

# **MARCH 12–13, 2025**

**Kansas Board of Regents**  
Curtis State Office Building  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520  
Topeka, KS 66612

2024-2025  
Carl Ice, Chair  
Jon Rolph, Vice Chair

## **KANSAS BOARD OF REGENT MEMBERS:**

Blake Benson	John Dicus	Carl Ice
Alysia Johnston	Diana Mendoza	Neelima Parasker
Jon Rolph	Wint Winter	Kathy Wolfe Moore

## **Building a Future**

Higher Education's Commitment to Kansas Families, Businesses, and the Economy

1. Helping Kansas families
2. Supporting Kansas businesses
3. Advancing economic prosperity

# BOARD GOALS 2024-2025

*Approved by the Kansas Board of Regents*



## Goals

### **Pillar One: Family – Access and Affordability**

1. Expand access by creating opportunities for Kansas high school juniors and seniors to earn at least 15 credit hours of college courses at no cost to the student.
2. Improve systemwide transfer of associate degrees by ensuring courses transfer as degree requirements.

### **Pillar One: Family – Access and Success**

3. Continue implementation of the Student Success Playbooks with a focus on expanding Open Educational Resource adoption, Apply Kansas initiatives, FAFSA completion and a review of activities at the community and technical colleges.

### **Pillar One: Family – Success and Pillar Two: Business – Talent Pipeline**

4. Successfully launch the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy Initiative.
5. Gather recommendations from universities and develop a framework and definitions for reporting industry-recognized alternative credentials awarded by the public universities.

### **Pillar Three: Prosperity**

6. Develop a systemwide research initiative that leverages the combined resources and expertise of universities to attract businesses, serve as economic engines, create opportunity for Kansans, and uplift the state and its communities.

### **Bedrock Governance Goal**

7. Establish information technology, cybersecurity and enterprise risk management policies for state universities.

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# MEETING INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE

Unless noted, all meetings take place at the Curtis State Office Building (CSOB) at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas, 66612 in the meeting room indicated. Addresses for offsite meetings can be obtained by contacting the Kansas Board of Regents office at 785-430-4240.

## Wednesday, March 12, 2025

<b>Time</b>	<b>Committee/Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:30 am - 9:00 am	System Council of Chief Academic Officers	Suite 530
9:00 am - Adjournment	Council of Chief Academic Officers	Suite 530
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Governance Committee	Kathy Rupp Room <u>Livestream</u>
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Council of Student Affairs Committee	Sunflower Room C
10:15 am - Noon	Fiscal Affairs & Audit Standing Committee	Board Room <u>Livestream</u>
10:30 am - 11:00 am	System Council of Presidents	Suite 530
11:00 am - Adjournment	Council of Presidents	Suite 530
11:00 am - Noon	Academic Affairs Standing Committee	Kathy Rupp Room <u>Livestream</u>
Noon - 1:00 pm	Council of Faculty Senate Presidents	Kansas Room A
Noon - 1:00 pm	Students' Advisory Committee	Kathy Rupp Room
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch <i>Board of Regents &amp; President Flanders</i>	Flint Hills Room B
1:15 pm	Board of Regents Meeting	Board Room <u>Livestream</u>
5:00 pm	Reception <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, CEOs, Government Relations Officers, and Legislators</i>	The Beacon 420 SW 9 <sup>th</sup> Street

**Thursday, March 13, 2025**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Committee/Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Breakfast <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, and Council of Chief Academic Officers</i>	Suite 530
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Round Table <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, and Council of Business Officers</i>	Kathy Rupp Room

# MEETING AGENDA

The Kansas Board of Regents will meet in the Board Room located in the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas, 66612.

## Wednesday, March 12, 2025

- I. Call To Order** Regent Ice, Chair
  
- II. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. February 12, 2025 Meeting *p. 5*
  - B. March 5, 2025 Special Meeting *p. 16*
  
- III. Introductions and Reports**
  - A. *Introductions*
  - B. *Report from the Chair* Regent Ice, Chair
  - C. *Report from the President & CEO* Blake Flanders, President & CEO
  - D. *Report from Council of Faculty Senate Presidents* Norman Philipp, PSU
  - E. *Report from Students' Advisory Committee* Hannah Eckstein, PSU
  
- IV. Standing Committee Reports**
  - A. *Academic Affairs* Regent Mendoza
  - B. *Fiscal Affairs & Audit* Regent Benson
  - C. *Governance* Regent Ice, Chair
  - D. *Retirement Plan* Regent Ice, Chair
  
- V. Approval of Consent Agenda**
  - A. *Academic Affairs*
    - 1. Act on Request to Approve Bachelor of Science in Data Science – KU Provost Bichelmeyer *p. 19*
  - B. *Fiscal Affairs & Audit*
    - 1. Act on Request to Purchase Real Property – KSU Salina Chad Bristow, Director, Facilities *p. 26*
    - 2. Act on Request to Approve Program Statement for Construction of Outdoor Seating Area for Kossover Tennis Complex – ESU *p. 27*
  
- VI. Consideration of Discussion Agenda**
  - A. *Other Matters*
    - 1. Receive Federal Update Report Tom Harnisch, SHEEO VP Government Relations *p. 28*

<i>B.</i>	<i>Academic Affairs</i>	Regent Mendoza	
1.	Act on Kansas Free Application Days for 2025-2026 Academic Year	Mistie Knox, AD, Academic Affairs	<i>p. 28</i>
2.	Clarification of Program Review Metrics	Rusty Monhollon, VP, Academic Affairs	<i>p. 29</i>
<i>C.</i>	<i>Governance</i>	Regent Ice, Chair	
1.	Act on Proposed Amendments to Faculty of the Year Award Policy	John Yeary, General Counsel	<i>p. 30</i>
<i>D.</i>	<i>Other Matters</i>		
1.	Receive Enrollment Report – System	Elaine Frisbie, VP, Finance & Administration	<i>p. 32</i>
2.	Act on Pittsburg State University Presidential Profile	Regent Ice, Chair	<i>p. 33</i>
3.	Act on Request to Grant Honorary Degree – KSU	President Linton	<i>p. 33</i>
4.	Receive Legislative Update	Fred Patton, Government Affairs	<i>p. 33</i>

**VII. Executive Session**

Board of Regents – Personnel Matters Relating to Non-Elected Personnel

**VIII. Adjournment**

# MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

## I. Call To Order

Regent Ice, Chair

## II. Approval of Minutes

### A. February 12, 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:15 p.m. The meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Ice, Chair  
 Jon Rolph, Vice Chair  
 Alysia Johnston  
 Blake Benson  
 John Dicus  
 Neelima Parasker  
 Wint Winter  
 Diana Mendoza  
 Kathy Wolfe Moore

Chair Ice noted that the meeting is being conducted virtually due to inclement weather and the closure of the Curtis State Office Building. In addition, he noted that there has been an addition to the agenda: following the legislative update, the Board will recess into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board’s January 15, 2025 meeting. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ice introduced and welcomed Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore, whose appointment to the Board was confirmed by the Kansas Senate on Thursday, February 6, 2025.

### GENERAL REPORTS

#### REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice reflected on the meeting agenda, noting that the agenda itself could function as a Chair report. The report on the Board’s strategic plan will highlight successes, the accomplishment of which included participation from the institutions, the Governor, and the Legislature. The universities’ student success updates also fit within the strategic plan. The Board will hear an update on the ongoing legislative session.

#### REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Blake Flanders reported that legislative activity at the statehouse and federal government activity are being monitored. President Flanders noted that the Complete College America launch was this week. The alliance is committed to increasing graduation rates and student success. It brings best practices, a number of which our system is already implementing. President Flanders thanked Washburn University for hosting the event.

Regent Winter asked about the status of the appropriation process. President Flanders replied that there is very good news for the community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn University in the House of Representatives, as funding beyond the Board’s request has been added for those entities. However, the state universities face some headwinds. Facility renewal payments enacted last year have been suspended for FY 2026



in the current budget, and the Board has not yet received any of its own budget requests. President Flanders stated that the focus has been narrowed to the system's request for salary enhancements. Fred Patton, the Board's governmental affairs consultant, will provide more information in the legislative update.

#### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Pittsburg State University Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the House Judiciary Committee's hearing on House Bill 2348 regarding faculty tenure. He thanked those who provided testimony to the Committee.

Chair Philipp addressed the Council's work on faculty of the year award policy updates. Chair Ice noted the policy updates received a very positive reaction. He said the Governance Committee was informed that campuses were beginning to gather nominations. Chair Philipp said the universities are trying to be proactive. He noted that PSU has updated its criteria document and will be submitting it to President Flanders.

Chair Philipp said that the Council is working on a proposal outlining options for tuition assistance for employee professional development that could be utilized across all state institutions. The Council is working on data gathering, including a statewide survey of all benefits-eligible employees. The Council will present its proposal to the Council of Chief Academic Officers and Council of Business Officers in March and hopes to have the proposal to the Board by April or May.

#### REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pittsburg State University Student Government Association President Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, reported that Higher Education Day at the statehouse will be rescheduled due to today's weather closure. She also recognized the president of Washburn University's student government association for his efforts to organize students regarding HB 2348.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

##### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Mendoza, Chair of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee, reported that on January 29, BAASC received a report on Academic Year 2025 performance report rubrics; received a summary of Board Goals on Systemwide Transfer degrees; approved university programs articulated to the systemwide transfer associate degrees; and received a presentation from the Higher Learning Commission on reduced credit bachelor's degrees.

At this morning's BAASC meeting, the Committee clarified how graduate students are counted in the AY 2025 performance metrics. In addition, the Committee received reports on the Apply Kansas initiative and Kansas Free Application Days. BAASC tabled formal approval of Free Application Days to allow the university provosts to gather data for the Committee. Lastly, BAASC received an update on the First 15 initiative.

Chair Ice asked whether BAASC reviewed the University of Kansas' proposal to update its qualified admissions requirements. Regent Mendoza confirmed that BAASC reviewed the proposal and approved it for the full Board's consideration.

##### FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson, Chair of the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee, reported that the Committee conducted its agenda call on January 28 and met this morning via Zoom. Troy Bruun, Wichita State University Associate Vice President for Financial Reporting gave a brief overview on the composite financial index, a benchmarking tool used in higher education. The CFI is heavily influenced by the university's endowment or foundation returns. It should be reviewed over the longer term in the context of how the institution is implementing its strategic plan, making investments in the campus and in programs that will bring a return to the university.

Most of this morning’s meeting comprised of mid-year budget updates from Pittsburg State University, the University of Kansas, and Kansas State University. All three campuses expressed how impactful the state investments in the student success playbooks, student financial aid, and in capital renewal have been for improving student recruitment and retention. All three campuses are on track with their Fiscal Year 2025 budget plans and remain competitive among their peer and athletic conference universities for tuition and fees.

All three universities have strong freshman classes, but they are seeing softening in international student enrollments. CFI data for the universities reflect their work to improve their operating margins. Debt levels for all three universities were reviewed as well. None of the universities have debt burdens that are concerning to the Committee. Regent Benson commended Doug Ball, Jeff DeWitt and Ethan Erickson and their teams for their work to improve the financial standing of their universities.

Regent Benson noted that challenges lie ahead with the need for more state investment in employee pay, the uncertainty of federal grant funding, cybersecurity threats, and the looming NCAA court case that will bring athletic department revenue sharing with students in the coming months with no identified funding stream. The universities are all mindful of these important risks and are striving to plan for potential scenarios.

In addition to receiving the budget updates, the Committee approved the items on today’s Board consent agenda under Fiscal Affairs. Lastly, Director of Facilities Chad Bristow reminded the Committee that the universities are preparing their plans for the Board to review this fall for the multi-year Campus Restoration Act funding.

#### GOVERNANCE

This morning, the Governance Committee approved proposed student health insurance benefits for plan year 2025-26. Under the proposal, premiums will decrease by six percent with no change in benefits from the current plan year. Final action on the proposal is on the Board’s agenda this afternoon.

Next, the Committee received a first reading of proposed changes to the Board’s faculty of the year policy. The updated policy would add two new award categories—an award for non-tenure-track faculty, and an award for staff. Chair Ice stated that much feedback has been received already and he expects the policy revisions to move forward.

Finally, Committee received a campus safety and security report from the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Rolph moved to approve the consent agenda. Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following items were approved:

##### *Fiscal Affairs & Audit*

##### ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR LIED BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER HEATING HOT WATER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for the Lied Biomedical Research Heating Hot Water System Replacement project. The project budget has increased to \$2,103,245 due to inflation and a more thorough understanding of the project complexity, up from the \$1,600,000 previously approved by the Board. The project will be funded with a combination of the university’s FY 2025 allocation of State universities facilities capital renewal initiative funds and FY 2026 allocation of the Kansas campus restoration act funds. KUMC will procure professional design services utilizing the standard state selection process and intends to execute the project with the traditional state design-bid-build procurement method.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR SUDLER MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMBING INFRASTRUCTURE RENOVATION – KUMC

The University of Kansas Medical Center received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for the Sudler Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Infrastructure Renovation project. The project will be funded with a combination of the university's FY 2025 allocation of State universities facilities capital renewal initiative funds and FY 2026 allocation of the Kansas campus restoration act funds. KUMC will procure professional design services utilizing the standard state selection process and intends to execute the project with the traditional state design-bid-build procurement method.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR BIOPROCESSING AND INDUSTRIAL VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS INNOVATION CENTER – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for renovations and additions to the Bioprocessing and Industrial Value Added Products (BIVAP) Innovation Center. To meet workforce needs of biomanufacturing firms and other industry partners, the project will create space for biomanufacturing training and education and industry partnerships. Laboratory space will contain a comprehensive biomanufacturing line that supports all phases of modern biomanufacturing processes and prepares students for immediate transfer to industry. University researchers and corporate partners will also use the space to develop pilot-scale production of diagnostic, therapeutic and preventative countermeasures for a broad range of emerging zoonotic diseases.

The project will be completed in four phases. Phase 1 focuses on renovating a portion of the second floor to create a biomanufacturing core and training facility. Phase 2 will involve an addition to the BIVAP building and renovations within the existing structure to expand research space and provide more storage for pilot plant equipment. Phase 3 will be a two-story addition to the northwest corner of the existing BIVAP facility to create dedicated space for partnership research. Phase 4 will address existing deferred capital renewal and maintenance, including replacing the roof, HVAC, elevator maintenance, and other building system items that have reached end of life.

The total estimated project cost range is \$26.5-\$30 million. At this time, \$7 million from university funds, federal grants and philanthropic gifts has been identified to support Phase 1. The university will continue to seek additional funding to support the remaining phases. KSU will procure professional design services utilizing the standard state selection process and intends to request authorization from the State Building Advisory Commission to use the state alternative delivery process and execute the project with the construction management at-risk procurement method.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR KANSAS FOREST SERVICE/COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE JOINT FACILITY – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan, and the Board accepted the program statement for a new Kansas Forest Service/College of Agriculture joint facility. The proposed project would create a single joint-use facility to efficiently and economically address overlapping needs of the Kansas Forest Service (KFS) and the College of Agriculture. The facility would produce vehicles for community disaster response use, strengthen Kansas communities' fire preparedness and provide instructional space for academic and regional workforce development programs.

A new 13,268 square foot facility would include a multipurpose classroom/lab, a mechanical lab with flexible space and individual welding stations, drive-through vehicle bays and lifts appropriately sized to accommodate modern military vehicles, code compliant battery storage and exhaust ventilation systems, indoor storage for donated fire equipment and shared office space.

The total estimated project cost is \$5 million. The project will be funded by K-State Research and Extension reserve funds and an Economic Adjustment Assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. KSU will procure professional design services utilizing the standard state selection process and intends to construct the project with the traditional state design-bid-build procurement method.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE BUILDINGS AT BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH CENTER – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to raze the remaining 11 obsolete buildings on the Beef Cattle Research Center site, located north of the Manhattan campus near the intersection of College Avenue and Purcell Road. The Board approved KSU’s request to construct the new Doug Laue Beef Cattle Research Center at the January 2025 meeting. The obsolete buildings will be razed in advance of constructing the new Doug Laue Beef Cattle Research Center at the same location. No environmental issues are anticipated. Following demolition, the existing space will be incorporated into the site package for the Doug Laue Beef Cattle Research Center. The total estimated cost of demolition is \$800,000 and will be funded by the College of Agriculture. KSU will utilize on-call professional design services and bid the demolition project using the traditional state design-bid-build procurement method.

The following structures will be razed:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| State building #36700-464   | State building #36700-464F |
| State building #36700-464A  | State building #36700-464G |
| State building #36700-464B  | State building #36700-464H |
| State building #36700-464C* | State building #36700-464I |
| State building #36700-464D  | State building #36700-464J |
| State building #36700-464E  | State building #36700-464K |

*\*The Board approved demolition of this mission critical building at the March 2022. The foundation still exists and will be removed in its entirety with this project.*

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY – PSU

The Board amended Pittsburg State University’s approval to accept real property. At the September 2024 Board Meeting, the Board authorized PSU to accept a gift of two parcels of land from the PSU Foundation. Those parcels totaled approximately 7 acres. The City of Pittsburg will now retain ownership of one of the parcels. PSU retains approval to accept the remaining 4.4-acre parcel from the Foundation.

Technical Education Authority

ACT ON REQUEST FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE B, C AND AAS IN ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY – COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cowley Community College received approval to offer the following program:

- Electrical Technology (46.0302) – Technical Certificate B/33 credit hours, Technical Certificate C/49 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science degree/60-68 credit hours.

ACT ON EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES – COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Board Approved the following Excel in CTE tuition and fees:

- Cowley Community College: Electrical Technology. Total \$1,286.90. Fees include \$651.90 in textbooks, \$160 for industry certifications, \$125 for work boots and \$350 in tools.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAMS – COWLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Board designated the following as an eligible program under Kansas Promise Scholarship Act:

- Cowley Community College: Electrical Technology (46.0302).

ACT ON SUBMITTED ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026 EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES

The Academic Year 2026 Excel in CTE Fees were approved.

[Fees filed with official minutes.]

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

*Academic Affairs*

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL DOSIMETRY – WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Washburn University Provost John Fritch presented the university’s request to offer a Master of Science in Medical Dosimetry. Regent Mendoza reported that BAASC has reviewed and approved the proposal.

Regent Dicus moved to approve the request. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO CHANGE QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS – KU

Rusty Monhollon, Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the University of Kansas’ proposal to modify its qualified admission requirements for freshmen students under age 21. KU proposes to offer guaranteed admission to students with either: (1) an ACT score of 24 or more and a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or more; or (2) a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or more. The latter is a reduction from the current qualified admissions standards, under which a 3.25 cumulative GPA is sufficient for guaranteed admission to KU. In addition to new qualified admissions standards, KU seeks to establish a February 1 deadline for freshmen applications for the fall semester. To effectuate these changes, amendments to the Board’s qualified admissions regulations will be required.

University of Kansas Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer explained the reduction from 3.25 to 3.0 for the GPA-only option. Other universities in KU’s peer group have a 3.0 GPA minimum for qualified admissions. A small number of students who apply therefore do not receive an automatic acceptance letter from KU like they do from other universities.

Regent Dicus inquired about the 21-and-under qualifier. Provost Bichelmeyer stated that this age generally delineates first-time freshmen. In addition, the distinction is drawn in the state qualified admissions statute.

Regent Benson moved to approve the request. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT ON APPLY KANSAS APPLICATION CAMPAIGN, RECEIVE REPORT ON KANSAS FREE APPLICATIONS DAYS, AND ACT ON KANSAS FREE APPLICATION DAYS FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



Mistie Knox, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, reported on the Apply Kansas campaign and Kansas Free Application Days. The Apply Kansas initiative is a Board goal under the “family” pillar. 253 of the 286 Kansas public school districts participate in the program. Associate Director Knox reviewed data including 3-year trends in the number of schools registered and reporting data; students served; and applications received. Associate Director Knox remarked that 2023 saw the first increase in the state’s college-going rate in the last decade.

Regent Benson inquired whether addressing federal financial aid, scholarships, and other assistance as part of the local Apply Kansas events had been considered. Associate Director Knox said that the events are commonly coupled with information sessions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and that there are FAFSA completion nights for parents.

Kansas Free Application Days also aligns with the “family” pillar of the Board’s strategic plan. The program serves this pillar by removing barriers and expanding access. Associate Director Knox reviewed data on applications received in 2023 and 2024, and on yields from the 2023 event. For the 2023 event, 30% of the students who were admitted based on their free applications enrolled in the institution to which they applied. Associate Director Knox also presented demographic data regarding the event’s yields. Data on the event’s impact on the college going rate is inconclusive due to the federal government’s rollout of the simplified FAFSA last year.

Regent Mendoza noted that BAASC discussed proposed Free Application Days for 2025. During that discussion, the state university provosts said the events are not cost-neutral, and that they would collect data to help streamline processing the free applications. The consensus, however, was that the initiative is positive. BAASC will revisit the issue next month with data to help give the Committee a bigger-picture view.

In response to an inquiry from Regent Benson about the yield rate and goals over the next three to five years, Associate Director Knox stated that baseline data is now available, and she hopes that by October there will be enough information to determine the program’s impact. She noted that the data shows students are applying to multiple institutions, giving them choices. And in response to a question from Regent Winter about the extent to which FAFSA roll-out impacted application numbers, Associate Director Knox stated that it is difficult to determine the impact. However, she noted that the U.S. Department of Education appears to have increased services for students this year.

[Presentations filed with official minutes.]

Governance

ACT ON STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS AND PREMIUM RATES FOR PLAN YEAR 2025-2026

Jeff DeWitt, Chair of the Student Insurance Advisory Committee, presented UnitedHealthcare – Student Resources’ student health insurance renewal proposal for Plan Year 2025-2026. There are four plan options available to students at the state universities. Option 1 is open to all students. Option 2 is for students whose academic disciplines require them to have health insurance, such as students in pharmacy or veterinary medicine. Option 3 is for graduate students, such as graduate teaching assistants, who receive a 75% premium contribution from their employing universities. And Option 4 is for international students, who are required to maintain health insurance. Option 1, as a purely voluntary catch-all category, is in a separate risk pool than the remaining options for which enrollment is required or incentivized.

For Plan Year 2025-2026, a six percent across-the-board premium reduction is proposed, with no reduction in existing benefits. The proposed premiums for the Plan Year are as follows:

<b>Duplicate Existing Benefits</b>	<b>PY 24-25</b>	<b>PY 25-26</b>	<b>\$ and % Change</b>
Plan Option 1	\$5,431	\$5,105	-\$326 / -6.0%

Plan Options 2, 3 and 4	\$2,831	\$2,661	-\$170 / -6.0%
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Based on continued improvement in plan experience after the Board held premiums level last year, and a robust discussion whether to increase coverage or lower premiums, the Advisory Committee determined a prudent reduction in premiums would be appropriate. Chair Ice noted the Governance Committee reviewed and concurred with that recommendation.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the proposal. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BREAK

Chair Ice called for a break at 2:26 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:37 p.m.

Strategic Plan

RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BOARD’S STRATEGIC PLAN, BUILDING A FUTURE

President and CEO Blake Flanders presented the annual report on *Building a Future*, the Board’s strategic plan. The Board adopted *Building a Future* in 2018. The Plan is comprised of three pillars: Pillar 1, helping Kansas families; Pillar 2, supporting Kansas businesses; and Pillar 3, advancing economic prosperity.

President Flanders began by discussing the Board’s efforts surrounding Pillar 1. He focused on efforts aimed at affordability, access, and student success, such as advocating for increased need-based aid and implementing student success playbooks. President Flanders reported that these efforts have contributed to improvement in all three areas. On affordability, President Flanders noted that over the last five years state-funded need-based aid has nearly quadrupled, the increase in tuition during that time is less than half of the increase in the consumer price index over the same period, and the loan debt of Pell Grant recipients is down six percent. On access, after discussing demographic data regarding the college-going rate, enrollment gaps, and the upcoming enrollment cliff, President Flanders noted that the number of Pell recipients in the system grew by 4.9 percent, and the system is providing college courses to 8.9 percent more students than it did in 2020. And with respect to student success, after reviewing data and noting persistence rates are stagnant at 66%, President Flanders said there have been improvements since 2020 in on-time graduation rates, retention rates, and starting wages.

Next, President Flanders discussed the Board’s efforts surrounding Pillar 2. He highlighted the Legislature’s engineering initiative, which began in 2012 with a goal of producing 1,365 engineering graduates per year within 10 years. This goal was surpassed; the system produces 1,440 graduates per year. However, Dr. Flanders noted that wages outside Kansas are robust, and communicating with Kansas employers about the level of competition for the graduates is important. President Flanders also discussed the Excel in Career Technical Education program. And he highlighted the five-year growth in research and development funding to over \$1,000,000,000, comprising a 65% increase in total research funding and a 201% increase in industry sponsored research.

Lastly, regarding Pillar 3, President Flanders reviewed actions that create economic growth and benefit the state, such as the state universities’ plans to facilitate intentional economic development and the Blueprint for Literacy.

President Flanders recommended that Pillar 3 be expanded beyond economic prosperity to include advancing citizenry. He also recommended that the Board continue its activities related to the National Institute for Student Success playbooks developed for each of the universities. He further recommended continued work on the First 15 initiative, to serve more high school students who otherwise might not attend college.

President Flanders remarked that the “payoffs” often comes later than the initiatives from which they flow. He is excited to see returns from many of the Board’s initiatives come relatively early. He has observed a real change in how the system is serving students over the last decade.

Regent Benson encouraged the Board to explore ways to socialize the link between research and development and economic development and to make the core relationship between the two easy to understand as it expands Pillar 3. President Flanders added that, due to competition, research and development faculty are the hardest to recruit and retain. He noted there is a direct correlation between industry-sponsored research in the state and keeping the industry in the state.

Regent Winter asked what letter grade the Board would receive for its work to advance the strategic plan over the last year. President Flanders believed the Board is in the “A” range given the significant returns he has observed.

[Presentation filed with official minutes.]

#### RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE INVESTMENT IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, and the University of Kansas provided updates on their work to implement legislative investments in student success.

For KSU, Dr. Thomas Lane reviewed the university’s goals, which include increasing retention and four- and six-year graduation rates and closing equity gaps. He outlined KSU’s targets for 2030 and how the University is doing so far. He highlighted, for example, a 0.6 percent increase in FTF persistence. Dr. Lane also discussed KSU’s strategy for investing NISS funding, which includes aligning KSU’s strategic enrollment management plan with its NISS efforts, leveraging pre-professional advising, and completing the university’s transition to professional advising.

For PSU, Dr. Susan Bon discussed each of the university’s NISS-prioritized actions. She discussed the university’s efforts to strengthen financial aid, such as PSU’s Great Gorilla Scholarship Program, launched in fall 2024. Dr. Bon noted that PSU achieved a complete overhaul of its academic advising structure, highlighting that the university has one advisor for every 155 students, nearly double the national average of one for every 300 students. The university also has degree maps for all programs. Dr. Bon reviewed the university’s steps to develop ways for students to learn about, select, and transition between majors, which include career pathways and advisors collaborating with faculty. Dr. Bon then discussed the university’s efforts to enable the use of actionable data in support of improved outcomes. Finally, Dr. Bon reviewed the university’s in-progress and future programs, such as a retention review group and a syllabus template requirement.

Regent Benson asked if PSU’s early alert system in the university’s Navigate360 program would trigger an alert if a student shares a concern about another student. Dr. Bon said she would note this suggestion.

For KU, Dr. Jennifer Roberts stated that the university’s NISS recommendations were to strengthen financial wellness through collaboration with other units and strategically aligned, proactive outreach to students; to strategically align academic advising to ensure consistent proactive student support across units and clear guidance within majors; to align student-facing communications to direct information to students in a coordinated, prioritized, and personalized manner; and to develop intentional pathways for students to learn about, select, and transition between majors. Dr. Roberts said that the university looks at success in five different areas of momentum: connection, entry, progression, completion and transition.

Dr. Roberts discussed the three pillars of KU’s approach to financial wellness, reviewing efforts such as changing scholarships and packaging, and holding a student finance summit. The University uses EAB to remind students of payment deadlines.

Regarding academic advising, this is the third year of KU’s academic advising alignment efforts. The University maintains a 300:1 ratio of students to advisors. A student survey reflects increased satisfaction with advising services. Dr. Roberts reviewed statistics on student use of advising services and retention rates.



As to student communication, Dr. Roberts discussed the student digital experience and highlighted the JayBot AI chatbot that will go online this fall.

Dr. Roberts then discussed the university's efforts surrounding intentional pathways for students. KU has completed degree maps for all undergraduate programs and will complete maps for graduate programs this year. The degree maps are integrated with career outcomes. The university is using DFW data in conjunction with gateway courses in subjects such as math and English, and for interventions, tutoring, and consultations about learning supports. Dr. Roberts also highlighted KU's student pathways program, which help students explore careers and interests while maintaining academic momentum; and the university's hopes and dreams survey, which connects students to updates such as classes of interest and networking opportunities.

Regent Rolph inquired about KU's experimentation with AI around these initiatives. Dr. Roberts said that KU is currently using only the AI chatbot, which is geared toward connecting students to services. She said getting information from faculty into the university's systems is a rate-limiting step for other uses. However, the university is getting closer to using AI to personalize a lot of services. Provost Bichelmeyer added that a benefit of KU's degree map work is that it is a starting point to use AI with the university's systems.

[Presentations filed with official minutes.]

#### RECEIVE REPORT ON KANSAS COMPREHENSIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, delivered the report. Vice President Frisbie said that the program's funding has grown from \$21 million to \$72 million since 2018. The comprehensive grant is the Board's largest program.

Vice President Frisbie discussed sector distributions for the grant funding. In Fiscal Year, 2024, the private independent colleges received nearly 37% of the funding, and the public universities received the balance. However, the private institutions only had 18% of the student enrollment for resident undergraduates.

Vice President Frisbie noted that, since 2016, the program size has nearly quintupled when including the institutions' \$1:\$1 matches. The number of students served has grown by 3.5 times. The amounts awarded to students by the institutions are still well below the maximum levels (the maximum award is \$10,000 for the private institutions and \$4,000 for the public institutions). The private institutions provided awards to students with much higher estimated family contributions than the students who received awards at public institutions. Although the cost of attendance at the private institutions is higher, the gap is quite large.

Chair Ice said that report contained things to be very proud of, but that one can also see the impact of the awards not following the students.

[Presentation filed with official minutes.]

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fred Patton, the Board's government affairs consultant reported that it is the middle of week 5 of the legislative session. Turnaround day is approaching quickly: Monday is the final day for non-exempt committees to meet, and turnaround day is next Thursday. The committees have been busy, but there are not a lot of bills on floor yet.

The House Committee on Appropriations plans to complete its budget work before the end of the day tomorrow. It would like the budget to be debated by the full House next week. The bill will then go to the Senate, but it is not yet clear what the process will look like. Patton said that he was confident will be some opportunity to continue working on Board priorities. He believed the Legislature would complete the budget as soon as it can.

Patton said there continues to be advocacy for Board requests—in particular pay plan increases, Campus Restoration Act funding, and getting funding for the Blueprint for Literacy back in the budget. The Board’s proposal on scholarship repayment terms is moving forward, with a hearing upcoming in the Senate Education Committee. A number of individuals testified in opposition to HB 2348, concerning the removal of tenure property rights. President Flanders provided testimony focusing on the bill’s impact on recruitment and retention.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:06 p.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Board recess into executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The subject is a university CEO personnel matter, and the purpose is to protect the privacy of the employee involved. After a short break, the session will begin at 4:15 p.m. and will last 30 minutes.

The Board returned to open session at 4:47 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Carl Ice, Chair

*B. March 5, 2025 Special Meeting*

The Board of Regents met virtually for a special meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 10:30 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Ice, Chair  
 Alysia Johnston  
 Blake Benson  
 John Dicus  
 Wint Winter  
 Diana Mendoza  
 Kathy Wolfe Moore

Chair Ice stated that this morning’s meeting represented an important step in moving forward with the search for a new Pittsburg State University President. The purpose of the meeting is to establish the search committee and its charge.

Chair Ice thanked Rick Webb for agreeing to chair the search committee. Mr. Webb has a strong business background and is an important contributor to the Pittsburg community. Mr. Webb led the last PSU presidential search. Regent Benson has agreed to serve on the committee and to be a liaison for the Board.

Rick Webb thanked the Board for the opportunity to lead the search committee’s work.

**CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**

Other Matters

**APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Regent Dicus moved to appoint the following individuals to the Pittsburg State University Presidential Search Committee:

Rick Webb, Search Committee Chair  
 Blake Benson, Regent  
 Blake Flanders, KBOR President and CEO

Faculty and Staff

Abigail Fern, Executive Director & Associate Vice President of Marketing  
 Jason Reid, Associate Professor School of Technology and Workforce Learning  
 Anthony Crespino, Associate Athletic Director for Operations and Special Projects  
 Dr. Carol Meza-Bakke, Assistant Professor School of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences  
 Susan C. Bon, J.D, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President  
 Michelle Hensley, Executive Assistant to the Registrar  
 Molly Baumgardner, Associate Vice President for Public Affairs & Engagement  
 Lisa Paterni, Assistant Instructional Professor/Executive-in-Residence  
 Dr. Karen Johnson, Associate Professor Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing

Students

Kate Strader, Senior, Majoring in Elementary Education  
 Hannah Eckstein, Student Body President and Senior, Majoring in Elementary Biology  
 Frida Herrera Escobedo, Graduate Teaching Assistant and Majoring in Psychology

Alumni/Community Leaders

Pat Crossland, Executive Vice President of Crossland Construction Company  
 Miles Schnaer, Owner of Crown Organization  
 Paula Baker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Freeman Health System  
 Todd Ferguson, Superintendent of Girard Schools  
 Harold Richard (Dick) Coleman, Owner of Miller’s/Mpix  
 Riley Scott, Founder of Scott Consulting, LLC  
 Thom Watts, Program Director and Morning Show Talent for Classic Hits 93.9  
 Leah Smith, Local Insurance Agency Owner  
 Blaise Bauer, Retired USD 248 District Superintendent  
 Shane R. Kannarr, OD, Managing Member of Kannarr Eye Care  
 Bill Wachter, President and Owner of One Media, Inc  
 Amanda Sukraw, President of Community National Bank  
 Steve Westfall, CEO of Tuthill Corporation

Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVE PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHARGE

Regent Benson thanked Rick Webb for agreeing to serve on the search committee. The purpose of the committee’s charge is simple but important. The committee will assist the Board in finding the next president of Pittsburg State University. The committee will have five key responsibilities: developing a presidential profile; ensuring an unbiased and nondiscriminatory review of candidates; maintaining confidentiality to protect the integrity of the search process and to protect applicants; working with the executive search consultant to identify and evaluate candidates; and presenting an unranked list of four to five top candidates to the Board for consideration. Regent Benson relayed that the committee members each understand the importance of their work and are enthusiastic to begin.

Regent Dicus moved that the following search committee charge be adopted:

1. The Pittsburg State University Presidential Search Committee (“Committee” or “Search Committee”) shall be comprised of individuals (“Committee Members”) appointed by the Kansas Board of Regents to assist and advise the Kansas Board of Regents in the selection of the next President of Pittsburg State University in accordance with the terms and conditions expressed herein.
2. The Committee shall recommend to the Board in the form of a “Statement of Leadership Characteristics” or “Presidential Profile” the criteria for the position of President of Pittsburg State University to be approved by the Board by the March 2025 Board meeting. The Board asks the Committee to consider inclusion of strong demonstrated skills in attracting and retaining students, leadership and decision making, innovation, fundraising and financial stewardship, economic and job growth collaborations, consensus building, change management, relationship building, talent development, and execution of a strategic plan.
3. Committee Members shall serve without predetermined bias for or against any prospective candidates nominated, referred, or discovered in the search process.
4. Committee members shall review all candidates without regard to race, religion, creed, or national origin.

5. Committee members shall preserve the confidentiality of the search process and candidate identities. Such confidentiality is essential to the successful outcome of the search and must be maintained with professionalism and diligence at all times throughout the search process and beyond. Public communication regarding this search is to be done only by the chair of the Search Committee.
6. Committee Members shall serve with the understanding that the Search Committee will meet frequently over a period of months and that attendance at scheduled meetings is a top priority.
7. The Committee shall work with an executive search consultant to search for and screen appropriate candidates. The Committee shall evaluate nominations and applications.
8. The Committee shall present to the Kansas Board of Regents an unranked list of the four to five candidates who are the most qualified for Board selection as the next President of Pittsburg State University.
9. In all deliberations, Committee Members shall adhere to Board of Regents policies and act in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Regent Wolfe Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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Carl Ice, Chair

# REPORTS AND CONSENT AGENDA

### III. Introductions and Reports

- A. *Introductions*
- B. *Report from the Chair* Regent Ice, Chair
- C. *Report from the President & CEO* Blake Flanders, President & CEO
- D. *Report from Council of Faculty Senate Presidents* Norman Philipp, PSU
- E. *Report from Students’ Advisory Committee* Hannah Eckstein, PSU

### IV. Standing Committee Reports

- A. *Academic Affairs* Regent Mendoza
- B. *Fiscal Affairs & Audit* Regent Benson
- C. *Governance* Regent Ice, Chair
- D. *Retirement Plan* Regent Ice, Chair

### V. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. *Academic Affairs*
  - 1. **Act on Request to Approve Bachelor of Science in Data Science – KU** **Provost Bichelmeier**

### Summary

*Universities may apply for approval of new academic programs following the guidelines in the Kansas Board of Regents Policy Manual. The University of Kansas has submitted an application for approval and the proposing academic unit has responded to all of the requirements of the program approval process.*

### I. General Information

- A. **Institution** University of Kansas
- B. **Program Identification**
  - Degree Level: Bachelor’s
  - Program Title: Data Science
  - Degree to be Offered: Bachelor of Science in Data Science
  - Responsible Department or Unit: Psychology
  - CIP Code: 30.0601
  - Modality: Face-to-Face
  - Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2025

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 120

**II. Clinical Sites:** Does this program require the use of Clinical Sites? No

### III. Justification

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Data Science is aimed at students who are interested in pursuing careers in data science or related fields. The B.S. in Data Science degree is a multidisciplinary undergraduate program that will provide students training in mathematics, computation, and statistics; data collection, management, description, and analysis; communication and project management; ethics; problem solving; and decision making.

The program objective is consistent with a Data Science degree curriculum: to prepare students for a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce where data analysis is critical to the functioning of society, business, and education. Upon completion of this major, students will gain technical capabilities, enhanced critical and analytical thinking skills, a well-developed skillset for coding, programming, managing, and interpreting data sets, as well as effective writing, communication, and collaborative working skills.

The combination of social science and data science distinguishes the Data Science degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Naive approaches to artificial intelligence and data science replicate the biases present in society (AI Multiple, n.d.). Algorithms are only as good as the training data and assumptions used in the models. The Data Science degree combines data science methods with a social science perspective on the data-generating process. The grounding in social science prepares students with the insights needed to interpret the vast amounts of data being created by social processes, government, political processes, communication, and economic activity. As a result, the Data Science degree will produce well-rounded graduates with technological savvy, preparing them for a labor market that increasingly relies on skills that cannot be replaced by ChatGPT.

This proposed degree advances current work at the University of Kansas funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF provided funding for the Kansas Data Science Consortium (KDSC) and a mission to enhance the data science capacity of the workforce in Kansas. Faculty and staff in the KDSC contributed to the curriculum design for the proposed degree. Part of the consortium's work has been to integrate data science into the curriculum across high school, community college, and baccalaureate programs. The curriculum in this major will articulate with courses that exist or will be proposed at community colleges in Kansas to create pathways into the B.S. degree program. Additionally, should this major be approved, work is underway to develop 2+2 agreements to facilitate seamless transfer between community college data science programs and the B.S. in Data Science at the University of Kansas. Current community college partners include data science faculty at Johnson County Community College and Butler Community College.

#### **IV. Program Demand**

##### **Market Analysis**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023), there were 169,000 jobs in data science in 2022, and the expected growth in data science jobs between 2022 and 2032 is 35%. The growth rate in data science jobs is more than three times higher than for other occupations. Data scientists earn an average of \$104,000 per year. According to Lightcast there were 496,000 unique data science job postings between January 2021 and December 2022. Most data scientists have a bachelor's degree.

Five years ago, a bachelor's degree in data science was nearly nonexistent. Currently, over fifty institutions across the country are offering a data science major. In the last year alone, more than a dozen new data science bachelor's degree programs have been launched, reflecting the demand for graduates with a data science skillset.

There are no public universities/colleges in the state of Kansas that offer a B.S. degree with the same CIP Code. The curriculum in this proposal has been developed in collaboration with faculty at UC Berkeley, using their data science bachelor's program as a model. Berkeley's bachelor's program was founded in 2015; within five years it had 900 undergraduate majors, including double majors, and 450 minors. More than 6,000 of the 45,000 Berkeley students take a data science course each year.

In Fall 2022, KU's Psychology department began offering an undergraduate certificate in data science. It enrolled twelve students. In the fall 2024 semester, the number of students has increased to 52.

**V. Projected Enrollment for the Initial Three Years of the Program**

Year	Total Headcount Per Year		Total Sem Credit Hrs. Per Year	
	Full- Time	Part-Time	Full- Time	Part-Time
Implementation	5	0	150	0
Year 2	10	0	300	0
Year 3	20	0	600	0

Conservative projections are based on interest in the current undergraduate data science certificate, and the demand trends in the field of data science. Many of these students will double-major as the design of the program facilitates students studying data science and another major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, thus enhancing the interest in data science and strengthening majors across campus.

**VI. Employment**

There are a variety of employment opportunities for students who study for a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. The Lightcast (2022) market analysis report requested by the University of Kansas shows that the target occupations for data science graduates are those listed below:

- Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists
- Management Analysts
- Financial Managers
- Postsecondary Teachers
- Financial and Investment Analysts
- Computer Programmers
- Financial Risk Specialists
- Data Scientists
- Statisticians
- Mathematical Science Occupations, All Other

Combined, these occupations accounted for 1.69 million jobs in 2019. Between 2019 and 2021, there were 237,143 job openings for these occupations. Across these occupations, the number of jobs grew by 4.8 percent.

The median earnings across these occupations ranges from \$30 per hour to \$60 per hour. For all occupations included in the analysis, the median earnings are \$42.45 per hour and \$88.3k per year.

**VII. Admission and Curriculum**

**A. Admission Criteria**

Qualified Admission criteria are used, as this program does not have separate admission requirements.

**B. Curriculum**

**Year 1: Fall**

**SCH = Semester Credit Hours**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
PSYC 199	Data I	3
EECS 138	Introduction to Computing	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra (KBOR Core Math (SGE))	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3



**Year 1: Spring**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
PSYC 399	Data II	3
MATH 115	Calculus I	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Communications (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3

**Year 2: Fall**

Course #	Course Name	SCH 16-17
MATH 365	Elementary Statistics	3
MATH 116	Calculus II	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE)	4-5
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture (SGE)	3

**Year 2: Spring**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=14
MATH 290	Elementary Linear Algebra	2
PSYC 500	Intermediate Statistics	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated U.S. Culture (SGE)	3

**Year 3: Fall**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
PSYC 599	Data III	3
	Domain of Application: Course numbered 300-699 from ABSC, COMS, ECON, MATH, POLS, PSYC, or SOC	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

**Year 3: Spring**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
PSYC 612	Data IV	3
	Domain of Application : Course numbered 300-699 from ABSC, COMS, ECON, MATH, POLS, PSYC, or SOC	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3

**Year 4: Fall**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
	Domain of Application Course numbered 300-699 from ABSC, COMS, ECON, MATH, POLS, PSYC, or SOC	6
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3

**Year 4: Spring**

Course #	Course Name	SCH=15
PSYC 699	Community Data Lab	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3

**Total Number of Semester Credit Hours** ..... **120**

**VIII. Core Faculty**

Note: \* Next to Faculty Name Denotes Director of the Program, if applicable  
 FTE: 1.0 FTE = Full-Time Equivalency Devoted to Program

Faculty Name	Rank	Highest Degree	Tenure Track Y/N	Academic Area of Specialization	FTE to Proposed Program
William Duncan	Assistant Research Professor	PhD	N	Economics	1.0
Michael Branicky	Professor	ScD	Y	Computer Science	0.5
Jeff Girard	Assistant Professor	PhD	Y	Psychology	0.5
Donna Ginther	Professor	PhD	Y	Economics	0.10
Ben Allen	Assistant Professor	PhD	Y	Psychology	0.10
Hossein Saiedian	Professor	PhD	Y	Computer Science	0.10
Clayton Webb	Associate Professor	PhD	Y	Political Science	0.20
Math, Varies				Mathematics	0.30

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program ..... **2**

**IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources**

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
<b>Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions</b>			
Faculty	\$59,319	\$104,977	\$149,057
Administrators ( <i>other than instruction time</i> )	\$18,819	\$19,195	\$19,579
Graduate Assistants	\$20,000	\$20,400	\$20,808
Support Staff for Administration ( <i>e.g., secretarial</i> )	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits ( <i>total for all groups</i> )	\$26,924	\$41,694	\$55,961
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
<b>Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing</b>	\$125,062	\$186,266	\$245,405
<b>Personnel – New Positions</b>			
Faculty	0	0	\$42,500
Administrators ( <i>other than instruction time</i> )	0	0	0
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration ( <i>e.g., secretarial</i> )	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits ( <i>total for all groups</i> )	0	0	\$13,600
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
<b>Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions</b>	0	0	\$56,100

<b>Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses</b>			
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	0	0	0
Physical Facilities: Construction or Renovation	0	0	0
Other: Marketing	\$3,000	0	0
<b>Total Start-up Costs</b>	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses</b>			
Supplies/Expenses	5,000	5,000	5,000
Library/learning resources	2,000	2,000	2,000
Equipment/Technology	10,000	10,000	10,000
Travel	12,000	12,000	12,000
Other	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL COSTS</b>			
	\$163,062	\$221,266	\$336,505

<b>B. FUNDING SOURCES</b> <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds	0	\$90,126	\$180,252	\$360,504
Student Fees	0	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000
Other Sources (grant)	\$496,152	\$445,119	\$491,300	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL FUNDING</b>	\$496,152	\$536,745	\$674,552	\$366,504
<b>C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-)</b> (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)				
		\$373,683	\$453,286	\$29,999

**X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations**

**A. Expenditures**

**Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions**

The personnel that already teach courses at the University of Kansas that will be in the Bachelor of Science in Data Science include faculty who teach in the undergraduate data science certificate as well as faculty teaching math and computer science coursework that will be required of students in the program.

Additionally, there are personnel supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Kansas Data Science Consortium (KDSC) grant. These include one faculty member teaching core classes in the data science certificate which will also be in the major, two graduate students, and a project coordinator.

**Personnel – New Positions**

As enrollments increase, there will be a need for additional faculty. We have applied for a Data Science Center grant from the National Science Foundation that, if successful, would provide funding for an additional faculty member. If it is not successful, we anticipate that we will need university resources to hire a new FTE faculty member in the third year of the major.

As the number of majors increases, we anticipate that this will provide some additional administrative burden on academic advisors and allocate 0.25 FTEs for that work in the third year of the major.

**Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses**

One-time start-up costs for marketing can be covered by the KDSC NSF grant.

**Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses**

The recurring expenses for the program include travel, supplies, library and learning resources, equipment and technology, as well as other costs. Based on expenditures during the first two years of the KDSC grant, we anticipate needing \$5,000 in supplies, \$2,000 for library and learning resources, \$10,000 for equipment and technology, \$12,000 for travel, and \$5,000 for other expenses. The library and learning resources budget support the data science program's efforts to maintain a repository of data science materials on a public-facing platform. The equipment and technology budget supports access to licensed software for faculty and students, which is common to data science coursework. The travel budget supports faculty and students attending an annual data science conference in Kansas to showcase work on community partner sponsored projects.

**B. Revenue: Funding Sources**

Roughly 61.5% of KU students are in-state and 38.5% are out-of-state students. Tuition revenue was calculated by first allocating SCH into in-state and out-of-state and then using a weighted tuition average of \$600.84 per credit hour. Those SCH numbers were then multiplied by the student credit hour generated each year. Student fees include a \$10 College of Liberal Arts & Sciences student fee.

In the other category of revenue, we account for funding that we have received from the National Science Foundation to support the work of the Kansas Data Science Consortium at the University of Kansas.

We have also applied for an additional award at the National Science Foundation through the Data Science Center solicitation. This proposal was submitted in June 2024 and a decision on the proposal is expected in December 2024. If successful, this award would provide additional resources for the University of Kansas to allocate to the development of the data science major.

**C. Projected Surplus/Deficit**

There are significant budget surpluses in the first and second year as a result of NSF grant funding (other sources) that is available to help cover expenses for the major. The surplus goes down to roughly \$30,000 in year three when the grant ends, plus additional faculty is needed for the program. The surplus would grow in year 4 as we have additional students to offset the additional faculty support added in year 3.

**XI. References**

AI Multiple. (n.d.). *Bias in AI: What it is, types, Examples & 6 ways to fix it*. Retrieved December 16, 2024, from <https://research.aimultiple.com/ai-bias/>.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Industry and occupational employment projections overview and highlights, 2022-32. October 2023. Online. Accessed 9/1/2024.

Lightcast Report. Program Overview; Data Analytics. Lightcast Q4 2022 Data Set. November 2022.

*B. Fiscal Affairs & Audit*

**1. Act on Request to Purchase Real Property – KSU  
Salina**

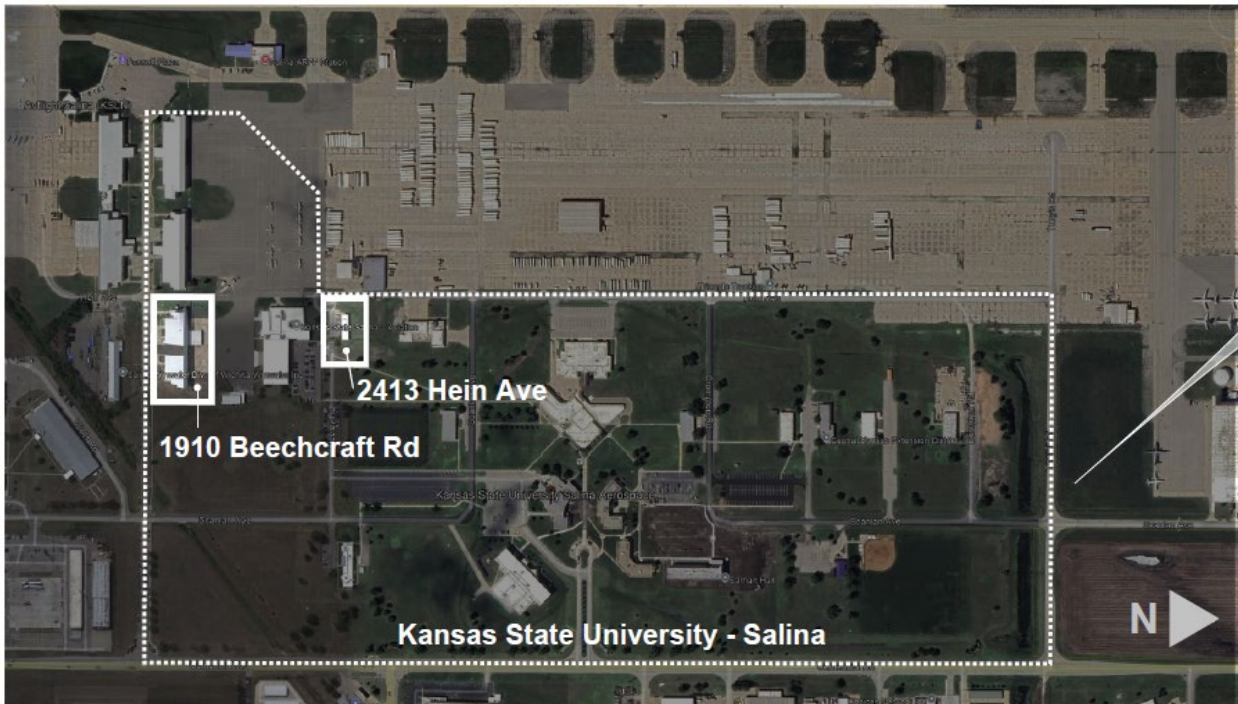
**Chad Bristow,  
Director, Facilities**

Kansas State University requests approval to purchase two parcels of land from the Salina Airport Authority. The first parcel, located at 1910 Beechcraft Road, Salina, KS, contains 2.52 acres, which will be used as a production facility for the composites department. The second parcel, located at 2413 Hein Ave, Salina, KS, contains 0.71 acres, which will continue to be used as an aviation maintenance classroom and faculty offices.

Parcel 1 Legal Description:  
Schilling Sub #3, S34, T13, R3  
Block 1, Lot 13

Parcel 2 Legal Description:  
Schilling Sub #3, S34, T14, R3  
Block 1, Lot 10

As required by state law, three appraisals are in progress and a consensus market value for each parcel will be provided to the Regents prior to the Board meeting. Environmental contamination is present at the properties; the sites are part of an ongoing federally funded remediation project along with almost the entire Salina airport, including K-State Salina’s current campus to which the properties are contiguous. A map of the area is provided below to illustrate the properties. Private grants will pay the expense of the purchase.



**2. Act on Request to Approve Program Statement for Construction of Outdoor Seating Area for Kossover Tennis Complex – ESU**

Emporia State University requests approval of the program statement for a new Tennis Spectator Seating Facility. Board Policy requires approval of program statements for all new buildings and additions regardless of project cost. The Kossover Tennis Complex, completed in 2021, includes indoor and outdoor tennis courts. The interior courts include both fixed and movable spectator seating. The original building budget did not allow for fixed spectator seating at the outdoor court area. A donor has reached out to explore design and construction of an enclosed seating and viewing facility to be built adjacent to the outdoor courts.

Initial schematic design allows for a 750 gross square feet enclosed seating area to include interior finishes, power, and HVAC systems. The initial project budget is estimated at \$465,000. This project would be funded entirely by private gifts. Construction is planned from April to August of 2025. Private gifts will pay for future maintenance of the facility.



# DISCUSSION AGENDA

## VI. Consideration of Discussion Agenda

### A Other Matters

#### 1. Receive Federal Update Report

**Tom Harnisch,  
SHEEO VP Government  
Relations**

Tom Harnisch joined State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) in 2020 as Vice President for Government Relations. Dr. Harnisch leads the planning, implementation, and coordination of SHEEO’s portfolio of federal relations, policy, communication, and advocacy work. He monitors new and potential federal action (legislation, rules, and other policies and actions) that have relevance for SHEEO’s membership. Dr. Harnisch is responsible for bringing these issues to the attention of SHEEO staff and SHEEO’s membership and for articulating their potential impact on our members and the institutions and students they serve. Dr. Harnisch will provide the Board with an update on recent federal actions and issues impacting higher education in Kansas and across the nation.

### B. Academic Affairs

#### 1. Act on Kansas Free Application Days for 2025-2026 Academic Year

**Regent Mendoza  
Mistie Knox,  
AD, Academic Affairs**

### Summary

*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 application and yield data were presented at the February 2025 Board meeting. Board staff recommend continuing Kansas Free Application Days on October 6-8, 2025.*

### Background

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 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 was presented at the February 2025 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**

Based on feedback from key stakeholders—including admission directors from public universities, leadership from the Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO), the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA), and the Apply Kansas Steering Committee—Board staff recommend continuing Kansas Free Application Days on October 6-8, 2025, to align with College Application Month for Kansas. Maintaining this timeline ensures consistency with statewide efforts and provides continuity in data collection for more accurate year-over-year comparisons to assess the initiative's impact.

## **2. Clarification of Program Review Metrics**

**Rusty Monhollon,  
VP, Academic Affairs**

On November 6, 2024, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) members recommended approval of several revised academic program review metrics. The Board approved the recommendations at its December 18, 2024, meeting.

In preparing the issue paper for the December Board meeting one recommendation was truncated and omitted an important phrase. Academic Affairs staff discovered the discrepancy after the December 18 approval. Staff brought the matter back to BAASC for it to affirm its intent and recommendations, which it did on February 12, 2025. BAASC recommends the Board approve the inclusion of the November 6, 2024 BAASC recommendation below in the revised academic program review metrics it approved on December 18, 2024.

### **Recommendation approved by BAASC, 11/6/24**

Students who pursue graduate study immediately upon completion of a bachelor's degree can be included in the "Talent Pipeline" metric. Additionally, these students should not be included in the wage metric five years post-baccalaureate.

### **Recommendation approved by KBOR, 12/18/24**

Excluding from the five-year post-baccalaureate wage metric students who immediately pursue graduate studies upon completion of a bachelor's degree.



C. Governance

1. Act on Proposed Amendments to Faculty of the Year Award Policy

Regent Ice, Chair  
John Yeary,  
General Counsel

**Summary**

*The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents and Board staff propose amendments to Board policy related to Faculty of the Year awards. These amendments would make full-time non-tenure-track faculty eligible for the Faculty of the Year awards in addition to currently eligible tenured and tenure-track faculty. The amendments would also add new Staff of the Year awards. In addition, the amendments would make several clarifying and other changes described below.*

**Background**

Current Board policy provides that in order to recognize excellence in teaching, research, and service, the Board will, on an annual basis present an award to one tenured and one non-tenured but tenure track faculty member at each state educational institution and the University of Kansas Medical Center. Current Board policy does not provide for recognition of non-tenure-track faculty or other university staff. Proposed changes regarding the faculty awards were discussed and developed by the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents. The proposed addition of Staff of the Year awards was discussed at the January 2025 Board Governance Committee meeting. A first read of the draft policy amendments occurred on February 12, 2025, in both the Board Governance Committee meeting, and in the Council of Chief Academic Officers meeting. As a result of feedback received following the first read, the proposed staff award portion of the draft policy amendment was revised to clarify that the President or Chancellor of each state university and the University of Kansas Medical Center shall annually identify one staff member at each state university and the University of Kansas Medical Center to recommend to the Board for recognition.

In addition to the changes described above, the proposed policy amendment would expand the basis for recognition for Faculty of the Year awards from excellence in teaching, research, and service to also include extension, libraries, clinical duties and service in other roles. The amendment would provide for nominations to be submitted to the Board by the May Board meeting for recognition by invitation of the Board Chair, typically at the September Board meeting. The staff nominations would be submitted on the same timeline by the President or Chancellor of each state university and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

The draft policy changes are reflected in strikethrough and underline below.

\* \* \*

**C CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FACULTY AND STAFF**

...

**9 FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

In order to recognize and encourage excellence in teaching, research, and service among university faculty, the Board ~~will~~ may, on an annual basis, present an award to one tenured, ~~and one non-tenured but tenure-track, and one full-time non-tenure-track~~ faculty member at each state educational institution and the University of Kansas Medical Center. To assist the Board in identifying appropriate recipients for ~~the~~ each award, the Faculty Senate of each state educational institution and the University of Kansas Medical Center shall adopt criteria by which each Faculty Senate shall annually select up to three ~~two~~ faculty members (one in each of the aforementioned categories) to recommend to the Board for recognition. The criteria shall seek to identify faculty members who have excelled in their university responsibilities (including teaching, research, extension, libraries, clinical duties, service and other roles) ~~whose teaching, research, and service~~ over the preceding academic year and have exemplified excellence and commitment to the mission of the institution. The criteria may be adopted and

amended at any time in accord with the governance procedures of the individual Faculty Senates but shall be submitted to and subject to final review and approval by the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board. Nominations shall be submitted to the Board by the May Board meeting to provide ~~an~~ adequate time for review and approval or rejection at the Board's annual August retreat. Recipients shall be called before the Board for recognition at the September Board meeting by invitation of the Board Chair, typically at the September Board meeting.

In order to recognize and encourage excellence among university staff, the Board may, on an annual basis, present an award to one staff member at each state educational institution and the University of Kansas Medical Center. To assist the Board in identifying appropriate recipients for each award, the President or Chancellor of each state university and the University of Kansas Medical Center shall annually identify one staff member at each state university and the University of Kansas Medical Center to recommend to the Board for recognition and the reasons therefore and shall submit nominations to the Board by the May Board meeting to provide adequate time for review and approval or rejection. Recipients shall be called before the Board for recognition by invitation of the Board Chair, typically at the September Board meeting.

**Recommendation**

Board staff recommend that the Board adopt the foregoing policy amendments.

D. Other Matters

1. Receive Enrollment Report – System

Elaine Frisbie,  
VP, Finance &  
Administration

**Summary**

*Highlights of the annual report will be presented, examining historical trends as well as projections for Kansas public higher education enrollment and the impact on the Board’s strategic plan . The full report will be available on the Board website at [https://kansasregents.gov/data/system\\_data/enrollment\\_reports](https://kansasregents.gov/data/system_data/enrollment_reports).*

**Background**

Many data points presented in the enrollment report are also available in the agency’s portal, Kansas Higher Education Statistics (“KHEStats”). For interactive views of enrollments, credential production, the student success index, institutions’ finances, and wage earnings of graduates, navigate from the main webpage at <http://www.kansasregents.gov> to “Data” and to “KHEStats.” Data are available for all four public sectors: state universities, community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn University. Data can also be filtered by institution, academic year, and semester.

The Board office also publishes comprehensive data books for the four public sectors. The data books are an important source for financial information and faculty/staff data in addition to typical enrollment data. Enrollment data in the data books has been aligned with the data in KHEStats. Data books are available at: [http://www.kansasregents.gov/data/system\\_data/higher\\_education\\_data\\_books](http://www.kansasregents.gov/data/system_data/higher_education_data_books).

**Background of the Kansas Board of Regents Uniform Data System**

In 1999, the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act charged the Board with collecting and analyzing data and maintaining a uniform postsecondary education database. Today the data system houses comprehensive data for 32 public institutions and limited data for the private independent institutions. Collectively, the data is called the Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS). The Board Office also maintains data on students enrolled in adult education programs.

KHEDS data are frequently used to support the Board’s strategic agenda, calculate state and federal performance indicators, respond to legislative requests, report enrollment and outcome data, and perform strategic evaluation and research relevant to the improvement of educational instruction and the effective administration of educational and financial aid programs. Major system enhancements have been made in support of the state’s postsecondary funding formula for career and technical education and to provide data for research purposes.

Online reports within [Kansas Higher Education Statistics \(KHEStats\)](#) provide access to enrollment reporting under the “Enrollment” tab. This tab includes reported data on students enrolled for either an Academic Year or semester (i.e., Spring 2024). Charts and tables look at historical enrollment data using a variety of categories including age, type (first-time entering freshman, new transfer, other undergraduate or graduate), county of entering students for Kansas high school graduates, and residency status. Information can be reviewed for the public higher education system statewide as a whole, by sector, or for a specific institution by using the filter options. A visitor to the site can also hover the pointer over data on the screen (i.e. a bar within a bar graph) for additional information.

In support of the Board of Regents’ strategic plan, a dashboard is accessible from the Board’s website by navigating from the agency’s main page to About and then [Building a Future](#). Published data is currently focused on the Family Pillar – including student affordability, access and success.

- |                                                                  |                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>2. Act on Pittsburg State University Presidential Profile</b> | <b>Regent Ice, Chair</b>                   |
| <b>3. Act on Request to Grant Honorary Degree – KSU</b>          | <b>President Linton</b>                    |
| <b>4. Receive Legislative Update</b>                             | <b>Fred Patton,<br/>Government Affairs</b> |

**VII. Executive Session**  
Board of Regents – Personnel Matters Relating to Non-Elected Personnel

**VIII. Adjournment**

# AGENDA

**Academic Affairs Standing Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 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 February 26, 2025 Meeting
  
- II. Board Consent Items**  
No items
  
- III. Board Discussion Agenda Items** Mistie Knox
  - Act on Kansas Free Applications Day for AY 2025-2026
  
- IV. Other Matters**
  - A. Next Three-Year Cycle Performance Agreements Rusty Monhollon
  - B. Reverse Transfer Annual Report Mistie Knox
  - C. Launch Years Initiative Update Jen Bonds-Raacke
  
- V. Announcements**  
Next BAASC Meeting – April 2, 2025 - Virtual
  
- VI. Adjournment**

# MINUTES

## Academic Affairs Standing Committee February 26, 2025

Chair Diana Mendoza called the February 26, 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 Alysia Johnston  
                                  Regent Parasker  
                                  Regent Kathy Wolfe Moore

### INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Julio Guerrero, who filled in for Barry Robinson at Butler CC, and Angela Pool-Funai, who filled in for Jill Arnesdorf at FHSU, introduced themselves.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Parasker moved that the minutes of the February 12, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried unanimously.

### BOARD DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEMS

#### BS DATA SCIENCE

Jen Roberts shared a summary of the program proposal. This proposal was originated because KU received a National Science Foundation grant, which has provided funding for the Kansas Data Science Consortium, which is working to enhance the data science capabilities of the Kansas workforce. Dr. William Duncan shared an overview of the program content and structure. Regent Johnston moved to approve the program proposal. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

#### ACT ON KANSAS FREE APPLICATIONS DAY FOR AY 2025-2026

Associate Director of Academic Affairs Mistie Knox shared that based on the stakeholder feedback, it was recommended that the 2024 dates set for the second week in October, which would be October 6-8, 2025, continue and remain consistent. Maintaining this timeline would allow for continuity in data collection. The KHEDS AY report, anticipated in October, will provide further insight into the initiative's impact. At the last meeting, provosts expressed appreciation for the spirit of the initiative. They suggested collaborating and exploring ways to streamline the processes for students applying and, reduce the burden faced by admissions departments, and reduce costs. Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the provosts have been meeting and working on gathering the data for their institutions. There is a meeting of enrollment managers later in the week. He also provided a reminder that at the last meeting, there was a motion to table this discussion until the March Board meeting and recommended that this timeline be followed to allow the provosts to provide the data they receive from the enrollment managers. Regent Parasker made a motion to move this discussion to the March meeting. Following the second of Regent Mendoza, the motion carried unanimously.

### OTHER MATTERS

#### REDUCED CREDIT BACCALAUREATE DISCUSSION

Vice President Monhollon asked the committee to provide feedback on how to proceed with their recommendation to be presented to the Board. The regents suggested gathering information on what the policy changes would look like, data on industry needs, and what the requirements and criteria for the institutions requesting to offer these degree programs would be. Regent Johnston moved that the Board be charged with gathering information to determine what it would take for the institutions to be able to propose degree options for the 90-hour bachelor's

degree. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. Vice President Monhollon will move forward with working with Board staff to gather information on what the policy updates will look like, the approval process for these programs, and the criteria that will be used to assess these programs.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Regent Johnston moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

# AGENDA

**Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**10:15 a.m.**

## **I. Old Business**

- A. Approve minutes of February 12, 2025 committee meeting
- B. Follow up on issues raised during the February 25 agenda call

## **II. New Business**

- A. **FAA 25-08** Discuss State Universities' Relationships with Foundations/Endowment  
*Greg Willems, KSU Foundation and Jason Williby, FHSU Foundation*
- B. **FAA 25-04** Review State Universities' Annual Financial Reports, including Composite Financial Index and Current Year Budget Status Relative to Plan  
*Angela Wolgram ESU, Wesley Wintch FHSU, David Miller WSU*
- C. Review Board Agenda Items under Fiscal Affairs
- D. **FAA 25-09** Monitor Progress on State University Capital Renewal Initiative and Campus Restoration Act (standing item)
- E. **FAA 25-10** Review Audit Findings (standing item)

## **III. Other Committee Items of Consideration**



# MINUTES

## Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee February 12, 2025

The February 12, 2025, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee was called to order by Chair Benson at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom conference. *Proper notice was given according to law.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:                   Regent Blake Benson, Chair  
                                                  Regent Jon Rolph  
                                                  Regent John Dicus  
                                                  Regent Wint Winter

### **Approve minutes of January 15, 2025 committee meeting**

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **FAA 25-04 Review State Universities' Annual Financial Reports, including Composite Financial Index (CFI) and Current Year Budget Status Relative to Plan**

Troy Bruun, Associate Vice President of Financial Reporting at Wichita State University, shared that CFI is a benchmarking tool which provides an indication of financial health. It is used by both public and private institutions in higher education. The CFI is calculated using primary reserve, viability reserve, return on net assets, and net operating revenue.

Doug Ball, Pittsburg State University Vice President for Administration & Finance, shared that enrollment trends have been stable, although international enrollment has dropped and that the FY 2025 General Use Budget is on track with their plan for tuition revenues. He highlighted that operating costs for academic support and student services have had larger increases than other areas, consistent with implementation of the National Institute of Student Success playbook. Tuition & fees at PSU have remained lower than most of their peer institutions. The CFI index has increased 1.6 points during FY 2024 and refinancings in 2020 and 2022 have substantially reduced debt service levels.

Regent Winter asked if there was a way to identify how many more students are on campus as a result of the new automatic associate's degree initiative. Doug responded that it was early to tell, but the number of students granted an associate's degree could be a leading indicator. Regent Winter then asked which of the forward looking observations he thought was the most important. Doug responded that the student success initiative will be the most impactful for the short term and the Gorilla Rising project will be most impactful in the long term.

Jeff DeWitt, University of Kansas Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, shared that KU is experiencing the largest enrollment in the school's history. Non-resident enrollment has seen the most growth. The General Use Budgets for the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses are on track for the current fiscal year. The debt burden has decreased significantly, and the CFI is currently at 8.072. Fiscal challenges include addressing market pay gaps for employees, state and federal funding, student housing needs, and the national court case related to athletics (House vs. NCAA.).

Chair Benson asked to what Jeff would attribute the 20% increase in non-resident enrollment. Jeff responded that they worked with an outside firm to determine what kind of scholarships non-resident students would need to choose KU over its competitors.

Regent Winter asked what considerations have been made for possible drops in enrollment. Jeff responded that the university has engaged with a consultant to assist with a strategic plan for housing. The plan for an additional 1,000 units would give the university a better ability to rotate housing in the event of an enrollment drop.

Ethan Erickson, Kansas State University's Vice President for Administration & Finance, announced the completion of their next-gen strategic plan, with colleges and major units aligning their plans accordingly. The campus master plan will be presented to the Board in September, and the university is standardizing operations through an Operational Excellence initiative. Enrollment remains stable, with an increase in non-resident students. The General Use budget is on track, and principal debt has decreased. The University Debt Burden is below the KBOR threshold, though deferred maintenance costs for mission-critical buildings are high due to inflation and aging systems. Plans for the Campus Restoration Act include demolishing Shellenberger, renovating Anderson Hall, and other projects, resulting in a 7% increase in space utilization. Fiscal challenges include cybersecurity, recruitment and retention, aging infrastructure, and federal funding uncertainty.

Regent Dicus inquired whether the growth in expenditures is sustainable or if it would eventually level off. Ethan explained that the rise in expenditures is due to an increase in line items, which also reflects the growth in research and auxiliary enterprises. He emphasized that the General Use budget is always approached conservatively during internal planning.

Regent Winter asked Ethan to what he would attribute the growth in enrollment. Ethan responded that a tiered pricing structure was implemented for non-resident students, offering discounted tuition up to the in-state rate.

#### **Review Board Agenda Items under Fiscal Affairs**

Chair Benson noted that there were no discussion items on the full Board Agenda. Regent Rolph moved to approve the Consent Agenda for the full Board meeting. Following a second by Regent Winter, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **FAA 25-09 Monitor Progress on State University Capital Renewal Initiative and Campus Restoration Act**

Director of Facilities, Chad Bristow, shared that the universities are developing their campus restoration plans to be submitted to the Board in September and highlighted the efforts to advocate for the Legislature to not rescind any funding for campus facilities.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Benson reminded attendees that the next Agenda Planning conference call will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m. He adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

# AGENDA

**Governance Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

- I. Approve: Minutes from February 12, 2025
- II. Receive Second Read of Request to Amend Board Policy Related to Faculty of the Year Awards
- III. Annual campus safety and security report
  - Fort Hays State University
- IV. CEO FY26 compensation discussion – **Executive Session** – Personnel Matters relating to Non-Elected Personnel
- V. Other matters

# MINUTES

## Governance Committee February 12, 2025

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Chair Ice called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Proper notice was given according to the law.

Members Present: Carl Ice, Chair  
Jon Rolph  
Blake Benson  
Diana Mendoza

### MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Committee's January 15, 2025 meeting. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### SIAC

Jeff DeWitt, Chair of the Student Insurance Advisory Committee, presented the student health insurance renewal proposal for Plan Year 2025-2026. The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from each of the state universities and the University of Kansas medical center and is chaired by a Council of Business Officers member. UnitedHealthcare – Student Resources is the insurance carrier.

Chair DeWitt noted that the plans have a small risk pool, which contributed to an increase in premiums during the Covid-19 pandemic. Last year, the plan experience was better, and premiums were held flat with no reduction in benefits. The plan experience continues to be favorable. For the upcoming plan year, a six percent across-the-board premium reduction is recommended.

The Committee inquired about references in the agenda materials to this being the maximum premium decrease. Chair DeWitt explained that the six percent reduction was the most prudent figure to avoid the risk of a large premium increase in subsequent plan years.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the Plan Year 2025-2026 renewal proposal. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### FACULTY OF THE YEAR

General Counsel John Yeary presented a first reading of proposed updates to the Board's faculty of the year award policy. The proposal would add an award for non-tenure-track faculty and an award for university staff. For the staff award, nominations will be received from the university CEOs, but on the same timeline as nominations for the faculty awards received from the university faculty senates. For the faculty award, the proposal expands the criteria from excellence in teaching, research, and service, to also include other university responsibilities, such as clinical duties. Chair Ice noted that the proposal appeared consistent with feedback the Regents have received about the award.

Matthew Muether, Wichita State University Faculty Senate President, stated that the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents endorses the revisions to the faculty component of the awards. He also informed the Committee that many of the university faculty senates have begun the process of soliciting nominations for the non-tenure-track faculty award. Although the addition of the staff award did not grow from a Council of Faculty Senate Presidents recommendation, the Council also supports that addition.

The Committee discussed whether a second reading was necessary. While substantial feedback has been received, the Committee will adhere to its usual process and will receive a second reading at next month's meeting.

#### CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY

Julie Murray, University of Kansas Chief of Staff, introduced University of Kansas Police Chief Nelson Mosley, University of Kansas Medical Center Police Chief Brad Deichler, and University of Kansas Clery Coordinator Jason Goodman.

Chief Mosley provided the report for KU's Lawrence campus. Chief Mosley noted that, in 2024, the department received 3,600 calls for service, made 4,142 requested extra patrols, and provided 74 safety escorts. Chief Mosley updated the committee on major campus events; projects, such as the department's efforts to apprehend suspects in a rash of bicycle and e-scooter thefts, and to conduct building sweeps in response to reports of unauthorized individuals in campus buildings; the department's participation in exercises and education programs it conducted for the campus community; and technological changes, such as updating the department's dispatch console systems and getting radio encryption in place. Chief Mosley noted that the department is exploring license plate readers, cameras, and artificial intelligence to assist with proactive policing.

KUMC Police Chief Brad Deichler noted that KUMC leans toward a traditional law enforcement approach, noting that the KUMC's campus is impacted by the property crimes and violent crimes in the campus' surrounding metropolitan area. Chief Deichler noted his department interacts frequently with law enforcement agencies from the federal government, Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas. He shared that the department conducted six tabletop exercises; is trying to upgrade its Clery program; is working on a new radio system; and has expanded camera coverage, with license plate readers coming.

KUMC Police Captain Jeff Cowdrey reviewed the most common calls the department receives. KUMC Police Captain Michael Oude Alink discussed training opportunities for department personnel, noting that 95 percent had participated in crisis intervention training. In response to questions from the Committee about staffing levels, Chief Deichler noted that the department currently has about 45 staff. Its goal is 50. However, he noted desire to work in the field is down, and it is difficult to find applicants who can clear the required background checks.

Clery Coordinator Jason Goodman discussed KU's revised Clery compliance procedures. Work has been done on the structure of the University's security reports and the review process to ensure compliance. In addition, new timely warning processes and Clery trainings have been implemented. KU is planning a week-long Clery training that will be open to all institutions.

Chair Ice thanked each of the presenters.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9:53 a.m., Chair Ice adjourned the meeting.

# AGENDA

**System Council of Presidents  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
10:30 a.m.**

- I. Approve minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting
- II. Report from System Council of Chief Academic Officers: Dr. Mickey McCloud
- III. Receive System Legislative Update: Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff
- IV. Other matters

# MINUTES

## System Council of Presidents February 12, 2025

At 10:30 a.m., President Seth Carter called the System Council of Presidents meeting to order virtually via Zoom due to the inclement weather on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT:                      President Seth Carter, Colby College  
                                                    President James Genandt, Manhattan Tech  
                                                    President Dan Shipp, Pittsburg State University, Chair  
                                                    President Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University  
                                                    President Rick Muma, Wichita State University  
                                                    President Richard Linton, Kansas State University

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Linton moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Muma, the motion carried.

### REPORT FROM SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS PROVIDED BY LUKE DOW

- The council received a report from Mistie Knox, KBOR Associate Director for Academic Affairs, on the apply Kansas initiative and apply free days. They continue to see those efforts increase the number of participants, with more Kansas school districts participating in apply Kansas. There has been a 38% increase in participation from last year to this year.
- In other matters, we heard about the Complete College America launch meeting that was held yesterday (2/11/25).
- Lastly, we received information on the professional development sessions on Math Pathways and the English Project.

### FIRST 15 UPDATE: RUSTY MONHOLLON, VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- The first 15 work group met on January 21<sup>st</sup> and again on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- At the January meeting Rusty was encouraged by what he believed at least was an agreement for a pilot using a single course, most likely English composition, to help move the initiative forward.
- When the group met in February, they began the meeting with an open forum that included many non-workgroup members. The discussion focused primarily on how the initiative would be funded. However, there were other concerns discussed as well. At the end of the Forum, the workgroup picked up where they had left off in January.
- Based upon some of the conversations from February meeting, KBOR staff are working to collect some additional data that they plan to bring together before the work group meets again.

### SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM KELLY OLIVER, CHIEF OF STAFF

- House appropriations this week is finishing up the Budget Bill, House Bill 2007, and their plan is to have their final recommendations by the end of tomorrow. The bill will go to the House floor next week and then will be moved to the Senate for consideration. Currently the bill includes some of the some of the budget increase requests that were in the Board's request. However, there have also been some items removed. For example, the funding for Blueprint for Literacy has been removed from the budget.
- We're also tracking several bills throughout this session:
  - **Senate Bill 44** would expand the Promise Act to include private for-profit institutions within the Promise Act program. That bill is currently in Senate Education.

- **Senate Bill 50** is a technical bill that will move scholarships with a service and repayment component to a uniform interest rate. It has moved out of Senate. Education is now on general orders in the Senate.
- **House Bill 2185** will update the National Guard Educational Assistance program to include dependents, and it will also expand the EMERGE program to advanced degrees beyond the master's level.
- **House Bill 2195** creates a statute for the technical college operating grant. It has a hearing tomorrow in house higher education budget committee.
- **House Bill 2248** was requested by the Kansas Hospital Association. It seeks to establish a Kansas Nursing Grant initiative program to help create more grants for laboratory supplies and tools at our education institutions. This bill is in House Higher Education Committee.
- **House Bill 2361**, which was also requested by the Kansas Hospital Association would abolish the nursing scholarship and create the Kansas Healthcare Services Scholarship. This would significantly expand eligibility beyond nursing to include a wide range of healthcare professions from physicians, assistants, and pharmacists to medical technologist. This bill is in the House Health and Human Services Committee and does not have a hearing set.
- **House Bill 2348** would provide that tenure is not a property right for faculty. It had a hearing yesterday in House Judiciary.
- Next week is turnaround, which is the last day for non-exempt bills to be considered in the House of Origin.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was motioned for adjourned at 10:39am by President Carter.



# AGENDA

**Council of Presidents  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
10:30 a.m. or adjournment of SCOPS**

- I. Approve the minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting
- II. Report from Council of Chief Academic Officers: Dr. Susan Bon, J.D., Ph.D.
  - a. PhD in Education & Behavioral Analysis – WSU – Monica Lounsbery (if approved unanimously by COCAO)
  - b. BS in Nutrition – KU – Barbara Bichelmeyer (if approved unanimously by COCAO)
- III. Report from Council of Student Affairs Officers: Dr. Karl Stumo, Ed.D.
- IV. Report from Council of Belonging & Community Engagement Officers: Deatrea Rose
- V. Report from Council of Government Relations Officers: Dr. Shawn Naccarato, M.P.A, J.D., PhD.
- VI. Report from Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Council for Research and Economic Development (CRED): Dr. Shawn Naccarato, M.P.A, J.D., PhD.
- VII. Report from Council of Chief Business Officers: Doug Ball
  - a. Act on Proposed Minimum Cybersecurity Standards for State University Information Technology and Security Policies
- VIII. Other matters

# MINUTES

## Council of Presidents February 12, 2025

At 10:40 a.m., President Dan Shipp called the Council of Presidents meeting to order virtually via Zoom due to the inclement weather on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Dan Shipp, Pittsburg State University, Chair  
President Ken Hush, Emporia State University  
President Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University  
President Rick Muma, Wichita State University  
President Richard Linton, Kansas State University  
Chancellor Doug Girod, University of Kansas

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Linton moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Muma, the motion carried.

### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS (COCAO)

Dr. Susan Bon, Pittsburg State University Provost and Executive Vice President gave the COCAO report.

- The chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents [CoFSP] reported that he represented CoFSP at the HB 2348 hearing and that he submitted a position statement in opposition to the bill on behalf of CoFSP.
- They had the first reading of a proposal for a new BS degree in Nutrition from the University of Kansas.
- They had the second reading from the University of Kansas for a BS in Data Science. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Provost Thomas and seconded by Provost Mendez, all voted in favor and the motion was approved.
- In other matters,
  - PSU requested a name change from BS in Workforce Development to BBA in Human Resource Development.
  - Chair of CoFSP provided data and updates regarding the Faculty and Staff Tuition Proposal.
  - Sam Christy-Dangermond shared a Faculty [and Staff] of the Year Award information and Policy Update. She requested feedback on the policy revision by February 19, 2025.
- The only announcement was made by Kansas University Medical Center, Dr. Klein. He shared that the Health Informatics degree was moving from one school to another.

### REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS (COSAO)

Dr. Karl Stumo, Pittsburg State University Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, provided a report to the Council of Presidents from their meeting on February 12, 2025.

- Many of the changes at the federal level have both driven student attention on our campus and driven new opportunities for dialog between institution leadership and student leadership groups.
  - Student groups have been active in expressing their voices in either opposition or support of state and federal policy changes. Student life colleagues have been very **thoughtful** and **careful** in the provision of guidance to students regarding matters of campus safety and security protocols.
  - Many institutions have provided guidance materials to students, faculty, and staff regarding best practices for engagement with local, state, and federal law enforcement officials. These are clearly dynamic times on our college campus and the Council of Student Affairs Officials will continue to support student success in the living and learning experiences on campus.

- Members of the Council have reported their focus in monitoring how any changes in federal funding for campus programs may impact students' services and experiences going forward, which is a dynamic process at this time.
- One common theme in our discussion this morning was how proud we were of many of our students for their thoughtful engagement in these matters of change, including student attendance and contribution to the hearings in the legislature yesterday.
- Fee season has begun for our Student Government Associations with many discussions to balance student wants and wishes to enhance their on-campus experiences with sensitivity around increases in costs for our students.
- We also had valuable conversation regarding budget challenges and opportunities within our Student Union facilities. Clearly budgets would benefit by additional revenue, but it is indeed a challenge to identify new products and services that students need and desire.
- Higher Education Day has been pushed back to next week. Our students are looking forward to meeting their elected officials in the Legislature and expressing voice and priorities as students and citizens.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF BELONGING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS (CIBO)**

Deatrea Rose, Pittsburg State University Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging, provided an update to the Council from their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

- All of the Regent institutions and Washburn are celebrating Black History month with a number of program offerings for our students.
- Emporia State held their annual Diversity Leadership Summit and reported that there were 120 high school students in attendance.
- Most officers have been busy reviewing the various types of legislation being introduced at a rapid pace, while working with numerous student groups to ensure their success as the semester gets underway.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICERS (COGRO)**

Dr. Shawn Naccarato, Pittsburg State University Vice President of Research and Economic Development provided the report from the Council of Government Relations Officers.

- Interesting and fast paced start to the session.
- Review of advocacy on funding priorities and current challenges/headwinds.
- Review of higher education bills under consideration. Specific focus on HB2348 regarding tenure and hearing on 2/11 in House Judiciary committee.
- Reviewed follow-up hearing in House Higher Education Budget Committee re:
  - 1) KSU veterinary medicine and KState 105 funding
  - 2) Funding inequity between higher education sectors/ KBOR institutions
- Update on Blueprint for Literacy funding and advocacy.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL ON RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Shawn Naccarato, Pittsburg State University Vice President of Research and Economic Development provided the report from the Council on Research and Economic Development.

- Headwinds at the Federal level regarding the research impacts of federal changes.
- Getting some momentum and some progress on consensus regarding our scope and focus, not losing sight of either the research on its own or the economic development impacts and community development.
- Established two subcommittees, one on research, which has one representative from each institution, and one on Economic and Community Development, with a separate group of individuals from each institution. First task of those subcommittees will be to start an inventory of assets, resources and

strategic focus areas to identify the alignment between institutions to allow for more sharing of resources and more collaboration and partnership. Scarcity breeds more teamwork. In addition, pressure that we're seeing from the Feds, puts more pressure on us to have efficiencies and sharing of assets.

- There has been a significant impact to K-State with the USAID program cuts at the Federal level.
- Heavily monitoring changes with the NIH.

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF BUSINESS OFFICERS (COBO)**

Doug Ball, Pittsburg State University Vice President for Administration & Finance, provided the following report from the Council of Business Officers.

- **Cyber Insurance Renewal**
  - The Gallagher Team joined the last COBO meeting to discuss the renewal process.
  - \$1.3M total projected annual premium, which is a 13% reduction. The price per million has decreased over the past 4 years.
  - Several coverage enhancements were added including Loss of revenue; Changed Coverage Counsel; Voluntary Shutdown; Forensic Accounting Costs; Amend Consent to Settle; Amend Breach Costs to Pay on behalf; Law Enforcement Endorsement; and Extend Notice Requirement.
- **Faculty Senate Presidents Tuition Assistance Proposal**
  - COBO reviewed the proposal from the Faculty Senate Presidents to extend the application of tuition assistance across degree programs of all six KBOR universities. They were told that a survey has been distributed to all employees at each campus for data collection purposes and that the Faculty Senate group is continuing to collect data.
  - COBO identified several questions about the estimated cost and other impacts of the proposal. COBO will review additional data and complete discussions at each institution to aid further evaluation in the future.

### **SPECIAL REGENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Angela Neria, Associate Vice President and CIO, Pittsburg State University and Ken Harmon, Chief Information Officer, Wichita State University, provided the following update.

- For decades, Regent IT professionals have collaborated through knowledge sharing, joint contracts, best IT practices, training, and problem-solving. Much of this collaboration stems from structured councils that meet monthly. The councils include representatives from all six Regent institutions, Washburn University, the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) office. These Structured IT Regent Councils are:
  - Regents Information Technology Council (RITC) which is composed of Chief Information Officers (CIOs).
  - Regents Information Security Council (RISC) which is comprised of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs).
  - Information Technology Service Advisory (ITSA) which includes Help Desk and Client Services leadership
  - CHECK Planning Council (CPC) which is responsible for organizing the CHECK Conference
- These councils also develop and host two major annual IT events, CHECK and the KBOR IT Summit.
  - CHECK: The CHECK Conference (Conference on Higher Education Computing in Kansas) is open to all higher education institutions in Kansas. It has been a staple for over 30 years and is hosted by the Regent institution that chairs the Regent councils for that year.

- KBOR IT Summit: 2024 was the inaugural meeting. The core mission of the KBOR IT Summit is to identify collaborative opportunities through joint contracts, knowledge sharing, training, and resource planning. By documenting current and anticipated IT resources and needs, the summit aims to strengthen the overall IT system by leveraging vendor pricing, improving coordination, and enhancing cybersecurity.
  - The Summit set out to achieve three primary outcomes:
    - Inventory IT Resources: Develop an inventory of current and anticipated IT resources across five key areas for each institution
    - Create a Shared IT Roadmap: Merge institutional inventories into a collective document and establish a strategic roadmap.
  - Establish Affinity Groups: Form dedicated groups of Regent IT professionals in the five key focus areas to facilitate ongoing collaboration. Currently, the Summit focuses on five major IT domains:
    - Information Security
    - Client Services
    - Networking
    - Infrastructure
    - Applications

**OTHER MATTERS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Shipp called for the meeting of the Council of Presidents to be adjourned at 11:15am.

# AGENDA

**System Council of Chief Academic Officers**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

The System Council of Chief Academic Officers (SCOCAO) will meet virtually via Zoom. An in-person option will be available at the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas, 66612.

- I. Call to Order** Mickey McCloud
  - A. Roll Call and Introductions
  - B. Approve Minutes from February 12, 2025
  
- II. Systemwide Updates**
  - A. Open Up Learning Kansas Steering Committee Update Heather MacBean, KU
  - B. First 15 Rusty Monhollon
  - C. Reverse Transfer Annual Report Mistie Knox
  
- III. Other Matters**
  - A. Accuplacer, Honorlock, and ALEKS Rusty Monhollon
  - B. Next Three-Year Cycle Performance Agreements Rusty Monhollon
  
- IV. Announcements**
  - A. Next SCOCAO Meeting – April 16, 2025 at PSU
  
- V. Adjournment**

# MINUTES

## System Council of Chief Academic Officers February 12, 2025

The February 12, 2025, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Luke Dowell at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Arensdorf moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Susan Bon, the motion carried unanimously.

### SYSTEMWIDE UPDATES

#### FIRST 15 UPDATE

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that the working group met on January 21 and February 6. Although consideration was given to pilot the program with English Composition I, discussions about funding and other concerns brought the decision to a standstill. The group has requested further data to address the concerns raised at the February meeting before moving forward.

#### RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT ON APPLY KANSAS APPLICATION CAMPAIGN, RECEIVE REPORT ON KANSAS FREE APPLICATIONS DAY, AND RECEIVE REPORT ON KANSAS FREE APPLICATIONS DAY FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Associate Director of Academic Affairs Mistie Knox presented the Apply Kansas Application Campaign annual report. She reported that 89% of Kansas school districts participated in Apply Kansas for 2024, with 22,818 applications submitted. She also shared the report on Kansas Free Applications Day, noting that applications submitted during the Apply Free Days increased by 76% from 2023 to 2024, totaling 17,471 applications submitted to public institutions. A proposal to continue Apply Free Days for the 2025 academic year will be presented to BAASC and then to the Board.

### OTHER MATTERS

#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Vice President Monhollon shared that about two-thirds of registrants attended the Complete College America (CCA) Alliance Launch event held on February 11 at Washburn University. There was great feedback about the presentation and the group discussions.

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared updates on the professional development sessions. The final session for math faculty was held on January 24. Brandon Protas from Complete College America (CCA) presented on assessing student success in corequisite supports for math and English courses. The most recent session for English faculty was held on January 31. Kathy McCoskey of Butler CC, Dr. Melanie Burdick of Washburn University, and Dr. Casey Reid, formerly with KU, presented on reading supports for English, scaffolding, and integrating reading and the reading cycle into the teaching of writing. The next English faculty professional development session is scheduled for February 28.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next SCOCAO meeting is scheduled for March 12.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.



# AGENDA

**Council of Chief Academic Officers**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

- I. Call to Order** Susan Bon, Chair
  - A. Roll Call & Introductions
  - B. Approve Minutes from February 12, 2025
  
- II. Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update** Norman Philipp, PSU
  
- III. First Reading**
  - A. BBA in Supply Chain Management Susan Bon, PSU
  - B. BS in Industrial Distribution Susan Bon, PSU
  - C. MEd Applied Behavioral Analysis Monica Lounsbery, WSU
  - D. MS in Forensic Biology Monica Lounsbery, WSU
  - E. MS in Forensic Firearms Monica Lounsbery, WSU
  
- IV. Second Reading**
  - A. PhD in Education & Behavioral Analysis Monica Lounsbery, WSU
  - B. BS in Nutrition Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU
  
- V. Other Matters**
  - A. Faculty & Staff Tuition Proposal Follow-up Norman Philipp, CoFSP
  - B. Faculty of the Year Award Policy Update Sam Christy-Dangermond;  
Norman Philipp, CoFSP
  - C. Discuss Opportunities (new degree programs, partnerships,  
strategic initiatives, etc.) that Universities are Considering or  
Planning to Pursue in the Future COCAO Members
  
- VI. Announcements**  
Next COCAO Meeting – April 16, 2025 at PSU
  
- VII. Adjournment**

# MINUTES

## Council of Chief Academic Officers March 12, 2025

The February 12, 2025, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Susan Bon at 9:12 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesse Mendez, KSU	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Robert Klein, KUMC	Monica Lounsbery, WSU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Susan Bon, PSU	Rusty Monhollon, KBOR ( <i>ex officio</i> )

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brent Thomas moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

### COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp provided an update. He represented the CoFSP yesterday at the judiciary hearing for House Bill 2348 and submitted an opposition position statement. Per the agenda, the remaining updates will be addressed later in the meeting.

### FIRST READING

#### BS IN NUTRITION

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the BS in Nutrition. Stuart Day shared information and answered questions about the presented program.

### SECOND READING

#### BS IN DATA SCIENCE

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the BS in Nutrition. Dr. William Duncan stood for questions about the presented program. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the proposal as presented. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried unanimously.

### OTHER MATTERS

#### REQUESTS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF BS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO BBA IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Susan Bon presented the request to change the name of BS in Workforce Development to BBA in Human Resource Development. Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the name change. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried unanimously.

### FACULTY & STAFF TUITION PROPOSAL FOLLOW-UP

Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of CoFSP, presented a follow-up update on the Faculty & Staff Tuition Proposal. A request was sent out to registrars and CFOs, asking for official data on this program's current utilization on all campuses. He was able to share some preliminary data, including the average annual dollars spent for each university. A survey was also sent to all university benefits-eligible faculty and staff members, asking which institution they work for and their understanding of the tuition assistance program. This data will be shared at a later date after all institutions have had the opportunity to respond. Professor Philipp was also able to share this proposal with COBO last week. One option for implementing this will be utilizing the tuition benefits option as a scholarship program. The other option is structured similarly to the KU third-party affiliation, where an individual

could apply for reimbursement after completion of a program equal to the value at their home university. This program could be launched in two phases. The first is for online programs only and the second would include on-campus programs as well. All options will be investigated further, and a more detailed update will be provided at the meeting in March.

#### FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD POLICY UPDATE

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared an update to the Faculty of the Year Award Policy. This item was previously on the Governance Committee's agenda last month at the request of the Board Chair, Regent Ice. At that time, Regent Ice mentioned he wanted to see university staff be considered for an award as well. KBOR's legal team added a section to the Faculty of the Year Award policy to include staff. This addition would also include changing the title of the policy. There were additional changes to include a deadline for nominations by the May Board meeting to provide flexibility for Board review. Professor Philipp shared The Council of Faculty Senate Presidents involvement in these changes and the council has modified the universal criteria used as a template for the universities to reflect the policy changes. These criteria will be finalized and forwarded to President Flanders for approval.

#### DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES THAT UNIVERSITIES ARE CONSIDERING OR PLANNING TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE

Robert Klein shared that KUMC will be moving the Health Informatics program from the KU School of Nursing to the School of Health Professions to better align the accreditation with the Health Information Management program, as both programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Health Information Management.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Susan Bon provided a reminder that the next COCAO meeting will be held on March 12.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Jesse Mendez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Brent Thomas, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.



## CURRENT FISCAL YEAR MEETING DATES

### Fiscal Year 2025

#### Board of Regents Meeting Dates

July 29-31, 2024  
 September 18-19, 2024  
 October 16-17, 2024 Campus Visit Only (WSU)  
 November 20, 2024  
 Nov. 21-22, 2024 Campus Visit (KSU)  
 December 18-19, 2024  
 January 15-16, 2025  
 February 12-13, 2025  
 March 12-13, 2025  
 April 16, 2025  
 April 17, 2025 Campus Visit (PSU)  
 May 14-15, 2025  
 June 11-12, 2025

#### Agenda Materials Due to Board Office

August 28, 2024 at **NOON**  
  
 October 30, 2024 at **NOON**  
 November 25, 2024 at **NOON**  
 December 24, 2024 at **NOON**  
 January 22, 2025 at **NOON**  
 February 19, 2025 at **NOON**  
  
 October 30, 2024 at **NOON**  
  
 April 23, 2025 at **NOON**  
 May 21, 2025 at **NOON**

## MEETING DATES FOR FY 2026

September 17-18, 2025  
 November 19, 2025  
 December 17-18, 2025  
 January 14-15, 2026  
 February 11-12, 2026  
 March 11-12 2026  
 April 15, 2026  
 May 20-21, 2026  
 June 17-18, 2026



## COMMITTEES (2024-2025)

**Carl Ice, Chair**  
**Jon Rolph, Vice Chair**

### Standing Committees

Academic Affairs  
 Diana Mendoza – Chair  
 Alysia Johnston  
 Neelima Parasker  
 Kathy Wolfe Moore

Fiscal Affairs and Audit  
 Blake Benson – Chair  
 John Dicus  
 Jon Rolph  
 Wint Winter

Governance  
 Carl Ice – Chair  
 Blake Benson  
 Diana Mendoza  
 Jon Rolph

Regents Retirement Plan  
 Carl Ice – Chair

### Board Representatives and Liaisons

Education Commission of the States	Diana Mendoza
Postsecondary Technical Education Authority	Mark Hess
	Keith Humphrey
	David Reist
Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC)	Cindy Hoover
	Wint Winter
Washburn University Board of Regents	Blake Flanders
Transfer and Articulation Advisory Council	John Dicus
Governor’s Education Council	Alysia Johnston
Literacy Advisory Committee	Diana Mendoza
	Diana Mendoza