize universities to use various delivery methods for projects, offering universities clearer references on available options.
3. Revised the policy language to include the Educational Building Fund in the maintenance assessment, streamlining future funding considerations for maintenance efforts.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the policy amendments. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND TO APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITION TO AND RENOVATION OF MARVIN AND CHALMERS HALLS, AND ACT ON REQUEST TO SEEK LEGISLATIVE BONDING AUTHORITY FOR SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN – KU

Jeff DeWitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented a \$120 million project for a significant upgrade and new facilities for the School of Architecture. The project will be completed in three phases: a new building near Marvin and Chambers, followed by renovations and upgrades to the existing buildings. The first phase will be funded with \$60 million in bonds, assuming approval, with funding from school revenues, fees, and general use funds.

Vice Chancellor DeWitt addressed concerns raised by Regent Rolph regarding the university's structural deficit, stating that the university is no longer in a deficit and has achieved positive margins through enrollment growth and budget reductions. These margins will help finance the bonds if approved.

The project will be funded by a combination of donor contributions, bonds, and school-generated revenues, with an additional \$10 million match requested from the state. Vice Chancellor DeWitt said that that maintenance costs for the new facility will be accounted for in KU's financial planning process, including debt service and operational costs.

Regent Benson moved to approve KU's request to amend its FY 2025 capital improvement project plan, to accept the program statement for the project, and to approve KU's request to seek legislative bonding authority. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY – KU

Jeff DeWitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented a request to transfer the Rock Chalk Park land from the KU Endowment Association to KU. The facility, which includes soccer, softball, tennis training spaces, and parking, was built about a decade ago and has become a key asset for the university, contributing to athletic success such as recent championships. Currently, KU Athletics pays a \$2.2 million annual lease for the facility.

Vice Chancellor DeWitt explained that the land transfer would align with the university's broader land policy, under which where the Endowment Association initially funds projects with private sector involvement, and the university assumes control after the project is developed. The proposed transfer would make sense as the facility has matured. The facilities, including the soccer and softball complexes, are considered critical assets for the University's athletics programs.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the acquisition. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Regent Dicus abstained.

ACT ON REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE FOR FY 2026 BUDGET – SYSTEM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a request to seek changes to provisos and appropriation language for the upcoming legislative budget session. The purpose is to begin working with the Division of the Budget analyst and legislative colleagues to ensure the language attached to the funds requested in September aligns with the best use of those dollars. Many of the items discussed are technical and aim to match the appropriate language with the requested funding.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the request. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Governance

DISCUSS BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND ACT ON ANY ACTUAL OR APPARENT CONFLICT

John Yeary, General Counsel, stated that Regent Johnston is a member on the Board of Directors of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, which has a contractual relationship with Pittsburg State University. The health center provides student health services at PSU and is federally funded. To address any potential conflict of interest, staff recommends that Regent Johnston refrain from participating in matters involving contracts or transactions between the health center and PSU. The Governance Committee reviewed and approved this recommendation.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the staff recommendation regarding the disclosed conflict, seconded by Regent Dicus. The motion carried.

Other Matters

UPDATE ON THE BLUEPRINT FOR LITERACY AND FIRST READ FOR MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSE APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION FOR MARKET-BASED TUITION FOR THIS COURSE

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, provided an update on the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy initiative. She introduced Rachel Rubio, new associate director specializing in literacy and dyslexia. Dr. Lane outlined two significant projects: a foundational literacy course for Pre-K to 8 educators and a plan for Centers of Excellence in Literacy.

The foundational course, developed collaboratively by faculty from the seven public universities, aligns with national literacy standards and Kansas educator preparation standards. Educators will complete performance assessments, receive personalized coaching, and earn six graduate credits. The course is designed to address the literacy gap among Kansas students and improve teacher preparedness, with tuition funded by the Blueprint. The course is expected to launch in March, pending approval from the State Board of Education in December.

Regent Parasker praised the Blueprint for Literacy's approach, combining training with online mentoring and coaching, as a "recipe for success." She suggested exploring the potential to offer the course to educators in other states facing similar literacy challenges. Dr. Lane welcomed the idea but emphasized prioritizing access for Kansas educators. She noted that other states' participants would likely need to pay full tuition. Dr. Lane highlighted the initiative's uniqueness, as it is rare for postsecondary institutions to lead literacy improvement efforts, which are typically K-12 focused.

Regent Benson commended Dr. Lane and the stakeholders for their work and inquired about long-term goals for student literacy, referencing the current statistic that one-third of students are not reading at grade level. Dr. Lane clarified that state law mandates that the Blueprint aim to reach 90% children reading at or above grade level by 2033, a challenging but essential goal. Additionally, the Blueprint must endeavor to have 100% of elementary

teachers complete a micro-credential in the science of reading by 2030. Dr. Lane praised university faculty and deans for their rapid and dedicated efforts, emphasizing the urgency and importance of equipping educators to achieve these targets.

UPDATE AND FIRST READ FOR PLAN FOR THE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN LITERACY

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, outlined progress on Senate Bill 438, which established the Blueprint for Literacy and mandates the creation of six reading centers across Kansas by January 1, 2025. Following a strategic planning process, an advisory committee has worked intensively over six months to develop a comprehensive plan. The committee invited proposals from universities and received inspiring submissions from all seven public universities.

The centers aim to provide equitable access to high-quality education, training, and family support services statewide, functioning as interconnected networks rather than isolated hubs. Each center will address unique regional needs, with expertise shared across institutions. For example, Kansas State University will specialize in supporting English language learners.

The proposed plan, currently under finalization, includes timelines, implementation steps, and resource allocation strategies to ensure centers are operational by Fiscal Year 2026. The focus is on addressing literacy challenges, teacher shortages, and workforce needs.

Regent Johnston praised Dr. Lane's report, finding the progress on the program's ambitious timelines and goals to be impressive. Regent Johnston highlighted the collaborative effort among the seven universities as a model of higher education cooperation, emphasizing that focused, unified efforts can lead to significant outcomes. Regent Johnston expressed confidence that the plan would achieve the goal of 90% literacy by 2033.

Regent Johnston inquired about a student literacy map that Dr. Lane presented. She asked if areas without markers were regions that had already met the goal or had no data. Dr. Lane clarified that the map shows only those districts with students performing below grade level, and unmarked areas, like Comanche County, indicate no significant percentage of students below basic literacy levels.

Dr. Lane emphasized the necessity of broader partnerships beyond universities. Independent colleges, community colleges (focused on adult and early childhood literacy), and community literacy providers are essential collaborators to address the widespread literacy challenge effectively.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME BASEBALL COMPLEX – WSU

Wichita State University President Richard Muma requested permission to name the WSU baseball complex the "Gene Stephenson Park" to honor Gene Stephenson's significant contributions to college baseball and WSU's athletic program. Stephenson, who coached from 1977 to 2013, transformed WSU baseball, winning 1,798 games with a .735 winning percentage. Under his leadership, the Shockers made seven College World Series appearances, won the national championship in 1989, and earned multiple conference and NCAA titles.

Beyond coaching, Stephenson spearheaded capital projects that transformed the baseball facilities into one of the nation's best. Muma emphasized that naming the complex after Stephenson would recognize his legacy and continued impact on WSU baseball. He requested the Board's approval for this tribute.

Regent Dicus moved to approve the request, and Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME OUTDOOR SPACES – KSU

Kansas State University President Richard Linton presented a request to name a terrace located outside Bluemont Hall the Jan and Charlie Cole Terrace. Jan and Charlie Cole, both K-State alumni—one from the College of Education and the other from the College of Business—have made significant philanthropic contributions to the

university. Their support has benefited accounting students, accounting department faculty awards, scholarships, and the recent renovation of Bluemont Hall, which was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony just a few weeks ago.

Regent Benson moved to approve the request, and Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – KSU

Kansas State University President Richard Linton presented a request to name the KSU School of Accountancy within the College of Business Administration the Herbel Family School of Accountancy. Vern and Joan Herbel are both Kansas State graduates—Vern from the College of Business and Joan from the College of Health and Human Sciences. The Herbels have established the Accountancy Excellence Fund. This fund helps meet various needs in the accounting department, including course development, programming, software, student travel, graduate students, and tutoring. Additionally, both Vern and Joan serve on the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees, and Vern is actively involved with the College of Business Administration’s Accounting Department Advisory Council and the Dean’s Advisory Council.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the request, and Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Linton thanked the team responsible for coordinating the KBOR meeting. He acknowledged the tremendous effort and coordination that went into organizing the event. He specifically thanked Kristen Holt from his office, Grant Hill from the President's office, Katie Meyer, Lindley Lunn, and Brett Engelman.

RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND NON-BUDGETARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS (FIRST READ)

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, explained that she and Fred Patton, the Board’s government affairs consultant, would present together. Chief of Staff Oliver noted that the non-budgetary legislative proposals were being presented for a first reading and would return to the Board in December for action. According to Board policy, items that involve changes to or the creation of new legislation must come before the Board in November.

Chief of Staff Oliver outlined seven proposals:

1. Standardizing the interest rates on student financial aid repayment funds to a uniform five percent, as current rates vary.
2. A technical amendment to the adult learner grant program’s agreement requirement that shifts the agreement to one between the student and the office instead of between the student and the institution.
3. A KU request for bonding authority to fund student housing projects.
4. A KUMC request for additional bonding authority for the construction of the Cancer Center building.
5. A KSU request to sell property in Omaha, Nebraska, which includes a veterinary clinic.
6. A KSU request to sell the Unger Complex and associated acreage in Riley County.
7. A KSU request for bonding authority to support the Ag Innovation initiative, which has a total project cost of \$210 million. The initiative has raised most of the funds, and the request is for \$23 million to finalize the project funding.

Fred Patton remarked that with the recent elections having concluded, the focus had now shifted to understanding the new legislative landscape. Mr. Patton noted that nearly 40 new members would be joining the Kansas Legislature. However, he emphasized that despite the influx of new members, there would not be significant changes in the balance of power, as Republicans still held supermajorities in both the House and Senate.

Mr. Patton then mentioned that both the Governor's office and the Legislature were in the process of putting together their budgets. He highlighted a new dynamic this year, as the Legislature would be putting together its own budget, making the process a bit more challenging to navigate. The timing for when higher education would be discussed by the Special Budget Committee was still uncertain, though there were rumors it could take place on the 10th and 11th or the 18th and 19th of December.

Mr. Patton also discussed the schedule for the newly elected members, who would be convening in Topeka on December 2nd to elect new leadership. While there would likely be minimal changes in leadership, a few positions might shift due to members leaving or contested elections. Once the leadership elections are complete, the focus will shift to committee assignments. Some committees might change their focus, and the leadership of those committees could also shift.

Mr. Patton concluded by mentioning that, next month, once the non-budget legislative issues are approved, official bills will be drafted, and work will begin to move those forward.

ADJOURN

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Carl Ice, Chair