

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

The Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) will meet in the Kathy Rupp Conference Room, located in the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson St, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas 66612. To the extent possible, a virtual option will be provided to accommodate those who prefer not to attend in person.

- I. Call to Order** Regent Mendoza, Chair
 - A. Roll Call and Introductions
 - B. Approve Minutes from January 29, 2025 Meeting p. 3

- II. Board Consent Items** Rusty Monhollon
 - Clarification of Program Review Metrics

- III. Board Discussion Agenda Items** Mistie Knox p. 5
 - Receive Annual Report on Apply Kansas Application Campaign, Receive Report on Kansas Free Applications Day, and Act on Kansas Free Application Day for 2025-2026 Academic Year

- IV. Other Matters** Rusty Monhollon
 - A. First 15 Update Rusty Monhollon
 - B. Reduced Credit Baccalaureate Discussion Academic Affairs Staff
 - C. Academic Affairs Updates

- V. Announcements**
 - Next BAASC Meeting – February 26, 2025 - Virtual

- VI. Adjournment**

BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

Four Regents serve on the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC), established in 2002. The Regents are appointed annually by the Chair and approved by the Board. BAASC meets virtually approximately two weeks before each Board meeting. The Committee also meets on the morning of the first day of the monthly Board meeting. Membership includes:

Diana Mendoza, Chair

Alysia Johnston

Neelima Parasker

Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee

AY 2025 Meeting Schedule

<i>BAASC Academic Year 2024- 2025 Meeting Dates</i>			
Meeting Dates	Location	Time	Agenda Materials Due
September 4, 2024	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	August 14, 2024
September 18, 2024	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	August 28, 2024
November 6, 2024	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	October 16, 2024
November 20, 2024	Kansas State University	11:00 a.m.	October 30, 2024
December 4, 2024	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	November 13, 2024
December 18, 2024	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	November 25, 2024
January 2, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	December 11, 2024
January 15, 2025	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	December 24, 2024
January 29, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	January 8, 2025
February 12, 2025	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	January 22, 2025
February 26, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	February 5, 2025
March 12, 2025	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	February 19, 2025
April 2, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	March 12, 2025
April 16, 2025	Pittsburg State University	11:00 a.m.	March 26, 2025
April 30, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	April 9, 2025
May 14, 2025	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	April 23, 2025
May 28, 2025	Virtual Meeting	10:00 a.m.	May 7, 2025
June 11, 2025	Topeka	11:00 a.m.	May 21, 2025

Please note that virtual meeting times are 10:00 a.m. and Board Day meetings are 11:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2025**

Chair Diana Mendoza called the January 29, 2025, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Diana Mendoza, Chair
 Regent Neelima Parasker

INTRODUCTIONS

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon acknowledged Dr. Karla Wiscombe’s retirement and thanked her for her service and leadership. Vice President Monhollon also announced that Dr. Jenn Bonds-Raacke will take her place as Director of Academic Affairs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Mendoza moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS

APPROVE AY 2025 PERFORMANCE REPORT RUBRIC

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared a summary of the AY 2025 Performance Report Rubric. The performance report consists of five components, each worth 20 points, totaling 100 possible points. These components include Math Pathways, corequisite support for the three gateway math courses, corequisite support for English Composition I, systemwide English and math course placement measures, and degree maps. Regent Mendoza moved to approve the academic year 2025 performance report rubric. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS ARTICULATED TO THE SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Director of Academic Affairs Karla Wiscombe shared a summary of all Board goals surrounding the topic of Systemwide Transfer Associate Degrees. The first goal, set for 2022-2023, was to identify at least sixty hours using the systemwide general education, pre-major, and early major courses that complete the requirements for the transfer associate degree at community colleges and transfer and apply toward satisfying baccalaureate degree course requirements at the six state universities. The next goal for 2023-2024 was to develop a statewide transfer associate degree in nursing to meet workforce demands in the state and facilitate on-time graduation for students. Finally, the goal for 2024-2025 is to improve the systemwide transfer of associate degrees by ensuring courses transfer as degree requirements. This brings us to the request for formal approval for the baccalaureate degrees, which include programs for Elementary Education, Business Administration Management and Operations, Computer Science, Pre-Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Pre-Social Work. Regent Mendoza moved to approve these programs. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

REDUCED CREDIT BACHELOR’S DEGREE

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon mentioned the interest in reduced-credit bachelor’s degrees. For the Board to take action, state statute and policy changes would be necessary. BAASC has been assigned to gather more information and better understand these programs. To that end, Vice President Monhollon introduced Stephanie Kramer, Director of Accreditation Systems, and Zach Waymer, Government Affairs Officer with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). They provided a presentation on the reduced-credit hour bachelor’s degree, covering an overview, background information, the application and review process, and available resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BAASC meeting will be held in Topeka at the KBOR office on February 12.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Parasker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Summary

In 2020, the Kansas Board of Regents assumed responsibility for the Apply Kansas Campaign with the objective of expanding the initiative statewide. Apply Kansas is part of the American College Application Campaign, housed within ACT's Center for Equity in Learning. As the state's application campaign, Apply Kansas aims to increase college application rates among high school seniors, with a focus on supporting those from underrepresented backgrounds. The initiative provides resources, support, and events to help students navigate the college application process. During these events, all applications for students' future plans are celebrated.

Kansas Free Application Days has been piloted over the past two years, allowing Kansas residents of all ages and income levels to submit general undergraduate admission applications to all Kansas public institutions for free. The events were held on November 7-9, 2023, and October 7-9, 2024. Private colleges were also invited to participate in the campaign. Aggregate data will be presented today to determine whether Kansas Free Application Days will remain a pilot program or become an established initiative.

Background

Launched in 2015 by the Kansas Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO), the Apply Kansas campaign is part of the broader American College Application Campaign. In 2020, the Kansas Board of Regents assumed leadership of the campaign, enhancing its reach and impact. Apply Kansas is now a Board Goal under the Family Pillar of the Building a Future strategic plan, which emphasizes the ongoing implementation and expansion of Apply Kansas initiatives. The initiative seeks to increase the number of students applying to college early in their senior year, with a particular focus on supporting students from low-income families, first-generation students, and those who might not otherwise pursue higher education.

During Apply Kansas events, students receive application assistance at their high school during the school day. These events are organized by the school's Apply Kansas Site Coordinator and supported by higher education staff, school personnel, and community volunteers. All applications for students' future plans are celebrated to promote a culture of achievement and inspire confidence in their postsecondary goals. The Apply Kansas Steering Committee oversees the campaign's strategic direction and implementation. This committee includes regional representatives from Apply Kansas Site Coordinators, higher education admissions staff, and a KACRAO liaison. Convened by Board staff, the committee is responsible for coordinating statewide efforts, distributing resources, and evaluating the campaign's progress and outcomes.

The Kansas Free Application Days initiative aligns with the "Building a Future" strategic plan and the goals of the Kansas Board of Regents. This initiative aims to support Kansas families by removing barriers that prevent students from pursuing post-secondary education, thereby increasing access to higher education, especially for underserved populations. The primary objective of the Kansas Free Application Days program is to boost college-going and FAFSA completion rates in Kansas. By eliminating application fees, the program helps residents take the first step towards continuing their education, ultimately increasing the number of students who complete their programs and enter the workforce with a degree or competitive skills.

Over the past two years, Kansas Free Application Days has been piloted, allowing residents of all ages and income levels to submit general undergraduate admission applications to all Kansas public institutions for free. The events were held on November 7-9, 2023, and October 7-9, 2024. Data on the applications received during the 2023 and 2024 free application days, the growth observed, and the Apply Free Days 2023 yield data based on aggregate collection will be reported. The Board approved the pilot proposal in July 2023, with the first event held from November 7-9, 2023. The initiative continued in 2024, with the event being held from October 7-9, 2024.

Data Collection

Data collection for the Kansas Free Application Days (AFD) will be conducted in two phases: a unit record collection through KHEDS and an aggregate collection. The unit record collection through KHEDS will include applications from AFD 2023 and enrollments, providing more precise information tied to student records. This data will be finalized in September 2025 and available in October 2025. The aggregate collection will capture AFD application activity from November 7-9, 2023, as well as aggregate application, admission, and enrollment data for the 2024 calendar year terms (SP24, SU24, FA24). Yield will be calculated for each sector, by term, as reported by the institutions. The aggregate collection will be presented during the February Board meeting. Public institutions excluded from the aggregate data include Labette Community College, Dodge City Community College, and Kansas City Kansas Community College.

Staff Recommendation

The decision on whether the Kansas Free Application Days should continue as a pilot program or transition to an established opportunity is deferred to the Board. If the Board decides to continue with the three-day initiative for 2025, stakeholder feedback has been assessed, and Board staff recommends them for approval. October is designated College Application Month for Kansas, and it is recommended that the Kansas Free Application Days align with this month.