

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
May 15-16, 2024

The May 15, 2024, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Jon Rolph at 1:20p.m. The meeting was held at the Curtis State Office Building 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520 Topeka, KS 66612. 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 Benson moved that the minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting minutes be approved. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Muma introduced the following individuals:

- Dr. Mathew Muether, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator for the Physics Division at Wichita State University's Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Physics. Dr. Muether leads a Department of Energy-funded research project on neutrino properties and interactions. He successfully relaunched WSU's physics MS program and expanded the physics track in the Applied Mathematics PhD program, significantly increasing enrollment and research funding.
- Kennedy Rogers, Director in Student Affairs at WSU. She has played a crucial role in fostering an inclusive campus community through initiatives like the ShockerStrengths Initiative.
- Kylee Hower, a junior majoring in Political Science and Economics, is the new SGA President. She brings extensive campus involvement and leadership experience to the position.
- Matthew Phan, a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics, is the SGA Vice President. His leadership roles include serving as President of the Community Service Board and Vice Chair of WSU's chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

President Muma also reported that the WSU women's bowling team secured its 11th National Championship win at the Intercollegiate Team Championships. The team will transition to NCAA Division I on July 1, highlighting its continued success and commitment to excellence.

President Mason thanked her Fort Hays State University shared governance colleagues. She recognized Dr. Elodie Jones, Faculty Senate President, for her excellent leadership, and introduced the incoming Faculty Senate President, Dr. Shane Schartz, an associate professor of informatics, was introduced. Dr. Schartz's background includes earning his BBA and MBA from FHSU and a Ph.D. from K-State. He has progressed from an adjunct instructor to a tenured member of the faculty.

President Mason reported that FHSU Student Government Association President Ella Burrows was reelected to a second term. President Mason also noted the absence of Nicole Frank, Staff Senate President, whose term ends this month. Her successor will be introduced at the next meeting.

President Mason shared a special achievement: Randi Hoffman, KBOR's administrative associate, recently earned her bachelor's degree at Fort Hays State. Randi's journey as an adult learner, taking one class at a time, was celebrated as an inspiration. President Mason thanked Regent Mendoza for her inspiring words at FHSU's graduation ceremony and her personal connections with many students.

President Linton thanked the Chair and acknowledged the outgoing and incoming Kansas State University Faculty Senate and Student Governing Association officers. He commended outgoing Faculty Senate President Don von Bergen for his excellent service. He then recognized Caleb Stout and Jessica Binkley, the outgoing SGA President and Vice President. He introduced the incoming Faculty Senate President, Dr. Teresa Douthit, an equine specialist professor at the K-State Department of Animal Science, and the incoming SGA President and Vice President, Paige Vulgamore and Jack O'Malley.

President Hush thanked Regents Winter and Benson for participating in Emporia State University's graduation ceremonies and for their commencement addresses. He thanked the outgoing Associated Student Government President, Sophia Dawson, for her service, and introduced the incoming President, Azwad Arif.

President Shipp noted that Pittsburg State University's new year introductions would be addressed at the next meeting. But he took the opportunity to express gratitude to Jaben Parnell, the outgoing Student Government Association President. President Shipp also thanked Dr. Rebecca Book, the outgoing Faculty Senate President, an incredible partner over the last year.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Rolph thanked the outgoing student government and Faculty Senate officers for their contributions. He thanked Fort Hays State for hosting a successful visit in April.

Chair Rolph shared his experience speaking at K-State's graduation ceremony, emphasizing the significance of education in creating opportunities for a better life and making an impact on the state and communities. He noted the extensive support behind the scenes, including from family members, friends, and staff, and the collective effort required to make a difference. Chair Rolph expressed appreciation for everyone's commitment to the mission, acknowledging the wide-reaching effects of their collective work.

Chair Rolph concluded by stating that it's a joy to be part of the team and moved on to the next agenda item.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders stated that he had no report. He thanked President Mason for highlighting Randi Hoffman's achievement.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Don Von Bergen reported that this would be his last meeting addressing the Board as Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents. He thanked his colleagues, highlighting the presence of 10 current and future Faculty Senate Presidents at the meeting, who represented six out of seven regents' institutions. He was optimistic for the incoming Faculty Senate Presidents.

Dr. Von Bergen provided an update on the Faculty of the Year Award. Five out of seven faculty senates have passed the common criteria the Council developed, with the remaining two close to finalizing. He thanked the Board for sponsoring the award program and noted that three schools are already submitting nominations.

Dr. Von Bergen introduced Norman Phillips from Pittsburg State University as next year's Council Chair. He expressed confidence in Phillips, citing his consistent attendance and active participation in meetings.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

President Caleb Stout thanked the Board and noted it was both his final meeting and his birthday. He reported that this last Students' Advisory Committee meeting was more of a farewell, and that advice was shared with incoming Committee members. He thanked the current Committee, highlighting the camaraderie and cooperation among members.

President Stout said he appreciated the support from the Board of Regents, mentioning specific events like Breakfast with the Board and Kansas Higher Ed Day. Each Regent received a note from the Committee thanking them their support and their work in higher education.

President Stout mentioned that the meeting had a quorum of next year's SAC members, showing readiness and enthusiasm for the upcoming term. He then introduced Hannah Eckstein to give her first report as the incoming chair of the SAC.

Incoming Chair Eckstein said she is pursuing a dual degree in biology with a pre-medicine emphasis and Spanish at Pittsburg State University. She expressed excitement about chairing the SAC and praised the incoming student body presidents for their talent, passion, and dedication. Hannah thanked Chair Stout and Vice Chair Jaben Parnell. She also acknowledged the contributions of the outgoing student body presidents. She thanked the Board for allowing her to serve in the position and was enthusiastic about working on shared initiatives to improve higher education in Kansas.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Lane reported that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee is fully focused on program review. A new process was implemented this year, identifying 31 programs that were not meeting thresholds of student interest, degrees confirmed, talent pipeline, or return on investment. At the April 30th meeting, BAASC heard reports from Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, and Kansas State University. At today's meeting, the Committee heard reports from Emporia State University, Wichita State University, and Fort Hays State University. Those reports included recommendations for 26 programs to be placed on action plans, for two programs to be phased out, and for three programs to be merged.

The next BAASC meeting on June 4th will focus on discussing the recommendations and preparing a report for the Board to consider in June. Regent Lane commended the universities for their excellent work in explaining their processes and rationale.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson provided a detailed report on the activities of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. The committee conducted its agenda call on April 30th and reconvened today, focusing on the distribution of state funding for student financial aid under the Kansas Comprehensive Grant. New figures had been distributed and posted on the Board's website.

The Committee reviewed requests from private institutions to adjust their 50/50 share distributions to match the fiscal year 2024 proportions. The public university share was treated similarly to ensure consistency and fairness.

Additionally, Regent Benson proposed merging the enhancement funding and state match funding into one category to simplify tracking and allocation.

One private institution successfully met the fiscal year 2023 match threshold, which eliminated the need to return KCG funds and thus reduced amounts shown in the Board agenda. Regent Benson emphasized the importance of the Board acting on these distributions that day to ensure compliance with the Legislature's requirements. Regent Benson asked that that item on the Board's consent agenda be amended accordingly.

The Committee also dedicated a significant portion of the morning's discussion to reviewing state universities' tuition and fee proposals. These proposals are published on the Board's website. Presentations from CFOs and student government leaders highlighted efforts to minimize financial impacts on students while advocating for essential services.

Regent Benson concluded by thanking retiring Vice President Werner Golling from Wichita State University and Senior Vice President Diana Kuhlmann from Emporia State University for their years of meritorious service.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Rolph reported that the Governance Committee met that morning and heard first reads draft amendments to the Board's policies on building and academic unit naming, then recessed into executive session to discuss CEO compensation for fiscal year 2025.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Benson moved to approve the consent agenda with updated Kansas Comprehensive Grant distribution tables that were provided to the Board at the meeting; Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

AMEND THE FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO REMOVE SOCCER FIELD - PSU

Pittsburg State University (PSU) received approval to amend the FY 2024 capital improvement plan to remove the Soccer Field from the list of large capital projects. The original project scope and budget were reduced, and the resulting \$1.4M small capital project was approved in April 2024 by the Board President and CEO to proceed as a privately funded project for delivery under the authority of K.S.A. 76-757 via a contract to be executed by PSU's Foundation.

RAZE AND REMOVE MONAHAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION STRUCTURES - PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to raze an existing pole barn and remove an existing mobile home from the Monahan Outdoor Education Center. The PSU Biology Department received the 156-acre tract as a donation in 1988 and then worked to complete a pole barn for equipment and place a mobile home for a caretaker's quarters. Completed in 1994, the pole barn is a 40'x50' structure clad in metal with a 12' open lean-to. The mobile home is a 12'x60' 1990 model. PSU wishes to remove them from university property as part of the initiative to reduce square footage and maintenance costs. The pole barn is in average condition but poses a liability concern on that remote site. The trailer required extensive repairs during the last decade, remains in poor condition, is not ADA accessible, and no longer serves a purpose. Neither structure has any historical status or designation. A pending environmental assessment on both structures would determine whether there are any hazardous materials to manage. The cost to eliminate the approximately 3,820 square feet of space was estimated at \$12,000 and will be funded by Arts and Sciences. The vacated areas will be converted into green space, and the site will continue to be maintained as part of the post-reclamation land that made up the Monahan Outdoor Education Center.

AMEND THE FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR KANSAS ADVANCED IMMERSIVE RESEARCH FOR EMERGING SYSTEMS (K-AIRES) – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 capital improvement plan to add the Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emerging Systems, or K-AIRES, building at the K-State Salina campus and accept the program statement. The facility is the first phase to revitalize the southernmost end of the K-State Salina campus following a \$10 million gift from General Atomics in October 2022.

AMEND THE FY 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR THE AEROSPACE EDUCATION HUB (FORMERLY SALINA AVIATION INNOVATION RAMP – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University requested approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 capital improvement plan for the Aerospace Education Hub at the K-State Salina campus, acceptance of the program statement, and renaming the previously approved Salina Aviation Innovation Ramp project. The facility was the second phase to revitalize the southernmost end of the K-State Salina campus following a \$10 million gift from General Atomics in October 2022. The facility would enable the university to meet the needs of the next generation of pilots, mechanics, and other aeronautical engineering positions by housing the Applied Aerospace Research Center, the Aviation Maintenance Training Center, and the Advanced Composites Lab.

REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR RENOVATIONS TO BLUEMONT HALL – KSU

Kansas State University received approval of the revised program statement for the Bluemont Hall first floor renovations. The original program statement, approved at the September 2022 Board of Regents meeting, removed four classrooms from the first floor of Bluemont Hall to accommodate the new administrative suite and lobby entrance. Due to increased enrollment in the College of Education, renovations to 341 Bluemont Hall were added to the project scope to ensure another classroom was available that fall. The project budget was not increased due to this addition; instead, funds previously allocated for furniture were moved to construction, and furniture was to be reused in other spaces. The overall project is ahead of schedule and scheduled to be completed in August 2024.

JOHNSON COUNTY RESEARCH TRIANGLE (JCERT) FY 2025 BUDGETS – KU, KUMC, AND KSU

The Board approved FY 2025 JCERT budgets for operation of the Business, Education, Science and Technology (BEST) Building and degree programs at KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park; the Clinical Research Center at the KU Medical Center in Fairway; and the International Animal Health and Food Safety Institute at K-State's Innovation Campus in Olathe.

DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT SUCCESS PLAYBOOKS – SYSTEM

The Board approved the following distribution of \$9.5 million appropriated by 2024 Senate Bill 28 for FY2025 for Public University Student Success Playbooks:

University of Kansas: \$2,000,000
 Kansas State University: \$2,000,000
 Wichita State University: \$1,500,000
 Emporia State University: \$1,000,000
 Pittsburg State University: \$1,000,000

Fort Hays State University: \$1,000,000
 Washburn University: \$1,037,700

DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 AND FY 2026 APPROPRIATION TO STATE UNIVERSITIES – KSU, FHSU

The Board approved the following distributions of funds appropriated by 2024 Senate Bill 28 for an animal diagnostic laboratory at Kansas State University and a centralized professional and continuing education unit at Fort Hays State University for FY 2025:

Kansas State University: \$250,000
 Fort Hays State University: \$750,000

The Board approved the following distribution of funds appropriate by 2024 Senate Bill 28 for a centralized professional and continuing education unit at Fort Hays State University for FY 2026:

Fort Hays State University: \$750,000

KANSAS COMPREHENSIVE GRANT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTIONS – FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026

The Board approved allocating Kansas Comprehensive Grant state aid to participating institutions for FY 2025 and FY 2026. 2024 Senate Bill 28 requires a 50.0 percent split of state funding between private independent institutions and public universities. Each university must match its full allocation on a \$1 to \$1 basis. The Board approved the following allocations:

Fiscal Year 2025

Institutions Arranged by Sector	FY 2025 Total
Baker University	\$1,921,047
Barclay College	\$223,774
Benedictine College	\$1,178,291
Bethany College	\$1,218,276
Bethel College	\$792,724
Central Christian College	\$843,061
Cleveland University of KC	\$127,674
Donnelly College	\$562,915
Friends University	\$1,728,689
Hesston College	\$392,268
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$1,317,847
Manhattan Christian College	\$279,094
McPherson College	\$871,469
MidAmerica Nazarene University	\$1,341,840
Newman University	\$1,827,369
Ottawa University	\$1,357,256
University of Saint Mary	\$1,254,733

Southwestern College	\$1,364,132
Sterling College	\$883,954
Tabor College	\$787,758
Private Institutions' Total	\$20,274,171
Emporia State University	\$1,267,484
Fort Hays State University	\$2,958,924
Kansas State University	\$4,341,887
Pittsburg State University	\$1,727,955
University of Kansas	\$4,323,200
KU Medical Center	\$60,338
Wichita State University	\$4,086,039
Washburn University	\$1,508,344
Public Universities' Total	\$20,274,171
Total State Funding	\$40,548,342

Fiscal Year 2026

Institutions Arranged by Sector	Total
Baker University	\$2,232,209
Barclay College	\$170,397
Benedictine College	\$1,133,144
Bethany College	\$1,171,620
Bethel College	\$894,587
Central Christian College	\$551,836
Cleveland University of KC	\$136,319
Donnelly College	\$496,337
Friends University	\$1,840,294
Hesston College	\$350,571
Kansas Wesleyan University	\$1,397,261
Manhattan Christian College	\$315,236
McPherson College	\$826,429
MidAmerica Nazarene University	\$1,273,721
Newman University	\$2,151,270
Ottawa University	\$1,121,994
University of Saint Mary	\$1,329,101
Southwestern College	\$1,079,727

Sterling College	\$877,547
Tabor College	\$779,569
Private Institutions' Total	\$20,129,169
Emporia State University	\$1,258,419
Fort Hays State University	\$2,937,762
Kansas State University	\$4,310,834
Pittsburg State University	\$1,715,597
University of Kansas	\$4,292,280
KU Medical Center	\$59,906
Wichita State University	\$4,056,815
Washburn University	\$1,497,556
Public Universities' Total	\$20,129,169
Total State Funding	\$40,258,338

DISTRIBUTION OF NEED BASED AID FOR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES – FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND 2026

The Board approved the following distributions of \$21.8 million appropriated by 2024 Senate Bill 28 and \$2.5 million appropriated by 2024 House Bill 2551 for fiscal year 2025 for need based aid for the State universities and Washburn University:

FY 2025 Need Based Aid at Public Universities

	2024 SB 28	2024 HB 2551	Totals
Emporia State University	\$1,227,910	\$140,917	\$1,368,827
Fort Hays State University	\$3,537,490	\$405,969	\$3,943,459
Kansas State University	\$3,949,980	\$453,307	\$4,403,287
Pittsburg State University	\$1,818,970	\$208,748	\$2,027,718
University of Kansas	\$4,099,160	\$470,427	\$4,569,587
KU Medical Center	\$1,120,150	\$128,550	\$1,248,700
Wichita State University	\$4,246,340	\$487,317	\$4,733,657
Washburn University	\$1,784,260	\$204,765	\$1,989,025
Total	\$21,784,260	\$2,500,000	\$24,284,260

FY 2025 Need Based Aid at Public Universities

	2024 HB 2551
Emporia State University	\$140,917
Fort Hays State University	\$405,969
Kansas State University	\$453,307

Pittsburg State University	\$208,748
University of Kansas	\$470,427
KU Medical Center	\$128,550
Wichita State University	\$487,317
Washburn University	\$204,765
Total	\$2,500,000

The FY 2025 distributions pursuant to 2024 SB 28 are contingent upon approval by the State Finance Council.

Technical Education Authority

NEW DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS FROM FORT SCOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Fort Scott Community College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate B for 30 credit hours in Heavy Equipment Operations.

Northwest Kansas Technical College received approval to offer a Technical Certificate A for 18 credit hours and a Technical Certificate B for 35 credit hours in Health Care Specialist.

PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Northwest Kansas Technical college received approval for its Health Care Specialist program (51.2601) to become a Promise Act eligible program.

EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES SUBMITTED BY NORTHWEST KANSAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Northwest Kansas Technical College received approval for the following Excel in CTE fees:

- Health Care Specialist total \$728.25. Fees include \$364 for textbooks/e-subscriptions, \$145 for uniforms, stethoscope, and gait belt, \$169.25 for certifications, and \$50 for test center fees.

Other Matters

CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR 2024-2026 BETWEEN KU AND THE GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS COALITION/AFT-KANSAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, LAWRENCE

The University of Kansas received approval to implement changes to employment conditions for the Graduate Teaching Assistants Coalition/American Federation of Teachers – Kansas for academic years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26. The updated conditions as set out in the existing GTAC/AFT are summarized as follows:

- **Article 3:** Cleanup of non-discrimination provision to update Title IX coordinator contact information.
- **Article 4, Section 6:** Correcting GTAC website address.
- **Article 4, Section 6a:** Clarifying allocation of time in GTA orientation session.

- **Article 5, Section 2b:** Making clear that KU may terminate appointments of incoming GTAs who do not show up on the assigned date without approval and clarifying the return of student work.
- **Article 5, Section 4:** Clarifying that the “full time” enrollment required is consistent with the policy definition of “full time enrollment” to account for graduate students who have completed their oral comprehensive examination. Also, moving language to Article 5, Section 8 regarding payment for pedagogy courses.
- **Article 5, Section 8:** Clarifying that any pedagogy courses GTAs are required to take will be counted against the three credit hours per semester the University is required to fund under Article 7 Section 2 and requiring payment of tuition and fees for those courses without regard to the GTA’s FTE.
- **Article 5, Section 11:** Clarifying requirements for leave due to medical conditions.
- **Article 6, Section 3:** Increasing GTA salary basis to \$19,116.25 for the remainder of AY 2024 and increasing minimum salary basis to \$19,594.16 for 2024-25 and \$20,084.01 for 2025-26 and eliminating eligibility for any further merit increases. Also establishing, for the first time, minimum pay for summer appointments. Summer compensation will be required to be at the bi-weekly rate minimum as established in the prior academic year, prorated based on the FTE assignment.
- **Article 6, Section 4:** Increasing salary for all returning GTAs who were paid above the minimum by 2.5% for the remainder of AY 2024 and increasing minimum salary basis by 2.5% for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and eliminating eligibility for any further merit increases.
- **Article 7, Section 3c:** Allows GTAs who resign their position due to an approved academic leave of absence to maintain their eligibility for tuition and fee benefits for that semester.
- **Article 14, Section 6c:** Consistent with factfinder’s recommendation, making changes to the existing grievance procedures to make step one – an informal discussion with the chair – mandatory.
- **Article 16:** Changing dates to reflect term of agreement through academic year 2025-26.
- **Throughout:** Updating name of Human Resources office and title of HR Director to Vice Provost for Human Resources. Updating title for Vice Provost for Graduate Studies.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

STATE UNIVERSITY TUITION AND FEE PROPOSALS FOR FY 2025

Elaine Frisbie, the Vice President of Finance & Administration, briefed the Board on the separate volume of proposals presented and noted recent edits made to them since their original publication. She specifically pointed out a minor change in fees for one university, which necessitated updates to certain pages in the distributed materials. These updates have been reflected in the agenda materials accessible on the Board's website.

Additionally, Vice President Frisbie mentioned a request for universities to provide information on potential scenarios involving tuition reductions. Updated tables containing new Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Higher Education Price Index data were distributed to the attendees. She then elaborated on how the proposals were organized, emphasizing their structured format, which includes narrative information and appendices.

There was then a discussion on how inflation has impacted the universities leading to the adjustments proposed to tuition rates. She informed the Board about data submitted by the Board's consensus revenue estimating group in April, which forecasted per capita income for Kansas. This information was presented to provide additional context for the proposals and the Board's consideration. She then highlighted that the upcoming afternoon session would allow representatives from universities to directly present their proposals to the Board, mirroring the format of the earlier Fiscal Affairs meeting.

(University FY 2025 Proposals filed with Official Minutes)

BREAK

At 2:50 p.m., Chair Rolph called for a break. At 3:00 p.m., the meeting resumed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS FOR FY 2026 AND FIVE-YEAR PLANS - SYSTEM

Director of Facilities Chad Bristow presented the capital improvement request for fiscal year 2026 and the five-year plans for the system. Director Bristow highlighted the process of reviewing and acting on the University's requests each spring, as mandated by Kansas law. During the first reading of the request and plans at the April meeting, the Board discussed them within the context of the long-term facilities renewal initiative. The Board discussed the role of campus planning, maintenance assessment, and strategic decisions about space utilization.

Director Bristow noted that the documents included updates reflecting amendments approved at the April meeting, and any subsequent amendments would be incorporated before submission to the Division of the Budget.

Regent Parasker moved to approve the capital improvement requests and five-year plans as presented. Regent Mendoza seconded. The motion passed.

Other Matters

NAMING REQUESTS – PSU

President Shipp presented a request on behalf of Pittsburg State University to name its new Student Success Center after retiring Executive Vice President and Provost Howard W. Smith. The proposal acknowledges Smith's significant contributions to education and community development throughout his career. President Shipp highlighted Smith's lifelong dedication to leadership, education, and mentorship, emphasizing his impact on strengthening communities and fulfilling PSU's mission of making life better through education. Smith's legacy, spanning from his student leadership days to his invaluable service at Emporia and PSU, exemplifies the University's values. President Shipp expressed gratitude for Smith's partnership and friendship, underscoring his profound influence on many lives. The Board was asked to consider the proposal to honor Smith's legacy by naming the Student Success Center after him.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the proposal. Regent Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fred Patton provided an overview of the recent legislative session, expressing satisfaction with the outcomes for education. He highlighted significant bills, including Senate Bill 438, which addressed higher education initiatives such as scholarship programs and literacy. Senate Bill 18 allocated funding for deferred maintenance. While the budget did not fulfill all requests, it largely supported education priorities, albeit with some exceptions like additional funding for the Board Office was not approved and only 2.5% was approved for the Board Office and state universities pay plan instead of the 5% allotted for other state employees. Patton remained optimistic about addressing these issues in future sessions.

Patton commended the Board's staff for their responsiveness and high-quality support during the session, expressing gratitude for their dedication. Board members thanked Patton for his leadership and support during the session, acknowledging his contributions to ensuring effective communication and advocacy for higher education.

ELECT FY 2025 BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Rolph initiated the election process for the fiscal year 2025 Board Chair and Vice Chair. Regent Lane moved that Carl R. Ice be elected as Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Regent Johnston and it carried unanimously.

Next, Chair Rolph called for nominations for vice chair. Regent Mendoza moved that Regent Rolph be elected Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Regent Parasker, and it carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:22 p.m., Regent Ice moved, followed by the second of Regent Winter, to recess into executive session for approximately 90 minutes in the Kathy Rupp Conference room 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 and each of the following for a portion: President Hush, President Shipp and President Muma. The open meeting would resume at 5:00. The motion carried.

At 5:00 p.m., the meeting returned to open session in the Kathy Rupp Conference room. At 5:00 p.m. Regent Ice moved to extend for 10 minutes, seconded by Regent Rolph. The motion carried.

RECESS

The meeting returned to open session at 5:10 p.m. and Chair Rolph recessed the meeting.

May 16, 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 8:31 a.m., Regent Rolph moved to recess into executive session for 90 minutes in the Kathy Rupp Conference room 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 President Blake Flanders participated in the executive session. Regent Ice seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 10:00 a.m., the meeting returned to open session and Regent Ice moved to extend the executive session for one hour until 11:00 a.m. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 11:02 a.m. the open meeting of the Board resumed and was adjourned by Chair Rolph.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Jon Rolph, Chair