

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2025

Regent Alyria Johnston called the November 19, 2025, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Alysia Johnston, Chair
Regent Pamela Ammar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Ammar moved that the minutes of the November 4, 2025, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

AY 2025 Performance Reports

Director for Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond shared that state statute authorizes the Kansas Board of Regents to approve performance agreements for the state's public post-secondary institutions and to determine the amount of any new state funds they should receive because of those agreements. In May 2023, the Board approved a new project-based system for reporting years 2024-2026. The funding framework centers on institutions applying the following practices which support the Board's "Building a Future" strategic plan:

- 1.Math Pathways
- 2.Corequisite Support
- 3.Systemwide course placement measures for Math and English gateway courses
- 4.Academic degree maps

This year, degree maps were required to include the systemwide general education coding for community colleges and universities for programs utilizing the systemwide general education framework.

Institutions were asked to submit reports to KBOR by July 1. KBOR staff conducted a preliminary review of the reports and shared concerns with the institution directly. Consistent with the Board's funding guidelines and the rubric in Attachment A, KBOR staff recommends that all 32 institutions receive 100 percent of any new funding available.

Regent Ammar moved to place the AY 2025 Performance Reports on the discussion agenda for a future Board meeting. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Matters

2025 OER Kansas Annual Report

Dr. Jennifer Bonds-Raacke introduced Fort Hays State University librarian Claire Nickerson, who represents the OER Committee. Ms. Nickerson defined OER as free course materials that are openly licensed. The report indicates that many students will not buy course materials which they deem too expensive, even if they recognize that not having course materials negatively affects their success.

Switching to OER improves retention and persistence with the same or better outcomes, particularly for minority students.

A survey has been sent annually to CAOs since 2021, who they send to the appropriate person at their institution who is familiar with their OER initiatives. In the most recent survey, 26 of 33 respondents indicated that their institution had a program committee or policy related to OER. This is an increase from 17 of 33 the previous year. Libraries were the most involved in OER initiatives, followed by academic departments and administration. The most common OER practice in place was offering OER professional development. Stakeholder awareness of OER has increased compared to the previous year. The most requested type of support for OER was professional development. Institutions can reach out to Open Up Learning Kansas to connect with a trainer to provide professional development. Other support requested included publishing. Open Up Learning Kansas has a membership to LibreTexts, an OER publishing platform. Institutions can reach out to their representative regarding this resource.

OER challenges noted by institutions included a lack of faculty time. Ms. Nickerson recommended offering leave or release time for faculty to switch to OER course materials. Other concerns included lack of existing OER for certain topics, faculty resistance and misconceptions, and lack of financial incentives. Regent Johnston asked if any institutions indicate the use of OER in course schedules. Ms. Nickerson responded that 10 institutions have indicated that they have adopted this practice, and three institutions have indicated that the adoption of this practice is in development.

Dr. Jill Arendorf, Provost at Fort Hays State University, suggested sharing this report with student government and faculty senate presidents. Jennfier Bonds-Raacke responded that she and Sam Christy-Dangermond will share the report with the aforementioned groups.

Apply Free Days- Data Update

Mistie Knox reported that this update was shared with the Apply Free Days Committee, composed admissions directors from Kansas' public universities. This initiative is in its third year and modeled after Colorado's free application days. All public institutions and some private institutions have chosen to participate in waiving undergraduate application fees for students who apply during the three-day window. This report as well as previous reports will be available on kansasregents.gov/students under the "Apply Free Days" page. Twenty-three states offer some form of free college application initiative, varying in duration from three days to a full month. Kansas is one of the few states with all public institutions participating in the initiative. Ms. Knox noted that the data in the report reflects Emporia State University's \$30 application fee, which has since been waived for all students. The data in the report indicates that removing the application fees encourages students to apply to more institutions, expanding their post-secondary options. Thirty-nine percent of public institutions reported higher yields for students applying within the three-day window. Students in higher age groups and underserved populations reported a higher yield during Apply Free Days compared to other populations.

Independent research conducted by Ms. Knox indicated that the waiving of fees combined with peer and school counselor support encouraged students to apply who otherwise had no plans to apply to college. Regent Ammar expressed interest in implementing apply free dates in the Spring. Ms. Knox responded that given the feedback from school counselors regarding the sense of urgency created by the Fall dates,

the implementation of Spring dates would require additional consideration from a marketing standpoint. Ms. Knox added that there was a growing interest in expanding the three-day window to a five-day window. Other future recommendations include sustaining the Apply Kansas and All-Star High School initiatives to reinforce consistent postsecondary planning timelines.

Regent Ammar suggested implementing additional free application days later in the academic year if increasing the window to five days still shows a high percentage of applications outside of the free application window. Dr. Barbara Bichelmeyer, Provost at the University of Kansas, added that students who apply in the Spring experience time constraints with steps such as orientation, choosing a residence hall, and enrollment. Dr. Dawn Shew, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of Kansas Medical Center, expressed support for additional Spring dates to aid first-generation students as well as students experiencing setbacks with their original college plans. Mistie Knox added that most institutions have a November priority scholarship deadline. Regent Johnston expressed interest in comparing the yield from this year to the past two years.

Policy Revision Follow-Up

Vice President for Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon opened the floor for comments or points of clarification needed before the discussion scheduled at the full Board meeting. Regent Johnston thanked all involved for their efforts and emphasized the importance of upholding tenure and supporting student success. She shared concerns from provosts expressing the need for discussion on defining “adequate” within the policy, which will be discussed at the full Board meeting. Dr. Jesse Mendez, Provost for Kansas State University, added that senior faculty at KSU have requested a standalone statement the difference between the institutional mission between the different types of institutions (doctoral, 4-year institutions.) VP Monhollon said there will be opportunities for institutions to provide feedback over the next several weeks.

Adjournment

Chair Johnston shared that the next BAASC meeting will be held virtually at 10:30 a.m. on December 2, 2025, and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.