

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 18, 2024**

The December 18, 2024, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Mickey McCloud at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom with an in-person option held in Suite 530 located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Jason Sharp, Labette CC	Shirley Lefever, WSU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Susan Bon, PSU	Jennifer Seymour, WSU Tech
Jesse Mendez, KSU	Luke Dowell, Seward CC	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Mickey McCloud, JCCC		

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Provost Bichelmeyer moved that the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Provost Arensdorf, the motion carried.

**SYSTEMWIDE UPDATES****REVISE REVERSE TRANSFER PROCEDURES**

Associate Director for Academic Affairs Mistie Knox shared the revised Reverse Transfer procedures reflecting the use of the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) as the systemwide data exchange service for reverse transfer. The Reverse Transfer Working Group reached consensus on October 3, 2024, to move forward with utilizing NSC. Institutional CAOs and reverse transfer institutional contacts were notified of this transition on October 3 to allow for a transition in Fall 2025. The first utilization of NSC for the reverse transfer process will take place in February 2026. Provost Arensdorf moved to approve the Reverse Transfer procedures. Following a second by Provost Bon, the motion carried unanimously.

**SYSTEMWIDE MATH COURSE PLACEMENT SCORES**

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the Math Course Placement Measures Committee had recommended guidelines for additional interventions for students who might not be ready to enroll in the gateway course of College Algebra with corequisite support. He noted that institutions can advise students to consider an alternative pathway or additional support, but they cannot bar a student from enrolling in a gateway course with corequisite support. He emphasized that national research shows corequisite support is more effective than traditional prerequisite remedial education. Chair McCloud asked if KBOR had a suggestion for how to advise students with lower scores who already possess a high school diploma. Vice President Monhollon responded that the corequisite model would be most appropriate for this situation.

**SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREES**

Director for Academic Affairs Karla Wiscombe shared they received Systemwide Transfer Associate Degree submissions for 11 Business Administration programs, four Computer Science programs, eight Pre-BSN Nursing programs, and eight Pre-Social Work programs. When institutions receive their approved check sheets, they should consult with their Institutional Research staff to ensure that the program inventory matches what is approved on the degree check sheet. She emphasized that only systemwide transfer courses are included in systemwide associate degrees. She added that all programs have specific gen-ed requirements and to make sure that any courses added for these degree programs should be added to the institution's master course list.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **FIRST 15 INITIATIVE**

Vice President Monhollon shared the Regents have made the expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment for Kansas High School students a top priority for Academic Year 2025. The First 15 initiative will help KBOR staff achieve this goal. A workgroup has been assembled and will meet over the next several months to make recommendations to President Flanders. He shared the workgroup's charge, timeline, and the systemwide general education buckets. He noted that the natural and physical sciences bucket had been left out of this initiative due to variations in the number of credits offered and challenges in finding qualified instructors for these courses at the high school level. He emphasized that the workgroup intends to develop and implement this initiative collaboratively with all system institutions. The concurrent and dual enrollment policy will likely need to be amended, although the intent is to develop the First 15 within the existing policy framework. He also noted that this initiative is not a mandate or directive from the Board, and no institution will be required to offer the First 15. If an institution is unable to offer the First 15 in its service area, the Board may approve another institution to offer the First 15 within that service area. Provost Arensdorf asked if the whole course structure will be approved by President Flanders in May, or if it will be approved in smaller steps. Vice President Monhollon responded that it would be approved as a package. He added that the work is not complete and that he is open to receiving questions or concerns and sharing them with the workgroup. Provost Galm asked if there was discussion regarding how KBOR will track which institutions are offering the First 15. Vice President Monhollon responded that the workgroup had had a cursory discussion of the matter but had not reached a final decision on how it would be done. Provost Bichelmeyer asked if it would make sense to move up the timeline piece regarding National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Programs (NACEP) accreditation, given its potential to influence other aspects of the project. Vice President Monhollon responded that the workgroup would consider moving it up. Provost Sharp asked if high schools had expressed concerns regarding students who are not able to be placed into transfer courses. Vice President Monhollon responded that it has not come up in workgroup discussion, but it can be considered. Provost Galm asked if there was any discussion regarding faculty qualification. Vice President Monhollon responded that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) left the decision up to the institutions. Chair McCloud cautioned against assuming all skill sets will be met for a specific course under HLC. Provost Bichelmeyer added that HLC was originally based on NACEP, which has since refined its guidance. Provost Bon asked if there would be a scenario where two institutions could form an alliance to offer the First 15. Vice President Monhollon responded that he was in favor of the idea. Provost Thomas asked if the First 15 were intended to be all dual enrollment or a combination of dual and concurrent enrollment. Vice President Monhollon responded that the workgroup would need to consider the implications. Provost Bichelmeyer added that it would also depend on the guidance from NACEP. Provost Galm asked if the workgroup had discussed students being allowed to retake a course if they have an unsuccessful first attempt. Vice President Monhollon responded that it would be an institutional decision. Chair McCloud added that it was important to consider how those students are tracked and listed, noting the potential negative implications for community college completion rates.

### **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA (CCA) LAUNCH**

Vice President Monhollon shared that Kansas has become the 48<sup>th</sup> state to join the Complete College America Alliance. The official launch will take place on February 11 at Washburn. Registration will open shortly, with a 5-person limit per institution. Any remaining spots may be allocated to institutions in mid-January.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice President Monhollon announced that Provost Lefever will retire in January and be replaced by Dr. Monica Lounsbery. He expressed the committee's appreciation for her work and well wishes for her retirement. Chair McCloud reminded the committee that the next SCOCOA meeting will be a virtual meeting on January 15, Systemwide General Education master course lists are due on January 17, and Dual Credit Reporting is due on January 31.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Provost Bon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Provost Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.