

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
August 5, 2024

The August 5, 2024, Special Meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 2 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT:            Carl Ice, Chair  
                                      Wint Winter  
                                      Alysia Johnston  
                                      Neelima Parasker  
                                      Diana Mendoza

MEMBERS ABSENT:            Jon Rolph, Vice Chair  
                                      Blake Benson  
                                      John Dicus

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

*Other Matters*

**ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENT OF HAWKER APARTMENT BUILDING BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND HWKAPTS, LLC -- KU**

Jeff DeWitt, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance at the University of Kansas stated the first item concerns a lease agreement for the Hawker Apartments, which the endowment purchased for the university's benefit. This apartment complex near the stadium includes 216 units and is housing many football players and students. The endowment financed the purchase, and the university will cover the debt service and related expenses. CFO DeWitt highlighted the apartment's importance due to housing challenges and the plan to possibly purchase the property within five years.

Regent Ice emphasized the need to avoid excessive expenses, especially if enrollment declines. CFO DeWitt responded that the Hawker lease is a crucial asset, regardless of enrollment trends, as it also provides swing space for maintenance on other facilities and addresses the end-of-life issues of the Jayhawk Towers.

Regent Winter inquired about the impact of projected enrollment increases on the lease proposal. CFO DeWitt explained that it was due to both enrollment increases and the need to rehabilitate older assets. He added that the enrollment numbers would be publicly released around October, following Board policy.

Regent Johnston made a motion to approve, with a second from Regent Parasker. The motion carried.

**ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND UNITED ACADEMICS OF KU, AAUP, AFT ("UAKU") – KU**

Jeff DeWitt next presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Kansas and United Academics of KU, a newly formed faculty union established in May. He explained that although they haven't yet undergone the full meet-and-confer process, which typically takes over a year, it was necessary to proceed with planned pay adjustments to align with those made for the rest of the university.

CFO DeWitt highlighted the key aspects of the MOU:

1. A 2% across-the-board pay increase for all faculty, matching the increase given to other university employees.

2. Adjustments to make KU's pay scale for tenured faculty promotions more competitive. Previously, the increase in pay when faculty were promoted to full professor was insufficient compared to peer institutions.

He emphasized the importance of these changes to prevent losing faculty to other universities. The MOU ensures that the new union approves these adjustments and enables the university to make competitive offers to retain faculty.

Following this explanation, Regent Johnston inquired if this union replaced a previous one. CFO DeWitt clarified that this is the first faculty union at the University of Kansas.

Regent Winter sought further clarification on the pay increases, asking if all faculty would receive the 2% increase and if those promoted to full professor would receive an additional increase. CFO DeWitt confirmed that all faculty would receive the 2% increase, and those promoted to full professor would receive a 12% increase in their new position, plus the 2% general increase.

Finally, CFO DeWitt noted that these measures would take effect on August 18th, aligning with the start of the contract year. He invited any further questions, and after addressing them, the Board moved forward with a motion to approve the MOU.

Regent Winter made a motion to approve, with a second from Regent Johnston. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR ADDITION TO KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CORE LIBRARY – KU

Jeff DeWitt presented the final agenda item, discussing the Kansas Geological Survey's need to increase the previously approved budget for its core library project. The Survey had received ARPA funds from the state to construct a core library, a facility to store geological core samples obtained from drilling across Kansas. These core samples are crucial for maintaining the state's geological records.

CFO DeWitt explained that the new facility would be approximately 9,000 square feet with a 24-foot-high ceiling, providing ample space for storing the samples. Initially, they had budgeted \$3 million for the project, based on available funding, and included this amount in the 418 A capital request form. However, they now have \$3.8 million in funding, which is necessary due to rising construction costs.

He requested the Board to approve a modification of the original authorization from \$3 million to \$3.8 million. This increase is essential to complete the facility and meet the growing need for storage space. Despite the challenges posed by escalating construction costs, this funding will help ensure the preservation of important geological information for Kansas.

Regent Johnston made a motion to approve, with a second from Regent Parasker. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.