

**Kansas Board of Regents  
Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee**

**MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The February 17, 2021 meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Regent Kiblinger at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Regent Kiblinger, Chair Regent Brandau-Murguia	Regent Schmidt	Regent Van Etten
Staff:	Daniel Archer Amy Robinson Natalie Yoza Scott Smathers	Karla Wiscombe Sam Christy-Dangermond Travis White	Tara Lebar Crystal Puderbaugh Marti Leisinger
Others:	Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC Brian Niehoff, K-State Bill Hoyt, PSU David Cordle, ESU Heather Morgan, KACCT Jean Redeker, KU Kim Morse, Washburn Melinda Roelfs, PSU Monette DePew, Pratt CC Robert Klein, KUMC Sarah Leftwich, WSU Tech Steve Loewen, FHTC Tiffany Masson, KHSC	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU Chuck Taber, K-State Cole Shewmake, PSU Howard Smith, PSU Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Kaye Monk-Morgan, WSU Linnea GlenMaye, ESU Mickey McCloud, JCCC Sandy Valenti, ESU Nora Hatton, PSU Scott Lucas, WSU Tech	Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Brad Bennett, Seward County CC Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC Elaine Simmons, Barton County CC Jerry Pope, KCKCC Jane Holwerda, Dodge City CC Kim Zant, Cloud County CC Lori Winningham, Butler CC Luke Dowell, Seward County CC Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC Sarah Robb, Neosho County CC Joel Dickerman, KHSC

Regent Kiblinger welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken for members and presenters.

**Approval of Minutes**

Regent Van Etten moved to approve the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes, and Regent Brandau-Murguia seconded the motion. With no corrections, the motion passed.

**Kansas Health Science Center Update**

Dr. Tiffany Masson and Dr. Joel Dickerman presented an update on the Kansas Health Science Center, located in Wichita. They presented information on the formation of this center last year. They provided an overview of who they are, their model and focus, where they are in their formation timeline, their curriculum, residency development, and scholarly activity.

Regent Van Etten asked if they had an update on internship and residency opportunities. Dr. Dickerman responded they are contracted with a consultant who has identified five Kansas hospitals eligible for residency or would be economically favorable to develop residences. They will work with those hospitals to begin to develop a business plan. They are also exploring a partnership with free-standing clinics for a clinic-based residency that has hospital rotations. Regent Van Etten would appreciate an update when they are farther along in this process.

Regent Brandau-Murguia asked if we cap medical students admitted because of a lack of residency partnerships. Dr. Dickerman responded this is a complex issue but noted there are more residency spots in the United States than current medical graduates. Medicare put a cap on residency spots in 1999 when residencies were growing faster than medical students. He noted if we can get Kansans to apply for residencies, they are more likely to stay in the state after graduation, and that is a driving force to train more medical students in Kansas. This year there was an 18% increase in students applying to medical schools, which shows a tremendous demand, but they will need to build residencies in the future to complete their training. Dr. Dickerman and the Committee further discussed residency and student data.

Regent Schmidt commented that Kansas demographics are changing, and the over age 65 category is growing in rural counties rapidly. It has been difficult to serve rural counties and keep clinics and hospitals open, and he believes another model may need to be looked at to address medical needs in remote counties. He noted this is something to be aware of. Dr. Dickerman noted the Kansas Hospital Association is also looking at different delivery models. He stated this is why they are currently connecting with rural communities to help prepare their students for a future model.

Regent Kiblinger asked on behalf of Robert Klein, KUMC, what the plans are for clinical rotations during medical school. Dr. Dickerman responded they are very community-based, so they anticipate one-third of their students will go to the general Wichita area, including Newton and Derby. Two-thirds of their students will eventually do their clinical rotations in a rural setting such as Dodge City and Garden City. They already have agreements with individual providers to provide that level of training, and this is intentional, so their students get early exposure to these communities.

Regents asked if they could receive another update in the future as residency partnerships become finalized. Dr. Dickerman responded they would be happy to come back and provide updates any time.

### **Low Enrollment Program Reviews**

Last spring, the Board discussed low enrollment programs as one of the 2020-2021 Board Goals. At that time, the Board concluded state universities would review all their undergraduate low enrollment programs under strategic program alignment. The process included an initial review by BAASC and a second and final review by the Board. ESU and PSU presented reports.

- David Cordle provided a summary of the ESU Low Enrollment Program Review. ESU has thirteen programs below the minimum enrollment threshold. ESU discontinued Music Education. ESU is recommending nine programs be continued: 1) Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, 2) Physical Sciences, 3) Business Education, 4) Chemistry, 5) Economics, 6) Modern Languages, 7) Earth Sciences, 8) History, and 9) Political Science. ESU recommends merging Health Education with Physical Education. Finally, they recommend two programs be continued, but with additional review of costs and funding as part of their comprehensive budget reduction process: 1) Theatre and 2) Physics. David provided details of thirteen programs, including numbers of graduates, direct instructional costs, revenues generated, and their rationale for continuation. David noted they calculated direct costs on previous criteria set out for a consistent format for reviews, including costs shared across multiple departments.

Regent Van Etten questioned programs that generate a loss, such as Theatre. David stated most costs are usually from salary and benefits; however, programs such as Theatre and Art have unusually large costs related to non-personnel items, such as resources for productions. Regent Van Etten noted that this is an integral part of the culture and community, but she would like these programs looked at in-depth to reduce the net loss. She noted Physics should also be included due to its net loss. Sciences have relatively higher-paid faculty by nature, and as in the case of Physics, some teach relatively few students. David stated they would look at all possibilities, including potentially merging, but he

emphasized the importance of viewing this in context and think carefully of comparative efficiency opportunities. These are essential programs, and Regent Van Etten noted she wouldn't want these programs to be discontinued.

Regent Kiblinger stated there is a dual purpose in these reviews: 1) To look at programs to see if they are robust and viable and of interest to students, and 2) Are programs sustainable from a financial standpoint. She noted these two things could sometimes be very different, and current circumstances force them to focus more on the financial aspect. Regent Kiblinger thanked ESU for laying out the bigger picture and asked if ESU could provide a brief report on how programs are being affected by the \$4.7 million cuts.

- Howard Smith provided a summary of the PSU Low Enrollment Program Review. PSU listed twenty-five programs below the minimum enrollment threshold. PSU discontinued five programs: 1) Graphic Design, 2) French Language Teacher Ed, 3) Psychology Teacher Ed, 4) Spanish Language Teacher Ed, and 5) Spanish Language and Literature. PSU is in the process of discontinuing seven additional programs: 1) Biology Teacher Ed, 2) Chemistry Teacher Ed, 3) Physics Teacher Ed, 4) Family & Consumer Sciences/Home Economics Teacher Ed, 5) Mathematics Teacher Ed, 6) Teacher Ed and Professional Development, and 7) Clinical Lab Science/Medical Technology/Technologist. Each of these programs will be eliminated as a stand-alone option but will be offered as an emphasis under the existing Bachelor of Science degree in the discipline.

PSU recommended eleven programs be continued: 1) Business Economics, 2) Modern Languages, 3) Geography, 4) Music, 5) Physics, 6) Political Science, 7) Sociology, 8) Math, 9) History, 10) Integrated Studies, and 11) Polymer Chemistry. PSU recommended two programs be continued, but with additional review to evaluate growth potential: 1) Interior Design and 2) International Business. Howard provided details of programs, including numbers of graduates, direct instructional costs, revenues generated, occupational wages, and rationale for continuation.

Regents asked follow-up questions on PSU's newer Interior Design program. The program is coming up on its fifth year, it's in the School of Construction, and there could be some students from other majors taking courses in this program. Discussion was held around the potential employment opportunities and wages for students studying Interior Design and Music. Regent Kiblinger asked if PSU could continue to update the Committee on Interior Design enrollment numbers and provide follow-up information on specific occupations and wages.

Regent Van Etten motioned to place the ESU and PSU reports on the March Board agenda, and Regent Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **General Education (GE) Working Group Update**

Daniel Archer noted there are two steps to building a robust transfer system. The first is creating a common GE package for the entire state, and the second is creating statewide associate degrees. The group started with GE because it is foundational to every program and has the greatest overall student impact. Kansas is surrounded by states that already require a common GE package. Daniel noted KBOR is relatively young in coordinating with community colleges, with just over 20 years of coordination.

In October, colleges and universities were surveyed to identify policies and practices that create barriers in transfer. Daniel organized these responses into three themes and discussed each in detail: 1) Lack of continuity within the system, 2) Specific course or discipline-area issues, and 3) Baccalaureate Degree credit hour requirement barriers. Another survey was conducted to identify commonalities using the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) knowledge and skill areas. Eight areas were identified to build upon based on high or moderate levels of agreement within our system. The group agreed to use five of the eight

areas, with additional information being looked at before finalizing the other three. After the group has finalized the knowledge and skill areas that will guide their work, the next immediate step is to put together groups to write student learning outcomes for these areas. After a GE package is created, Daniel stated the long-term plan is to move into program to program transfer. Only five or six states have done this process, so Kansas would be an early adopter and innovator. According to our data, just over 50% of students enroll in ten program areas, so this would be a natural focus point.

Regent Kiblinger asked about the timeline for completing a GE package. Daniel responded once the knowledge and skill areas have been finalized over the next few months, a timeline will be created for the rest of the process. Regent Kiblinger stated as we look at data for students in Kansas who earn a community college degree and transfer to a university, this is important work for the students in terms of affordability and access.

### **Direct Support Professionals Update**

Regent Schmidt provided an update and thanked Shirley Lefever for the work WSU is doing in this area. WSU met with representatives from KSDE to identify a CTE pathway that will launch in the fall of 2021 between WSU and USD 259. This would allow high school students to enroll in direct support professional courses for concurrent credit to apply towards a bachelor's degree at WSU. This coursework will meet the workforce and academic needs for DSP and is already found within current CTE pathways such as Human Services.

### **Coordinating Council Update**

Regent Kiblinger provided an update from the Coordinating Council. The Council last met on February 1, but conversations and work have continued since this time. She noted the previous recommendation to move the Advantage Kansas concept forward is being finalized. KBOR, community colleges, technical colleges, universities, KSDE, Kansas Chamber of Commerce, and others are coming together to fulfill the Coordinating Council goals.

### **Adjournment**

The next BAASC meeting is March 2, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

Regent Van Etten moved to adjourn the meeting, and Regent Brandau-Murguia seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.