

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
MINUTES  
April 17, 2024

The April 17, 2024, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 1:34 p.m. The meeting was held at Fort Hays State University Memorial Union 700 College Drive, Hays, KS 67601. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jon Rolph, Chair
- Carl Ice, Vice Chair
- Blake Benson
- John Dicus
- Alysia Johnston
- Cynthia Lane
- Neelima Parasker
- Wint Winter
- Diana Mendoza

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regent Ice moved that the minutes of the March 20-21, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Following the second of Regent Benson, the motion carried.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

President Flanders introduced Robyn Meinholdt, who will be supporting the Board administratively as Senior Administrative Associate. President Flanders also announced April White's new role as Vice President for Workforce Development.

**GENERAL REPORTS**

**REPORT FROM CHAIR**

Chair Rolph expressed pride in the Board, universities and coordinated institutions, and appreciation for their collaborative efforts, including through the current legislative session.

Chair Rolph also shared a recent experience at a Greater Wichita Partnership meeting highlighting the partnership between WSU Tech and USD 259. He praised the partnership's workforce readiness center, which is focused on the aviation industry. He noted that 100 percent of the last class was hired by Textron. The partnership's efforts in hosting summer camps for middle school students were highlighted.

Chair Rolph also emphasized the importance of partnerships between K-12, two-year, and four-year institutions, citing examples of students obtaining multiple qualifications simultaneously. He concluded his report by encouraging continuing existing and considering future partnerships between the institutions, emphasizing the benefits for the state.

### REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders provided an update on current issues and initiatives, particularly focusing on federal financial aid and FAFSA completion rates. President Flanders expressed concern over a 36 percent decrease in FAFSA completion rates compared to the same period last year. He highlighted this as a significant area of concern and emphasized the need to reach as many students as possible by the end of the school year.

President Flanders recognized Highland Park High School for being selected as the American College Application Campaign's 2023 School of Excellence. This recognition was based on Highland Park's efforts during the local Apply Kansas event, which aims to assist first-generation students.

President Flanders mentioned ongoing efforts to assist first-generation students, including collaboration with institutions and student financial aid officers. Lunch and learn sessions have been organized to provide accurate and up-to-date information on financial aid. These sessions will be held on April 18, April 25, and May 2 from 12:00 to 12:45, with resources posted on Kansas Board of Regents website.

Finally, President Flanders shared the positive news that four K-State extension offices are now offering FAFSA assistance. Offices in Gray County, Butler County, Lyon County, and the regional office covering Republic, Washington, Cloud, and Clay Counties are now part of this network. This extension network aims to help students complete the federal application, with hopes of improving completion rates.

### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Don Von Bergen provided an update on the progress of approving a common set of criteria for the Board of Regents Faculty of the Year Award. As of April 17, 2024, five universities have approved the common criteria proposed by the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents. Another university is in the process of approval, which is expected to be completed by April 30. One university did not approve the criteria. Dr. Von Bergen expressed hope that universities that did approve the criteria will continue the nomination process, with recognition anticipated for faculty at those institutions that agreed to the common criteria.

Dr. Von Bergen requested to have the Council's last official meeting for the year, scheduled for May 15, 2024, at the Board Office in Topeka. This meeting will serve as a transition meeting to welcome new presidents. It will include briefings, a tour of the office, and an introduction to the Board's structure.

Chair Rolph acknowledged the request and suggested discussing the process around it. He mentioned that if everyone agreed, it would involve the faculty senates.

### REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Caleb Stout presented the Students' Advisory Committee report. He thanked Fort Hays State University for hosting the meeting and recommended visiting the student center.

The Committee discussed tuition and fees. The Committee members exchanged information on the current state of these costs at their respective campuses and discussed the processes for reviewing student fees.

The Committee next addressed the topic of food insecurity, following up on a previous meeting where Stout introduced the concept of "food for fines." This initiative involves repaying or waiving parking violations with a donation to a campus food pantry. Data on parking violations from each university was collected and compared.

While a one-size-fits-all program may not work, the discussion reopened the dialogue on the importance of food security. Stout emphasized the recurring issue of food insecurity on campuses, reflecting student concerns. He highlighted the short terms of student representatives and the enduring issue of food insecurity.

Stout expressed students' passion to contribute to solutions but acknowledged their limitations in effecting change. He concluded his report by reiterating the importance of addressing food insecurity on campuses.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Regent Lane presented the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) report. The Committee did not meet on April 4. Today's Committee meeting began with Fort Hays State University Provost Jill Arensdorf highlighting unique events on campus, providing insight into ongoing activities.

BAASC focused on two main topics during today's meeting. First, the Committee approved the rubric for the Academic Year 2024 performance reports. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the program review report process. Campuses are to submit their on-campus review results by the end of this week. The Committee will meet on April 30 and May 15 to review recommendations from each campus. A meeting is scheduled for June 4 to finalize recommendations which will come to the full Board for approval on June 19.

Next, Board Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon updated BAASC on topics including math pathways and efforts to support FAFSA completion led by Mistie Knox.

Lastly, BAASC received good news reports from each campus. Regent Lane proposed creating a video compilation of these reports to showcase the value of higher education.

### **FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT**

Regent Benson presented the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee report. The Committee reviewed the budgets for fiscal year 2025 as a first read for the three Johnson County Educational Research Triangle (JCERT) entities: KU Medical Center, KU Edwards, and K-State Olathe. These budgets must be approved for the following year in compliance with state statute authorizing the one-eighth cent Johnson County sales tax. The Board will review the budgets at the May meeting after the JCERT Authority approves them, which was scheduled for the following Monday. JCERT

funding has been instrumental in launching KU's Clinical Research Center, leading to increased revenue from clinical trials. Mary Damewood, Finance Director at KU Medical Center, explained how the Center for Clinical Research utilizes its revenues to conduct early-phase trials, serving over six hundred patients annually. She highlighted the significant increase in clinical revenue, which has surged from less than one million dollars to over \$12.3 million, indicating remarkable progress in this area.

KU Edwards has experienced a 20 percent annual enrollment growth in JCERT programs, accounting for over 51 percent of the courses at the campus. If a program fails to generate adequate interest from students, adjustments will be made. Additionally, once a program becomes self-sustaining or is transferred to another academic unit, it is unwound from JCERT support. KU Edwards Campus' Vice Provost Stuart Day emphasized collaboration with a Workforce Advisory Board to develop relevant programs during the update.

K-State Olathe Dean Ben Wolfe discussed the campus' dual mission in academics and research, focusing on animal health, food security, and advanced manufacturing. K-State Olathe aims to diversify revenues and increase enrollment through non-credit and bachelor's programs. K-State aims to achieve an enrollment of five hundred students at the Olathe campus. Additionally, K-State Olathe is seeking to diversify its revenues for long-term sustainability. Strategic use of JCERT reserves and external research revenues is planned to strengthen industry partnerships. Now K-State Olathe is aiming to reach \$3 million per year for external research revenues and to enhance local industry partnerships.

The Committee discussed improving coordination among the JCERT campuses. It acknowledged existing coordination and encouraged further collaboration to optimize JCERT funding.

The Committee reviewed the items related to fiscal affairs on the Board's April 17 agenda. A property purchase proposal from K-State was discussed. The Board's Director of Facilities Chad Bristow announced the launch of a new space analysis tool developed over the last two years to aid in space management decisions.

#### GOVERNANCE

Chair Rolph reported that the Governance Committee conducted a second reading of a policy amendment regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion statements in admissions and faculty hiring. The amendment was approved by the Committee for consideration by the Board in that afternoon's session.

The Committee also reviewed the Board's building naming policy. It approved a three-year subscription for business intelligence software used to manage public portals like the Building a Future dashboard. And it received a campus safety and security report from Fort Hays State University. The Committee then entered executive session to discuss CEO compensation for fiscal year 2025.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Benson moved to approve the consent agenda; Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit*AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE DELP F 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR OFFICES – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) received authorization to amend its FY 2024 capital improvement plan to add the Internal Medicine Delp F 4th Floor Offices renovation project. The program statement was also accepted. To support the University of Kansas Medical Center Internal Medicine Department, KUMC is centralizing clinical research office space and documentation to 9,360 square feet on the fourth floor of Delp F. This renovation will upgrade the beyond-useful-life office space and include a new mechanical system, electrical distribution, and add fire suppression, increase life safety features, and reduce deferred maintenance. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,810,055 to be paid with Internal Medicine departmental sources.

AMEND FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR SALINA FACILITIES MAINTENANCE COMPLEX – KSU-SALINA

Kansas State University received authorization to amend its Fiscal Year 2024 capital improvement plan for the K-State Salina facilities maintenance and storage buildings. The revised program statement was also accepted. A 9,600 square foot facilities maintenance building will replace the existing offices and shops. Construction is expected to begin in Fall 2024. A second stand-alone structure will be a 4,800 square foot storage building. Construction will begin once funding is available. Due to inflationary factors and project amendments, the project budget has increased from \$1,940,182 to \$3,193,734. The project will be funded by general use revenues and philanthropic funds.

APPROVAL TO RAZE MORSE HALL SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST AND ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FY 2024 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – ESU

Emporia State University received authorization to raze Morse Hall South and Morse Hall Southeast. The concrete and brick structures were built in 1961 and 1963. The total project cost to raze Morse South and Southeast is estimated at \$2.76 million. Abatement, razing, and other associated costs are estimated at \$2.1 million, with the remaining \$650,000 budgeted for the relocation of the remaining departments still in those buildings. The Board approved allocating \$1,913,437 from the FY 2024 Building Demolition Fund appropriation for the demolition. If other funding becomes available for the renovation of existing campus space for the purpose of relocating the current tenants of these buildings, Emporia State University will request sufficient funds necessary for associated renovation and relocation costs.

*Technical Education Authority*DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS SUBMITTED BY ALLEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Allen Community College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate A for 17 credit hours, Technical Certificate B for 32 credit hours, and an Associate of Applied Science for 60 credit hours in Machining & Manufacturing Technology.

PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY ALLEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Allen County Community College received approval for Machining & Manufacturing Technology (48.0501) to become a Promise Act eligible program.

EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES SUBMITTED BY ALLEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Allen Community College received approval for the following Excel in CTE fees:

- Machining & Manufacturing Technology total \$85. Fees include \$50 for work boots and \$35 for OSHA 10 certification.

AY 2025 EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES

The Academic Year 2025 Excel in CTE fees were approved.

(Fees filed with official minutes)

*Other Matters*INVESTMENT LINE-UP CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLAN

The Board approved adding the PIMCO International Bond (USD-Hdg) Institutional fund as a Voluntary Retirement Plan investment option. The change will be effective on or about July 1, 2024, or as soon thereafter as administratively feasible.

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA***Fiscal Affairs & Audit*CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS AND FIVE-YEAR PLANS FOR FY 2026 – UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (FIRST READ)

Chad Bristow presented the first read of the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Requests and Five-Year Plans, highlighting the longstanding process of the Board to review capital requests each spring. Director Bristow explained the campus planning and budgeting process, which requires each university to submit a campus master plan every ten years, to be updated more frequently as a best practice, and to be presented to the Board for informational purposes every three years per KBOR policy. He provided updates on the status of master plans for the state universities. Wichita State University anticipates completing its campus master plan for review and approval sometime

this spring or summer. Similarly, KU-Lawrence is in the process of completing its plan, with an expected completion date this fall, along with the Medical Center's Master plan which is updated annually by their professional facilities staff. Fort Hays State University has made noteworthy progress on its master plan but is also developing a digital master plan and will likely be available for review and approval later this year or possibly sooner. Kansas State University has just begun its process, and its update is expected to be presented to the Board late in 2025 or early in 2026. Emporia State University and Pittsburg State University are both in the initial stages of their campus planning update processes.

Director Bristow emphasized that capital improvement plans are typically developed based on the campus master plan updates. During this cycle, in March, the universities submit their lists of capital improvement projects expected to exceed \$1.5 million in construction costs to the Board. In April, the Board conducts a first read to become familiar with the priorities. In May, the Board typically approves the plans. Then, the Board Office compiles all the institutions' capital plans under one cover and submits them to the Division of the Budget by July 1st. During the interim session, the Universities present to the Joint Committee on State Building Construction. Finally, during the legislative session, the budget is approved, including capital projects. Throughout this cycle, the Board will see requests for amendment of the capital plans as the universities adjusting are priorities, shifting focus, and seizing opportunities as they arise.

Director Bristow outlined the process for approving and executing projects. He presented a bar graph illustrating potential expenditures for each university in the FY 2026 capital plan, indicating projects projected for completion from FY 2026 through FY 2031. He further broke down expenditures by project types based on the standard categories for capital improvement projects defined by the Kansas Division of the Budget. He also underscored the importance of demolition projects in reducing the deferred maintenance liability.

Next, Director Bristow discussed a graph comparing mission-critical buildings to the entire building portfolio, emphasizing the substantial maintenance needs. He discussed deferred capital renewal and maintenance, explaining how it accrues over time due to inadequate funding. If all the mission-critical academic buildings were replaced as they exist now, the estimated cost would be \$8.3 billion. However, if all the buildings on state grounds were to be replaced, including housing, athletics, student unions, and all other non-mission-critical buildings, the estimated cost would be \$13.2 billion. This accounts for a total of 1,149 buildings, compared to the 498 currently designated as mission-critical buildings.

Director Bristow then discussed the Board's facilities renewal initiative, highlighting its multifaceted approach to address the issue. He explained the new policy framework for funding maintenance, focusing on a 2 percent annual reinvestment based on estimated current replacement value. In the past each year, the amount of funding available typically has not met the need. Consequently, there are things that the facilities teams would have liked to do but could not afford, resulting in these needs rolling over to the next budget cycle and even the next decade. When funding does not meet the need, deferred capital renewal and maintenance accrues over time exponentially.

In FY 2023, the Legislature and the Governor supported additional funding for facilities, which was divided between capital renewal, maintenance, and demolition. The universities prioritized twenty buildings that have either already been razed or currently being planned for demolition. This represents an increase in the annual expenditure on renewal. This problem is being addressed from multiple angles. By spending more each year, the backlog can be reduced. Additionally, buildings that are obsolete or no longer serving the mission are identified. Divesting from these facilities helps by avoiding their deferred maintenance costs. While this is a journey and the problem will not be solved in two, five, or ten years, this initiative will make a real difference over time.

Director Bristow highlighted this year's legislative appropriations as well as the Campus Restoration Act, which provides stable funding for the facilities renewal initiative over six years beginning in FY 2026.

Finally, Director Bristow provided his recommendations for the Board's consideration of the capital improvement requests and five-year plans. One is to approve the universities' FY 2026 capital improvement request and five-year plans as they have been submitted, contingent upon: a commitment to the sustained progress of the Board's facilities renewal initiative, particularly maintaining the annual reinvestment of two percent of the replacement value of the mission-critical buildings; and each university presenting their campus master plans for Board approval, showing how each project supports the strategic campus plan and serves the institutional mission.

Regent Johnston asked whether there is an estimate for the deferred maintenance liability on the non-critical mission buildings. Bristow explained that while the universities likely understand the deferred maintenance liability on non-critical mission buildings, that data is not currently readily available in the granular detail that can be reported for the mission-critical facilities. He highlighted that according to Board policy, all buildings on state property must undergo a third-party facilities condition assessment by October 2027, which is a step towards providing a comprehensive and detailed representation of all university buildings on state grounds in the facilities database. This would include every building and system, providing for an even more accurate measure of their replacement value and renewal needs.

Regent Winter asked how far this year's legislation would go to address the gap between available and needed funds. Focusing on FY 2028, which is the first year the universities are projected to reach the two percent annual investment goal, Director Bristow forecasted there would be an approximately \$20 million shortfall. He stated that there is not yet a plan to address that gap. President Flanders emphasized the need to address the funding gap with a multifaceted approach, with one aspect of the approach being more aggressive demolition. He suggested that consideration of all the associated costs of demolition projects would be necessary, including logistical cost of relocation. President Flanders acknowledged the role of the Legislature and Governor in the progress made so far. He expressed gratitude for their support.

Regent Winter expressed concerns about the potential consequences if the gap is not adequately addressed, highlighting the importance of ensuring that funding priorities align with the broader university objectives. Director Bristow said the Board could consider, explaining a nuanced approach to reaching the two percent maintenance assessment goal. He proposed that certain types



of buildings might require a specific percentage of annual reinvestment, which would represent a more tailored approach based on the type and condition of the buildings. He acknowledged that as the assessment of the situation progresses, the Board may need to recalibrate its goals and strategies.

Director Bristow stressed the importance of maintaining a rigorous and assertive posture towards improving the quality and condition of the university campuses and buildings and addressing funding needs for the near future. He noted that one aspect of Board policy has involved working with Gordian, a consultant, to create a comprehensive maintenance and operations cost projection template. This template ensures a consistent and accurate understanding of the costs associated with maintaining and operating buildings. As universities develop new buildings and/or replace old ones, this template will be required to quantify the funds that must be budgeted for systems renewal, maintenance and operation over the life of each facility. This comprehensive approach aims to address the issue of deferred maintenance effectively.

Regent Parasker concurred with Regent Winter's concerns and proposed strategies to transform buildings into assets rather than liabilities. She suggested incorporating more green materials into construction and creating energy storage solutions. Regent Parasker emphasized the importance of using technology to monitor energy consumption and optimize building maintenance. These approaches, she noted, could reduce long-term maintenance costs, and contribute to sustainable practices. Director Bristow added that universities are increasingly incorporating sophisticated technologies into their projects. These technologies focus on controls and energy storage and are aimed at reducing operating costs and future maintenance needs. He emphasized that many university staff who have dedicated decades to their institutions are retiring, and now out of necessity there is a shift toward operating campuses and buildings with fewer personnel and leveraging technology. Moreover, students are also interested in sustainable campus development.

Regent Lane asked whether the Board could anticipate in the future receiving a clear understanding of a university's finance plan surrounding maintenance for each proposed new building in a level of detail that confirms the funding will be available to meet the future needs. Director Bristow said various policy discussions around funding for capital improvements have been underway between Board staff and the universities. He also mentioned that Jim MacMurray from the Kansas Development Finance Authority recently offered suggestions for policy updates regarding indebtedness. Regent Lane encouraged continuing these conversations, emphasized the importance of understanding how maintenance costs are being funded, and said clarity on this would be beneficial for future Board members. Board staff plans to bring proposed policy updates to the Board at its June meeting, review and discuss the proposed updates at the Board Retreat this summer, and then submit the finalized proposed policy updates to the Board at its September meeting for consideration and possible approval.

Chair Rolph commended the collaborative efforts between universities, the Board, the Legislature, and the Governor, noting the importance of shared ideas and solutions. Chair Rolph stressed the dynamic nature of facilities and maintenance, acknowledging the need for ongoing examination and adaptation to changing circumstances. He clarified that the goal of the program was not to force universities to choose between scholarships and buildings, but rather to allocate a portion of

budget increases towards maintaining existing assets. Chair Rolph thanked campus teams and leadership for their dedication and creativity in moving the initiative forward.

(PowerPoint Filed with Official Minutes)

### BREAK

At 2:42 p.m., Chair Rolph called for a break. At 3:02 p.m., the meeting resumed.

### ACT ON REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND - KSU

President Linton presented Kansas State University's request to purchase a 1.1-acre parcel of land from the KSU Foundation for \$3 million, which is below the highest appraisal. The parcel is located at 1615 Anderson Avenue in Manhattan. Linton explained the strategic importance of the purchase, highlighting that the University is landlocked in this part of the campus and the acquisition is crucial for future development plans. He noted the university also plans to purchase the land adjacent to the parcel, which is currently under a 13-year lease.

President Linton said KSU is purchasing the property from the Foundation because the revenue will support the Foundation's needs to develop the Edge Collaborative District on the other side of campus. This transaction is part of a historical pattern of land exchanges between the University and the Foundation.

Chair Rolph acknowledged the exhaustive set of questions the issue received during committee discussions and invited any further questions or comments from the Board. He also encouraged President Linton to negotiate with the Foundation to consider consolidating the transactions for efficiency. He suggested that rather than spreading out the land transactions over time, it would be more beneficial to complete them in one transaction.

Regent Benson moved to approve the proposal. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Governance

### ACT ON AMENDMENT TO BOARD POLICY STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURALISM

General Counsel John Yeary presented a proposed amendment to Board Policy that would address diversity, equity, and inclusion practices in higher education. This policy would provide that no state university shall, on its applications for admissions, hiring, reappointing, or promoting a faculty member, require statements pledging allegiance to, or support for, or opposition to diversity, equity, inclusion, or inclusion. Additionally, nothing in the policy shall prohibit a university from complying with Federal or State laws, regulations, grant requirements, or similar measures. The Governance Committee reviewed this for the first-time last month and unanimously voted this morning to forward it to the Board for consideration.

Chair Rolph stated that this conversation began with the Legislature last year. He recognized the Legislature's perspective about employment practices and admissions requiring statements on the application process before there is an interview process. It was determined that this was not

something the system wanted to practice anymore, and mostly it has not been in practice over the last year. This policy amendment formalizes that and is congruent with Legislature's recent DEI legislation. Chair Rolph moved to approve the policy amendment as presented. Regent Ice seconded. The motion passed. The following Board policy was adopted:

## Chapter II.F

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3. STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURALISM Opportunities to gain experience within a diverse environment and to develop appreciation of multiculturalism are considered to be important elements of the educational experience for all students. An emphasis on multiculturalism and diversity should foster an atmosphere within the university which recognizes and celebrates both the similarities and differences among all persons to create a collegiate community which reflects the world community, and which provides a wide range of role models for students. The focus of responsibility for the design of educational experiences, including multicultural experiences, resides with each institution.

No state university shall, on its applications for admission or hiring, reappointing or promoting a faculty member, require statements pledging allegiance to, support for, or opposition to diversity, equity or inclusion. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit a university from complying with federal or state laws, regulations, grant requirements or similar measures.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives Kelly Oliver provided an update on the legislative session, stating that the Legislature adjourned April 5 and will return at the end of the month. She noted several key points regarding higher education and the various bills discussed during the session.

First, she highlighted the passage of the appropriations bill, which allocates over \$280 million in new state funding for higher education. However, she pointed out a proviso concerning the Kansas Comprehensive Grant program that requires a 50-50 split between public and private institutions. She noted the additional \$5 million for the program is appreciated, but the split requirement would reduce funding for public institutions by about \$2.2 million next year.

Senior Director Oliver then discussed other bills awaiting action from the Governor. These include the Kansas Campus Restoration Act, allocating \$32.7 million dollars over six years for deferred maintenance and repair at state universities, Washburn, community colleges, and technical colleges.

Senate Bill 438 encompasses updates and revisions to scholarship programs, such as the nursing and Heroes scholarships, AO-K, and transitioning the Ethnic Minority Scholarship to the Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship. She highlighted the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy as a major component of the bill, which has been approved by the Legislature. This legislation, awaiting the Governor's approval, includes an additional \$10 million to fund a Director of Literacy and teacher training in structured literacy.

Senior Director Oliver also mentioned House Bill 2105, which pertains to DEI prohibitions on student admissions and applicants for employment.

Oliver concluded by informing the Board that the Legislature will return on April 29 for a short omnibus and veto session, during which committees would review additional appropriations needed for passed legislation. One bill that needs additional funding is related to the new National Guard master's program. Senate Bill 291, which focuses on cybersecurity and its impact on the universities and Board office, will also be addressed.

Another important matter under review is the pay plan for the Regent system. Initially, only 2.5 percent was allocated as a merit pool for the Regents system, representing \$13.7 million, which is significantly less than the five percent pay raise that was included for other state agencies. This matter is expected to be revisited during the omnibus session.

Chair Rolph expressed satisfaction with the discussion on the Literacy Blueprint, commending the effort. He emphasized the importance of advocating for the pay increase from 2.5 percent to five percent. He also reiterated that if the current split of the Kansas Comprehensive Grant stands, approximately 800 students at public universities who have been receiving support will lose it. Chair Rolph highlighted the significance of this support, noting that last month, the average expected family contribution was low, indicating that the assistance was reaching those who needed it. He underscored the importance of finding solutions for those students.

Chair Rolph thanked President Mason and the Fort Hays State University community, as well as the broader Hays community, for hosting the meeting. He emphasized the Board's excitement about being on campus. He encouraged attendees to approach the Board, share their thoughts, and interact with the Board members during their time there.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Winter, to recess into executive session for one hour in the Stouffer Lounge to discuss personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. The subject of this executive session was to prepare for one or more CEO evaluations, and the purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. Participating in the executive session were members of the Board, President, and CEO Blake Flanders for a portion of the session, and General Counsel John Yearly. The motion carried.

At 4:30 p.m., the meeting returned to open session in the Stouffer Lounge. At 4:30 p.m. Regent Ice moved to extend for 20 minutes, seconded by Regent Lane. The motion carried.

At 4:50 p.m., the meeting returned to open session. Regent Ice moved to extend for 25 minutes, and Regent Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### RECESS

The meeting returned to open session at 5:15 p.m. and Chair Rolph recessed the meeting.

April 24, 2024

**RECONVENE**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 1:24 p.m., Regent Ice moved to recess into executive session for 36 minutes in the Stouffer Lounge to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The purpose was to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. Members of the Board and FHSU President Tisa Mason participated in the executive session. Chair Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 2:00 p.m., the meeting returned to open session and Regent Ice moved to extend the executive session for ten minutes until 2:10 p.m. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 2:10 p.m., the open meeting of the Board resumed and was adjourned by Chair Rolph.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Jon Rolph, Chair