

**Council of Chief Academic Officers  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

The October 7, 2020 meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Rick Muma at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held through Zoom. Members and the public were welcome to listen at the KBOR offices.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Rick Muma, WSU	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Robert Klein, KUMC
	Charles Taber, K-State	David Cordle, ESU	JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn
	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	Howard Smith, PSU	Daniel Archer, KBOR
Staff:	Sam Christy-Dangermond	Amy Robinson	Connie Beene
	Karla Wiscombe	Tara Lebar	Marti Leisinger
Others:	Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC	Jean Redeker, KU	Brian Niehoff, K-State
	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Jennifer Ball, Washburn	Mark Allen, Independence CC
	Sandy Valenti, ESU	Mickey McCloud, JCCC	Monette Depew, Pratt CC
	Linnea GlenMaye, WSU	Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC	Brenton Phillips, Cloud County CC
	Elaine Simmons, Barton CC	Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU	Aron Potter, Coffeyville CC
	Andrew Hippisley, WSU	Gergely Zaruba, WSU	Lori Winningham, Butler CC
	Coleen Pugh, WSU	Paul Grimes, PSU	Luke Dowell, Seward County CC
	Dukka KC, WSU	Dennis Livesay, WSU	Jean Griffith, WSU
	Larisa Genin, WSU	Kim Morse, Washburn	Chris Broberg, WSU
	Heather Morgan, KACCT	Sue Abdinnour, WSU	

Rick Muma welcomed everyone, and roll call was taken.

**Approval of Minutes**

Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting, and David Cordle seconded the motion. With no corrections or discussion, the motion passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Readings**

Rick Muma provided an overview of the four programs in which WSU is seeking approval. He stated that a few years ago WSU started to focus on digital transformations. This campus initiative was driven by factors such as the importance on data science and other fields across their campus and the new NetApp data storage facility, which was moving their entire operation to the campus. Additionally, the Board has reviewed WSU's proposal to establish a National Institute for Digital Transformation, and they are getting ready to break ground on a facility to support that work. Rick stated this helps to further diversify the regional economy which is focused on manufacturing and aircraft. Deans and staff who work in these areas were available to answer questions on specific program requests.

- Rick Muma and Dean Andrew Hippisley discussed the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics. Rick noted that Linguistics is an academic field which has seen tremendous growth over the last 70 years and is at the forefront of interdisciplinary research, artificial intelligence, data science, computer science, and other areas. Andrew stated that KU has a linguistics degree and noted that the WSU program focuses more on the applied side (rather than the theoretical side) which has tracks that interface with computer science and with the health professions, specifically related to speech. Barbara asked for details on their program hiring plans. Andrew responded they have a plan in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the program

to bring in a new hire. Dean Hippiisley indicated he is available to teach as well. Faculty in other disciplines, such as anthropology and modern and classical languages, may also teach in the program.

- Dean Dennis Livesay discussed the Master of Science in Data Science in Engineering. Dennis discussed how the three MS programs presented for approval tie together. He noted WSU has created three unique programs from different colleges where students can take any of the three to obtain knowledge of the whole data and science space before diving into the core and electives of the specific programs. David Cordle asked if he anticipated students would have a clear path to each, or would they need assistance in navigating which program is the best match for them. Dennis responded they will probably see both. Some students know they would like to study data and data analytics but are unsure of the specific area.
- Dean Larisa Genin discussed the Master of Science in Business Analytics. She noted the three programs are distinct enough to appeal to different student audiences but are also inter-disciplinary and add a value to contribute to the advancement of the WSU strategic priorities which focus on applied learning and research. Larisa stated the degree has student demand and has been created in collaboration with faculty and employers.
- Dean Andrew Hippiisley discussed the Master of Science in Mathematical Foundations of Data Analysis. He noted this is an opportunity for mathematicians to further explore theoretical math concepts in the overall big data space by looking at mathematical foundations of algorithms.

The four programs will be presented for approval at the next COCAO meeting in November.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

- KU is requesting a Master of Engineering in Bioengineering. Barbara Bichelmeyer noted she has not received any additional questions since the first reading in June.

Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the Master of Engineering in Bioengineering, and Chuck Taber seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote. This program will go to COPS for approval in October.

### **Other Requests**

Rick Muma presented the WSU request to change the name of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Innovation to the College of Innovation and Design. Rick noted the institute was established a few years ago to be a place where innovation curriculum and research is housed. At that time, a new Masters of Innovation Design was created, and he noted the program has continued to grow. Rick stated they are not requesting additional funding and currently have a Dean and support staff in place, as the institute had been set up as a part of the academic structure when it was created.

Barbara asked for information on the inclusion of the word design. Rick responded that this is because the degree program previously created had this title and they added the same language to be consistent. Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the name change from WSU, and Howard Smith seconded the motion. With no further questions or discussion, the motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote. This program will go to BAASC for approval in November.

### **Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update**

Aleksander Sternfeld-Dunn, WSU Faculty Senate President, provided an update. Aleks stated that they are working on a statement on freedom of expression. He noted that while other subcommittees of the Board are working on something similar, their interest is connecting freedom of expression not just on campus but also in the classroom. The second item COFSP is discussing is the Associate to Baccalaureate transfer program. Aleks

stated there is faculty concern with academic freedom being lost in the process and ensuring this is a faculty-driven process.

### **Other Matters**

Howard Smith and Paul Grimes presented on creating a Center for Professional Selling at PSU. Paul is the Dean of Kelce College of Business at PSU, and he provided information on the establishment of the center. He noted that this will be affiliated with the University Sales Center Alliance which is comprised of 55 universities across the country offering programing in professional sales. The center will provide benefits affecting education outreach and professional engagement with their community and alumni and provide an opportunity to conduct research among their faculty. He noted that as a part of their affiliation with the University Sales Center Alliance, they will establish a formal Board of Advisors made up of community leaders with experience and alumni. Paul noted the center does not require additional resources or physical spaces.

Connie Beene and Karla Wiscombe presented an update on the Lumina Military Grant. Connie stated the Military Credentialing Advancement Initiative's goal is to create diverse pathways that give military service members and veterans pathways to education and stackable credentials at the end of those pathways. Last spring, Kansas was invited to apply for Lumina Military Grant funding through the initiative. Connie noted the grant provides all of the educational resources and outcomes for four of the Army, Airforce, Marines, and Navy military occupations. Connie also noted it is her team's hope that the current articulations will be expanded as new articulations and pathways are added. Connie stated KBOR will do some of the initial work and supply resources for the universities to continue that work. Connie provided examples to show the work that her team is doing for the universities, provided weblinks to the resources, and discussed next steps for the kick-off meeting on October 15, 2020 and how to determine Military Occupation Codes (MOC's) to articulate. Connie stated the hope is that universities use the new resources to articulate MOC's in various branches and noted that each university will need to choose a 2-year partner to develop pathways. Connie recommended universities look in the Military Articulation Portal to determine what 2-year colleges have already articulated, MOC's they are interested in, and similarly the 2-year colleges could reach out to their existing university partner to indicate their interest. The grant timeline, potential university funding, pathway guidelines, and next steps are detailed in her materials. Connie noted the deadlines were put in place to be mindful that this is a one-year grant and to ensure teams can start work before the end of the current semester. Karla noted the occupations align with part of the Board's strategic plan and current KBOR work in diversity and inclusion for underserved populations. Connie mentioned that community colleges are already submitting data on underserved populations as a part of Perkins and CTE funding.

Members were provided an opportunity to discuss plans they are pursuing in the future. Jill Arensdorf, FHSU, shared that Greg Panichello, Director of the Kansas Small Business Development Center, is retiring at the end of 2020. As the host institution for their state office, Jill has started working with Greg to create a search committee.

### **Adjournment**

The University Press of Kansas Board of Trustees will meet upon adjournment and the next COCAO meeting will be November 18 and held through Zoom. Howard Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and Barbara Bichelmeyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.