

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS**MINUTES**

April 16-17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:38 p.m. on April 16, 2025. The meeting was held at Pittsburg State University in Ballroom 201C, Overman Student Center, 302 E. Cleveland Ave., Pittsburg, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

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

WELCOME FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice thanked Pittsburg State University, President Shipp, and President Shipp's team for hosting the meeting. Chair Ice noted the legislative session recently ended and thanked the Governor and Legislature for their partnership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board's March 12, 2025, meeting, with a technical correction to reflect approval of the March 5, 2025, special meeting minutes. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

GENERAL REPORTS**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO**

President Flanders reported that the Kansas State Board of Education approved the Foundations in the Science of Literacy course in the prior week. He thanked Dr. Cynthia Lane and the public university Colleges of Education who set up the additional pathway for teachers to earn a Seal of Literacy.

President Flanders congratulated Parsons High School, which was recognized as a school of excellence by ACT's American college application campaign.

President Flanders recently attended an event in Washington, D.C., with representatives of several non-profit foundations, including the Gates Foundation. He said the Kansas system's efforts were noted by others as impressive, especially in areas such as centralized advising, systemwide general education, math pathways, and corequisite education. He congratulated the Board.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Pittsburg State University Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, thanked the Board for holding its meeting at PSU. Professor Philipp appreciated the Board's position on proposed legislation, including the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. Good progress is being made on the faculty of the year award. It is expected that six of the seven eligible institutions will make nominations. The Council's tuition assistance proposal is working through the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the Council of Business Officers. Chair Ice applauded the efforts surrounding the faculty of the year awards.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pittsburg State University Student Government Association President Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, relayed that student government election season has ended. Newly elected officers are ready to get involved. The Committee is working with university administrations on tuition and fee proposals and looks forward to discussing those. The Committee also looks forward to the Board's PSU campus visit.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Regent Parasker reported that the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee met this morning. The Committee approved the program approval requests on this afternoon's consent agenda. Associate Director of

Academic Affairs Jennifer Armour provided a report on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement and Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon reported on the First 15 work group. The work group will adjust its model from no-cost to low-cost.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson, Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee, reported that the Committee held an agenda call on April 1 and met this morning. Jim MacMurray, Senior Vice President for Finance at the Kansas Development Finance Authority, reported on state university indebtedness and recommended reinforcing the Board's policy on institutions' liquidity. The Committee will discuss this with the Council of Business Officers (COBO).

The Committee reviewed the three Fiscal Year 2026 budgets for the Johnson County Education Research Triangle (JCERT) campuses. The Board will act on the budgets in May after the JCERT Authority approves them.

The Committee next discussed staffing level data presented by the universities' internal auditors. The data highlighted the need for good succession planning and a focus from campus leadership on enterprise risk management. Director of Facilities Chad Bristow then presented potential changes to capital project approval limits, which COBO will review next month.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the state's Fiscal Year 2024 single audit findings, in which five of the state universities had procedural findings regarding compliance with federal student financial aid regulations. The auditor did not question the expenditures of the federal dollars. The Committee discussed the process for the audit and follow-up.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Ice reported that the Governance Committee met this morning. General Counsel John Yeary provided a summary of the approval requirements for community college mergers. General Counsel Yeary then led a discussion about the Board member conflict of interest disclosure statement provided by Regent Wolfe Moore.

Next, the Committee approved for the Board's consideration a proposal to adopt the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 as the systemwide IT security standard for the state universities. Lastly, the Committee received an annual campus safety and security report from Pittsburg State University, before recessing into executive session to discuss matters related to Fiscal Year 2026 CEO compensation.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Academic Affairs

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION – KU

The University of Kansas received approval to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE PHD IN EDUCATION & BEHAVIORAL STUDIES – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to offer a Ph.D. in Education and Behavioral Studies.

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR STRONG COMPLEX RESIDENCE HALL RENOVATIONS – KSU

Kansas State University (KSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the revised program statement for the Strong Complex: Boyd, Putnam, & Van Zile Hall Renovations. The Board approved the initial program statement in November 2023.

Higher than anticipated cost escalation and existing conditions discovered during the demolition process have increased the project budget from \$32 million to \$35 million and extended the project timeline by one additional semester. The current anticipated project completion is December 2026. Funding to cover the increased project budget is available from \$25 million from bonds paid with Housing and Dining revenue, private donations, and additional funding sources to be determined.

There are additional project components that the revised budget of \$35 million will not accommodate, such as replacing the sloped roof at Van Zile Hall, adding a new elevator to Putnam Hall, updating the fire alarm system in Putnam Hall, and adding mechanical fresh air to the student rooms in all three buildings. The Board approved KSU's request to increase the budget from \$35 million to \$40 million to support the inclusion of these additional items if additional funding becomes available. These items will not be incorporated into the overall project if additional funding is not identified.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR MOORE HALL BATHROOM REMODEL – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the revised program statement for the Moore Hall Bathroom Remodel project. The Board approved the initial program statement in March 2024. Higher than anticipated escalation and bid results have increased the project budget from \$3.7 million to \$5.715 million. The budget increase will be funded with Housing and Dining departmental funds.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR GEOLOGY BUILDING REMODEL FOR ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT MOVE – WSU

Wichita State University (WSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement plan for the Geology Building project and the Board approved to revise the scope of work and estimated budget and the Board accepted the program statement. The new name of the project will be Geology Building Remodel for Anthropology Department Move.

WSU proposes consolidating two departments currently housed in separate buildings (Department of Geology in the Geology Building and the Department of Anthropology in Neff Hall) into one shared facility. The Geology Building (approx. 39,400 gross square feet) has been identified as a space with opportunities for more efficient use. The project was initially approved by the Board as the Geology Building Renovation and Addition as part of the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. The initial project scope included a full building renovation and addition to house the Holmes Anthropology Museum. The revised project will focus on the core building changes that are needed to co-locate both the Geology Department and Anthropology Department in the building. The museum addition is no longer part of this project – it will be located within the Ablah Library.

Following the completion of work in the Geology Building, Neff Hall will be demolished and replaced by an expanded quad east of the Rhatigan Student Center.

The anticipated total project cost for the revised project is \$3.82 million, with construction costs estimated to be \$2.6 million. Funding for the project is the university's allocation of EBF

revenue. The project delivery method will be design-bid-build (DBB). The total project duration from design team selection to project completion is anticipated to be 23 months.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR WILKINS STADIUM EXPANSION PHASE 1 – WSU

Wichita State University (WSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement plan and the Board accepted the revised program statement for the Wilkins Stadium Expansion Phase 1 project to increase the total project budget. Wilkins Stadium is the home of WSU softball. Phase 1A (indoor practice facility) is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in April 2025. Cost estimates during design development for Phase 1B (team operations facility) indicate that increased construction and equipment costs since the beginning of the project have resulted in a total estimated project cost for Phases 1A and 1B together at \$700,000 over initial estimates.

The anticipated total project cost for the entire Phase 1 expansion project is now estimated to be \$10.35 million. The project scope remains the same as previously approved. Funding for the project also stays the same, consisting of private gifts and Board of Trustees funds. The project delivery method is construction manager at risk (CMAR).

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR HENRION HALL HVAC IMPROVEMENTS PHASES 3 AND 4 – WSU

Wichita State University (WSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement plan and the Board accepted the revised program statement for Henrion Hall HVAC Improvements Phase 3 and 4 to increase the total project budget. Over the past few years, WSU invested just under \$2 million in two separate projects to improve the health and safety of Henrion Hall, home of the School of Art, Design, and Creative Industries (ADCI). This final project includes providing central heating, air conditioning, and ventilation (HVAC) to the remainder of the building (approx. 29,000 square feet) to address remaining deferred HVAC renewal and maintenance items.

The new total project budget will increase to \$4.7 million, up from \$4.0 million previously approved by the Board. Cost estimating projections during design development indicate that the project costs for the HVAC improvements are \$350,000 over current approvals. An additional \$350,000 is budgeted to relocate the wood shop to a dedicated room of adequate size with a new dust collection system.

The project is being delivered with a construction manager at risk (CMAR) project delivery method and is being funded with allocations of the FY 2025 and FY 2026 capital renewal initiative fund allocations (SGF), EBF, and private gifts.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND THE FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR THE OUTDOOR TRACK COMPLEX – PSU

Pittsburg State University (PSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement for the Outdoor Track Complex. The estimated total project cost has increased from \$10 million to \$12 million.

A private donor group is currently working with a design team to finalize the concept that will be used to secure approvals and gift funds for this entirely privately funded Athletics project that will be delivered by PSU Foundation as authorized by K.S.A. 76-757 and KBOR policy.

ACT ON REQUEST FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM RELATED ORGANIZATION – KUMC

The Board authorized the University of Kansas Medical Center to accept a 5.35-acre parcel located at 3537 Rainbow Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas, from the University of Kansas Medical Center Research Properties, Inc. The property is currently being used as a surface parking lot.

GovernanceACT ON IT STANDARDS FOR STATE UNIVERSITIES

Pursuant to Board Policy Manual Chapter I.A.4.b.iii.(4), the Board approved the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 as the minimum IT security standard for state universities.

Retirement Plan CommitteeACT ON INVESTMENT LINEUP CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY RETIREMENT PLAN

The Board removed the Allspring Growth fund from the investment option lineup in the Board's mandatory and voluntary 403(b) retirement plans for participants whose accounts are with TIAA. The Board approved the Nuveen Large Cap growth fund as the replacement fund. The Board further approved adding that fund to the investment option lineup for TIAA mandatory plan participants. The fund is currently available to TIAA voluntary plan participants.

ACT ON PROPOSED REDUCTION TO TIAA RECORDKEEPING FEE

The Board approved TIAA's proposal to reduce its annual recordkeeping fee for the Board's mandatory and voluntary 403(b) retirement plans to \$48 per unique participant. The fee is currently \$55 per unique participant.

Technical Education AuthorityACT ON REQUESTS FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Coffeyville Community College received approval for the following programs:

- Technical Certificate A in Plumbing Technology
- Technical Certificate B in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Technical Certificate A, C, and AAS in Powersports Technology

Washburn Tech received approval for the following program:

- AAS in Para Education

ACT ON EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES

The Board approved the following Excel in CTE Fees:

- Coffeyville Community College, Plumbing Technology, total \$545.76. Fees include \$50.00 for OSHA course access and \$495.76 for an optional student tool set.
- Coffeyville Community College, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), total \$1,456.80. Fees include \$50.00 for OSHA course access, \$1,317.00 for an optional student tool set, and \$89.80 for EPA-608 Certification.
- Coffeyville Community College, Powersports Technology, total \$447.74. Fees include \$157.74 for textbooks, \$50.00 OSHA course access, and \$240.00 for Equipment and Engine Training Council Certifications.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAMS

The Board approved the following programs for Kansas Promise Scholarship Act eligibility:

- Coffeyville Community College, Technical Certificate A in Plumbing Technology (46.0503)
- Coffeyville Community College, Technical Certificate B in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) (47.0201)
- Washburn Tech, AAS in Para Education (12.1501)

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Fiscal Affairs and Audit****RECEIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS AND FIVE-YEAR PLANS FOR FY 2027 – UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (FIRST READ)**

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, reviewed the written materials for this item with the Board. He first directed the Board to a tabular summary of all projected university capital expenditures, including Educational Building Fund and Campus Renewal Act funding. The projected expenditures total \$729 million.

Next, Director Bristow directed the Board to tables reflecting expenditures arranged by university and funding source; projects arranged by university and listed from largest to smallest.

Director Bristow said that each of the first three years of the Board's facilities renewal initiative saw increased funding. This would not have been possible without partnership from the Legislature and Governor, and outside funding sources such as charitable donors and federal grants.

Governance**DISCUSS BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND ACT ON ANY ACTUAL OR APPARENT CONFLICTS**

General Counsel John Yeary stated that Regent Wolfe Moore has submitted her conflict-of-interest disclosure form pursuant to Board policy following her recent appointment to the Board. Regent Wolfe Moore reported no conflicts or potential conflicts. Board staff recommend directing Regent Wolfe Moore to remain cognizant of her ongoing duty to report potential conflicts as they may arise. The Governance Committee adopted that recommendation at its meeting this morning.

Regent Wolfe Moore noted that she works for the University of Kansas Health System, which is distinct from the University of Kansas and is not part of the state university system.

Regent Johnston moved to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation, and Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Matters**RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Fred Patton, the Board's government affairs consultant, provided a legislative update. Since the Board's last meeting, the Legislature had its first adjournment, veto session, and has now adjourned. This was the shortest legislative session in recent history. Mr. Patton observed that there was difficulty building momentum for or stopping legislation and difficulty working out compromise in the shorter timeframe. Although this was the first year of the Legislature crafting its own budget, the process came down to the conference committee as it typically does. The final budget is \$210 million less than last year.

Patton then reviewed legislation impacting the system. The Board's interest rate proposal for service scholarships was enacted. The Legislature eliminated the statewide property tax levy for the Educational Building Fund, but agreed to replace the funding with State General Fund money, with an inflation escalator. The Kansas Campus Restoration Act funding was cut to \$30.2 million from the \$32.7 million established by the Act last year. A bill to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education failed, but the Commission was established in a

budget proviso. Budget reductions were successfully removed for the system, and the system is fully included in the state pay plan increases.

Outreach to legislators about next year's session will begin soon. President Flanders asked if the Board will need to have its budget request sooner than it has in previous years. Mr. Patton stated the timeline will likely need to move faster.

Regent Winter asked if there is concern about budget imbalances. Mr. Patton said that the concern right now is the effect of tax cuts combined with spending increases. Holding spending flat this year will help, but there was also additional tax relief. The Consensus Revenue Estimate will be released soon.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME A FACILITY – FHSU

Fort Hays State University received approval to rename the Forsyth Library, which has undergone comprehensive renovations, the Tebo Library.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME A FACILITY – PSU

The Board assented to President Shipp's request to move this item to the May Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

At 2:14 p.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Board recess into executive session for three hours to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The subject of the executive session is a regular, annual CEO evaluation and preparation for one or more CEO evaluations, and the purpose of the executive session is to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. The executive session will begin at 2:15 p.m. and the open session of the Board will resume at 5:15 p.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 5:15 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 5:45 p.m. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 5:45 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 5:55 p.m. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 5:55 p.m., the Board returned to open session and adjourned.

Thursday, April 17, 2025

The Board convened at 3:00 p.m. on April 17, 2025, in Classroom 029, Axe Library, 1605 S. Joplin St., Pittsburg, Kansas, 66762.

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

At 3:00 p.m., Regent Rolph moved that the Board recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The subject of the executive session is preparation for one or more CEO evaluations, and the purpose of the executive session is to protect the privacy of the individual employees involved. The executive session will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the open session of the Board will resume at 3:30 p.m. Regent Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 3:30 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 3:35 p.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:35 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Regent Rolph moved to extend the executive session to 3:40 p.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:40 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Chair Ice moved to extend the executive session to 3:41 p.m. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3:41 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Chair Ice moved to extend the executive session to 3:42 p.m. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:42 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Chair Ice moved to extend the executive session to 3:43 p.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3:43 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Chair Ice moved to extend the executive session to 3:45 p.m. Regent Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 3:45 p.m., the Board returned to open session and adjourned.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Carl Ice, Chair