



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## **BOARD APPOINTS KU CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR**

### *Drue Jennings to Lead Search Process*

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents appointed Mr. Drue Jennings of Prairie Village to chair the committee responsible for conducting the search for the 17<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Kansas (KU).

“I appreciate Drue’s willingness to lead this search; his previous business, volunteer, and leadership experience is such an invaluable asset,” said Donna Shank, Chair of the Board of Regents. “As a former CEO, Drue has a wealth of business and executive experience and knows firsthand what it takes to lead a large organization. In addition, he is a dedicated alumnus who is deeply knowledgeable about the University, having served in meaningful capacities with the KU Endowment, Medical Center, Edwards Campus, and Athletics Department. I’m confident that Drue’s work will enable the Board to ultimately select a truly outstanding leader who will serve KU for years to come.”

“I’m flattered to be asked to lead this important process,” said Jennings. “Selecting KU’s next chancellor will certainly be a challenging undertaking, one whose result will be particularly critical considering the state’s economic climate and the funding challenges that public higher education institutions face across the nation. However, I’m confident that there will be no shortage of qualified individuals who ultimately seek out this position.”

Jennings, the former-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Kansas City Power and Light Company, will lead a search committee comprised of approximately 15 individuals representing key university and community constituencies such as students, faculty, staff, alumni/endowment, the Board of Regents, the Lawrence community, and the broader state community.

Jennings, a native Kansan, attended KU where he earned a bachelors degree in education in 1968 and a law degree in 1972. He spent much of his career with Kansas City Power and Light, where he started in 1974, was named Chairman and CEO in 1987, and then ultimately retired in 2001. Jennings currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Research Institute, as a Board Member of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, on the KU Medical Center Advancement Board, and as a KU Endowment Trustee. Earlier, Jennings served as KU’s Interim Athletic Director in 2003 where he guided the searches that ultimately brought Athletics Director Lew Perkins and Men’s Basketball Coach Bill Self to KU. He is currently a Senior Counsel with the Kansas City law firm of Shughart Thomson and Kilroy, P.C.

On December 8, KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced that he would retire at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year after what will be 14 years of service as Chancellor. Upon Hemenway's announcement, Board Chair Shank issued the following statement:

"The people of Kansas and KU alumni worldwide have benefited tremendously from Bob Hemenway's service. The accomplishments of the University during his firm and progressive leadership speak for themselves. KU has grown in size, strength, and reputation."

"Under Bob's leadership, KU's academic programs have received increased national recognition; the University has embarked upon ambitious plans to achieve Comprehensive Cancer Center designation; it has made huge strides in the amount of federal research activity taking place on campus; all while maintaining the commitment to providing world class education opportunities for students. These and many other achievements have secured KU's position as a national academic and research leader which will have a lasting impact on the residents of Kansas."

"KU is a stronger institution today as a result of Bob's leadership and unwavering dedication to higher education, and we look forward to celebrating his many achievements in the upcoming months. He has enriched the University and the state of Kansas during his years of service and for that we are truly grateful."

"We are thankful that Bob will continue to serve as the Chancellor through the end of the academic year and will remain at KU in a scholarly capacity following his retirement. In the coming weeks, the Board will formalize the process to conduct a national search for a new Chancellor."

"I wish Bob and his family the very best as they enter a new chapter of their lives. Bob has given unselfishly of his time and talent to the University for the last 13 years and his tenure has been nothing short of remarkable. He will be missed."

Additional chancellor search details can be found on the Board's website at the following link:

<http://www.kansasregents.org/kusearch.html>

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***About the Kansas Board of Regents:***

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (six state universities, a municipal university, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

For more information, contact Kip Peterson at (785) 296-3421 or at [kipeterson@ksbor.org](mailto:kipeterson@ksbor.org).

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at [www.kansasregents.org](http://www.kansasregents.org).

## University of Kansas Chancellor Search Process

Outlined below are the key elements of the process that will guide the Kansas Board of Regents' search for a new Chancellor at the University of Kansas. The expectation is that a new Chancellor will be designated no later than Fall 2009, to assume the Chancellorship at the University of Kansas as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

- 1.Appointment of Search Committee Chair.** The Chair of the Kansas Board of Regents shall appoint the Search Committee Chair, who shall be responsible for leading the process that produces the three to five candidates for Board consideration.
- 2.Appointment of Search Committee.** Upon the joint recommendation of the KBOR Chair, KBOR Vice Chair, Search Committee Chair, and the KBOR President/CEO, the Board will appoint a Committee that includes approximately 15 members, with a diverse array of representatives from the following university and community constituencies: faculty, staff, alumni/endowment, students, Board of Regents, the local/regional community, and the broader state community. The recommendation shall identify prospective Committee Members and describe the process used for determining those who are recommended for Search Committee membership. The expectation is that the Board will appoint the Committee in January, either during its regularly scheduled meeting or during a special meeting called for that purpose.
- 3.Search Committee Charge.** Concurrent with its appointment of the Search Committee, the Board shall adopt a "Charge" that will guide the Committee's work. The Committee's ultimate responsibility is to recommend for Board consideration, the three to five most well-qualified candidates it has identified for the position of Chancellor at the University of Kansas.
- 4."Statement of Leadership Characteristics."** Early in its work, the Committee shall develop and propose for Board approval, a "Statement of Leadership Characteristics"/position description that will describe the key characteristics that are being sought in the person selected to serve as the next KU Chancellor.
- 5.Use of Executive Search Firm.** An executive search firm will be engaged to provide consultation and assistance to the Committee and the Board in the conduct of this search for the next KU Chancellor. The Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, and Search Committee Chair shall, with the assistance of the KBOR President/CEO, select the Executive Search Firm to conduct this work.