

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

MINUTES

February 16, 2022

The February 16, 2022, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Cheryl Harrison-Lee at 1:20 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:

- Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair
- Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
- Bill Feuerborn
- Mark Hutton
- Carl Ice
- Shelly Kiblinger
- Cynthia Lane
- Allen Schmidt
- Wint Winter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Hutton moved that the minutes of the January 19-20, 2022 meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Schmidt, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Mason introduced Fort Hays State University's new Vice President of Administration and Finance, Wesley Wintch. Vice President Wintch replaces Michael Barnett, who is retiring after more than 17 years in the role at FHSU.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Harrison-Lee welcomed President Linton to his first Board meeting and announced that tomorrow's meeting (Thursday, February 17, 2022) with the State Board of Education was being canceled because of the weather. She noted that President Flanders will work with the Commissioner to reschedule the joint meeting on a future date. Chair Harrison-Lee stated that the KU Hospital Authority continues to work on its timeline and strategies centered around how it can partner with the higher education system on economic development opportunities. She believes the plan will be developed by this summer. Additionally, she reported that she recorded welcoming remarks for the Open Educational Resources (OER) Conference and noted the importance of expanding the use of OERs.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders introduced the Board Office's new Director of Financial Aid, Leah Nicholson. Director Nicholson previously worked in the Office of Student Financial Aid at the University of Kansas. Additionally, President Flanders reported that in the FY 2022 budget, the Board was appropriated \$20,000 for the Governor's Scholars Program. In the past two years, these funds

were awarded to community and technical colleges with the highest student success index rating. This year, funds will be awarded to three community colleges and one technical college with the highest rating that have not already received funding in the past two years – Allen County Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Labette Community College, and Manhattan Area Technical College. Each college will receive \$5,000 to award five \$1,000 Governor’s Scholarships to students with financial need who are enrolled at the colleges.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Janet Stramel presented the report for the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents. The Council discussed the Board proposal to have rpk GROUP conduct a system-level program analysis. During this review process, the Council would like the Board and the rpk Group to keep in mind that the regions and students served by the universities have different needs especially in the areas related to access and affordability. The members believe that the university missions should lead this work. The Council also discussed the decline in morale on the campuses and believes it is time to invest more in human capital. The Council is encouraged by the Governor’s budget recommendations for higher education and appreciates the Board’s advocacy efforts. Regarding the review of the Advanced Placement (AP) cut scores for college credit, Dr. Stramel reported that the information was shared with the university department heads and noted the results of the review will be shared with the Board in May.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Faber presented the report for the Students’ Advisory Committee. The Committee continued its discussion on organizing the students’ higher education day at the Statehouse. The Committee members plan to meet with their campus administrators before higher education day so that they can better understand how the funds in the Governor’s budget recommendation will be used by the campuses if approved. The Committee also received an update on the progress of the Student Health Center Taskforce and discussed a proposal to recommend that election day be designated as a holiday.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Kiblinger presented the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee report. The Committee received an update from Dr. Tiffany Mason and Dr. Joel Dickerman on the Kansas Health Sciences Center, which is a new medical school in Wichita. The institution achieved pre-accreditation in 2021 and will begin educating students in Fall 2022. The Transfer and Articulation Council presented its annual report, which shows grade point averages earned by transfer students, grade outcomes in specific courses earned by transfer students, and completion rates among students who started at a Kansas two-year college and transferred to a Kansas university. Regent Kiblinger noted the numbers are positive and show that the transfer process is working. She reported that Kansas State University has rescinded its proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Committee received updates on the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council and the Direct Support Professionals work at Wichita State University. It was noted that this program currently allows students to earn four badges and WSU has plans to increase the number of badges offered in late Spring or early Summer 2022.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Hutton reported that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee received multiple reports during its meeting. Mike Lowry with the AGH accounting firm presented the external management review on Kansas State University, with the departure of President Myers. The firm had no findings but did offer suggestions on documenting transactions and updating conflict of interest statements. Kansas State formed a workgroup to update their conflict of interest statements and will review the auditor's recommendations. President Nolte of Dodge City Community College and his financial team talked about the challenges they have had with a conversion in accounting systems that involved a failed conversion of data, staff turnover at the College, as well as a change in audit firms. They believe they will have a draft audit by the end of the week and will be able to move forward with transactions conducted fully in their new accounting system without manual intervention. The Committee will receive updates on the College's progress in the future. Regent Hutton noted that the Committee also received an update from Fort Hays State University's internal auditor, was provided information on how the universities generate their data to calculate their Composite Financial Index, and received financial updates from Emporia State, Wichita State, and Kansas State. The Committee reviewed the fiscal items on today's Board agenda, and Regent Hutton noted that he will be recusing himself from the Consent Agenda vote because he has a conflict of interest with the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus project items. Regarding the item associated with in-house expenditures to be credited towards maintenance assessment, the Committee recommended the following adjustments: 1) that the calculation of in-house expenditures exclude any interest payments on indebtedness, but the principal portion of the debt payment would still be credited, and 2) only those energy conservation projects with a payback of seven years or less be credited to the maintenance assessment.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Regent Harrison-Lee reported that the Retirement Plan Committee approved execution of an amendment to the third-party administrative services contract with PlanWithEase to update cybersecurity provisions. The Committee also reviewed and recommended that the Board approve amendments to the recordkeeping contracts with TIAA and Voya to reduce the revenue requirement, ultimately paid by Plan participants, and update cybersecurity provisions, which are on the Board's consent agenda for consideration. Regent Harrison-Lee also reported that the Committee established a standing subcommittee to assist with monitoring Plan fees and expenses.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Kiblinger moved, with the second of Regent Winter, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried. Because Regent Hutton has a conflict regarding the Kansas State University items under the Fiscal Affairs and Audit section, he left the Board Room and did not participate in the consent agenda vote.

Academic Affairs

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – FHSU

Fort Hays State University received approval to offer a Master of Science in Computer Science (11.0201). This program will total 33 semester credit hours and will be taught online. The estimated cost of the program for the first three years is

as follows: year one - \$103,100, year two - \$102,075, and year three - \$103,062. Student tuition and state funds will finance the program.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – PSU

Pittsburg State University received authorization to offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (11.0701). This program will total 120 semester credit hours. The estimated cost of the program for the first three years is as follows: year one - \$45,112.45, year two - \$59,564.07, and year three - \$175,375.04. Student tuition will finance the program.

PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR AY 2020

The AY 2020 Performance Reports were approved. Below are the approved funding levels for each institution.

Institution	Funding Recommendation
Emporia State University	100% funding
Fort Hays State University	100% funding
Kansas State University	100% funding
Pittsburg State University	100% funding
University of Kansas	100% funding
University of Kansas Medical Center	100% funding
Wichita State University	100% funding
Washburn University/Washburn Tech	100% funding
Allen Community College	100% funding
Barton Community College	100% funding
Butler Community College	100% funding
Cloud County Community College	100% funding
Coffeyville Community College	100% funding
Colby Community College	100% funding
Cowley Community College	100% funding
Dodge City Community College	100% funding
Fort Scott Community College	100% funding
Garden City Community College	100% funding
Highland Community College	100% funding
Hutchinson Community College	100% funding
Independence Community College	100% funding
Johnson County Community College	100% funding
Kansas City Kansas Community College	100% funding
Labette Community College	100% funding
Neosho County Community College	100% funding
Pratt Community College	100% funding
Seward County Community College	100% funding

Flint Hills Technical College	100% funding
Manhattan Area Technical College	100% funding
North Central Kansas Technical College	100% funding
Northwest Kansas Technical College	100% funding
Salina Area Technical College	100% funding
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Science and Technology	100% funding

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

AMENDMENTS TO FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR NEW RESIDENCE HALL AT SALINA POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend its FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan to update the cost of the new residence hall to be constructed on the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus. Current market conditions have caused the project budget to increase from \$7.7 million to \$9.1 million. The construction is expected to begin in April 2022. The updated Program Statement was also approved.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH A SUBSIDIARY OF KSU FOUNDATION – KSU

Kansas State University received authorization to enter into a 30-year master lease agreement with the KSU Real Estate Fund, LLC, a subsidiary of the KSU Foundation. The lease is for the construction of the new residence hall on the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus. Current market conditions have increased the project cost and extended the construction timeline, as noted in the previous item. The lease payments will include the net total cost of debt principal, interest, and other issuance costs plus a five percent management fee on the annual lease payment. Annual payments will be approximately \$470,000 and no payment will be required in the first year. Lease payments will be financed with student housing revenues and the University will backstop the lease payments with its unrestricted revenues. The Polytechnic Campus will also be responsible for all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility. At the termination of the lease, the KSU Real Estate Fund, LLC will convey ownership of the residence hall to Kansas State University.

Governance

CHANGES TO BOARD PRESIDENT AND CEO ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

The changes to the Board President and CEO assessment tool were approved. The changes incorporate references to and the metrics of the Board’s new strategic plan, *Building a Future*, and add clarifying language to Section I: Strategic Direction and Planning, Leadership and Decision Making and Section II: Financial Stewardship.

(Board President and CEO Assessment Tool Filed with Official Minutes)

Retirement Plan

CHANGES TO THE TIAA AND VOYA CONTRACTS

The amendments to the TIAA and VOYA recordkeeping contracts for the Board's Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans were approved. The amendments update provisions related to cybersecurity and add provisions related to missing Plan participants. The amendments also include reductions in TIAA's and VOYA's revenue requirements for recordkeeping services, thereby reducing fees to Plan participants.

Technical Education Authority

EXCEL IN CTE FEES FOR PROGRAMS SUBMITTED BY WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

The Excel in Career Technical Education fees for the below programs were approved:

- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Aviation Maintenance Technology for a total of \$1,200 for Federal Aviation Administration oral and practical exams.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Powerplant for a total of \$1,200 for Federal Aviation Administration oral and practical exams.

Other Matters

UPDATED RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING BOARD'S AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE MANAGEMENT CONTROL OVER SECURITY OF CERTAIN KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RELATED CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO A SECURITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – KSU

The updated Resolution transferring the Board's authority to exercise management control over certain classified information to a Security Executive Committee at Kansas State University was approved. The Resolution was updated to add the University's new President, Dr. Richard Linton.

(Resolution filed with Official Minutes)

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

AMEND AGENDA

Chair Harrison-Lee amended the agenda to remove Ed O'Malley's report (item VI.D.5) and move item VI.A.3 (Receive Annual Report on the Board's Strategic Plan, Building a Future) to the end of the agenda in place of the removed item.

ReportsNEXT STEPS FOR PROGRAM REVIEW

Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, stated that the Board has expressed a desire to reconstruct the academic program review process to increase efficiency and effectiveness at the state universities. Board staff have consulted rpk Group (rpk), a higher education consulting firm that supports clients across the country and internationally to design, build, and implement business models that last, regarding possibilities for such a project. Vice President Archer stated the scope of work that rpk can perform contains two options for the Board: 1) conduct an academic portfolio review, or 2) conduct an academic portfolio review and establish an academic resource utilization framework. Vice President Archer then introduced Richard Staisloff and Katie Hagan with rpk Group to review the proposed project and deliverables.

Mr. Staisloff stated that rpk has worked with hundreds of universities around the nation including the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University and highlighted the system-level work that rpk did for the Vermont State College System, which has a similar scope of work. Mr. Staisloff noted that the makeup of any academic portfolio is complex, and many factors must be considered when evaluating departments and programs. He reviewed how the process would work and noted that there would be constant communication and opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and feedback. Ms. Hagen then reviewed the project goals, which would include the following: 1) understand to what degree the state universities are offering programs that align with student interest and lead to successful outcomes, 2) identify areas of duplication across the state universities and recommend opportunities for academic portfolio optimization to reduce that duplication, 3) determine if the current program offerings meet state and national workforce needs and make recommendations for program investment and reallocation to align offerings with the labor market, 4) assess utilization of current resources and capture opportunities for enhancing efficiency and productivity, and 5) establish framework for evaluation of current academic workload across institutions. Mr. Staisloff stated that at the end of the project, the Board would have a framework that will allow it to make informed decisions based on data while also considering other factors like university mission and workforce needs of the state.

The Board discussed the proposed framework and how the data generated by the process would assist them in their decision-making process. The Regents understand that there will be some uncertainty on the campuses as the project begins, which is why they believe it will be important to have a wide variety of university representatives on the steering committees as the framework is being developed. The Board discussed how the tool will help the system leaders identify areas of growth at the universities and how resources can be used to support those areas. President Scott and Chancellor Girod discussed their experiences with rpk and noted that the provosts, deans, and department chairs use the data from their frameworks to make decisions on programs and resources. However, they also stated that other factors are considered when decisions are made, including university mission, workforce needs of the state, and the needs of the students. Regent Ice commented that not all value in higher education can be measured. Some of it is observed, and he does not want those outcomes overlooked in this process. Regent Hutton asked rpk to keep the Board and university CEOs informed as the process moves forward, and Regents Ice, Schmidt and Winter volunteered to be on a committee, should that prove helpful. Mr. Staisloff stated that rpk would communicate with the Board and CEOs throughout the process and noted the first step

will be to identify those who will serve on the different committees. He also assured the Board that the framework will reflect the different campus missions and cultures but noted it will also provide information on new ways to enhance the missions by focusing on student need and success while also creating greater sustainability. Regent Winter stated that reviewing duplication in the system is part of the process but noted that some program duplication is necessary in order to meet the workforce needs of the state. Mr. Staisloff concurred and stated that rpk would look at demand, location of programs, and mission when assessing duplication. Following discussion, Regent Kiblinger moved to approve moving the project with the rpk Group forward, including both an academic portfolio review and an academic resource utilization framework. Regent Schmidt seconded, and the motion carried.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

INFORMATION ON HOW THE KU MEDICAL CENTER IS ADDRESSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAPS IN HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

Dr. Akinlolu Ojo, Executive Dean in the School of Medicine, presented information on how the University of Kansas Medical Center is addressing recruitment and retention gaps in its student, residence program, and faculty populations. Dr. Ojo spoke about the health disparities associated with rural communities, racial and ethnic minorities, and other marginalized groups and noted that studies have shown that these disparities in health outcomes are not based on biological factors. In order to address health disparities, the Medical Center will focus on increasing the diversity of the healthcare workforce and increasing the diversity and cultural competency of clinicians. Dr. Ojo reviewed the student enrollment data for academic year 2021-2022. Of the 859 students, 18.9 percent came from a rural community in Kansas and about 14 percent identify as an underrepresented minority. Dr. Ojo stated that over the past five years Black, Hispanic, and rural Kansas enrollments has stayed flat and noted that out of the 156 medical centers in the nation, KU is ranked in the 48th percentile for Black or African-American enrollments and in the 50th percentile for Hispanic and Latino enrollments. Dr. Ojo stated that the level of scholarship funding and need-based aid offerings have been a barrier for attracting and retaining minority and rural students to the Medical Center. To help address this issue, the Medical Center recently awarded eight Barbara Sheffield Medical Scholarships to African-American students. The Government Employees Health Association sponsored this scholarship and committed \$6 million. Dr. Ojo noted that the Association renewed its scholarship commitment for 2022. Dr. Ojo also spoke about the student pipeline issues and shared data on the Graduate Medical Education Resident Recruitment Process. He noted that the Medical Center has a new Urban Scholars Pipeline Program that is designed to increase the medical school applicant pool of underrepresented populations from Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. To address faculty recruitment and retention issues, the Medical Center has hired a Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, improved its competitive hiring practices and increased its outreach programs.

Regent Lane wanted to know what the main barriers are for not attracting minorities, specifically African-American males, into the medical field. Dr. Ojo noted the biggest barrier for the Medical Center is the inability to compete with scholarship offerings at other institutions. On average, the Medical Center is able to offer \$12,000 per year in scholarship funding to students. Other institutions are offering \$20,000 per year. Dr. Ojo stated that increasing scholarship levels for all medical students is a top priority for KU. Regent Lane noted the importance of increasing the

state's need-based aid to help address these issues. Regent Harrison-Lee asked how the system can better prepare students for jobs in the medical professions. Dr. Ojo stated it would require more faculty and resources to be able to push preparational materials to students while they are at the high school and college level.

(PowerPoint filed with Official Minutes)

BREAK

Chair Harrison-Lee called for a break at 2:58 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

IN-HOUSE EXPENDITURES TO BE CREDITED TOWARDS MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, stated that last month the Board was presented a proposed methodology for crediting the universities' in-house expenditures toward their annual maintenance assessment. He reviewed the proposed percentages of each department and the rationale for including them in the methodology, which is outlined below.

Building Maintenance: 90%

General Department Description: Staff of qualified trade workers in multiple disciplines, including carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), and keys/locks are responsible for a range of routine preventive maintenance and minor repairs, as well as, responding to unplanned/reactive maintenance arising from critical emergent circumstances.

Rationale: The building maintenance departments are dedicated to campus building and infrastructure maintenance and directly contribute to the intent of the maintenance assessment.

Campus Planning / Project Management: 75%

General Department Description: Staff of architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) professionals, responsible for planning, design, and construction project management services, campus space management and campus master planning.

Rationale: Campus planning staff are involved in all stages of capital improvements and maintenance projects on campus including professional planning, design, prioritization, management, and phasing/coordination of academic programmatic needs with deferred maintenance priorities. This department also maintains all space and facilities data sets critical to the maintenance assessment program.

Central Plant / Utilities / Energy Management: 25%

General Department Description: Staff of skilled trade workers, technicians, and operators responsible for physical utilities and campus infrastructure. (Note: this does not include costs for utility bills)

Rationale: Central plant staff are critical to daily operations but also contribute directly to the maintenance and upkeep of pumps, heat exchangers, and steam generation equipment, as well as university owned utility infrastructure.

Custodial / Building Services: 5%

General Department Description: Custodial and building services staff provide routine and periodic cleaning services to the campus community to promote healthy, safe, and clean learning and working environments.

Rationale: Most custodial services support the daily operation and functionality of campus spaces, some tasks such as routine cleaning and maintenance of floor finishes are directly applicable to extending the useful life of such building materials.

Landscape / Grounds: 5%

General Department Description: Responsible for mowing, weeding, trimming, pruning, and ice/snow removal.

Rationale: Most landscape and grounds services support the upkeep of the areas adjacent to the exterior perimeter of campus buildings ensuring that walkways and gathering areas are free from debris and vegetation overgrowth, however, some tasks such as management of proper water drainage and management of vegetation that could compromise building facades are directly applicable to preserving the useful life of building systems and structures.

Director Bristow stated if approved, the in-house expenditures will be applied toward the maintenance assessment gradually over three consecutive years – one-third of the expenditures in the first, two-third in the second, and by the third year, campuses will have credit for 100 percent of the defined percentages of operating costs that can be counted toward the maintenance assessment target.

Director Bristow then reviewed the additional provisions the Board can consider for crediting specific expenditures toward the maintenance assessment. These include counting 100 percent of the expenditures for demolition of obsolete buildings regardless of funding source, applying debt service for bonded projects that contribute to maintenance and/or renewal of facilities, carrying over the hard costs of capital expenses to the next year's target for projects that exceed the scheduled annual maintenance assessment for a given year, and applying expenditures of interest earned on tuition revenues as provided in K.S.A. 76-719 for facilities maintenance and renewal. Director Bristow noted the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee reviewed the additional provisions and recommended the following adjustments regarding debt service: 1) that the calculation of in-house expenditures exclude any interest payments on indebtedness, but the principal portion of the debt payment would still be credited, and 2) only those energy conservation projects with a payback of seven years or less be credited to the maintenance assessment. Director Bristow also noted that with the annual maintenance assessment beginning in FY 2023, the first annual report of expenditures will be submitted on October 1, 2023.

Regent Hutton moved to approve the methodology for crediting in-house facilities base-operating expenditures towards the universities' annual maintenance assessment requirement based on the percentages, descriptions, and rationale as indicated above including the additional provisions with the added language regarding debt service and energy performance projects that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee recommended. Regent Lane seconded, and the motion carried.

Academic Affairs

REGENTS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP – KU

Chancellor Girod nominated Dr. Donna Ginther as a Regents Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Kansas. Per Board policy, the purpose of the Regents Distinguished Professorship is to attract and retain established scholars whose research projects augment the state's economic and industrial development. The Chancellor stated that Dr. Ginther's research has contributed to the state and noted her studies in scientific labor markets, gender differences in employment outcomes, wage inequality, and children's educational attainments, which supports KU's and the Board's strategic plans to advance the Kansas economy. Regent Ice moved to approve, and Regent Winter seconded. The motion carried.

Other Matters

GRADUATION TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Vice President Archer stated that at last month's Board meeting the State Board of Education's Graduation Requirement Taskforce presented an update on a plan to revise its high school graduation requirements. The co-chairs of the Taskforce (Jim McNiece and Jarred Fuhrman) asked for feedback from the Board of Regents on what the higher education system sees as important requirements. Dr. Archer reviewed the summary of courses that the Taskforce's subcommittee is reviewing and noted that currently the recommendation only includes three units of math. Dr. Archer stated that math skills are critical for higher education preparation and success as well as workforce development and suggested that the Board may want to recommend four units of math instead of three. He noted that research shows that students who complete a college-level math course by the end of the first academic year are more likely to earn a higher education credential and high school students who take a math course their senior year are better prepared for college level math. Vice President Archer spoke about implementing math pathways in the higher education system, which would allow students to take a general education college-level mathematics course that is well-matched with their major or program of study.

The next recommendation for the Board to consider is requiring high school students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). He noted during the September joint meeting with the State Board of Education, this requirement was discussed and recapped that in Kansas less than half of 2021 high school graduates (46.9 percent) completed the FAFSA form, which placed Kansas 36th in the nation in FAFSA completion. Dr. Archer stated that the FAFSA completion rate is an important indicator because it is linked to higher college-going rates.

The final recommendation for consideration is to continue to support concurrent enrollment participation. Dr. Archer stated that data on students who take concurrent and/or dual enrollment courses have higher levels of achievement on several short-term and long-term collegiate success

measures. These students also outperform non-concurrent/dual students when subpopulations are examined.

The Board discussed the importance of elevating student math skills to better prepare them for postsecondary education and the workforce. Regent Kiblinger and Regent Lane noted that the higher education system needs move forward with implementing math pathways, which other states have already implemented. Regent Kiblinger noted that having math pathways in place may help with recruitment and retention. Regent Winter's only concern on requiring a fourth unit of math is for those students who struggle with math and how it may impact their ability to graduate high school.

The Board discussed the FAFSA completion requirement, and several Regents voiced their concerns that it may have unintended consequences. It was noted that the form is difficult to fill out and that some students may not have the information to complete it. Regent Ice wanted to know if the other states that have implemented this requirement have had any negative impact on their high school graduation rates. Dr. Archer stated that Louisiana implemented this requirement in 2018 and has seen an increase in their college-going rate. However, he has not looked at whether it has had any impact on their high school graduation rate. Regent Hutton believes it is important to create a vision on what higher education can do for individual students and does not know if requiring the FAFSA is the right approach. However, if having students fill out the form is a trigger to begin the conversation about the higher education system and what it can do for the students, then he fine with the recommendation. Regent Schmidt expressed his concern of creating an unfunded mandate for the schools to implement this recommendation but also believes it is important to develop strategies to address the declining college-going rate. President Flanders stated that this approach has shown to be successful by increasing the college-going rates of states that have implemented the requirement. He then reviewed the college-going rate data for Kansas over the last ten years, which has dropped by almost ten percentage points since 2010. Regent Rolph stated that he understands that this requirement will not completely fix the college-going rate issue for the state but believes it will have a positive impact. He also noted that the State Board of Education is willing to partner with the Board on this issue. Regent Harrison-Lee concurs that it is important to support the FAFSA requirement.

Regent Lane stated that she would like the Board to also consider adding the following items to its recommendation: 1) requiring a computer science course, 2) changing the language on concurrent enrollment recommendation to include "expand concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities," and 3) noting the Board's desire to engage with the Taskforce to increase collaboration. Regent Lane noted that computer science and information technology skills are required in most jobs, which is why it is important for students to take courses in these areas. President Flanders noted that a legislative bill was introduced to promote computer science courses in the high schools and that the higher education system would be tasked to produce more instructors with computer science skills. Regent Kiblinger concurred and noted that this is also a priority of the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council.

Regent Schmidt stated he believes the FAFSA completion requirement needs more discussion. He then moved to approve recommending to the Taskforce that they consider including a fourth unit of math and expanding the concurrent and dual enrollment participation. Regent Winter seconded.

Regent Hutton stated that these are only recommendations for the Taskforce and State Board of Education to consider, and he does not want to delay the Board's action on the FAFSA requirement. Regent Hutton then offered a substitute motion to approve all three recommendations as presented with the expanded concurrent enrollment participation language. Regent Rolph seconded, and the motion carried.

Regent Schmidt stated that he would still like to look at ways to fund the FAFSA requirement. He also spoke about the students who graduate high school but do not pursue a postsecondary education and wanting to be able to identify these individuals to determine why they are not pursuing a higher education degree or certificate.

Regent Lane asked if the Board would consider her additional recommendations. Regent Kiblinger moved to recommend adding a computer science course and language expressing the Board's desire to engage with the Taskforce to increase collaboration. Regent Lane seconded, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE RICHARD B. MYERS AS PRESIDENT EMERITUS AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

President Linton presented a Resolution nominating Richard B. Myers as President Emeritus at Kansas State University. Regent Ice moved that the Kansas Board of Regents confer upon Richard Myers the title of President Emeritus of Kansas State University. Regent Kiblinger seconded, and the motion carried.

(Resolution filed with Official Minutes)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Matt Casey, Director of Government Relations, reported that this is the sixth week of the legislative session, and the system has been busy providing testimony on budgetary and non-budgetary items. He noted that February 27 is the Legislature's "turnaround" day, which is the first major deadline of the session and signifies the movement of non-exempt bills from one chamber to the other. Director Casey reported that this week the system leaders have been presenting testimony to the budget subcommittees in the House and Senate. Next week the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee will receive their subcommittee's recommendations on the higher education budget. Regarding the Board's non-budgetary items, Director Casey reported that the Senate Education Committee passed the amendments to the Promise Act, and the bill is scheduled to go the Senate floor for action. He also reported that the Senate Taxation Committee introduced a bill that would discontinue the one mill property tax for the Educational Building Fund and replace those funds with a State General Fund appropriation. The Board office is also tracking House Bill 2466, which promotes computer science courses in the high schools. Director Casey noted this bill was passed out of the House Education Committee and contains a provision that authorizes the Board of Regents to award scholarships (subject to appropriations) to licensed and preservice teachers taking computer science courses.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHARGE

The proposed membership for the Emporia State University Presidential Search Committee was presented along with the Committee charge. Regent Kiblinger highlighted the language in the Charge that directs the Search Committee to recommend to the Board at its March 2022 meeting a “Statement of Leadership Characteristics” or “Presidential Profile,” outlining the criteria for the position of President. The Board wants the Committee to consider including leadership attributes that demonstrate strong skills in attracting and retaining students including those from populations historically underserved by higher education, leadership and decision making, innovation, fundraising and financial stewardship, economic and job growth collaborations, consensus building, change management, relationship building, talent development, recruitment of diverse talent, and execution of a strategic plan. She also noted that the Committee is to present to the Board an unranked list of four to five candidates who are the most qualified for Board selection as the next President of Emporia State University. Regent Kiblinger then moved to approve the ESU Presidential Search Committee membership and Committee charge. Regent Schmidt seconded, and the motion carried.

(ESU Presidential Search Committee Members and Charge filed with Official Minutes)

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

President Flanders presented the annual report of the Board’s strategic plan, *Building a Future*. The plan contains the following three messaging pillars: 1) Kansas families, 2) Kansas businesses, and 3) Kansas economic prosperity. President Flanders reviewed the structure of the plan, which contains areas of focus, dashboard metrics (lagging indicators), progress metrics (leading indicators), and promising practices.

President Flanders highlighted some of the metrics under Pillar One. In the Affordability category, President Flanders shared data on graduation rates, student loan default rates, students taking 30 credit hours per year, and retention rates. He noted that on-time graduation is one of the most effective ways of reducing the cost of attendance at a college or university. Over the past five years state universities increased their rates by 9.6 percentage points and the community colleges increased their rates by 6.5 percentage points. The data associated with the student loan default rates shows that Emporia State University’s rate is substantially less than their peer institutions, and President Flanders noted that the practices at ESU could serve as model for best practices. President Flanders also highlighted that the state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges have increased their retention rates over the last five years.

In the Access category, President Flanders highlighted the enrollment gaps and college going rate metrics. The enrollment gaps are measured by looking at the 18 to 24-year-old Kansas population and comparing it to resident enrollment in the same age group in the categories of race/ethnicity and rural/non-rural. For 2021, the data show that the public universities have a 5.0 percentage point gap between the Kansas Hispanic population and the Kansas resident Hispanic students, a 3.4 percentage point gap between the Kansas African American population and the Kansas resident African American students, a 13.3 percentage point gap for rural students, and a 5.2 percentage point gap in the Pell-eligible population. President Flanders noted that while these gaps may not always seem large, they will be difficult to eliminate as universities must double the number of

these students they serve in some instances. President Flanders stated that the enrollment gaps in these categories will also vary between individual institutions and noted that the universities may take different approaches to address their gaps. He also stated that he wanted to further examine the Pell-eligible measurement because it is difficult to calculate who can qualify for Pell. Regarding the college going rate, President Flanders stated that the rate continues to decline, which is concerning, and noted the importance of continuing to work with the State Board of Education to identify and implement strategies to address the declining rate.

Under the Success category, President Flanders reviewed the percentage of graduates in jobs with sustaining wages and the number of degrees and certificates awarded. He reminded everyone that the benchmark for sustaining wages is set at 250 percent of the federal poverty level, meaning that a graduate must earn at least \$32,000 to be in a job with a sustaining wage. The data shows that five years after graduation, the majority of individuals who completed a certificate, associate degree, or a bachelor's degree hold jobs with sustaining wages. Regarding degrees and certificates awarded, President Flanders noted the system awarded 42,936 in 2021, which is down 2.3 percent from 2020 but is an increase of 0.2 percent from 2016. He also reported that he is consulting with the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council and the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas to develop an attainment goal for the system.

President Flanders stated that Pillar Two focuses on the crucial role that the colleges and universities play in developing a workforce. Under the Talent Pipeline category, special initiatives and enrollment and graduation rates in programs that lead to high demand, sustaining wage jobs are measured. In January 2021, institutions selected programs that lead to jobs in fields that are important to the state economy and local employers and are working to increase enrollments and graduations in those programs. Regarding special initiatives, President Flanders reviewed the progress on the University Engineering Initiative and the Excel in CTE Initiative. He also reported that the research universities continue to expand their research funding.

President Flanders reported the third Pillar, Economic Prosperity, demonstrates how the higher education system supports economic growth in Kansas. This pillar emphasizes the intentional economic development activities of the institutions. Each institution will focus on a mix of its existing strengths and emerging capabilities that together uniquely position the higher education system to partner with business and industry to create jobs and grow the economy. He reported that last month the Board received an update on economic prosperity plans for Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University and noted that Fort Hays State University, Emporia State University, and Pittsburg State University are in the process of drafting their plans.

The Board discussed the report, and Regent Schmidt requested the data tables behind the charts on enrollment gaps for race/ethnicity, rural and Pell status. Regent Winter agrees with Regent Schmidt that the system needs to identify ways to collect information on the students who graduate high school but do not pursue a postsecondary education. He asked President Flanders to develop recommendations on how the system can engage with high school students to understand why they may not pursue a higher education. Regent Kiblinger stated that the college going rate should be a topic for the joint meeting with the State Board of Education.

(Report filed with Official Minutes)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harrison-Lee adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Chair