

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**  
MINUTES  
December 18, 2024

The December 18, 2024, meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee was called to order by Chair Mendoza at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka.

MEMBERS PRESENT:           Regent Diana Mendoza, Chair  
                                  Regent Neelima Parasker  
                                  Regent Alysia Johnston

Chair Mendoza requested the agenda be modified to include two programs from the University of Kansas under Board Consent Items. Regent Johnston moved to approve the modification. Following a second by Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Parasker moved that the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried unanimously.

**BOARD CONSENT ITEMS**

**ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY**

Director of Academic Affairs Crystal Puderbaugh followed up on concerns raised about the potential shortage of clinical placements. KBOR contacted WSU and KU Medical Center, who confirmed there were significant challenges in securing clinical placements. She added that these concerns are separate from Rocky Vista University's request for program approval. Program needs or clinical placement availability are not part of the statute or regulation requirements for licensing out-of-state programs to operate in Kansas. Upon review, Rocky Vista University meets the minimum requirements established under K.S.A. 74-32,169 and K.A.R. 88-28-2; therefore, issuing a certificate of approval is recommended. Regent Johnston asked the provosts for their input, to which they responded by echoing concerns regarding a shortage of clinical placements and potential implications for program accreditation. Regent Johnston asked Vice President Monhollon if there were opportunities to advocate for statutory change. Vice President Monhollon responded that he would consult with President Flanders and Chief of Staff Oliver regarding this matter. Chair Mendoza assured the provosts that their concerns are being heard. She then moved to approve Rocky Vista University's degree-granting authority. Following a second by Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS – BA AND BGS IN HEALTH AND SOCIETY AND PSM IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY**

Provost Bichelmeyer shared that KU's Department of Sociology proposing a BA/BGS in Health & Society, an interdisciplinary program. The degree focuses on the understanding of the social context of health. Graduates will be ready for employment or further training in health services research, healthcare management administration, public health, and health policy. The degree is designed to be completed in 120 credit hours. Regarding the PSM in Environmental Geology, Provost Bichelmeyer shared that KU's department of Geology is proposing to elevate the concentration in Environmental Geology to a major. This change would allow greater career advancement for its graduates. Regent Parasker asked Provost Bichelmeyer if there was a push from employers to identify a specific program. Marcia Schulmeister, KU faculty, responded that this degree reaches non-traditional adult learners seeking employment opportunities in Environmental Geology. It is not directly employer-driven, although many

environmental companies offer to cover tuition for this program. She added that one of the program's goals is to create more licensed geologists. The program helps students obtain the credentials needed to sit for the licensure exam. Chair Mendoza moved to approve the BA and BGS in Health and Society and PSM in Environmental Geology. Following a second from Regent Johnston, the motion carried unanimously.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **FIRST 15 INITIATIVE**

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment to more Kansas high school students was a top priority for the Board. The First 15 initiative aimed to offer 15 credit hours at no cost to high school students. The Board believes this initiative will help the college-going rate and serve underrepresented populations. He gave an overview of the working group's charge, timeline, and approach when determining courses. The working group opted to use the Systemwide General Education Buckets for selecting courses, noting they did not include the natural and physical sciences bucket. This decision was due to finding instructors with the proper qualifications and administrative concerns due to the credit hours assigned to labs. He emphasized KBOR's intention to develop and implement this initiative collaboratively and that this initiative is not a mandate or directive. If an institution is unable to offer the First 15, the Board may allow another provider into that service area to offer those courses. Regent Johnston asked if this initiative would do away with Concurrent Enrollment Partnership agreements. Vice President Monhollon responded that it would not replace these agreements. Regent Mendoza expressed her appreciation for the committee and its efforts to expand access to these courses for Kansas students.

### **MATH PATHWAYS AND ENGLISH INITIATIVES**

Associate Director of Academic Affairs Jennifer Bonds-Raacke gave an update on the initiatives' timelines, KBOR-sponsored fall professional development activities, and next steps. She highlighted the high level of participation from all 32 institutions and expressed gratitude for the many external speakers who presented at the professional development sessions. She added that the next steps include the final professional development session in January for math faculty, spring task force meetings, an Executive Implementation Team meeting on March 28, a professional development & FAQ website, and peer support opportunities. She added that the placement measures for English gateway courses were recently approved, and professional development sessions are underway. The English sessions will conclude by April 4. Regent Parasker asked if the goals for the initiatives have been identified. Associate Director Bonds-Raacke responded that they had been guided by the Board-approved policy and that they have been encouraged by national experts to use SMART goals in their assessment. Vice President Monhollon added the work has been laid out in each institution's performance agreement. Regent Johnston added that statistics support the claim that student success rates are better without the obstacle of prerequisite developmental courses.

### **ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond began by outlining the project-based model with five components comprising 20 percent of the new funding for each year. The project-based model will provide institutions with an incentive to move to the practices outlined. She then shared the performance projects timeline, highlighting that the performance agreements were signed by presidents in the Fall of 2023. Gateway Math Courses by program and multiple measures for gateway courses were selected in the Spring/Summer of 2024. A soft launch of Systemwide Course Placement, Gateway Math Courses, Corequisite Support for Math & English, and updated Degree Maps will be implemented in Fall 2025. Full implementation of the projects and updated Degree Maps are expected in Fall 2026. She then shared an example of a Degree Map, with a superscript that communicates to the student which Systemwide General Education requirement each class fulfills. She clarified that courses without a superscript are not part of the Systemwide General Education curriculum. She also noted

that institutions are expected to include the Systemwide General Education coding on the Degree Maps due on July 1, 2025.

**COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA (CCA) LAUNCH**

Vice President Monhollon shared that Kansas recently became the 48<sup>th</sup> state to join the CCA alliance. CCA is dedicated to helping students complete college, promoting corequisite models, and providing degree maps. A formal launch will take place on February 11, 2025, including a workshop on various CCA-related topics.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upon Chair Mendoza's recommendation and the committee's consensus, the next BAASC meeting scheduled for January 2 was canceled. The next meeting will be held on January 15.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Regent Johnston moved to adjourn the meeting. Following a second by Regent Parasker, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.