

DECEMBER 18-19, 2024

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	

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, December 18, 2024

Time	Committee/Activity	Location
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	Flint Hills Room B
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch <i>Board of Regents & President Flanders</i>	Kathy Rupp Room
1:30 pm	Board of Regents Meeting	Board Room <u>Livestream</u>
6:00 pm	Dinner <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, and State University CEOs</i>	Blue Moose 3030 SW Wanamaker Rd

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Time	Committee/Activity	Location
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Breakfast <i>Board of Regents, President Flanders, and Students' Advisory Committee</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, December 18, 2024

- I. **Call To Order** Regent Ice, Chair

- II. **Approval of Minutes** p. 6
 November 20, 2024 meeting

- 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 of Request to Change Academic Calendar – KU Sam Christy-Dangermond, Director, Academic Affairs p. 23

 - 2. Act on Request for a New Certificate of Approval with Degree Granting Authority for Rocky Vista University Crystal Puderbaugh, Director, Private Postsecondary p. 25

 - 3. Act on Modification of Program Review Metrics Rusty Monhollon, VP, Academic Affairs p. 26

 - 4. Act on Request for New Program Approvals p. 28
 BA & BGS in Health & Society – KU
 PSM in Environmental Geology – KU

 - B. *Fiscal Affairs & Audit*
 - 1. Act on Request to Allocate EPSCoR Appropriation Rusty Monhollon, VP, Academic Affairs p. 46

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|----|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2. | Act on Request to Authorize Amendment to WSU Ground Lease to WSIA and WSIA Ground Sublease to MWCB, LLC – WSU | Chad Bristow,
Director, Facilities | <i>p. 48</i> |
| 3. | Act on Request to Terminate Ground Lease for K-AIRES Facility – KSU-Salina | | <i>p. 48</i> |
| 4. | Act on Request to Amend FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project Plan for Utility Tunnel Repair Project – PSU | | <i>p. 48</i> |

C. Technical Education Authority

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|--------------|
| 1. | Act on Requests for Degree and/or Certificate Programs
Technical Certificate A in Medical Laboratory Assistant – Barton Community College
AAS in Nursing – Washburn Tech
Technical Certificate B and AAS in Electrical Technology – WSU Tech
Technical Certificate B and AAS in Mental Health Technician – WSU Tech | April White,
VP, Workforce Development | <i>p. 49</i> |
| 2. | Act on Excel in Career Technical Education (CTE) Fees | | <i>p. 56</i> |
| 3. | Act on Promise Act Programs | | <i>p. 58</i> |

D. Retirement Plans

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|--------------|
| 1. | Act on Reduction to Voya Administrative Fee | Gage Rohlf,
Associate General Counsel | <i>p. 60</i> |
| 2. | Act on Request to Approve Contract for Retirement Plan Legal Services | | <i>p. 61</i> |

VI. Consideration of Discussion Agenda

A. Academic Affairs

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Act on Request to Approve New Systemwide Transfer Courses | Regent Mendoza
Karla Wiscombe,
Director, Academic Affairs | <i>p. 63</i> |
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B. Fiscal Affairs & Audit

- | | | | |
|----|--|--|--------------|
| 1. | Act on FY 2026 Housing and Food Service Rate Adjustment Proposals Submitted by State Universities | Regent Benson
Elaine Frisbie,
VP, Finance & Administration | <i>p. 65</i> |
| 2. | Act on Distribution of FY 2025 Appropriation for IT Infrastructure and Cybersecurity – System | | <i>p. 93</i> |
| 3. | Receive Report on Universities' Facilities Condition and Space Utilization, and Projected Maintenance Assessment Expenditures – System | Chad Bristow,
Director, Facilities | <i>p. 95</i> |

- 4. Act on Allocation of FY 2026 Educational Building Fund Appropriation – System *p. 96*
- 5. Act on Allocation of FY 2026 Campus Restoration Act Fund – System *p. 97*
- C. *Other Matters*
 - 1. Receive Legislative Update *p. 98*
Fred Patton,
Government Affairs
 - 2. Act on the Non-Budgetary Legislative Proposals *p. 98*
Kelly Oliver,
Chief of Staff
 - 3. Receive Blueprint for Literacy Plan on the Establishment of the Centers of Excellence in Reading *p. 106*
Cynthia Lane,
Director, Literacy

VII. Adjournment

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

I. Call To Order

Regent Rolph, Chair

II. Approval of Minutes

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
November 20, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:33 p.m. on November 20, 2024. The meeting was held at the Kansas State University Campus, Student Union, 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506. 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

MEMBER ABSENT: Diana Mendoza

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board’s September 18, 2024 meeting. Regent Benson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Linton welcomed attendees to Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. He introduced Dr. Christopher DePerno, an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow who will spend the next semester at K-State as part of a leadership fellowship. Dr. DePerno has degrees from Central Michigan University, Purdue University, and South Dakota State University. He has served as a senior research scientist and professor, with notable achievements, including awards for his contributions to wildlife conservation and academia.

The ACE Fellows program offers aspiring higher education leaders opportunities for in-depth learning, mentorship, and collaboration. Nominated by their home universities, ACE Fellows partner with host institutions to gain experience in areas of leadership interest. Dr. DePerno, joining from North Carolina State University, selected K-State for its strong leadership and innovative initiatives. He will focus on contributing to the "Next Gen K-State" strategic plan, helping shape the university's future as a next-generation land-grant institution. Dr. DePerno emphasized his goal to make a meaningful impact by collaborating with the university's leadership, students, faculty, and staff to ensure continued success.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice welcomed those in attendance to Kansas State University for the Board's biennial campus visit to the university. He thanked President Linton and his team for their hospitality and anticipated a successful visit. Reflecting on the Board's recent visit to Wichita State University, Chair Ice highlighted the Shocker Success

Center's alignment with student success initiatives, the impressive national aviation campus, and valuable discussions on applied learning. He commended President Muma and the WSU team for their efforts.

Chair Ice also provided updates on the Board's strategic plan, which is centered on three pillars: supporting Kansas families, advancing Kansas businesses, and promoting economic prosperity. He shared several encouraging outcomes, including enrollment growth contrary to national trends, improved graduation rates, a quadrupling of need-based financial aid, and a 16 percent reduction in student debt. Additionally, more graduates are staying in Kansas, further contributing to the state's workforce.

He emphasized the collaboration between higher education, state policymakers, the Legislature, and the Governor in driving these successes, including investments like the multi-year maintenance bill to support campus infrastructure. Chair Ice expressed pride in the progress made and thanked all involved in achieving these milestones, reiterating the importance of continued efforts to advance higher education in Kansas.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders discussed his recent attendance at the Midwest Higher Education Compact meeting in Overland Park and at the University of Kansas campus. He thanked Chancellor Girod for hosting. He highlighted the Compact's contributions, including bulk purchasing and insurance support, which previously helped restore K-State's library after significant fire and water damage.

During the meeting, Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, presented a "Blueprint for Literacy," which revealed surprising student reading scores across the region and emphasized the critical role of colleges of education in addressing literacy challenges. President Flanders called it the largest workforce development effort in Kansas history, with institutions leading the charge to solve the problem from within.

He also discussed the state budget appeal process, noting the caution from Budget Director Adam Proffitt regarding revenue uncertainties due to recent tax policy changes. Senator Rick Billinger, Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, joined the session, reflecting a new state budget process.

Lastly, President Flanders and Regent Mendoza met with school superintendents at the Kansas Association of School Boards to discuss the goal of offering the first 15 college credit hours at no cost to high school students. The group recognized the need for consistent district policies for efficiency and equitable financing. President Flanders concluded by expressing optimism about these initiatives and ongoing efforts.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Pittsburg State University Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, reported on the Council's activities since the September Board meeting. He reported that the Council reviewed updates to the Credit for Prior Learning policies, with no additional recommendations deemed necessary. He also highlighted a productive and engaging breakfast meeting with the Regents in September, which sparked ongoing initiatives. The Council's key projects include revising faculty awards to reflect the expanded roles of faculty beyond teaching, research, and service, incorporating areas such as clinical work and extension. The Council is also exploring adding a third award to recognize full-time non-tenure-track faculty.

Recently, the Council began addressing a charge it received to foster discussions on artificial intelligence (AI). This effort aims to enhance understanding and guide potential policy development across institutions.

Looking ahead, the Council plans to engage more actively with state legislators. Council members are considering participating in Higher Education Day or hosting a lunch session with the state's legislative committees to showcase faculty engagement in advancing higher education's role in Kansas. Professor Philipp emphasized the Council's commitment to representing faculty effectively and supporting the prosperity of higher education statewide.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pittsburg State University Student Government Association President Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, thanked Kansas State University President and Vice President for facilitating and hosting the Committee's meeting. Chair Eckstein highlighted the productive in-person gathering of student leaders, noting a sense of shared commitment to their respective institutions and Kansas students.

Chair Eckstein reported that universities are wrapping up the semester, with many already addressing key administrative goals, discussing student fee allocations, and preparing for upcoming elections. The Committee's discussions emphasized goals such as increasing interaction with Board members, expanding the use of open educational resources, and attracting more students to Kansas schools. Chair Eckstein conveyed excitement for the upcoming breakfast with the Board, where the Committee plans to discuss these initiatives in greater depth, seek feedback, and gain support.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Johnston gave the report for the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) for Chair Mendoza. Regent Johnston reported that Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director for Academic Affairs, presented the systemwide course placement plan for English Composition I, which is recognized as a critical gateway course. A multiple-measures approach to placement was developed, shifting away from reliance on a single high-stakes test.

BAASC next heard a report from Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, on the Blueprint for Literacy. Director Lane emphasized the critical need to address the fact that one-third of Kansas children read at or below grade level. The Blueprint initiative, vital for individual, community, and state goals—including addressing workforce gaps—has involved close collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education. Remarkably, the Blueprint for Literacy Advisory Committee established in July has already prepared to launch a course and credentials program alongside centers of excellence at Kansas' seven public universities next semester.

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs, provided updates from the Systemwide Transfer and Articulation Committee (TAAC). TAAC approved six new courses for systemwide transfer, which will go to the Board for approval next month. TAAC also finalized four systemwide associate degrees, in business administration, computer science, pre-BSN nursing, and social work. Community colleges will align their pathways and degree plans with these programs.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson, Chair of the Board's Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee, reported that the Committee met on November 5 and again this morning.

Next, Chair Benson reported Wichita State University's internal auditor, Chris Cavanaugh, presented WSU's annual audit plan to the Committee and discussed the University's "digital badge" on internal control. This non-credit badge, free for WSU employees, allows employees to demonstrate their knowledge of their role in enhancing internal control. Regent Benson commended WSU for making risk management a collaborative effort across the campus, emphasizing that everyone has a role. To date, 283 employees have earned the badge, with President Muma being the first to do so.

Becky Pottebaum, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the Board Office's operating budget. Director Pottebaum also reviewed the annual internal audit for the alumni account for fiscal year 2024, which found no issues and confirmed that all transactions were in line with allowable uses.

The Committee discussed the state universities' Fiscal Year 2026 housing and food service rate proposals, which will be presented for a first reading at today's meeting. The Committee examined how universities manage inflationary pressures while maintaining affordable student rates. Regent Winter emphasized the importance of considering the needs of homeless students and addressing food insecurity.

Director Bristow reviewed with the Committee proposed changes to Board policies on capital projects. Jeff Dewitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Vice Chancellor for Finance, reviewed capital projects at KU, including the School of Architecture and the purchase of Rock Chalk Park. The Committee recommended approval of all items, with Regent Dicus abstaining from the vote on purchasing Rock Chalk Park due to his role with the KU Endowment Association.

Finally, the Committee reviewed and endorsed proposed changes to the appropriation language for the FY 2026 state budget.

GOVERNANCE

Board Governance Committee Chair Carl Ice reported that the Committee met this morning to discuss three items. First, the committee granted the Board President and CEO authority to execute a contract with the University of Kansas. Second, the Committee heard a report from Kansas State University as part of the regular updates from each institution on safety and security. Chair Ice acknowledged the work done by Kansas State, especially considering the timing of the meeting. Lastly, the Committee considered an updated Board member conflict-of-interest disclosure and made a recommendation that will be discussed later on the Board's agenda.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Board Retirement Plan Committee Chair Carl Ice noted that the Committee only gathers a few times per year. The Committee's most recent meeting took place on October 15. The Committee's responsibilities include overseeing the retirement plans for employees at the institutions and for KBOR staff. These plans consist of mandatory and voluntary plans, with the mandatory plan holding \$5.41 billion in assets and the voluntary plan holding \$1.3 billion.

During the October meeting, the Committee received updates from Advanced Capital Group, which provides periodic advice regarding the performance and functioning of the plans, including fees and manager performance. Based on that advice, the Committee recommends removing the Nuveen Mid-Cap Growth Fund from the investment options and replace it with the JP Morgan Mid-Cap Growth Fund. The Nuveen fund has been on the Committee's watch list. This recommendation is on the Board's agenda this afternoon.

As part of its fiduciary responsibility, the Committee ensures that fees are as reasonable as possible while maintaining good returns. The Committee heard a presentation from TIAA, one of the financial institutions at which plan participants' accounts may be held, regarding a share-class change for eight investment options that would lower fees for plan participants invested in the eight funds. Following further discussions, the Committee recommended approving this change. Additionally, the Committee received advice regarding the reasonableness of fees for both financial institutions through which plan participants may choose to have their accounts.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Rolph moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*Academic Affairs***ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CYBER SYSTEMS DESIGN AND DYNAMICS – KSU**

The Board approved Kansas State University's request to offer a new Bachelor of Science in Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics (CSDD) through the College of Technology and Aviation. Launching in August 2024, this innovative program integrates digital design, human-computer interaction, data science, and intelligent computing systems. The 120-credit-hour curriculum includes two tracks: Immersive Systems Design and Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit***ACT ON REQUEST TO ALLOCATE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND FOR AMENDMENT RELATED TO CONSULTANT CONTRACT – KBOR**

The Board approved an \$85,000 allocation from uncommitted Educational Building Fund (EBF) revenues, intended to continue consulting support from Gordian, the firm managing the universities' facilities condition data system. The funds are designated for consultant services through FY 2026 and FY 2027. This allocation does not affect the universities' existing EBF allocations.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE HOGLUND BRAIN IMAGING CENTER – KUMC

The KU Medical Center received approval to demolish the Hogleund Brain Imaging Center (state building #68300-00069). Hogleund was constructed in 2002 as a one-story, 12,446-square-foot outpatient research imaging facility with an estimated deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$2.44 million and a Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 0.26 (B- grade). The building has no historical status or designations, and no environmental hazards were anticipated. The \$350,000 demolition cost will be covered by KU Cancer Center project funds.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE NEFF HALL AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to demolish Neff Hall (state building #71500-00034) and received a \$950,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. Neff Hall, built in 1951, is a two-story, 30,197-square-foot building currently housing the Department of Anthropology offices, labs, classrooms, and the Holmes Museum of Anthropology. Demolishing Neff Hall will create space for an expanded campus quad near the student center. With no historical designation, the building has a deferred maintenance backlog of over \$5.6 million and an FCI of 0.57 (grade D).

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the maintenance building on its Salina campus and received a \$215,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Demolition Building Fund to pay for the demolition. The 5,537-square-foot building was constructed in 1956. The building has no historical status and an FCI rating of 0.60 (F grade). Remediation for potential asbestos is expected. A new facilities maintenance building is under construction, with completion anticipated in August 2025. After demolition, the site will be used for parking or paved storage.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE COMPOSITES BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the composites building on its Salina campus and received a \$35,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. The 2,100-square-foot composites building was constructed in 1996 and has an FCI rating of 0.42 (C-). It houses the composites lab and classroom. It is being removed to make way for the Aerospace Education Hub, which will feature new composites space, unmanned aircraft system (UAS) labs, and aviation maintenance labs. No environmental issues are anticipated.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE TULLIS BUILDING AND ALLOCATE FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU SALINA

Kansas State University received approval to demolish the Tullis Building on its Salina campus and received a \$150,000 allocation from the FY 2025 Building Demolition Fund to pay for the demolition. Built in 1956, the 5,774-square-foot structure houses faculty offices, the Veterans Center, and TRIO offices. With an FCI rating of 0.33 (C grade), the building has structural cracks and water leaks. Employees will be relocated to other campus buildings. No environmental issues are expected. After demolition, the site will become green space or parking.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR KANSAS FOREST SERVICE – KSU

Kansas State University received approval of the program statement for a new head house facility and for improvements to the Kansas Forest Service's existing head house and greenhouse. The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) state facilities, which house the state forester, program coordinators, statewide specialists, and support staff, are located on KSU property. A greenhouse was constructed in 1974 to support the Conservation Tree Planting Program that produces, receives, and distributes tree and shrub seedlings for in-person and mail-order sales to landowners.

The two-phase renovation project will address hazards and inefficiencies within the KFS facilities and expand nursery operations to meet regional and statewide demand for plant materials. A new 2,000-gross-square-foot head house will be constructed to provide an efficient and flexible nursery operations and equipment workspace. The existing greenhouse exhaust fans and evaporative cooling systems will be replaced, and a new control system will be installed to allow remote monitoring of greenhouse conditions. The estimated project cost is \$1.0 million and will be funded with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR DAIRY TEACHING & RESEARCH CENTER – KSU

Kansas State University received approval to amend its Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement for a new Dairy Teaching and Research Center. The new center will replace aging facilities, improve teaching, research, extension, and milk production capabilities, and strengthen the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry's national and global leadership in dairy science. The current facilities, built in 1977, are in poor condition and beyond their useful life. The new center will include a milking parlor, free stall barn, heifer barn, and other support facilities. The project's estimated cost is reduced from \$46.6 million to \$43.2 million, with funding from state, philanthropic, and industry partner contributions.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR RENOVATIONS TO TROTTER HALL - KSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Kansas State University received approval to amend its Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement for renovations to the second-floor laboratory facilities in Trotter Hall, used by second-year veterinary students. The current space, built in 1973, no longer meets modern biohazard safety and sterilization standards. The proposed renovations will update and reconfigure the 11,000 square feet to include diagnostic pods, a medium-sized classroom, and a student success center with study areas, lockers, and a kitchenette. The estimated project cost increased from \$4.0 million to \$7.76 million, with funding from philanthropic gifts.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT TO EXPAND EQUINE PERFORMANCE TESTING CENTER – KSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Kansas State University received approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement project plan and the Board accepted the program statement to expand the Equine Performance Testing Center. The expansion, covering 7,375 square feet, will provide space for rehabilitation services and regenerative medicine, enabling K-State clinicians to teach these areas to veterinary students while offering treatment options to regional horse owners. The center will feature advanced rehabilitation equipment and specialized facilities for regenerative therapies. The estimated project cost is \$5,158,325, to be funded through philanthropic gifts.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE REVISED PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR SUNNYSIDE AVENUE AND NAISMITH DRIVE – KU

The University of Kansas Lawrence received approval for additional project costs and a revised Sunnyside and Naismith Drive Reconstruction schedule. The estimated cost increased from \$11,160,000 to \$13,397,900 due to high construction inflation and extended construction time resulting from phasing changes. These changes are intended to improve building access during the project. The total estimated cost, including fees, construction, and contingencies, is \$13,397,900. Funding is provided through the University's allocation from the Educational Building Fund, KU funds, and KU Transportation Services funds. The project is now scheduled to be completed by 2028.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE MASTER LEASE – KU EDWARDS

KU received approval from to enter into a 20-year Master Lease Agreement with CB Holdings, LLC, for the Jayhawk Central building. CB Holdings will manage the property, which was transferred to KU in 2018. The Lease Agreement includes transferring existing leases, requiring the lessee to carry out \$1 million in capital improvements, and adding a fitness center. KU will receive a share of the lessee's revenue; that share is projected to be \$37,500 annually. In addition, KU will save \$1 million in deferred maintenance costs. The property will remain tax-exempt as long as it serves student union purposes. With the lease transaction, KU aims to improve the building's safety, aesthetics, and tenant mix.

Technical Education Authority

ACT ON REQUESTS FOR DEGREE AND/OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS SUBMITTED BY WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) received approval for two new programs to enhance the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry. The proposed programs are:

1. Accounting: A 42-credit hour Technical Certificate B and a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science.
2. Quality Assurance Inspection: A 24-credit hour Technical Certificate A and a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAM SUBMITTED BY WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology received approval for its Quality Assurance Inspection program to be designated as a Promise Act-eligible program. This program aligns with the Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades category and is recognized as a high-demand, high-wage occupation by the Kansas Department of Labor.

ACT ON COURSE AND BUCKET REASSIGNMENTS

The Board approved the reassignment of technical courses into program-specific buckets within the Kansas Higher Education Data System. This decision aims to ensure the accurate calculation of institutional state shares for all reported enrollments.

[Reassignment details filed with official minutes]

Retirement Plan Committee

ACT ON INVESTMENT OPTION SHARE CLASS CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS AND MANDATORY PLAN CONTRACT CHANGE

The Board approved moving from the R3 to R4 share class for eight CREF funds available as investment options through TIAA in the Board's Mandatory and Voluntary Plans. Along with this change, the Board approved updating the TIAA Mandatory Plan contract must be updated from TIAA's "Retirement Annuity" to the "Retirement Choice" contract.

ACT ON INVESTMENT OPTION LINE-UP CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS

The Board approved removing the Nuveen Mid-Cap Growth fund as a TIAA investment option within the Board's Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans and replacing the fund with the JP Morgan Mid Cap Growth R6 fund.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Other Matters

SOME COLLEGE NO CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, explained that as part of the Board's strategic plan to improve access to higher education, the Board has been exploring alternative solutions to increase enrollment and strengthen the talent pipeline to meet future workforce needs in the state. The Board had been looking at practices in other states and systems to find effective methods for recruiting students who have "stopped out" (those who have discontinued their college education). Chief of Staff Oliver introduced Scott Lomas, Chief Strategy Officer at ReUp Education, who was invited to provide further insights on the topic.

Lomas presented on the issue of "some college, no credential," which affects 41 million adults nationwide, including approximately 400,000 in Kansas. He highlighted the significant opportunity for both enrollment and workforce development by re-engaging this group, which typically consists of adults aged 20-55. Lomas pointed out that while Kansas is doing well with high school graduation rates, it faces a growing skills gap that cannot be closed by simply increasing high school graduations. To address this, Kansas must tap into the 400,000 adults with some college but no degree.

Lomas discussed the challenges of re-engaging these individuals, noting the difficulty of re-enrollment due to complicated personal lives, such as job and caregiving responsibilities. He mentioned that nationally, only 54 percent of adults who have stopped out for over a year persist in their education. The competition from online institutions with large marketing budgets also poses a challenge.

Lomas stressed three key elements to successfully re-engaging these individuals: student incentives (scholarships, debt relief), institutional support (wraparound services), and effective outreach (data-driven marketing). He noted that some states are seeing success with these strategies, but many overlook adults who have stopped out for several years. Lomas emphasized the need for centralized, statewide initiatives to support this diverse group. The discussion also included the potential to attract students currently enrolled in out-of-state programs, capturing around \$100 million in tuition revenue for Kansas. The state could leverage existing online learning capacity at institutions like Wichita State and Fort Hays State, expanding these offerings to attract more out-of-state students. Additionally, aligning programs with workforce needs is crucial for addressing the state's workforce gap.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

Academic Affairs

ACT ON AY 2024 PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Rusty Monhollon, Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the Academic Year 2024 performance reports, which are primarily plans for the 2025 academic year. These plans focus on implementing math pathways, co-requisite developmental support for math and English courses, and system-wide course placement measures for math and English, and on creating degree maps for all programs. The degree maps will be made available on a single landing page on each institution's website, and each institution's AY 2024 performance report will reflect this.

Vice President Monhollon explained that each institution had outlined its processes and timelines for implementing math pathways and developmental co-requisite support for gateway math and English courses. They also specified the individuals on their campuses who would lead these projects. Additionally, institutions were tasked with ensuring that anyone involved in this work who couldn't attend professional development sessions or webinars would still receive the necessary information.

Earlier this month, the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) reviewed the AY 2024 performance reports. One institution did not meet the required layout for its degree maps, resulting in a recommendation for 90 percent funding. However, since that meeting, academic affairs staff have received additional information from the institution and confirmed that the degree maps are now in the proper format. As a result, BAASC recommended approving 100 percent funding for all institutions, and Vice President Monhollon requested that the Board accept this updated recommendation.

Regent Benson motioned to approve, with a second from Regent Rolph. The motion was approved.

RECEIVE THE APPLY KANSAS ALL-STAR HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

Mistie Knox, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, presented the Apply Kansas All-Star High School award winners. The All-Star High Schools program is aligned with the broader strategic plan to expand access to higher education and support student success, as well as the Board's goal to promote initiatives like Apply Kansas and FAFSA completion efforts. Each year, schools recognized as All-Star High Schools receive a banner, and subsequent recognitions are marked with a sticker noting the year. In 2024, 148 high schools were recognized, representing 75.9 percent of Apply Kansas schools. This year, over 300 high schools are working toward All-Star recognition.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

BREAK

Chair Ice called for a break at 2:34 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:50.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit

RECEIVE FY 2026 HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY STATE UNIVERSITIES (FIRST READ)

Regent Benson noted that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee spent significant time reviewing proposals related to food and housing rates at the state universities. He acknowledged the challenges posed by inflation, particularly concerning food costs, and appreciated the institutions' efforts to manage these cost increases. He reminded the Board that the committee had reviewed the proposals earlier and recommended them for approval.

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, emphasized that the proposals aim to balance student affordability with the universities' need to cover operating and capital costs for their auxiliary services. Vice President Frisbie highlighted the importance of on-campus housing as a retention tool, noting that students who live on campus tend to retain and graduate at higher rates.

The information that was presented included various rate options and a national perspective on food and housing rates at public four-year universities. Five of the six state universities require first-year students to live on campus, with some exceptions. The University of Kansas currently does not have the capacity to adopt a similar policy. Additionally, four state universities have contracted out their food service, while Kansas State and the University of Kansas operate their own in-house food services. A correction was made to a table on pages 70 and 71 of the Board agenda materials regarding occupancy rates for Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University.

As this was the first reading of the proposals, no action was taken.

ACT ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN – FHSU

Fort Hays State University President Tisa Mason shared an overview of the university's comprehensive master plan. She described the plan as a strategic vision designed to enhance teaching and learning experiences at FHSU. The master planning process was initiated in July 2020, involving the campus and greater Hays communities. The

goal was to establish a framework that would prioritize the efficient use of physical spaces and rehabilitating existing facilities.

In addition to improving the physical environment, President Mason emphasized the importance of the digital landscape in modern education. As part of the broader strategy, FHSU also developed a digital master plan aimed at creating robust digital systems that facilitate meaningful interactions between students, faculty, and content. By integrating this digital framework with the physical master plan, FHSU aims to provide students with engaging and enriching learning experiences.

Dana Cunningham, FHSU Director of Facilities Planning, discussed FHSU's 2024 Master Plan, updated from the 2013 version. The new plan focuses on addressing deferred maintenance and improving existing facilities rather than constructing new ones. Cunningham highlighted that the plan integrates both physical and digital strategies, aligning with the university's academic mission and strategic goals. Input was received from various stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Key aspects of the plan include repurposing underused spaces, improving pedestrian circulation, and addressing long-term facility needs. The plan also emphasizes the importance of renovating existing buildings such as Cunningham Hall, Gross Coliseum, and Forsyth Library. Except for a proposed addition to Stroop Hall, no new buildings are planned in the near term. The plan focuses on maintaining and improving current infrastructure.

Looking ahead, FHSU expects enrollment numbers to stabilize and has no immediate need to expand student housing. However, there are plans to enhance wellness facilities, including a possible wellness trail through campus. Additionally, several parking lots and landscaping improvements are planned to reduce water consumption.

Jill Arensdorf, FHSU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented the institution's first digital master plan. Provost Arensdorf emphasized the plan's focus on student success and online learning. The plan was developed with input from students, faculty, and staff and is based on data collected through surveys and focus groups. It aligns with both the university's strategic goals and the NIST playbook.

The plan has five key recommendations:

1. **Actionable Data:** Build a data infrastructure to track student progress and address challenges faced by online learners, using both leading and lagging indicators for decision-making.
2. **Consistent Course Design:** Establish best practices for online course design to create a consistent, engaging, and interactive experience for students, including the transition to BlackBoard Ultra and streamlining educational technologies.
3. **Fostering Student Connections:** Intentionally create opportunities for online students to connect with peers and instructors, simulating the in-person community experience.
4. **Faculty Training and Support:** Provide faculty with training, resources, and ongoing support to integrate technology effectively into their teaching practices.
5. **Effective Communication:** To enhance the online learning experience, ensure a centralized and coordinated communication strategy for online learners, faculty, and staff.

FHSU has already made progress, including transitioning to BlackBoard Ultra and implementing new engagement strategies for online students. The University is measuring success through clear metrics aligned with FHSU's strategic goals.

Provost Arensdorf said the main challenge in implementing the digital master plan was rolling it out and helping people understand its nature. The plan was a new concept, and when work began in 2021, there were no other higher education institutions with similar plans. The effort now focuses on effective communication and ensuring the work is done collaboratively.

President Mason added that moving to BlackBoard Ultra includes both Fort Hays Tech campuses, ensuring they all use the same learning management system.

Regent Parasker asked about the security of student information. Provost Arensdorf answered that, although cybersecurity is not explicitly part of the digital plan, the university's IT services collaborate closely with the teaching innovation and learning technologies team to ensure safety in technology use.

Regent Benson praised the university's efforts to create connections for online students, acknowledging the difficulty virtual learners have in building study groups and finding support. Provost Arensdorf responded that while it requires intentional effort, providing these opportunities for connection is possible and is being prioritized in the plan.

Regent Benson moved to approve the master plan. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

[Presentation filed with official minutes]

DISCUSS AND ACT ON BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS – SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, discussed the evolution of the facilities' capital renewal initiative, which began in 2021 with the Board's approval of a new framework and the implementation of a maintenance assessment. This initiative has been supported by additional funding and advocacy, but as the Campus Restoration Act period of six years approaches, policy refinements are seen as necessary to sustain the initiative.

The Board heard a first reading of the proposed amendments at its September meeting. Director Bristow noted the following updates to the proposed amendments that were made since the first reading:

1. Refined the language on federal funding requests, linking it to the \$1.5 million statutory threshold for large capital projects, as suggested by Regent Parasker.
2. Revised the language identifying statutes that authorize universities to use various delivery methods for projects, offering universities clearer references on available options.
3. Revised the policy language to include the Educational Building Fund in the maintenance assessment, streamlining future funding considerations for maintenance efforts.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the policy amendments. Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND TO APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITION TO AND RENOVATION OF MARVIN AND CHALMERS HALLS, AND ACT ON REQUEST TO SEEK LEGISLATIVE BONDING AUTHORITY FOR SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN – KU

Jeff DeWitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented a \$120 million project for a significant upgrade and new facilities for the School of Architecture. The project will be completed in three phases: a new building near Marvin and Chambers, followed by renovations and upgrades

to the existing buildings. The first phase will be funded with \$60 million in bonds, assuming approval, with funding from school revenues, fees, and general use funds.

Vice Chancellor DeWitt addressed concerns raised by Regent Rolph regarding the university's structural deficit, stating that the university is no longer in a deficit and has achieved positive margins through enrollment growth and budget reductions. These margins will help finance the bonds if approved.

The project will be funded by a combination of donor contributions, bonds, and school-generated revenues, with an additional \$10 million match requested from the state. Vice Chancellor DeWitt said that that maintenance costs for the new facility will be accounted for in KU's financial planning process, including debt service and operational costs.

Regent Benson moved to approve KU's request to amend its FY 2025 capital improvement project plan, to accept the program statement for the project, and to approve KU's request to seek legislative bonding authority. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY – KU

Jeff DeWitt, University of Kansas Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, presented a request to transfer the Rock Chalk Park land from the KU Endowment Association to KU. The facility, which includes soccer, softball, tennis training spaces, and parking, was built about a decade ago and has become a key asset for the university, contributing to athletic success such as recent championships. Currently, KU Athletics pays a \$2.2 million annual lease for the facility.

Vice Chancellor DeWitt explained that the land transfer would align with the university's broader land policy, under which where the Endowment Association initially funds projects with private sector involvement, and the university assumes control after the project is developed. The proposed transfer would make sense as the facility has matured. The facilities, including the soccer and softball complexes, are considered critical assets for the University's athletics programs.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the acquisition. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Regent Dicus abstained.

ACT ON REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE FOR FY 2026 BUDGET – SYSTEM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a request to seek changes to provisos and appropriation language for the upcoming legislative budget session. The purpose is to begin working with the Division of the Budget analyst and legislative colleagues to ensure the language attached to the funds requested in September aligns with the best use of those dollars. Many of the items discussed are technical and aim to match the appropriate language with the requested funding.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the request. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Governance

DISCUSS BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND ACT ON ANY ACTUAL OR APPARENT CONFLICT

John Yeary, General Counsel, stated that Regent Johnston is a member on the Board of Directors of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, which has a contractual relationship with Pittsburg State University. The health center provides student health services at PSU and is federally funded. To address any potential conflict of interest, staff recommends that Regent Johnston refrain from participating in matters involving contracts or transactions between the health center and PSU. The Governance Committee reviewed and approved this recommendation.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the staff recommendation regarding the disclosed conflict, seconded by Regent Dicus. The motion carried.

Other Matters

UPDATE ON THE BLUEPRINT FOR LITERACY AND FIRST READ FOR MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSE APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION FOR MARKET-BASED TUITION FOR THIS COURSE

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, provided an update on the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy initiative. She introduced Rachel Rubio, new associate director specializing in literacy and dyslexia. Dr. Lane outlined two significant projects: a foundational literacy course for Pre-K to 8 educators and a plan for Centers of Excellence in Literacy.

The foundational course, developed collaboratively by faculty from the seven public universities, aligns with national literacy standards and Kansas educator preparation standards. Educators will complete performance assessments, receive personalized coaching, and earn six graduate credits. The course is designed to address the literacy gap among Kansas students and improve teacher preparedness, with tuition funded by the Blueprint. The course is expected to launch in March, pending approval from the State Board of Education in December.

Regent Parasker praised the Blueprint for Literacy's approach, combining training with online mentoring and coaching, as a "recipe for success." She suggested exploring the potential to offer the course to educators in other states facing similar literacy challenges. Dr. Lane welcomed the idea but emphasized prioritizing access for Kansas educators. She noted that other states' participants would likely need to pay full tuition. Dr. Lane highlighted the initiative's uniqueness, as it is rare for postsecondary institutions to lead literacy improvement efforts, which are typically K-12 focused.

Regent Benson commended Dr. Lane and the stakeholders for their work and inquired about long-term goals for student literacy, referencing the current statistic that one-third of students are not reading at grade level. Dr. Lane clarified that state law mandates that the Blueprint aim to reach 90% children reading at or above grade level by 2033, a challenging but essential goal. Additionally, the Blueprint must endeavor to have 100% of elementary teachers complete a micro-credential in the science of reading by 2030. Dr. Lane praised university faculty and deans for their rapid and dedicated efforts, emphasizing the urgency and importance of equipping educators to achieve these targets.

UPDATE AND FIRST READ FOR PLAN FOR THE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN LITERACY

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, outlined progress on Senate Bill 438, which established the Blueprint for Literacy and mandates the creation of six reading centers across Kansas by January 1, 2025. Following a strategic planning process, an advisory committee has worked intensively over six months to develop a comprehensive plan. The committee invited proposals from universities and received inspiring submissions from all seven public universities.

The centers aim to provide equitable access to high-quality education, training, and family support services statewide, functioning as interconnected networks rather than isolated hubs. Each center will address unique regional needs, with expertise shared across institutions. For example, Kansas State University will specialize in supporting English language learners.

The proposed plan, currently under finalization, includes timelines, implementation steps, and resource allocation strategies to ensure centers are operational by Fiscal Year 2026. The focus is on addressing literacy challenges, teacher shortages, and workforce needs.

Regent Johnston praised Dr. Lane's report, finding the progress on the program's ambitious timelines and goals to be impressive. Regent Johnston highlighted the collaborative effort among the seven universities as a model of

higher education cooperation, emphasizing that focused, unified efforts can lead to significant outcomes. Regent Johnston expressed confidence that the plan would achieve the goal of 90% literacy by 2033.

Regent Johnston inquired about a student literacy map that Dr. Lane presented. She asked if areas without markers were regions that had already met the goal or had no data. Dr. Lane clarified that the map shows only those districts with students performing below grade level, and unmarked areas, like Comanche County, indicate no significant percentage of students below basic literacy levels.

Dr. Lane emphasized the necessity of broader partnerships beyond universities. Independent colleges, community colleges (focused on adult and early childhood literacy), and community literacy providers are essential collaborators to address the widespread literacy challenge effectively.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME BASEBALL COMPLEX – WSU

Wichita State University President Richard Muma requested permission to name the WSU baseball complex the “Gene Stephenson Park” to honor Gene Stephenson’s significant contributions to college baseball and WSU’s athletic program. Stephenson, who coached from 1977 to 2013, transformed WSU baseball, winning 1,798 games with a .735 winning percentage. Under his leadership, the Shockers made seven College World Series appearances, won the national championship in 1989, and earned multiple conference and NCAA titles.

Beyond coaching, Stephenson spearheaded capital projects that transformed the baseball facilities into one of the nation’s best. Muma emphasized that naming the complex after Stephenson would recognize his legacy and continued impact on WSU baseball. He requested the Board’s approval for this tribute.

Regent Dicus moved to approve the request, and Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME OUTDOOR SPACES – KSU

Kansas State University President Richard Linton presented a request to name a terrace located outside Bluemont Hall the Jan and Charlie Cole Terrace. Jan and Charlie Cole, both K-State alumni—one from the College of Education and the other from the College of Business—have made significant philanthropic contributions to the university. Their support has benefited accounting students, accounting department faculty awards, scholarships, and the recent renovation of Bluemont Hall, which was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony just a few weeks ago.

Regent Benson moved to approve the request, and Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON REQUEST TO NAME SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – KSU

Kansas State University President Richard Linton presented a request to name the KSU School of Accountancy within the College of Business Administration the Herbel Family School of Accountancy. Vern and Joan Herbel are both Kansas State graduates—Vern from the College of Business and Joan from the College of Health and Human Sciences. The Herbels have established the Accountancy Excellence Fund. This fund helps meet various needs in the accounting department, including course development, programming, software, student travel, graduate students, and tutoring. Additionally, both Vern and Joan serve on the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees, and Vern is actively involved with the College of Business Administration’s Accounting Department Advisory Council and the Dean’s Advisory Council.

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

President Linton thanked the team responsible for coordinating the KBOR meeting. He acknowledged the tremendous effort and coordination that went into organizing the event. He specifically thanked Kristen Holt from his office, Grant Hill from the President’s office, Katie Meyer, Lindley Lunn, and Brett Engelman.

RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND NON-BUDGETARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS (FIRST READ)

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, explained that she and Fred Patton, the Board’s government affairs consultant, would present together. Chief of Staff Oliver noted that the non-budgetary legislative proposals were being presented for a first reading and would return to the Board in December for action. According to Board policy, items that involve changes to or the creation of new legislation must come before the Board in November.

Chief of Staff Oliver outlined seven proposals:

1. Standardizing the interest rates on student financial aid repayment funds to a uniform five percent, as current rates vary.
2. A technical amendment to the adult learner grant program’s agreement requirement that shifts the agreement to one between the student and the office instead of between the student and the institution.
3. A KU request for bonding authority to fund student housing projects.
4. A KUMC request for additional bonding authority for the construction of the Cancer Center building.
5. A KSU request to sell property in Omaha, Nebraska, which includes a veterinary clinic.
6. A KSU request to sell the Unger Complex and associated acreage in Riley County.
7. A KSU request for bonding authority to support the Ag Innovation initiative, which has a total project cost of \$210 million. The initiative has raised most of the funds, and the request is for \$23 million to finalize the project funding.

Fred Patton remarked that with the recent elections having concluded, the focus had now shifted to understanding the new legislative landscape. Mr. Patton noted that nearly 40 new members would be joining the Kansas Legislature. However, he emphasized that despite the influx of new members, there would not be significant changes in the balance of power, as Republicans still held supermajorities in both the House and Senate.

Mr. Patton then mentioned that both the Governor’s office and the Legislature were in the process of putting together their budgets. He highlighted a new dynamic this year, as the Legislature would be putting together its own budget, making the process a bit more challenging to navigate. The timing for when higher education would be discussed by the Special Budget Committee was still uncertain, though there were rumors it could take place on the 10th and 11th or the 18th and 19th of December.

Mr. Patton also discussed the schedule for the newly elected members, who would be convening in Topeka on December 2nd to elect new leadership. While there would likely be minimal changes in leadership, a few positions might shift due to members leaving or contested elections. Once the leadership elections are complete, the focus will shift to committee assignments. Some committees might change their focus, and the leadership of those committees could also shift.

Mr. Patton concluded by mentioning that, next month, once the non-budget legislative issues are approved, official bills will be drafted, and work will begin to move those forward.

ADJOURN

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

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 Phillip, 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 Change Academic Calendar – KU** **Sam Christy-Dangermond,
Director, Academic Affairs**

Summary

Board of Regents policy (Ch. II.A.1.) requires consideration of proposed change to academic calendars proposed by the state universities when sought for any deviation for reasons other than natural disaster or national emergencies. KU is seeking Board approval to change its Fall 2025 start date. The proposed change conforms to existing policies and guidelines. KBOR staff recommend approval.

Background

Kansas Board of Regents Policy (Ch. II.A.1.) states the following:

- a. *The Academic Calendar of each state university shall provide for an academic year minimally consisting of two sixteen-week semesters totaling no fewer than 146 instructional days plus five final exam days each semester.*
- b. *Each state university shall file a three-year Academic Calendar adhering to holidays and breaks approved by the Board. Each state university shall follow the calendar as approved by the Board. Any deviation for reasons other than natural disasters or national emergencies must have prior approval of the Board.*
- c. *The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board shall have the authority to approve or deny non-substantive revisions to Board-approved three-year calendars and shall periodically report these changes to the Board.*

Although current Board policy permits diversity among the universities in the construction of academic calendars, the adoption of common elements by the Board in 1984 and 1990 has forced considerable consistency in the number of instructional days, exam days, and vacation days. The remaining variation appears partially rooted in administrative requirements and campus traditions. Some degree of institutional flexibility is important for effective institutional planning in the use of facilities and the management of enrollments and personnel.

Proposed Change to Academic Calendar

The University of Kansas (KU) requests to move its start date for Fall 2025 from August 25 to August 18. This change would not affect the number of instructional days, as the request also moves the last class date up one week, from December 11 to December 4. All affected dates are outlined in the chart below. This modification will support three goals: 1) better align 15-day intersession instructional periods; 2) allow more time for faculty to report grades before recessing for winter break; and 3) allow for a full two weeks of classes before the Labor Day holiday. Further, KU states that this change should alleviate overlap between students moving in and the first home football game.

Fall Semester 2025	Fall 2025 Approved	Fall 2025 Proposal
First Day of Classes	8/25/2025	8/18/2025
Last Day of Classes	12/11/2025	12/4/2025
Stop Day	12/12/2025	12/5/2025
First Day of Finals	12/15/2025	12/8/2025
Last Day of Finals	12/19/2025	12/12/2025

Recommendation

Board staff recommend approval.

2. Act on Request for a New Certificate of Approval with Degree Granting Authority for Rocky Vista University

**Crystal Puderbaugh,
Director, Private
Postsecondary**

Summary

Rocky Vista University has applied for a certificate of approval to operate in Kansas and is requesting degree-granting authority. After thoroughly reviewing staff qualifications, record-keeping systems, coursework, and supporting materials, the institution demonstrates that it meets and complies with statutorily imposed requirements. Staff recommends that the institution be issued a certificate of approval.

Summary of Institution Requirements

The Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Educational Institution Act (Act) requires private and out-of-state postsecondary educational institutions to obtain a certificate of approval from the Kansas Board of Regents (Board) to operate in Kansas lawfully. This Act covers “brick and mortar” institutions with a physical location within Kansas and institutions that offer or provide online distance education to Kansans who remain in the state while receiving their education.

To qualify for a certificate of approval, an institution subject to the Act must meet the standards established by the Act and the regulations adopted pursuant to the Act. Board staff reviews substantial documentation and evidence to determine if institutions demonstrate compliance with minimum requirements. Financial statements, proof of accreditation, evidence of compliance with safety codes, enrollment agreements, catalog, copies of advertisements, schedules of tuition and fees, and refund policies are reviewed by Board staff. Institutions must also provide descriptions of their programs and courses, administrator and instructor credentials, program objectives, and ownership structure information.

Rocky Vista University

Rocky Vista University was established in 2006 in Parker, Colorado. The University also has campuses located in Irvine, Utah, and Billings, Montana. Rocky Vista University offers five programs: Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, and Master of Medical Sciences. Rocky Vista University is seeking approval to offer clinical placements in Kansas for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program and the online Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

Rocky Visit University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The institution also hold accreditation from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends issuance of a certificate of approval with degree-granting authority to Rocky Visita University.

3. Act on Modification of Program Review Metrics

Summary

Board policy requires that “in cooperation with the universities, the Board will maintain a program review cycle and a review process that will allow the universities to demonstrate that they are delivering quality programs consistent with their mission. Regular program review is institutionally based and follows the departmental or unit structure of the institution.” (Board Policy Manual, Chapter II., A.5.) In June 2023, the Board approved changes to the KBOR program review framework for AY 2025 – AY 2028 includes the approved framework. Based on institutional feedback, additions to metrics used to measure program productivity and effectiveness have been proposed. Board staff concur with the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee in recommending approval.

Background and History

Per Board policy, Ch. II Section A.5.a.,

In cooperation with the state universities, the Board will maintain a regular program review cycle and process that will allow the universities to demonstrate on an ongoing basis that they are delivering quality programs consistent with their mission. Regular program review is institutionally based and follows the departmental or unit structure of the institution. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall provide guidelines for Program Review and, as part of the review of institutional reports, will include consideration of the Board-approved minima tables.

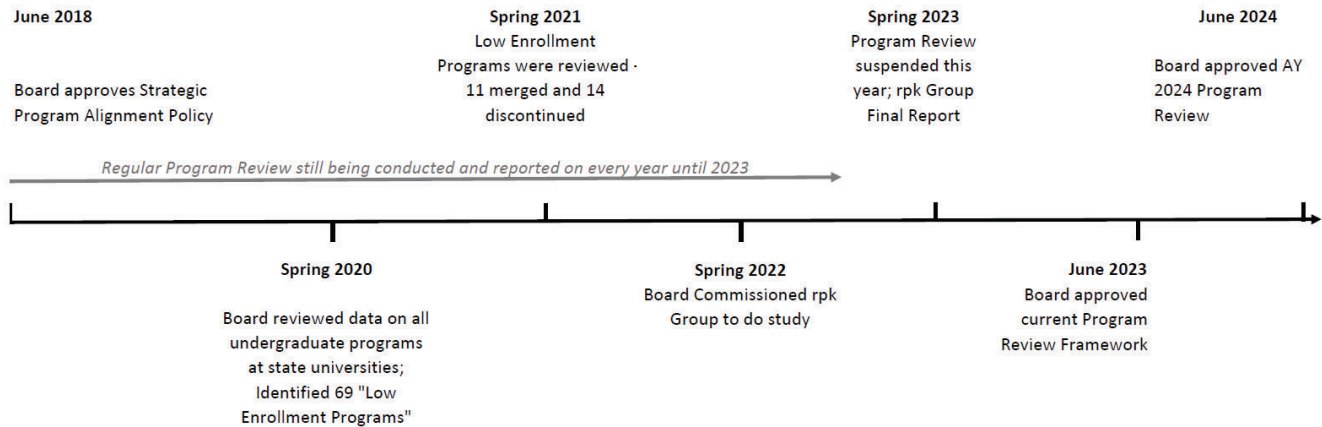
Historically, state universities were required to review programs at least once every eight years, a frequency the Board established in 1997. As appropriate, universities would establish their review schedules to align generally with accreditation reporting requirements and site visits. Within the last six years, there have been some additions to the policy and processes.

In June 2018, the Board approved adding a Strategic Program Alignment process to the Program Review Policy, whereby the Board may direct state universities to conduct a strategic program alignment review. Additionally, the policy indicates the Board may direct state universities to evaluate select academic programs outside of the eight-year Program Review cycle. As such, over the next two years, in addition to conducting the regular program review, the six state universities embarked on strategic program alignment, identifying programs that the Board ultimately approved for the additional review. As a result, in the spring of 2020, eight programs were identified to be discontinued.

Also, in the spring of 2020, the Board requested enrollment data on all undergraduate programs at the six state universities. Sixty-nine programs not meeting the minimum enrollment of 25 students were identified for the universities to review further. In 2021, in addition to conducting regular program reviews, universities reported on these “low-enrollment” programs. Of the 69 programs evaluated during this process, 11 programs were identified to merge, and 14 were discontinued.

In February 2022, the Board approved the commission of the rpk Group to do an academic portfolio review and an academic resource utilization study. In September of 2022, the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) agreed to suspend temporarily regular program review for the reporting year 2023, as rpk Group would be presenting its findings along that same timeline. The final rpk Group report was submitted to the Board in January of 2023, providing some foundation for the current program review framework. Additionally, the university provosts offered suggestions for changes to the program review process in April 2023.

In June of 2023, the Board approved a program review framework for AY 2024 and a program review framework for AY 2025–AY 2028. In June 2024, the Board reviewed recommendations for 31 programs and approved the phase-out of two programs, a merger for three programs, an action plan for 19 programs, and an action plan with a proviso for seven programs. (The proviso was that at least three of the four given metrics should be met by July 1, 2027.) A timeline is included below.



Proposed Changes to the AY 2025 – AY 2028 Program Review Metrics

In the wake of the AY 2024, and in response to concerns raised by university provosts, the Board’s Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) agreed to review the metrics used for program review. At its November meeting, BAASC approved several refinements of program review metrics.

- Exempting interdisciplinary programs without a formal departmental or administrative structure from minimum requirements for the number of majors and graduates.
- Reducing from 20 to 12 students the minimum enrollment for master’s programs, and allowing programs that offer both master’s and doctoral degrees to be reviewed as a single program.
- Establishing institution-specific thresholds based on Carnegie classifications to account for differences in size and mission.
- Excluding from the five-year post-baccalaureate wage metric students who immediately pursue graduate studies upon completion of a bachelor’s degree.

Recommendation

The Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee recommends approval of the above changes.

4. Act on Request for New Program Approvals
BA & BGS in Health & Society – KU
PSM in Environmental Geology – KU

Rusty Monhollon,
VP, Academic Affairs

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 units have responded to all of the requirements of the program approval process.

BA & BGS in Health & Society – KU

I. General Information

A. Institution University of Kansas

B. Program Identification

Degree Level: Bachelor’s
Program Title: Health and Society
Degree to be Offered: Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of General Studies
Responsible Department or Unit: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/Department of Sociology
CIP Code: 51.2212
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

Health and Society is an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree focused on the social context of health. The curriculum provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the role of social factors in health, such as housing, economics, and local environments (i.e., social determinants of health), while facilitating the development of transferable professional skills emphasized in a liberal arts education including critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, adaptability, ethics, and social responsibility. The central goal of the Health and Society program is to train students for careers that emphasize the socio-demographic, cultural, political, historical, and ethical contexts that underlie health behaviors, healthcare practices, and health policies, by providing the knowledge and skills necessary to critically evaluate and inform strategies that address health at local, state, and national levels.

Health-related careers frequently require a team effort, incorporating multiple viewpoints and approaches. To prepare students for this, the Health and Society program engages students with a wide range of perspectives on health including those from anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. By intentionally integrating the conceptual frameworks, analytical tools, and data approaches from each discipline, the Health and Society curriculum provides graduates with a rich toolkit to tackle real-world challenges. With this interdisciplinary training, graduates can effectively communicate and collaborate with multiple stakeholders, approach problems creatively, facilitate collaborations across sectors, and foster innovation by blending ideas from different fields.

Clinical care only accounts for an estimated 10-20% of non-genetic contributors to health, with the other 80-90% attributed to social and economic factors, health behaviors, and the physical environment (Hood et al., 2016). A BA/BGS in Health and Society prepares students to identify and tackle the social conditions shaping health outcomes for communities, an approach that will have the greatest impact on population health and reduce health disparities (Castrucci & Auerbach, 2019; Hood et al., 2016).

Health disparities are differences in the quality of health, healthcare, and health outcomes across socio-demographic groups. For example, in Kansas rural communities often face disproportionate burdens of poor health, lower levels of positive health behaviors, and a limited health infrastructure. Eliminating these disparities requires a multifaceted approach and partnerships both within and outside of medicine. The Health and Society curriculum prepares students to critically engage with the social and environmental factors at the root of these disparities.

Health and Society offers an academic home for students who want to work in healthcare or health related industries but may not be planning for clinical practice or laboratory research, and for whom requiring extensive coursework in the natural sciences may serve as a barrier to program and degree completion. The major is also designed in a way that facilitates the dual pursuit of Health and Society and other majors that offer complimentary or specialized training, including pre-medical education. By understanding the structural factors that contribute to health differences, students will be able to work with and within healthcare organizations to manage the organization, delivery, and consumption of medical services more effectively, and design policies and interventions that address health disparities at the societal level.

IV. Program Demand:

A. Survey of Student Interest

The University of Kansas (2021) Hopes & Dreams survey was included in post-orientation emails from the Center for Orientation & Transition Programs, as a component of UNIV 101, and direct emails to freshmen (response rate 24%). While not specific to the Health and Society program, the [Hopes & Dreams survey](#) administered to KU freshmen in summer and fall of 2021 reported that the top industry of interest was Healthcare, and Social/Human Services was third. What mattered most to the Class of 2025, was being able to apply knowledge to solve real world problems (72.38%) and assisting people who were struggling (63.22%), and the desire to make a positive impact on society was given as one of the top motivators for attending college (73.67%). The Health and Society program prepares students for careers that include each of these.

These KU responses are consistent with national surveys, such as the National Society of High School Scholars 2021 Career Interest Survey of more than 14,000 high achieving high school and college students, and a 2021 survey fielded by Lucid LLC. of 750 currently enrolled undergraduate students ages 18-25, that find Generation Z (encompassing individuals born between 1997 and 2012) is increasingly aware of social justice issues and their involvement with these issues impacts their coursework and career choices (Bryant, 2022; NSHSS, 2020). The 2022 National Society of High School Scholars 2022 Career Interest Survey of 11,495 high achieving high school or college-age individuals found approximately 1 in 3 were most interested in impacting the world in the area of healthcare and health-related issues (NSHSS, 2022).

B. Market Analysis

KU commissioned a market study from EAB Global, Inc. The report was limited by the fact that the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) does not contain an instructional program code (CIP code) that aligns directly to a Health and Society program. Labor market and competitive landscape analyses in the report suggest unmet student demand for a bachelor's-level Health and Society program and higher than average 10-year growth in regional employment for relevant occupations such as Social and Human Service Assistants, Medical and Health Services Managers, and Social and Community Service Managers at a range of 17% to 19%, indicating a moderate to potentially favorable environment for program launch.

Demand in comparable programs

A more tailored picture of demand in comparable programs comes from direct correspondence with program directors.

- 1) University of Utah has a [Health, Society, and Policy](#) program that has been in existence as an interdisciplinary major for over 40 years and has approximately 400 majors.
- 2) UT Austin has a [Health & Society](#) program that is housed in Sociology. This interdisciplinary program has approximately 450 majors.
- 3) The University of Pennsylvania has a [Health and Societies](#) major housed in the Department of History and Sociology of Science with about 200 majors.
- 4) Vanderbilt offers an interdisciplinary major in [Medicine, Health, and Society](#) that has approximately 750 majors and 50 minors.

Comparative/Locational Advantage

There are no programs in Kansas with the same CIP Code. The only comparable program with a social scientific grounding in a neighboring state is the BA in [Health, Medicine and Society](#) at the University of Oklahoma.

The Department of Sociology at KU provides the optimal environment for a Health and Society BA/BGS program. The established medical sociology, statistics, and research methods curriculum and presence of multiple tenure-track and teaching faculty with expertise in social determinants of health, allow for program launch with minimal start-up costs and capitalizes on existing infrastructure. Faculty also have direct connections with KUMC and graduate programs in the department of Population Health. In addition, the social science health-related courses already available across different disciplines provide a rich set of electives for students to choose from.

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	12	0	360	0
Year 2	25	0	750	0
Year 3	35	0	1050	0

VI. Employment

Students with a BA/BGS in Health and Society will be ready for employment or further training in health services research, healthcare management and administration, public health, or health policy, and often pursue careers in the healthcare and health insurance fields, in both non-clinical and (with additional education and training) clinical positions.

Healthcare is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of the economy and will require a workforce in both health and health adjacent fields. Approximately 18% of the U.S. economy is health care, with expectations of further growth as the population continues to age. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023, pg. 2), “the health care and social assistance sector is projected to not only grow most rapidly of any sector, but it is also projected to create about 45 percent of all the projected job gains from 2022 to 2032”. Locally, in the Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area, the most common industry is health care and social assistance, representing 14.1% of total employment in 2021 and demonstrating workforce growth of 3.36% over the previous year (Data USA, 2024). Nationwide, employment of medical and health services managers is projected to grow 28% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than for all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024a). During that same timeframe, the

demand for social and community services managers – who coordinate and supervise programs and organizations that support public well-being – is forecasted to increase 9% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024b).

This interdisciplinary program provides students with knowledge and transferable skills that can be applied in a variety of contexts and professions and offers the flexibility to explore different fields and career paths within and beyond the healthcare industry. Additional areas of employment include non-profit organizations, government, public and social services, and international development.

VII. Admission and Curriculum

A. Admission Criteria

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

B. Curriculum

Curricula for the BA and BGS are listed below. Appendix A includes a list of elective courses for the major.

Health and Society BA

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 224	Intro to Health and Society (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra (KBOR Core Math and Statistics (SGE))	3
	1st Semester Language (BA Second Language)	5
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	1

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Communications (SGE)	3
	2nd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	5
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	1

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE)	5
	BA Laboratory/Field Experience (LFE)	1
	3rd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	3

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 280	Intro to Research Methods (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated US Culture (SGE)	3
	4th Semester Language, or 1st semester of Another Language (BA Second Language)	3

Year 3: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 424	Sociology of Health and Medicine (Major Requirement)	3
SOC 380, or PSYC/ECON/ POLS 399, or MATH 365	Statistics and Data Analysis (BA Quantitative Reasoning Requirement; Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)*	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture (SGE)*	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

*or Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours if KBOR Core already fulfilled by a Health and Society Elective

Year 3: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
SOC 699, or SOC 499, or LA&S 490, or LA&S 494	Integrative Capstone Experience (Major Requirement)	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

Year 4: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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

Health and Society BGS

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 224	Intro to Health & Society (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Science (SGE)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra (KBOR Core Math and Statistics (SGE))	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Communications (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE)	4
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated US Culture (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	2

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 280	Intro to Research Methods (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 3: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 380, or PSYC/ECON /POLs 399, or MATH 365	Statistics and Data Analysis (Major Requirement)	3
SOC 424	Sociology of Health and Medicine (Major Requirement)	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 3: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3

Year 4: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
LA&S 172	Exploring Health Professions (BGS career prep course)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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

Year 4: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 699, or SOC 499, or LA&S 490, or LA&S 494	Integrative Capstone Experience (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
*Tracey LaPierre	Associate Professor	PhD	Y	Medical Sociology	.5
Elizabeth Felix	Assistant Professor	PhD	Y	Medical Sociology	.2
Jarron Saint Onge	Professor	PhD	Y	Sociology and Population Health	.2
Gerald (Kevin) McCannon	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Medical Sociology	.5
Lisa-Marie Wright	Associate Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Sociology	.25
Kelly Sharron	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Sociology and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies	.125

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

IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources [List amounts in dollars. Provide explanations as necessary. Please double-check the math.]

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions			
Faculty	\$119,556	\$123,143	\$126,837
Administrators (<i>other than instruction time</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Graduate Assistants	\$38,233	\$39,379	\$40,561
Support Staff for Administration (<i>e.g., secretarial</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits (<i>total for all groups</i>)	\$49,971	\$51,470	\$53,014
Other Personnel Costs			
Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing	\$207,760	\$213,992	\$220,412
Personnel – New Positions			
Faculty	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$0
Other Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses			
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
Other: New Course Development	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Total Start-up Costs	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$0
Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses			
Supplies/Expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Library/learning resources	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment/Technology	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Costs	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
GRAND TOTAL COSTS	\$218,760	\$221,992	\$223,412

B. FUNDING SOURCES <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		\$216,302	\$450,630	\$630,882
Student Fees		\$3,600	\$7500	\$10,500
Other Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		\$219,902	\$458,130	\$641,382
C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-) (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)		\$1,142	\$236,138	\$417,970

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions

Six existing Sociology faculty (LaPierre, Felix, Saint Onge, McCannon, Wright, and Sharron) will teach the required core curriculum (SOC 224, SOC 424, SOC 280, SOC 380, SOC 699) and a rotation of SOC electives that can count towards the Health and Society Major electives (SOC 326, SOC 410, SOC 425). These courses will be taught as part of their regular course load in sociology, with half of the seats designated for students in the Health and Society program. Part of the FTE for LaPierre and McCannon includes service to the Health and Society program around course scheduling, degree level assessment, etc.

Two GTAs will be drawn from the currently funded SOC GTA pool with preference given to graduate students specializing in Medical Sociology. GTAs will offer flexibility in offering larger class sizes with smaller discussion sections and/or grading support.

Fringe was estimated at 37% for faculty and 15% for graduate students. A 3% annual salary increase was factored into the salary projections for current faculty and graduate teaching assistants beginning in year 2.

Personnel – New Positions

We have the capacity to accommodate the projected enrollments for the Health and Society program during the first three years with current staffing levels.

Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses

Since the degree will be housed within the Department of Sociology and primarily draws on existing courses there will be limited start-up costs associated with the degree. We have budgeted for marketing expenses in year 1 and course development costs in years 1 and 2. All required courses for the Health and Society major are currently being taught as part of the Sociology curriculum except for SOC 224 and SOC 699, which need to be developed.

Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses

We have budgeted \$3,000 per year for additional supplies and expenses that may be incurred specifically for the Health and Society program.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

The BA/BGS in Health and Society will be fully funded through standard tuition and fee revenue. 2024-2025 standard tuition for Lawrence Campus students is \$365.60 per credit hour for resident students and \$976.60 per credit hour for non-resident students. Consistent with the overall undergraduate student credit hour distribution

on the Lawrence campus, it is estimated that 61.5% of Health and Society student credit hours will be from resident students and 38.5% from non-resident students, and revenue projections from base tuition were calculated using a weighted average of \$600.84 per credit hour. Student fees were calculated based on the \$10 per credit hour course fee for CLAS effective Fall 2024.

C. Projected Surplus

Program revenues are expected to exceed expenditures in the first year. The annual projected surplus is detailed below.

Year 1 \$1,142

Year 2 \$236,138

Year 3 \$417,970

XI. References

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Appendix A: Elective Courses

Electives: 15 credits from electives (at least 12 elective credits at the jr/sr level).

Students may choose from the following currently offered electives:

ABSC 310	Building Healthy Communities (or Honors Equivalent)* ^a
ABSC 529	Pediatric Health Promotion
EVRN/HSCI 445	Introduction to Environmental Health
GEOG 201/GIST 210/AAAS 203	Culture and Health (or Honors Equivalent)* ^b
HSES 308	Drugs and Diseases in Society
HSES 403	Health Behavior Theory
HSES 489	Health and Human Sexuality
HMG 305	Health Policy and Healthcare Systems
HMG 320	Applied Healthcare Law and Ethics
HSCI 340	Introduction to Public Health
HSCI 440	Introduction to Epidemiology
HSCI 441	Population Health
LA&S 172	Exploring Health Professions
PHIL 370	Moral Issues in Medicine
POLS/EVRN 628/PUAD 494/LWS 494	The Politics of Public Health
PSYC 350	Psychological Disorders
PSYC/ABSC 535	Developmental Pathology
PSYC 605	Health Psychology
SOC 326	Health, Gender, and Society
SOC 410	Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 425	Sociology of Global Health
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence

*^a This class is approved as a KBOR CORE Social and Behavioral Sciences class

*^b This class is approved as a KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture class

PSM in Environmental Geology – KU**I. General Information**

A. Institution University of Kansas

B. Program Identification

Degree Level:	Masters
Program Title:	Professional Science Masters in Environmental Geology
Degree to be Offered:	Professional Science Masters
Responsible Department or Unit:	Geology
CIP Code:	40.0601
Modality:	Hybrid: (33 hours online; 3 hours face-to-face)
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2025

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 36

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

III. Justification

KU offers a Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree in Applied Science. The PSM degree offers concentrations in environmental geology and environmental assessment. Since its inception in 2019, the environmental geology concentration has been very successful, with more than 80 enrolled students and more than 2500 inquiries. To-date, twenty students have graduated from the environmental geology concentration. To better align with workforce and professional licensure expectations of a titled degree in geology, and to more accurately reflect the program curriculum, this proposal seeks to elevate the existing environmental geology concentration to a major. This change would allow for more focused program marketing and enable greater career advancement of its graduates.

Environmental geology is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to address and study anthropogenically-derived and naturally occurring environmental hazards on Earth. The field is grounded in basic geological sub-disciplines such as mineralogy, sedimentology and stratigraphy but has primary focus on hydrogeology, geochemistry, geophysics and components of engineering geology. These sub-disciplines and the associated field and laboratory techniques in the form of a PSM program lead to an applied understanding of how to utilize geophysical, geochemical and hydrogeological techniques to evaluate, remediate, and monitor the impact or potential impact of contamination (Schulmeister, 2024a). This applied program separates itself from traditional thesis-based research MS degrees in Geology and/or Hydrogeology through its direct integration of management, communication and case-study-based coursework with a focus of developing future government and industry professional leaders in Environmental Geology with a broad toolbox to address environmental problems.

IV. Program Demand:**A. Market Analysis**

The demand for geoscience graduates with credentials beyond the traditional B.S. degree is high and is projected to grow. The American Geoscience Institute projects an increase in the number of Geoscience jobs to grow nationally by 4.9% between 2019 and 2029 (AGI, 2020). Within the geoscience field, environmental geoscience is listed as one of the top three subdisciplines with an even higher projected growth of 9.2 % (AGI, 2020).

During the last decade, the number of undergraduate geology majors at the University of Kansas who have chosen the Environmental Geology concentration for the PSM degree has increased to 19% in the most recent three years, from 7.5 % in previous years (KU Analytics and Institutional Research, 2024). GEOL 552 Introduction to Hydrogeology is an upper-level, KU undergraduate, elective course that is perceived by most students, faculty,

and employers as essential for a successful career in Environmental Geology. It is commonly taken by students who plan to seek employment in the field of environmental geology. Historic records of KU student enrollment demonstrate an upward trend in the number of students in GEOL 552 since reporting began in 1994. A sustained increase in the number of students enrolled in GEOL 552 since the 1990s suggests a sustained and growing interest in environmental careers by KU students.

The number of PSM degree programs has increased from 200 to more than 360 over the past 20 years (Tobias and Strausbaugh, 2018). KU’s Environmental Geology PSM program is the only such program in the state of Kansas and one of only a few geology PSM programs in the U.S. It is also the only Environmental Geology program that can be completed primarily online (NSPMA, 2020; Schulmeister, 2024b,c) in the U.S. There are no PSM programs in environmental geology offered in surrounding states. Although peer PSM environmental geology programs are not available for comparison, the national number of geology majors choosing employment in the environmental sector continues to follow an upward trend established in the 1980s (AGI, 2019).

KBOR’s Program Inventory indicates K-State and FHSU offer a master’s degree with the same CIP Code at the master’s level; however, none are offered through distance learning and KU’s program is the only one that offers the CIP content as part of a Professional Science Masters degree:

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	2	28	36	392
Year 2	2	38	36	532
Year 3	2	48	36	672

VI. Employment

Based on workforce summaries compiled by the American Geological Institute, geologists are currently securing employment in three broad sectors: Environmental remediation and management, natural resource discovery and utilization, engineering and construction (AGI, 2019). Forty-eight percent of employed geoscientists work in the fields of environmental geology and hydrogeology (AGI, 2019).

KU cross-walked the CIP Code to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code and then reviewed employment projections from the Kansas Department of Labor. Kansas Department of Labor data show strong long-term occupational projections for the region. The PSM in environmental geology program’s advisory board includes environmental managers and directors at State of Kansas agencies who have witnessed a shortage of qualified environmental geologists. State environmental agencies routinely solicit KU PSM program graduates for employment, and have sought KU’s contribution to building a stronger workforce as part of its annual Environmental Conference (e.g. Schulmeister, 2021).

All students who have graduated from KU with a PSM degree with concentration in Environmental Geology have found employment in the environmental sector or have advanced in their existing environmental careers. Most are working in State and Federal environmental agencies, environment consulting firms, and oil and gas companies. One graduate has developed an environmental science curriculum at the adult alternative high school where she is employed.

The greater Kansas City metropolitan area is home to several regional federal environmental agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers (Kansas City District) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 7), numerous large and small private environmental/ engineering companies (e.g., Black and Veatch, Bartlett and West, Wilson and Company, URS Engineering, AquaTerra Environmental Services, Terracon Engineering, Burns

and McDonnell, Ecology and Environment Inc., and Marshall Miller & Associates), state and local environmental agencies (Johnson County Environmental Department, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism), and nongovernmental organizations (e.g., MidAmerica Regional Council). This concentration of environmental agencies/companies offers several strong advantages for students completing the environmental geology program: first, a large latent pool of students for the program; second, numerous opportunities in these companies and agencies for internships for students; and third, a pool of environmental professionals to draw upon for lecturers/professors-of-practice for our courses and for our External Advisory Board.

VII. Admission and Curriculum

A. Admission Criteria

1. A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution as evidenced by an official undergraduate transcript is required. Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in geology. Those with a related degree and 20 semester hours of geoscience coursework in geology, physical geography, engineering, or hydrology may be eligible. In some instances, relevant work experience in environmental geology may substitute for missing courses.

2. A grade-point average of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) for all previous university work is required. Under extenuating circumstances an average below 3.0 can be considered for provisional admission.

B. Curriculum

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 755	Site Assessment	3
GEOL 751	Physical Hydrogeology	3
PFS 801	Interpersonal & Persuasive Communication	3

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 753	Chemical Hydrogeology	3
PFS 802	Managing Teams & Leading People	3
	Elective	3

Year 2: Summer

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 556	Field Methods in Hydrology *	3

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
EVRN 721	Env Regulation & Policy	3
PFS 803	Financial Management	3
GEOL 814	Capstone Experience 1	1

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
PFS 804	Project Management for Professionals	3
GEOL 815	Capstone Experience II	2
	Elective	3

* GEOL 556 may be replaced by 3, 1-cr-hr workshop courses during spring and fall semesters.

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours 36

VIII. Core Faculty

Faculty Name	Rank	Highest Degree	Tenure Track Y/N	Academic Area of Specialization	FTE to Proposed Program
*Marcia Schulmeister	Director and Teaching Professor	Ph.D.	N	Hydrogeology and geochemistry	1.0
TBD	Asst. Director and Asst. Teaching Professor	M.S. or higher	N	Environmental geology	1.0
Rick Devlin	Professor	Ph.D.	Y	Contaminant Hydrogeology	.25
Mary Hill	Professor	Ph.D.	Y	Groundwater modeling	.25
Rick Leines	Adjunct Instructor	B.S.	N	Haz Waste Operations	0.125
Clark Rein	Adjunct Instructor	M.S.	N	Site Assessment	0.125
Sarah Webb	Lecturer	M.A.	N	Strategic Communication	0.125
Jordan Atkinson	Professor of Practice	Ph.D.	N	Communication Studies	0.125
Jacque Eidson	Lecturer	Ph.D.	N	Organizational Psychology	0.125
Karina Addari	Lecturer	Ph.D.	N	Supply Chain Management	0.125

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program **0**

IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions			
Faculty	164,140	168,245	172,450
Administrators <i>(other than instruction time)</i>	120,000	123,000	126,075
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration <i>(e.g., secretarial)</i>	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits <i>(total for all groups).. costrate</i>	75,970	76,970	77,970
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing	360,110	368,215	376,495
Personnel – New Positions			
Faculty	0	0	0
Administrators	25,500	26,138	26,791
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>	5,100	5,228	5,358
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions	30,600	31,366	32,149
Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses			
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	0	0	0
Physical Facilities:Construction or Renovation	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total Start-up Costs	0	0	0
Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses			
Supplies/Expenses	0	0	0
Library/learning resources, marketing	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	5,205	5,205	5,205
Travel	2,400	2,400	2,400
Other	1,400	1,400	1,400
Total Operating Costs	9,005	9,005	9,005
GRAND TOTAL COSTS	399,715	408,586	417,649

B. FUNDING SOURCE <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		233,260	309,560	385,860
Student Fees		0	0	0
Other Sources (JCERT tax revenue)		341,171	348,905	356,807
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		574,431	658,465	742,667
C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-) <i>(Grand Total Funding minus Grand Total Costs)</i>		174,716	249,879	325,018

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions

Two core Geology faculty members are currently teaching required Geology courses in the program. Additional faculty members in the Department of Geology contribute elective courses that may be counted toward the degree. Faculty in the School of Professional Studies teach the PFS courses and the PFS courses fulfill requirements for multiple graduate degrees.

Personnel – New Positions

A half-time Graduate Program Coordinator will be hired to support student advising.

Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses

No new physical space or library resources are required for the successful implementation and administration of the new program. The teaching and office space will be accommodated in the Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) building on the Edwards Campus.

The program will share lab space at the Edwards Campus with the Environmental Soils Laboratory.

Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses

Laboratory and field equipment will be purchased to support student exercises and demonstrations annually. Operating costs will include sample analysis and expendable supplies.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

Tuition rate is all inclusive = \$545/cr. Hr

Year	Total Headcount Per Year		Total Sem Credit Hrs Per Year		Income
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Full- Time	Part- Time	
Implementation	2	28	36	392	233,260
Year 2	2	38	36	532	309,560
Year 3	2	48	36	672	385,860

C. Projected Surplus/Deficit

Program revenues are expected to exceed expenditures the first year of operation.

XI. References

American Geological Institute (2019) Geoscience Workforce Changes 2018-2028- Geoscience Workforce Projected to Grow by 6.2%, *Geoscience Currents*, Data Brief 2019-010.

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Schulmeister, M.K. (2024a) Advancing the Science and Management of Contaminated Groundwater Investigations through the University of Kansas Professional Science Master's Programs, *International Groundwater Congress*, Davos, Switzerland, Sept 13, 2024. **(INVITED)**

Schulmeister, M.K. (2024b) In my experience: Online Geoscience has a Role to Play: *Groundwater Monitoring and Remediation*, 44 (1) 133-135, <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwmr.12631> **(INVITED)**

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B. Fiscal Affairs & Audit

1. Act on Request to Allocate EPSCoR Appropriation

Rusty Monhollon,
VP, Academic Affairs

Summary

In accordance with the 2011 Guidelines for Coordination, Oversight and Fiscal Management of the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), the Kansas Board of Regents appointed a committee to review proposals for state funding. The EPSCoR Program Review Committee recommends the Board award \$247,725.29 in FY 2025 to fund proposals submitted by three researchers. If approved, all FY 2025 funding will have been awarded.

Background

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a federal program that encourages university partnerships with industry. The program is designed to stimulate sustainable science and technology infrastructure improvements in states that historically have received a disproportionately low per-capita average of federal research dollars. The Legislature provides matching funds for EPSCoR and Companion programs and has assigned responsibility for the oversight of the state’s matching funds to the Kansas Board of Regents. The Board began its oversight of the matching funds in 2011, after the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) was dissolved by the Legislature. The Board appoints a seven-member Committee comprising five members representing industry and academia. The two remaining members are *ex-officio* with one from the Department of Commerce and one from the Kansas Board of Regents office.

The annual appropriation for state matching funds is approximately \$1 million from the State Economic Development Initiatives Fund (sourced from lottery ticket sales). The purpose of state matching funds is to increase the competitiveness of proposals submitted to EPSCoR programs. Once EPSCoR obligations are met, state matching funds may be used for Companion programs.

Most EPSCoR programs require a state match of federal funding; however, a few EPSCoR programs do not require state matching funds, though state matching funds for such programs greatly enhance the competitiveness of the proposal. Kansas match requirements are met through direct matching of state funds, the waiver of some university indirect costs on the federal dollars, and in some cases, industrial partners’ support.

In addition to EPSCoR and EPSCoR-like projects, funds are made available through a companion program for projects that do not require state matching funds. Eligible projects promote national competitiveness in strategic technology niches with the most promise for the Kansas economy. Funding through this companion program pairs the state’s science and technology research strengths with the ability of Kansas businesses to diversify and sustain a national and global competitive advantage. The EPSCoR Program Review Committee is responsible for reviewing proposals considering Kansas research and development priorities and making recommendations to the Board regarding the suitability of projects for state matching funds.

In FY 2023, KBOR invested approximately \$1 million in state-matching funds for EPSCoR, EPSCoR-like, and companion program projects. KBOR’s investment in these projects attracted \$13.7 million in federal and industry funds. In addition, another \$12.6 million in federal funds was received during the fiscal year as follow-on funding to projects that received state-matching funds during previous fiscal years.

Allocation Request

At its October 29, 2024, meeting, the Program Review Committee considered funding for the following EPSCoR projects and recommended approval of these awards for FY 2025.

- Dr. Doug Wright, Professor and Principal Investigator for the Kansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) at the University of Kansas Medical Center, requests funds to support bridging grant proposals. K-INBRE aims to enhance the capacity of Kansas researchers to compete effectively for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. The program focuses on building a “critical mass” of junior and senior investigators, undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows supported with cutting-edge technology within a scientific research theme. K-INBRE brings together NIH-funded mentors, trainees, and new investigators from the state universities and three other institutions to promote a statewide initiative for advancing life sciences research in Kansas.

The Committee recommends funding \$97,725.29 to support bridging grant proposals to increase their competitiveness for NIH funding. This award provides a leverage ratio of 44.9:1 for the state monies (federal:state).

- Dr. Heather Desaire, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Kansas, requests funding to support a National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) dedicated to addressing women’s health and rural issues, which have not traditionally been the primary focus of data science studies. The center aims to achieve this by analyzing large datasets of health records within the natural and social/behavioral sciences to understand and ameliorate diseases.

The Committee recommends funding of \$75,000 to support the proposal. These funds will specifically be used to engage and train graduate students in data science and health-related research. This award provides a leverage ratio of 32.9:1 for the state monies (federal:state).

- Dr. Andrew K. Godwin, Professor and Division Director of Genomic Diagnostics at the University of Kansas Medical Center and Deputy Director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, requests funding to support the Kansas Institute for Precision Medicine. This institute is a National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), and it aims to align appropriate treatment therapies with patients based on the molecular composition of their disease.

The Committee recommends funding \$75,000 to support the proposal. These funds will help address a funding gap created by a reduction of their federal award and enable them to support additional junior faculty. This award provides a leverage ratio of 31.2:1 for state funds (federal:state).

Staff Recommendation

The Board of Regents has received a \$993,265 state appropriation for EPSCoR projects in FY 2025. An additional \$122,725.29 was returned from a previously awarded project. The Board has previously committed \$868,265 in FY 2025 funds to other projects, leaving \$247,725.29 available for projects in FY 2025.

The EPSCoR Program Review Committee recommends approval of the FY 2025 awards totaling \$247,725.29. If approved by the Board, all FY 2025 available funding will have been awarded.

2. Act on Request to Authorize Amendment to WSU Ground Lease to WSIA and WSIA Ground Sublease to MWCB, LLC – WSU **Chad Bristow,
Director of Facilities**

WSU entered into a ground lease with its affiliated entity, Wichita State Innovation Alliance, Inc. (“WSIA”) in 2018, and WSIA in turn subleased the same to MWCB, LLC, to develop the land. The sublease contemplated the development of two identically designed buildings and the ground that was subleased was limited to the footprint of each building, with an additional five feet around the entire perimeter. Partnership Building 3-B will be immediately adjacent, to the west, of the Partnership Building 3-A and is now being designed and developed with the third-party tenant’s specifications and funding on the Innovation Campus. The design of this building has expanded the building footprint by approximately 17,829 square feet. WSU seeks to amend the ground and sublease to increase the square footage of the ground lease by approximately 17,829 square feet. Along with this amendment, WSU is seeking to amend the ground sublease to correct a scrivener’s error contained in the rent term of the ground lease to make clear the lease rate is based on an annual square foot cost. This correction is mutually agreed to by the parties to make clear the parties’ intention and is not a material change to the lease terms.

3. Act on Request to Terminate Ground Lease for K-AIRES Facility– KSU-Salina

The Board entered into a ground lease on behalf of KSU-Salina with the Salina Airport Authority for construction of the K-AIRES facility. This ground lease has been determined to be no longer necessary, and authorization is requested for the Board to terminate the Ground lease and for the Board Chair to execute necessary documents to accomplish same.

4. Act on Request to Amend FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project Plan for Utility Tunnel Repair Project – PSU

Pittsburg State University requests approval of additional project costs for the Utility Tunnel Repair project. The estimated costs have increased from the previously approved \$6 million to \$9,124,750 including a healthy 15% contingency recommended by the engineering firm for a complex project of this magnitude. The previous approval was based on a good understanding of the prioritized work but only a more limited estimate of the work required by the potential add alternates for the remaining brick tunnels. Full engineering work for the add alternates led to a prolonged but successful bidding process, and the University wishes to move forward with both the base bid and add alternates for complete replacement of all of brick utility tunnels on campus. This will fully address the number one maintenance concern at Pittsburg State and eliminate the primary source of emergency steam repairs on campus. The project will also replace old copper phone lines and key infrastructure used for fire alarm communications across campus with a more robust, reliable connection independent of the tunnels, maintain existing domestic hot water in multiple buildings served by the tunnels, eliminate gas lines from the impacted campus tunnels, and improve safety conditions in the tunnel system. The project will be funded with the University’s allocation from the Educational Building Fund, capital renewal/campus restoration funds, University interest earnings, and University funds.

C. Technical Education Authority

- 1. **Act on Requests for Degree and Certificate Programs**
Technical Certificate A in Medical Laboratory Assistant – Barton Community College
AAS in Nursing – Washburn Tech
Technical Certificate B and AAS in Electrical Technology – WSU Tech
Technical Certificate B and AAS in Mental Health Technician – WSU Tech

April White,
VP, Workforce Development

Summary

To develop and enhance the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry, new programs and/or additional programs are required. The Board office received requests from Barton County Community College to offer a Technical Certificate A (28 credit hours) in Medical Laboratory Assistant, from Washburn University Institute of Technology to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree (65 credit hours) in Associate Degree Nurse, from Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology to offer a Technical Certificate B (37 credit hours) and an Associate of Applied Science degree (60 credit hours) in Electrical Technology, and from Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology to offer a Technical Certificate B (39 credit hours) and an Associate of Applied Science degree (60 credit hours) in Mental Health Technician.

The programs addressed all criteria requested and were subject to the 10-day comment period required by Board policy. The programs were reviewed by the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and are recommended for approval.

Background

Community and technical colleges submit requests for new certificate and degree programs utilizing forms approved by Board staff. Criteria addressed during the application process include but are not limited to the following: program description, demand for the program, duplication of existing programs, faculty requirements, costs and funding, and program approval at the institution level.

Description of Proposed Programs:

Barton County Community College (BCCC) requests approval of the following program:

- Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802) – Technical Certificate A/28 credit hours

The U.S. Department of Education’s Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Code) 51.0802 describes a Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant program as one that prepares individuals, under the supervision of physicians or laboratory scientists or technologists, to perform waived testing procedures (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988), phlebotomy, and other duties in support of laboratory teams. The curriculum includes instruction in clinical procedures, various laboratory tests, laboratory mathematics, computer technology, equipment operation and maintenance, sterilization and safety, communications skills, and interpersonal skills.

Cross walking the proposed CIP Code 51.0802 (Clinical/Medical Laboratory Assistant) to occupations resulted in a match to Standard Occupation Classification code (SOC): 29-2012 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians, which is defined as an occupation in which one would perform routine medical laboratory tests for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Individuals may work under the supervision of a medical technologist.

BCCC explained that the proposal is the result of requests from employers during professional conferences as well as the request for added career training from their advisory board. The need for additional certification exists for students either unable to complete the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program, for those already working as an on the job trained laboratory professional, or for those currently employed as Phlebotomists looking to up-skill to the Medical Laboratory Assistant certification.

The proposed program consists of a 28-credit hour Technical Certificate A. Students will earn the Medical Lab Assistant certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) and BCCC anticipates annual enrollment of 10 students per semester.

The Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 indicate a statewide change of employment for Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians (SOC: 29-2010) of .4% annually, with an annual median wage of \$57,670. Typical education needed for occupation entry is a baccalaureate degree, and annual openings equate to 250 jobs per year. SOC 29-2012 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians rolls up under SOC 29-2010 Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians in Kansas DOL reporting. This occupation is included in the most recent High Demand / High Wage Occupation listing from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Lightcast job posting analytics show between September 2023 through September 2024, 4,548 total postings (1,278 unique postings) were advertised statewide. The annual median advertised salary was \$43,600. Removing job postings with no education level listed, 77% of postings indicate an associate degree or less for entry in the occupation.

BCCC noted that the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment report identified this occupation as a “Bright outlook” occupation, and that AY2022 BCCC MLT and Phlebotomy concentrators were below the projected statewide demand indicators. BCCC’s MLT advisory board has indicated there is a need for Medical Laboratory Assistants in the CLNA.

Four letters of industry support for the proposed program were received from St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Hutchinson regional Medical Center, Ness County Hospital, and Clara Barton Medical Center, and commitments for the program include employment opportunities and providing clinical sites.

Currently, this program is not offered by other institutions. BCCC offers the Medical Laboratory Technician program, which is an aligned program, and the courses for the MLA program would be part of the MLT program. Additionally, the phlebotomy course is a required prerequisite for the aligned MLT program. Several USD’s provided letters of support for the program.

The college plans to begin the proposed program in the Fall of 2025 and estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$9,630 total, including \$7,290 for existing, part-time faculty, \$1,350 for accreditation fees, and \$990 for instructional supplies and materials, tools, and technology. Funding will be provided from the program budget and student fees. Karen Gunther, Director of the MLT program will assume responsibility for the program.

The proposed program was subject to the 10-day comment period from October 17, 2024, to October 31, 2024, during which no comments were received.

Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) requests approval of the following program:

- Associate Degree Nurse (ADN) (51.3801) – Associate of Applied Science degree/65 credit hours

The U.S. Department of Education’s Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Code) 51.3801 describes a Nursing/Registered Nurse (RN, ASN, BSN, MSN) program as one that prepares individuals in the knowledge,

techniques, and procedures for promoting health, providing care for sick, disabled, infirmed, or other individuals or groups. The curriculum includes instruction in the administration of medication and treatments, assisting a physician during treatments and examinations, referring patients to physicians and other health care specialists, and planning education for health maintenance.

Cross walking the proposed CIP Code 51.3801 (Nursing/Registered Nurse) to occupations resulted in a match to Standard Occupation Classification code (SOC): 29-1141 Registered Nurses, which is defined as an occupation in which one would assess patient health problems and needs, develop, and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Individuals may administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. Individuals may advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required.

Washburn Tech explained that the proposal is the result of requests from industry partners serving on the advisory council for Practical Nursing (LPN), including Stormont Vail Health and The University of Kansas St. Francis, which are regional health care systems in Topeka. Graduates of the current Practical Nursing program often travel outside of Shawnee County to pursue their associate degree in Nursing, and in a survey in 2022, over 96% were interested in pursuing their RN degree. Washburn Tech worked with Washburn University School of Nursing to design a 1 + 1 program (requiring LPN completion and licensure prior to separate application to the ADN program) which creates a seamless pathway from Practical Nursing to the associate degree, to the BSN program.

The proposed Associate of Applied Science degree program consists of 65-credit hours. Students will sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and WIT anticipates enrollment of 30 students per semester.

The Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 indicate a statewide change of employment for Registered Nurses (SOC: 29-1141) of .5% annually, with an annual median wage of \$75,780. Typical education needed for occupation entry is a baccalaureate degree, and annual openings equate to 1,943 jobs per year. This occupation is included in the most recent High Demand / High Wage Occupation listing from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Lightcast job posting analytics show between September 2023 through September 2024, 39,218 total postings (10,874 unique postings) were advertised statewide. The annual median advertised salary was \$81,300. Removing job postings with no education level listed, 60% of postings indicate an associate degree for entry in the occupation.

Washburn Tech noted that the 2024 Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment report identified this SOC code with too few concentrators for the job openings. 2024 data indicated there were 58 concentrators for 361 job openings.

Six letters of industry support for the proposed program were received from Community Healthcare System, Stormont Vail Health, The University of Kansas Health Systems St. Francis Campus, and commitments for the program include interviewing program graduates, providing clinical sites, and serving on the advisory board.

Currently, there are nineteen Registered Nursing programs operated in the two-year sector. According to the 2023 Kansas Training Information Program (K-TIP) report, a minimum of 546 students graduated and exited the higher education system with an average wage of \$67,044 per year.

Washburn Tech explained that the program was developed in collaboration with WU School of Nursing to ensure a seamless pathway and to eliminate redundancy. Additionally, Washburn Tech collaborated with Barton County Community College regarding curriculum, admission criteria, and position descriptions for faculty.

The college plans to begin the proposed program in the Spring of 2025 and estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$651,975 total, including \$576,000 for new and existing, full-time faculty, \$24,000 new and existing part-time faculty, \$15,975 for accreditation fees, and \$36,000 for instructional supplies, materials, tools, and technology. Funding will be provided from the institutional budget, tuition, fees, and grants. Pam Masters, Assistant Dean of Health Occupations will assume responsibility for the program.

The proposed program was subject to the 10-day comment period from October 17, 2024, to October 31, 2024, during which no comments were received.

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) requests approval of the following program:

- Electrical Technology (46.0302) – Technical Certificate B/37 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science degree/60 credit hours

The U.S. Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Code) 46.0302 describes an Electrician program as one that prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to install, operate, maintain, and repair electric apparatus and systems such as residential, commercial, and industrial electric-power wiring; and DC and AC motors, controls, and electrical distribution panels. The curriculum includes instruction in the principles of electronics and electrical systems, wiring, power transmission, safety, industrial and household appliances, job estimation, electrical testing and inspection, and applicable codes and standards.

Cross walking the proposed CIP Code 46.0302 (Electrician) to occupations resulted in a match to Standard Occupation Classification code (SOC): 47-2111 Electricians, which is defined as an occupation in which one would install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Individuals ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. Individuals may install or service streetlights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

WSU Tech explained that the proposal is the result of initial discussions driven by local industry demand and with the Kansas Department of Corrections Washburn, which highlighted the challenges faced by students which started their Electrical Technology degrees while with the Juvenile Detention Center in Topeka but were not able to finish their degrees when returning home to Wichita due to the lack of a program in the area. This gap provided an opportunity to fill a crucial educational and workforce need while contributing to the reduction of recidivism among these individuals.

The proposed program consists of a 37-credit hour Technical Certificate B, and a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science degree. Students will earn OSHA 10, NCCER and NC3 certifications, and will be prepared to sit for the Journeyman Electrician Exam. WSU Tech anticipates annual enrollment of 10 students in year one and plans to expand to two cohorts of 20 students each by year two.

The Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 indicate a statewide change of employment for Electricians (47-2111) of .9% annually, with an annual median wage of \$59,880. Typical education needed for occupation entry is a high school diploma or equivalent and an apprenticeship, and annual openings equate to 642 jobs per year. This occupation is included in the most recent High Demand / High Wage Occupation listing from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Lightcast job posting analytics show between September 2023 through September 2024, 643 total postings (265 unique postings) were advertised statewide. The annual median advertised salary was \$61,800. Removing job postings with no education level listed, 83% of postings indicate a high school diploma or equivalent for entry in the occupation.

WSU Tech noted that the 2024 Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment report identified this SOC code was specifically addressed as an occupation in which a pathway is not currently offered but needed in the region.

Three letters of industry support for the proposed program were received from Evergy, Ideatek, and Redguard, and commitments for the program include interviewing program graduates, providing up to date job descriptions and hiring requirements, and serving on the advisory board.

Currently, there are eleven Electrical Technology programs operated in the two-year sector. According to the 2023 Kansas Training Information Program (K-TIP) report, a minimum of 169 students graduated and exited the higher education system with an average wage of \$39,258 per year.

WSU Tech collaborated with Washburn Tech on program development to ensure course alignment and ease of transferability.

The college plans to begin the proposed program in the Fall of 2025 and estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$102,000 total, including \$100,000 for existing, full-time faculty and \$2,000 for instructional supplies and materials. Funding will be provided from the program budget. Jessi Lane, Dean of Applied Technology will assume responsibility for the program.

The proposed program was subject to the 10-day comment period from October 17, 2024, to October 31, 2024, during which no comments were received.

Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology (WSU Tech) requests approval of the following program:

- Mental Health Technician (51.1502) – Technical Certificate B/39 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science degree/60 credit hours

The U.S. Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP Code) 51.1502 describes a Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician program as one that prepares individuals, under the supervision of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and other mental health care professionals, to provide direct patient care services, assist in developing and implementing treatment plans, administer medications, and perform related administrative functions. The curriculum includes instruction in mental health theory, applied psychopathology, patient communication and management, crisis intervention, psychotropic medication, mental health treatment procedures, substance abuse, record-keeping, clinical administrative skills, and applicable standards and regulations.

Cross walking the proposed CIP Code 51.1502 (Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician) to occupations resulted in a match to Standard Occupation Classification code (SOC): 29-2053 Psychiatric Technicians, which is defined as an occupation in which one would care for individuals with mental or emotional conditions or disabilities, following the instructions of physicians or other health practitioners. Individuals would monitor patients' physical and emotional well-being and report to medical staff. Individuals may participate in rehabilitation and treatment programs, help with personal hygiene, and administer oral or injectable medications.

WSU Tech explained that the discussions began as early as 2020 with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition (MHSAC) regarding the need to provide a talent pipeline in this occupation, however; state regulations regarding education requirements prevented further work on the program at the time. Beginning in 2022, significant developments in the healthcare landscape paved the way for progress on this program proposal, including the \$25M approved by Governor Kelly in 2023 as part of the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas Grant (SPARK) for a new 50-bed psychiatric facility in Wichita. The state legislature increased funding

in 2024 for expansion of the facility to 104 beds. Additionally, the Southcentral Psychiatric State Hospital is scheduled to open in Wichita in 2026.

The proposed program consists of a 39-credit hour Technical Certificate, and a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science degree. Students will be prepared to sit for the Licensed Mental Health Technician (LMHT) exam from the Kansas Board of Nursing. WSU Tech anticipates enrollment of 10 students the first year, and 20 students in years two and three.

As WSU Tech identified the most appropriate SOC code for the Mental Health Technician as 29-2053 Psychiatric Technicians, the best CIP code fit was 51.1502 Psychiatric/Mental Health Services Technician which was identified by the TEA as a CIP code requiring further review, and due to low performance was moved to non-technical funding status effective AY2021. WSU Tech proposes moving the CIP code of 51.1502 back to technical funding status, and the following data is provided as rationale:

Projected increase per 10-year occupational outlook 2022-2032	29-2053 projected increase	8.3%
	Statewide projected increase for SOC 29-0000 (Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations)	8.1%
	Statewide projected increase for all occupations	3.3%
Typical Education needed for entry for Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)	Postsecondary non-degree award (2022-2032 Occupational Outlook)	
Industry-recognized certifications	Licensed Mental Health Technician (program approval required by Kansas Board of Nursing)	
109 Projected Annual Openings (2022-2032 occupational outlook)	No programs currently offered in Kansas	
Projected Hiring Needs	Southcentral Psychiatric State Hospital scheduled to open 2026	800-bed facility
CLNA Information	CLNA indicated this is a program needed but not currently offered.	

The Kansas Department of Labor Long-term Occupation Projections 2022-2032 indicate a statewide change of employment for Psychiatric Technicians (SOC: 29-2053) of .8% annually, with an annual median wage of \$37,230. The typical education needed for occupation entry is a postsecondary non-degree award, and annual openings equate to 109 jobs per year. This occupation is included in the most recent High Demand Occupation listing from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Lightcast job posting analytics show between September 2023 through September 2024, 1,074 total postings (313 unique postings) were advertised statewide. The annual median advertised salary was \$37,000. Removing job postings with no education level listed, 89% of postings indicate a high school diploma or equivalent for entry in the occupation.

WSU Tech explained that the proposed program is included in the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and identified as a program which is needed but not currently offered.

Seven letters of industry support for the proposed program were received from Mental Health America of South-Central Kansas, NMC Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, HumanKind Ministries, OneRise Health Campus, Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services, and COMCARE of Sedgwick County. Supports and commitments for the program include interviewing program graduates, providing clinical sites, hosting internships, and collaboration with instructors.

Currently, this program is not offered by other institutions. WSU Tech collaborated with Wichita State University who created a credential focused on post-baccalaureate students while WSU Tech's proposal is focused on preparing students to take the LMHT certification exam. Both curriculum plans were approved by the Kansas Board of Nursing. Additionally, WSU Tech collaborated with the Mental Health Substance Abuse Coalition (MHSAC) regarding industry needs and facilities. Wichita USD 259 provided a letter of support for the program.

The college plans to begin the proposed program in the fall of 2025 and estimates the initial cost of the proposed program at \$129,000 total, including \$125,000 for new, full-time faculty, \$3,000 for new adjunct faculty and \$1,000 for instructional supplies and materials. DeShaun Linson, Dean of Nursing, will assume responsibility for the program.

The proposed program was subject to the 10-day comment period from October 17, 2024, to October 31, 2024, during which no comments were received.

Recommendation

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority has reviewed the following program proposals, which are now recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Barton Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant – Technical Certificate A at 28 credit-hours.
- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Associate Degree in Nursing – Associate of Applied Science degree at 65 credit-hours.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Electrical Technology – Technical Certificate B at 37 credit-hours and an Associate of Applied Science degree at 60 credit-hours.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician - Technical Certificate B at 39 credit-hours and an Associate of Applied Science degree at 60 credit-hours.

2. Act on Excel in Career Technical Education (CTE) Fees

Summary

To enhance the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry, the Legislature enacted the Excel in CTE initiative to provide state-financed colleges tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses. Per statute (K.S.A. 72-3810), the Kansas Board of Regents shall establish general guidelines for tuition and fee schedules in career technical education courses and programs. The Excel in CTE tuition and fee schedule of every technical education program shall be subject to annual approval.

Background

K.S.A 72-3810 states:

“All tuition and fees charged for career technical education by any board shall be in such amounts as are authorized by rules and regulations adopted by the state board which shall establish general guidelines for tuition and fee schedules in career technical education courses and programs. The tuition and fee schedule of every career technical education program shall be subject to annual approval of the state board. A current complete schedule of tuition and fees for each career technical education course and program of each board as approved by the state board shall be maintained on file in the office of the state board and shall be open for public inspection at any reasonable time.”

"Fees means those charges assessed against a student by a community college, technical college or the institute of technology for student services, such as health clinics, athletic activities and technology services, or for books, supplies or other materials necessary for a particular course or program, the expense of which is not covered by tuition.”

"Tuition means those charges assessed against a student by a community college, technical college or the institute of technology on a per credit hour, per course or per term basis, and that are charged to cover the general expense of providing instructional services.”

As per the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority’s (TEA) request, on Thursday, December 19, 2019, representatives from community colleges, technical colleges, and Board staff met to set guidelines for fees associated with Excel in CTE courses and programs. As a result of this meeting, agreed upon allowable fees include items/services students take with them and industry-specific fees required for entrance/acceptance into the program.

Allowable fees include:

- Uniforms
- Personal protective equipment
- Background checks
- Fingerprints
- Drug tests
- E-subscriptions/E-books
- Textbooks
- Printing fees for textbooks/E-books
- Certification tests
- Membership fees for certifying bodies
- Liability insurance (example: student malpractice)
- Graduation fees (if applicable)
- Transcript fees (if applicable)
- Student Software Licenses
- Professional Equipment/Kits/Tools students purchase

Unallowable fees include:

- Student fees (general)
- Technology fees
- Health fees
- Consumable project materials
- Program or Institution Application fees
- Lab Fees
- Equipment / tool maintenance, usage, replacement
- Rental (such as tools, books, or uniform/gear)
- Student kits
- Accuplacer or other placement tests
- Student ID
- Student organization memberships (such as Skills USA)
- Fees charged on a per credit hour basis
- Any other fee not on the allowable list

Non-tiered courses - per statute (K.S.A. 71-1802) a technical program is defined as a “program of study comprised of a sequence of tiered technical courses and non-tiered courses, which is identified by the state board as a technical program for funding purposes.” For this reason, students enrolled in technical programs may take non-tiered courses and are responsible for all associated tuition and fees.

Recommendation

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority has reviewed the following Excel in CTE fees, which are now recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Barton Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant total \$684. Fees include background check and immunization tracking for \$105, and textbooks for \$579.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician total \$20. Fees include the Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB) textbook for \$20.

3. Act on Promise Act Programs

Summary

The Kansas Legislature enacted the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, which provides scholarships for students to attend an eligible postsecondary education institution. Eligible programs include any two-year associate degree program, career and technical education certificate, or stand-alone program that are approved by the Board of Regents and correspond to high wage, high demand, or critical need in:

- *four specified fields of study (information technology and security; mental and physical healthcare; advanced manufacturing and building trades; and early childhood education and development).*
- *one college designated field of study from the specified list (Agriculture; Food and Natural Resources; Education and Training; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or Distribution and Logistics).*
- *transfer programs with an established 2+2 and/or articulation agreements.*

Background

On May 23, 2022, Governor Kelly signed 2022 Senate Substitute for House Bill 2567, which adopted changes in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271 et seq. The Act also maintains that the Board of Regents will administer the program. Administration is broken into three categories: rules and regulations, eligible programs, and other responsibilities.

Per statutory language (K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271(b)(4) and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(c)(1)(B)), a “promise eligible program” means any two-year associate degree program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone program offered by an eligible postsecondary educational institution that is:

- a) approved by the Board of Regents;
- b) high wage, high demand, or critical need; and
- c) identified as a “promise eligible program” by the Board of Regents pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272, within any of the following fields of study:
 - Information Technology and Security
 - Mental and Physical Healthcare
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades
 - Early Childhood Education and Development

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(a) states an eligible postsecondary educational institution may designate an additional field of study to meet local employment needs if the promise eligible programs within this field are two-year associate degree programs or career and technical education certificate and stand-alone programs approved by the Board of Regents that correspond to jobs that are high wage, high demand, or critical need in the community from one of the following fields:

- Agriculture;
- Food and Natural Resources;
- Education and Training;
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or
- Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(d) states that the Board of Regents may designate an associate degree transfer program as an eligible program only if such program is included in:

- a) An established 2+2 agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary education institution; or

- b) An articulation agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary educational institution and is part of an established degree pathway that allows a student to transfer at least sixty credit hours from the eligible from the eligible postsecondary educational institution to a four-year postsecondary education institution for the completion of an additional sixty credit hours toward a bachelor's degree.

Recommendation

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority has reviewed the following programs for Kansas Promise Act eligibility, which are now recommended for approval by the Kansas Board of Regents:

- Barton County Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802) – falls under the Mental and Physical Healthcare category specified in legislation. SOC 29-2010 for Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians was identified as a High Demand / High Wage occupation on the 2024 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.
- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Associate Degree Nurse (51.3801) – falls under the Mental and Physical Healthcare category specified in legislation. SOC 29-1141 for Registered Nurses was identified as a High Demand / High Wage occupation on the 2024 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Electrical Technology (46.0302) – falls under the Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades category specified in legislation. SOC 47-2111 for Electricians was identified as a High Demand / High Wage occupation on the 2024 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician (51.1502) – falls under the Mental and Physical Healthcare category specified in legislation. SOC 29-2053 for Psychiatric Technicians was identified as a High Demand occupation on the 2024 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.

D. Retirement Plans

1. Act on Reduction to Voya Administrative Fee

Gage Rohlf,
Associate General Counsel

Summary

The Board of Regents’ fiduciary responsibilities with respect to its Retirement Plans include periodic review of Plan fees. Voya Financial, Inc., which serves as one of two recordkeepers for the Board’s Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans, has offered to reduce its recordkeeping administrative fee by 25%. This fee is paid by participants who have accounts through Voya. The fee is currently structured as a percentage of the value of assets in each participant’s account. Voya proposes to reduce its fee to 0.06%. The fee is currently 0.08%. Board Staff and the RPC recommend that the Board approve the fee reduction.

Background on the Board of Regents Retirement Plans

The Kansas Board of Regents 403(b) Retirement Plans are essential components of the benefits and compensation package available to faculty and certain staff who serve at the six state universities and the Board Office. These Plans are comprised of a Mandatory 403(b) Retirement Plan and a Voluntary 403(b) Retirement Plan. Participants in each plan may choose to invest their savings through TIAA or Voya.

As of June 30, 2024, the total value of the retirement funds in the Board’s Mandatory Plan was \$5.41 billion. The total value of the funds in the Board’s Voluntary Plan was \$1.38 billion.

The Board of Regents has fiduciary responsibility for oversight of its retirement plans. The Board established its Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) in 2005. The RPC’s duties include oversight of the Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans, including the Plans’ administration and investment options. The RPC is also responsible for creating and reviewing plan documents and investment provider agreements, implementing an investment policy with performance standards, and reviewing the investment performance on a semi-annual basis.

Proposed Administrative Fee Reduction

At the October 15, 2024 RPC meeting, the Committee received advice from its investment consultant, Advanced Capital Group, Inc., on the reasonableness of the recordkeeping administrative fees charged by both of the Plans’ recordkeepers, TIAA and Voya. On November 22, 2024, Voya alerted Board staff that it had performed an early review of its pricing on the Board’s plans (Voya represents that it typically reviews client pricing every 5 years). As a result, Voya is offering to reduce its administrative fee for both the Mandatory and Voluntary Plan to 0.06%. This is a 25% decrease from the current 0.08% fee.

Voya assesses its fee against participant accounts as a percentage of the value of assets in the accounts. Voya currently record-keeps approximately \$933 million in assets under the active Mandatory and Voluntary Plan contracts. Based on that asset level, the proposed reduction would yield a total annual savings to participants of approximately \$186,000.

Voya desires to implement the fee reduction as soon as administratively feasible. It aims to make the reduction effective January 1, 2025. The last Voya fee reduction occurred in February 2022, when Voya reduced its fee to the current level from 0.12%.

At the December 9, 2024 RPC meeting, the Committee voted to recommend the fee reduction for approval by the Board.

Recommendation

Board staff and the RPC recommend that the fee reduction be approved.

2.. Act on Request to Approve Contract for Retirement Plan Legal Services

Summary

The Board of Regents has empowered its Retirement Plan Committee to recommend engagement of outside consultants, to recommend approval of the terms of any such engagement, and to recommend approval of the consultant’s fees. The Board retains final decision making authority.

The RPC has delegated its authority to make such recommendations to a subcommittee of one or more of its members, as authorized by the RPC’s charter.

The Subcommittee and Board staff recommend that the Board approve engaging Ice Miller, LLP, to provide outside legal counsel to the Board, and that the Board authorize the Board President and CEO to execute a contract for the engagement.

State procurement law

Generally, state law requires that “[a]ll contracts for construction and repairs and all purchases of and contracts for supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services to be acquired for state agencies shall be based on competitive bids” K.S.A. 75-3739(a). Competitively bid contracts typically must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. K.S.A. 75-3740(a).

As an alternative, state law permits agencies to use a negotiated procurement process under which awards are made to the most suitable qualified bidder, without the low-bid requirement. See K.S.A. 75-37,102. Under this process, the agency’s chief administrative officer (in the Board’s case, the Board President and CEO) may request that the state Secretary of Administration “convene a procurement negotiating committee to obtain” the desired goods or services for the agency.

In practice, the procurement negotiating committee is usually comprised of two individuals designated by the agency and one individual who represents the Department of Administration’s Director of Purchases. This committee is statutorily tasked with negotiating contracts with qualified bidders, and it is empowered to “select from among those . . . the party to contract with to provide the services or technical products.” K.S.A. 75-37,102(d). The State requires committee members to complete non-disclosure agreements that obligate them to keep all information related to the procurement, including bid documents, confidential until the procurement process ends.

Once this process has been completed, the only decision remaining in the agency’s hands is whether to enter into the contract that the committee has negotiated.

Proposed contract

The Board of Regents Retirement Plan Committee is authorized “to recommend engagement of or termination of any outside consultant and to recommend approval of the terms of any such engagement and the fees of any such consultant. The Board retains final decision making authority.” *Retirement Plan Committee Charter for the Kansas Board of Regents Mandatory and Voluntary Retirement Plans (“RPC Charter”)*, p. 4. “The Committee may delegate any of its responsibilities to a subcommittee comprised of one or more members of the Committee.” *RPC Charter*, p. 4.

Outside legal counsel provide specialized advice regarding topics including plan documents; the Plans’ compliance with applicable statutes, laws, and regulations in form and operation—in particular, applicable federal tax and securities law; plan error correction; and fiduciary requirements to properly administer the Plans. Outside counsel performs this work on an as-needed basis in coordination with the Board’s office of general counsel.

At its March 19, 2024 meeting, the RPC delegated to a subcommittee authority serve on a procurement negotiating committee to procure a contract for outside legal services for the Board’s Mandatory and Voluntary 403(b) Retirement Plans, and to recommend such contract to the Board. The Subcommittee is comprised of RPC member Adrienne Kordalski and KBOR staff affiliate Madi Vannaman. *RPC Meeting Minutes, Mar. 19, 2024, p. 2.*

The RPC Subcommittee initiated the competitive bidding process and received bids from three law firms qualified to provide the services. The Subcommittee recommended that the State procurement authorities award a contract to Ice Miller, LLP. Ice Miller has served as tax counsel for the Board since 2001. Ice Miller has significant experience providing legal services to multiple State of Kansas sponsored retirement plans, including the KBOR Plans and the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System. The firm has also provided such services to several other higher education 403(b) plan clients with plan assets similar in amount to the KBOR Plan assets.

The contract will be in effect through December 31, 2027. The hourly rates for legal services under the contract will be as follows:

Name	Title	Hourly Rate
Tara Schulstad Sciscoe	Lead Partner	\$625.00
Audra J. Ferguson	Partner	\$552.50
Matthew L. Fornshell	Partner	\$625.00
Matt Ehinger	Partner	\$625.00
Shalina A. Schaefer	Senior Counsel	\$501.50
Eric Dawes	Actuary	\$625.00
Taretta Shine	Paralegal	\$300.00

Recommendation

The RPC subcommittee and Board staff recommend that the Board approve the engagement described above, and that Board authorize the Board President and CEO to execute a contract for the engagement.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

VI. Consideration of Discussion Agenda

A. Academic Affairs

Act on Request to Approve New Systemwide Transfer Courses

Regent Mendoza
Karla Wiscombe,
VP, Academic Affairs

Summary

The Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) reviewed reports from the October 11, 2024, Kansas Core Outcomes Groups (KCOG) Conference. Faculty wrote outcomes for six new courses and updated outcomes for 20 previously approved Systemwide Transfer (SWT) courses. TAAC recommends six additional courses to be recognized for transfer across the Kansas Board of Regent System. Staff recommends approving the six new courses recommended by TAAC for inclusion in systemwide transfer, effective summer 2025.

Background

To facilitate the ongoing process of seamless transfer among public postsecondary institutions, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) established the Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) to provide oversight and implementation of the Board’s transfer and articulation policy. TAAC members consist of 10 representatives from the universities and 10 representatives from the two-year colleges with one Board member liaison. TAAC members are listed on the Transfer and Articulation Council website.

https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/transfer-articulation/transfer_articulation_council

TAAC hosts an annual conference for faculty representatives to meet within discipline-based Kansas Core Outcomes Groups (KCOG) and articulate core outcomes for specified courses recommended for systemwide transfer. Since 2012, faculty have articulated outcomes for 120 selected courses that transfer seamlessly among any public university or college in Kansas offering an equivalent course.

KBOR policy states:

b. Systemwide Transfer and Articulation

To facilitate transfer and articulation across the Kansas public postsecondary education system, the Board shall provide for a Transfer and Articulation Council with oversight responsibility for implementing the Board’s systemwide transfer and articulation policy. The Council’s mission is to create structures and processes that facilitate student transfer and degree completion within Kansas higher education. The Council provides status reports, as appropriate, to the System Council of Chief Academic Officers.

i. The Transfer and Articulation Council shall:

- (1) Charge the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups with developing specific course articulations;*
- (2) Adjudicate disagreement from the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups;*
- (3) Provide final recommendation on systemwide transfer of specific courses;*

(The Board of Regents approves specific courses to be accepted for systemwide transfer from any public postsecondary educational institution in Kansas. Each course approved and accepted for systemwide transfer by the Board is identified by a shared course number that supports a student-first philosophy, and is designed to enhance educational planning and effortless course transfer. A Kansas Regents Shared Number (KRSN) uses a 3-letter prefix and a 4-digit course number to differentiate the KRSN number from individual institution course prefixes and numbers. Each institution retains its own unique course prefix and course number.)

- (4) Assure quality and adherence to the agreed-upon learning outcomes of courses articulated across the institutions; and*

(5) Review proposed revisions to Board policies and bring forward issues and trends that affect transfer and articulation.

ii. In addition, the Transfer and Articulation Council shall:

- (1) Identify courses acceptable for systemwide articulation and transfer with a focus on lower division general education courses and introductory courses to majors;
- (2) Create an effective, faculty-led structure for discipline level course articulations based on learning outcomes;
- (3) Ensure that appeals processes exist: (a) for individual students at the institutional level; and (b) at the system level to ensure equitable resolution of transfer concerns between institutions;
- (4) Address barriers to inter-institutional cooperation as they arise;
- (5) Use learning outcomes to determine course equivalency; and
- (6) Implement a clear and ongoing transfer structure.

TAAC reviewed reports submitted by the KCOG Chairs and approved outcomes for four new courses recommended for Board approval for systemwide transfer.

Courses Presented for Approval

TAAC presents the following courses to the Board as recommended for systemwide transfer effective summer 2025:

- CHM2010 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I AND LAB
- CHM2020 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II AND LAB
- CSC1020 PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS
- CSC1030 OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING
- MAT2020 CALCULUS II
- MAT2030 DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the six new courses for systemwide transfer. If approved, the number of courses that transfer seamlessly among any university or college in the Kansas Board of Regents System offering an equivalent course would increase from 120 to 126.

B. Fiscal Affairs & Audit

1. Act on FY 2026 Housing and Food Service Rate Adjustment Proposals Submitted by State Universities

Regent Benson
 Elaine Frisbie
 VP, Finance & Administration

Background

According to Board policy (Ch.II.D.1c.(i)(1), the state universities submit housing rates to the Board for first reading in November, with final action taken by the Board in December. Accordingly, all six universities submitted proposals which, if approved, will take effect for the Academic Year 2025-2026. Food service rate proposals are also provided in the same sequence, as a student cost that typically accompanies on-campus housing. The six universities have different housing and food service rate structures that account for different circumstances, such as occupancy rates, age of facilities, the amount of outstanding debt, and economies of scale related to the capacity of the housing and food service operations.

To illustrate the rate increases for each university, the following tables compare the current and proposed annual (two semester) rate at each institution for a range of housing and dining options. The tables do not capture the entire array of options from which students have to choose but attempt to illustrate the cost variances.

Modest Double Occupancy Room and Limited Dining Option

	AY 2024-2025	Proposed AY 2025-2026	\$ Increase	% Increase	AY 2024-2025 Projected Occupancy Rate	AY 2025-2026 Projected Occupancy Rate
ESU	\$10,310	\$10,500	\$190	1.84%	65.1%	74.6%
FHSU	\$9,079	\$9,306	\$227	2.50%	97.0%	98.0%
KSU*	\$10,290	\$10,520	\$230	2.24%	88.5%	91.7%
PSU*	\$8,980	\$9,320	\$340	3.79%	91.0%	92.0%
KU	\$10,922	\$11,338	\$416	3.81%	98.0%	98.0%
WSU	\$11,770	\$11,910	\$140	1.19%	96.0%	96.0%

- ESU – Towers/Trusler/Singular Double Room Rate plus 150 Block Meal Plan (Freshmen)
- FHSU – McMindes Hall Double Room Rate plus 10 Meals/Week Plan
- KSU – Goodnow Traditional Double Room plus Weekly Dozen
- PSU – Double Room plus Double Room/14 Meals & \$150 Dining Dollars
- KU – Traditional Style Double Room plus Blue Flex Meal Plan
- WSU – Shocker Hall Double 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath with Unlimited Access Meal Plan & \$150 Dining Dollars

Occupancy rate is projected as of the Fall 20th Day student count. Several factors may affect occupancy rates – including availability of rooms and requirements that students live on the campus. With some exceptions, ESU, FHSU, KSU, PSU and WSU all require some students to live on campus.

**PSU and KSU occupancy rates include rooms that are offline as part of the occupancy rate calculation.*

Renovated/New Construction Room and Unlimited Dining Option

	AY 2024-2025	Proposed AY 2025-2026	\$ Increase	% Increase	AY 2024-2025 Projected Occupancy Rate	AY 2025-2026 Projected Occupancy Rate
ESU	\$10,950	\$11,140	\$190	1.74%	65.1%	74.6%
FHSU	\$9,429	\$9,665	\$236	2.50%	97.0%	98.0%
KSU*	\$15,360	\$15,900	\$540	3.52%	88.5%	91.7%
PSU*	\$10,234	\$10,634	\$400	3.91%	91.0%	92.0%
KU	\$14,652	\$15,190	\$538	3.67%	98.0%	98.0%
WSU	\$13,580	\$13,720	\$140	1.03%	96.0%	96.0%

ESU – Schallenkamp Double Room Rate plus All Access Meal Plan (Freshmen)
 FHSU – Victor E/Tiger Village Room Rate plus Open Access Meal Plan
 KSU – Wefald Traditional Private Single Room Rate Plus All Access Meal Plan
 PSU – Single Room Plus Single Room/14 Meals & \$150 Dining Dollars
 KU – Suite Style Room (Double/Shared) Rate plus All Access Unlimited Meal Plan
 WSU – The Suites 2 Bedroom Suite plus All Access Meal Plan & \$150 Dining Dollars

Occupancy rate is projected as of the Fall 20th Day student count. Several factors may affect occupancy rates – including availability of rooms and requirements that students live on the campus. With some exceptions, ESU, FHSU, KSU, PSU and WSU all require some students to live on campus.

**PSU and KSU occupancy rates include rooms that are offline as part of the occupancy rate calculation.*

Each university describes in the respective documentation the business case for the various proposed increases. Furthermore, each state university provides summary financial information for its housing system. Generally, the proposed increases are driven by anticipated inflationary costs and facility maintenance and enhancements. Each university indicates the proposed increases were reviewed by the appropriate campus groups with student representation.

The annual College Board “*Trends in College Pricing*” reports the prices estimated by the College Board as charged by institutions in 2024-2025, how prices have changed over time, and how they vary within and across types of institutions. The report includes a calculation of average room and board charges weighted by the number of undergraduates living in college housing. The report can be found at <http://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing>. A comparison of national rates for the current academic year to last year is displayed below. The 4.2 percent average increase among public four-year institutions is most similar to the state universities in Kansas.

**Average Published Charges Room and Board
 for Full-Time Undergraduates
 Weighted by Number of Undergraduates Living in College Housing**

Sector/Carnegie Classification	AY 2024	AY 2025*	AY 2025 \$ Increase	AY 2025 % Increase
All Public Four-Year	\$12,770	\$13,310	\$540	4.2%
Doctoral Granting Institutions	\$12,880	\$13,450	\$570	4.4%
Master’s Granting Institutions	\$11,310	\$11,760	\$450	4.0%

**Estimated*

**Emporia State University
Enrollment Management and Student Success
Department of Residential Life and Memorial Union Corporation
Statement of Proposed Residence Hall and Contract Board Rates
Academic Year 2025-2026**

Emporia State University requests authorization to amend the Comprehensive Fee Schedule, effective fall semester 2025 as follows:

I. DESCRIPTION OF RATE ADJUSTMENTS

The figures shown represent academic year totals, unless otherwise noted. The housing and meal contract’s default period includes both the fall 2025 and the spring 2026 semesters.

Housing and Meal Plan Rates:

Housing

	FY 2025		FY 2026		\$ Change	% Change
	Freshmen	Upper-Class	Freshmen	Upper-Class		
Towers/Trusler/Singular Double	\$5,660	\$4,660	\$5,660	\$4,660	\$0	0%
Towers Suite	\$6,280	\$5,280	\$6,280	\$5,280	\$0	0%
Towers Super Suite	N/A	N/A	\$6,690	\$5,690	\$0	0%
Towers/Trusler/Singular Single	\$6,690	\$5,690	\$6,690	\$5,690	\$0	0%
Abigail Morse Double	\$6,300	\$5,300	\$6,300	\$5,300	\$0	0%
Abigail Morse Single	\$7,210	\$6,210	\$7,210	\$6,210	\$0	0%
Schallenkamp Double	\$6,300	\$5,300	\$6,300	\$5,300	\$0	0%
Schallenkamp Single w/o bath	\$7,210	\$6,210	\$7,210	\$6,210	\$0	0%
Schallenkamp Single w/ bath	\$7,720	\$6,720	\$7,720	\$6,720	\$0	0%

Meal Plans

	FY 2025	FY 2026	\$ Change	% Change
All Access Meal Plan				
Includes \$125 Dining Dollars	\$4,650	\$4,840	\$190	4.1%
150 Block Meal Plan				
Includes \$325 Dining Dollars	\$4,650	\$4,840	\$190	4.1%
65 Block Meal Plan*				
Includes \$275 Dining Dollars	\$3,020	\$3,144	\$124	4.1%
Composite				
Room Plus Board, Freshmen**	\$10,310	\$10,500	\$190	1.84%
Room plus Board, Upper-Class***	\$7,680	\$7,804	\$124	1.61%

* 65 Block Meal Plan is available to upper-class residents only (based upon secondary education completion, not credit hours).

** Based on Towers/Trusler/Singular double room rate plus All Access Meal Plan (typical freshmen rate).

*** Based on Towers/Trusler/Singular double room rate plus 65 Block Meal Plan (typical upper-class student rate).

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT

Residence Hall Rate Adjustment

Proposed room rates for FY 2026 continue the shift in rate structure that started in FY 2023. ESU recommends continuing to discount rates for upper-class students (defined as students who completed secondary studies August 2024 or prior). The discounted amount for upper-class students will be a flat \$1,000 less than the first-year rate for all housing rates. All housing rates are recommended for a 0% increase. Residential Life has encountered

increased operational costs; however, debt service remains the largest expenditure. The principal and interest are due to decrease by \$700,000 for FY 2026. Increased expected occupancy for FY 2026 will increase overall system revenue. The proposed rate structure is modeled upon housing system occupancy of 660 paying residents composed of: 420 paying the freshmen rate and 240 paying the upper-class resident rate. These proposed rates with projected occupancy rate will require University assistance with debt service.

Memorial Union Rate Adjustment

The proposed rates for meal plans represent a 4.1% increase in food plan costs to students, which reflects the Consumer Price Index Urban (CPI-U) for “food away from home”. The change in expenditures for FY 2026 are contracted obligations required to the food vendor.

III. STUDENT REVIEW OF FEE ADJUSTMENT

Meal plan rates for FY 2026 were developed in consultation with students who live in the residence halls and students who serve on the Memorial Union Board of Directors. The Memorial Union Board of Directors has student board member positions representing the Residence Halls and Associated Student Government. Proposed meal plan pricing information was presented to the Memorial Union Board of Directors and approved by that body. Proposed housing rates for FY 2026 are not increasing. This recommendation was communicated with students while developing meal plan rates.

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSAL

None of the alternatives considered would result in an improved financial path for FY 2026. Similarly, these recommended rates offer the best opportunity to improve the student experience and increase student success.

V. PROJECTION OF REVENUE FROM AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY FEE ADJUSTMENT

The recommended room rates are projected to have a net increase on housing revenues for FY 2026. The projected increase to revenue will be driven by increased occupancy in residence halls encouraged by holding rates flat. Total students impacted by housing and meal plan rates is projected at 696 students.

VI. PROJECTED IMPACT OF RATE ADJUSTMENT ON STUDENT OCCUPANCY

Flat housing rates for FY 2026 are predicted to have a slight-to-moderate positive impact on housing occupancy. Even though our overall permanent occupancy total remains the same the change of offering more single rooms and offering a few super suite options along with the reduced rate for upperclassmen has allowed us to increase our student population who are not required to live on campus.

Supplemental Financial Information

**EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FY 2026 Rate Increase Request
Supplemental Financial Information**

	<u>Projected FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Actual FY 2023</u>
Gross Operating Revenues	\$ 4,021,120	\$ 3,954,339	\$ 3,798,597	\$ 3,796,837
Gross Operating Expenses	<u>2,762,453</u>	<u>2,708,287</u>	<u>2,629,405</u>	<u>2,395,030</u>
Gross Revenue Gain/(Loss)	1,258,667	1,246,052	1,169,192	1,401,807
Capital Improvement Expenditures	250,000	98,000	103,676	203,916
Debt Service	2,262,538	2,961,038	2,963,972	2,958,537
Other Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Transfer (In) Out	<u>(787,537)</u>	<u>(2,070,000)</u>	<u>(1,931,829)</u>	<u>(872,358)</u>
Net Revenue/(Loss)	(466,334)	257,014	33,373	(888,288)
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 1,184,115</u>	<u>\$ 1,650,449</u>	<u>\$ 1,393,435</u>	<u>\$ 1,360,062</u>
Long Term Debt Outstanding ¹	<u>\$ 22,410,000</u>	<u>\$ 23,885,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,955,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,930,000</u>
Occupancy Rate - Fall 20th Day	<u>74.6%</u>	<u>65.1%</u>	<u>64.5%</u>	<u>57.8%</u>

¹As of June 30.

Capital Improvement Expenditures Description

FY 2026 Major Repairs – Tower Fire System

FY 2025 Major Repairs – Towers, Singular, Trusler elevator repairs and modifications

FY 2024 Major Repairs – Towers Complex – refurbish elevators

FY 2023 Major Repairs – North Tower - replace all non-ADA doors, refurbish bathroom floors, install new LED lighting in all spaces

Transfers (In) Out

Represents transfers from the University’s reserves to assist with debt service payments on bonds for which general revenue of the University is pledged.

**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**
Department of Residential Life

Consistent with Board of Regents policy, the following amendments to the Comprehensive Fee Schedule are submitted for the Board’s consideration.

Recommended Residence Hall & Apartment Rates – 2025-2026
Rates are reported for the full year (fall and spring)

McMindes Hall Double Room Rates, Fall & Spring Semester

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$4,398	\$4,464	\$66	1.5%
Open access meal plan	\$9,079	\$9,306	\$227	2.5%
10 meals per week	\$8,871	\$9,093	\$222	2.5%
7 meals per week	\$8,805	\$9,025	\$220	2.5%

McMindes Hall Single Room Rate Fall & Spring

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$5,106	\$5,183	\$77	1.5%

Victor E Village Double Hall Room Rates, Fall & Spring Semester*

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$4,748	\$4,819	\$71	1.5%
Open access meal plan	\$9,429	\$9,665	\$236	2.5%
10 meals per week	\$9,221	\$9,452	\$231	2.5%
7 meals per week	\$9,155	\$9,384	\$229	2.5%

Victor E. Village Single Room Rate Fall & Spring

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$5,456	\$5,538	\$82	1.5%

Tiger Village Double Housing Rates

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$4,748	\$4,819	\$71	1.5%
Open access meal plan	\$9,429	\$9,665	\$236	2.5%
10 meals per week	\$9,221	\$9,452	\$231	2.5%
7 meals per week	\$9,155	\$9,384	\$229	2.5%

Tiger Village Single Room Rate Fall & Spring

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$5,456	\$5,538	\$82	1.5%

Tiger Place Suites, Fall & Spring Semester

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$5,696	\$5,781	\$85	1.5%
Open access meal plan	\$10,377	\$10,636	\$259	2.5%
10 Meals per week	\$10,169	\$10,423	\$254	2.5%
7 Meals per week	\$10,103	\$10,356	\$253	2.5%

Dane G. Hansen Scholarship Hall, Fall & Spring Semester

Residents in this hall are on a specific scholarship for their housing.

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
No meal plan	\$3,233	\$3,282	\$49	1.5%
Open access meal plan	\$7,915	\$8,113	\$198	2.5%
10 Meals per week	\$7,707	\$7,900	\$193	2.5%
7 Meals per week	\$7,639	\$7,830	\$191	2.5%

Wooster Place Apartment, Fall & Spring Semester (10 Months)

Accommodations (Not Furnished)	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
1 Bedroom	\$6,328	\$6,423	\$95	1.5%
2 Bedroom	\$6,864	\$6,967	\$103	1.5%
2 Bedroom Shared	\$5,595	\$5,679	\$84	1.5%

Stadium Place Apartment, Fall & Spring Semester (10 Months)

Accommodations/Plan	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
2 Bedroom	\$6,864	\$6,967	\$103	1.5%
4 Bedroom	\$6,230	\$6,323	\$93	1.5%

Additional Fees

Fee	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	2026-2027 Proposed rate	\$ Change	% Change
Application fee	\$40	\$40	\$50 (Effective 11/1/2025)	\$10	25%
Late fee	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$0	0%

Summer Term

Accommodations	2024-2025 Rate	2025-2026 Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
Camper daily rate for a double room	\$15	\$15	\$0	0%
Camper daily rate for a single room	\$30	\$30	\$0	0%

**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
PROPOSED INCREASES IN RESIDENCE HALL, CONTRACT BOARD AND APARTMENT
RENTAL RATES AND FEES
2025 -2026**

Business Impact of Proposed Rates

Expenditure Impact

FHSU is proposing a 1.5% increase in room and a 3.5% increase to board rates for FY 2026. Our proposed increase in board rates is due to increasing costs related to our food service. For the board increase we are staying consistent with the overall increase provided by our food service provider. FHSU thought it prudent to maintain a high-quality meal service as it has direct influence on student retention rates. The proposed rate increase will cover a portion of the overall cost of our housing operation. Residential Life plans to improve facilities and will continue adjusting where necessary in the event revenue misses estimates. The 1.5% increase in rooms is needed for the everyday cost of keeping the buildings updated and maintained.

Estimated Benefits from Proposal

The increase in the board rate by 3.5% helps cover the increased cost of food, dining supplies, and employee recruitment and retention.

The proposal to increase university room rates at 1.5% levels will require operating adjustments in residential life to cover the anticipated increases in certain costs such as insurance, other benefits, and the need for some cash to cover unanticipated operating expenditures.

Alternatives to Proposal

The proposal to increase rates as depicted in the accompanying “Recommended Residence Hall and Apartment Rates 2025-2026,” was determined to be the most advantageous to all parties concerned. The rate proposal was presented to the Residence Hall Association at a general body meeting, and the rate proposal was approved during the general body meeting.

Impact of Not Implementing Proposal

The proposed rate increases only the board rate from the prior year. Reducing the rate would have a negative impact on plans for the maintenance, improvement, and replacement of facilities.

Supplemental Financial Information

	Projected FY 2026	Projected FY 2025	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Gross Operating Revenue	\$12,404,872	\$12,048,369	\$10,766,786	\$10,017,903
Gross Operating Expense	\$9,171,156	\$8,420,686	\$6,724,498	\$6,848,654
Gross Operating Revenue Gain/(Loss)	\$3,233,716	\$3,627,682	\$4,042,288	\$3,169,249
Capital Improvements Expenditures*	\$250,000	\$740,000	\$715,000	\$210,000
Annual Debt Service**	\$3,069,405	\$3,050,261	\$2,958,882	\$2,920,902
Other Capital Expenditures	---	---	---	---
Net Operating Revenue/(Loss)	(\$85,689)	(\$162,579)	\$368,406	\$38,347
Reserve Balance (EOY)	\$4,890,861	\$5,175,029	\$5,820,029	\$5,978,196
L/T Debt Outstanding	\$19,040,000	\$20,025,000	\$20,980,000	\$21,900,000
Occupancy Rates	98%	97%	92%	89%

***Planned Capital Improvements:**

FY 2026 Stadium Place Roof, Café Tile, Tiger Place Carpet

**Kansas State University
Housing and Food Service Rate Requests
FY 2026**

I. DESCRIPTION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT

Residence halls – Manhattan campus

Rates are listed per person for both Fall and Spring semesters

Effective July 1, 2025

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Traditional Rooms			
Traditional small single <i>Boyd, Haymaker, Moore, Putnam</i>	\$6,680	\$7,020	5.1%
Traditional private single <i>Wefald</i>	\$9,990	\$10,390	4.0%
Traditional double <i>Boyd, Ford, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt, Moore, Putnam</i>	\$5,700	\$5,810	1.9%
Traditional private double <i>West</i>	\$6,580	\$6,880	4.6%
Traditional private double <i>Wefald</i>	\$8,420	\$8,660	2.9%
Traditional triple <i>Boyd, Putnam</i>	\$5,600	\$5,710	2.0%
Traditional quad <i>Ford</i>	\$5,680	\$5,790	1.9%
Suites			
1 person private suite <i>Boyd, Marlatt, Putnam, Van Zile</i>	\$9,330	\$9,760	4.6%
1 person by 1 person suite <i>Van Zile</i>	\$8,980	\$9,480	5.6%
1 person by 2 person suite (1 person side) <i>Van Zile</i>	\$8,760	\$9,250	5.6%
2 person private suite <i>Ford, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt, Van Zile, West</i>	\$8,770	\$9,170	4.6%
2 person by 1 person suite (2 person side) <i>Van Zile</i>	\$8,340	\$9,050	8.5%
2 person by 2 person suite <i>Ford, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt, Van Zile</i>	\$8,320	\$8,700	4.6%
3 person room with private unattached bathroom <i>Ford, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt</i>	\$7,150	\$7,640	6.9%
3-person private suite <i>Boyd, Putnam, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt, West</i>	\$8,670	\$8,980	3.6%
4 person private suite <i>Ford, Goodnow, Haymaker, Marlatt</i>	\$7,870	\$8,220	4.4%
Clusters			
1 person inside cluster suite <i>Boyd, Putnam</i>	\$8,530	\$8,920	4.6%
2 person inside cluster suite <i>Boyd, Putnam</i>	\$8,090	\$8,460	4.6%
3 person inside cluster suite <i>Boyd, Putnam</i>	\$7,750	\$8,100	4.5%
Honors House	\$6,430	\$6,730	4.7%
Cooperative House <i>Smurthwaite</i> ¹	\$9,220	\$9,800	6.3%
Housing contract fee—residence halls ²	\$230	\$230	0.0%
Housing access fee ³	\$200	\$200	0%

¹ Rate includes meals plus assisting with house operations on an average of 0.5 hours per day.

² Residence hall housing contract fee includes a \$30 non-refundable processing fee and a refundable \$200 initial payment.

³ Access fee of \$100 is assessed each semester to residential hall students to enable unlimited laundry machine, sustainable to-go containers and other ancillary access.

Residence halls – Salina campus

Rates are listed per person for both Fall and Spring semesters
Effective July 1, 2025

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>Harbin/Schilling Halls</u>			
Single room			
14 meal plan	\$13,002	N/A	N/A
200 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$13,370	N/A
19 meal plan	\$13,272	N/A	N/A
300 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$13,760	N/A
Double room			
14 meal plan	\$8,466	N/A	N/A
200 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$8,670	N/A
19 meal plan	\$8,736	N/A	N/A
300 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$9,060	N/A
<u>Earhart Hall</u>			
Single room			
14 meal plan	\$14,666	N/A	N/A
200 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$14,870	N/A
19 meal plan	\$14,936	N/A	N/A
300 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$15,260	N/A
Double room			
14 meal plan	\$9,466	N/A	N/A
200 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$9,470	N/A
19 meal plan	\$9,736	N/A	N/A
300 meal block and \$100 Dining Dollars ¹	N/A	\$9,860	N/A
Housing contract fee	\$110	\$110	0.0%

¹ Dining Dollars addition is new for 2025-2026.

Residence Halls – Summer session

Rates listed per week

Effective May 2025

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>Manhattan campus</u>			
Single room			
12 meal plan	\$455	\$465	2.2%
20 meal plan	\$475	\$485	2.1%
Double room			
12 meal plan	\$305	\$310	1.6%
20 meal plan	\$330	\$335	1.5%
<u>Salina campus</u>			
Double room as single room			
10 meal plan	\$464	\$478	3.0%
15 meal plan	\$500	\$515	3.0%
Double room			
10 meal plan	\$275	\$283	2.9%
15 meal plan	\$310	\$319	2.9%

Apartments – Manhattan campus ⁴

Effective July 1, 2025

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Traditional (12 month rate per apartment)			
1 bedroom unfurnished	\$7,080	\$7,320	3.4%
2 bedroom unfurnished	\$8,160	\$8,280	1.5%
Renovated (12 month rate per apartment)			
1 bedroom unfurnished	\$7,440	\$7,500	0.8%
2 bedroom unfurnished	\$8,520	\$8,520	0.0%
Highly Renovated (12 month rate per apartment)			
1 bedroom unfurnished	\$8,520	\$8,640	1.4%
2 bedroom unfurnished	\$10,200	\$10,260	0.6%
3 bedroom unfurnished	\$10,800	\$10,800	0.0%
Modern Construction (12 month rate per person, unless otherwise noted)			
1 bedroom unfurnished	\$10,020	\$10,140	1.2%
2 bedroom 1 bath unfurnished-dormered ceilings	\$6,780	\$6,780	0.0%
2 bedroom 1 bath unfurnished	\$7,320	\$7,320	0.0%
2 bedroom 2 bath unfurnished	\$8,220	\$8,340	1.5%
3 bedroom unfurnished	\$6,120	\$6,120	0.0%
4 bedroom unfurnished	\$5,520	\$5,520	0.0%
Studio unfurnished	\$8,640	\$8,700	0.7%
Studio loft unfurnished	\$9,660	\$9,720	0.6%
Town house unfurnished	\$12,180	\$12,240	0.5%
2 bedroom 1 bath furnished-hybrid apartment ⁵	\$7,400	\$7,500	1.4%
3 bedroom furnished-hybrid studio ⁵	\$6,700	\$6,750	0.7%

4 bedroom furnished-hybrid studio ⁵	\$6,400	\$6,400	0.0%
Housing contract fee—Jardine Apartments ⁶	\$430	\$430	0.0%

⁴ Students provide linen, dishes, telephone and electricity. (Electricity is included for hybrid apartments.)

⁵ 10-month room contract. Furniture is provided and rate includes electricity.

⁶ Jardine Apartments housing contract fee includes a \$30 non-refundable application fee and a refundable deposit of \$400 at time of application.

MEAL PLANS

Rates listed per academic year. Purchase of full year plan required except where indicated.

Residence hall and honors house residents – Manhattan campus ^{7, 8, 9, 10}

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
All Access (unlimited access)	\$5,370	\$5,510	2.6%
Weekly Dozen (Twelve swipes per week)	\$4,590	\$4,710	2.6%
Upper-class 100 (100 swipes per semester)	\$2,390	\$2,470	3.3%

Optional meal plans – Jardine Apartments residents, off-campus students and faculty/staff

	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>Manhattan campus</u>			
Optional Jardine resident 50 meal plan (50 entrances)	\$1,190	\$1,220	2.5%
Optional Jardine resident 100 meal plan (100 entrances)	\$2,310	\$2,340	1.3%
Optional Jardine resident all access meal plan	\$5,370	\$5,510	2.6%
Optional off-campus student 50 any meal plan (50 entrances)	\$1,260	\$1,280	1.6%
Optional off-campus student 100 any meal plan (100 entrances)	\$2510	\$2520	0.4%
Optional off-campus student 150 any meal plan (150 entrances)	\$3580	\$3590	0.3%
Optional faculty/staff 25 any meal plan (25 entrances) ¹¹	\$280	\$290	3.6%
Optional Dining Dollars (can be added to any plan) ¹¹	\$300	\$300	0.0%
<u>Salina campus</u>			
Optional 80 meal block	N/A	\$1,360	N/A
Optional Hello Fresh Plan (48 meals)	\$1,150	\$1,150	0.0%

⁷ Sunday evening meals are not served.

⁸ Students may deposit funds into Cat Cash to be used in all K-State Student Union and Housing and Dining Services retail options, including JP’s Sports Grill, Union Station by JP’s, Cornerstone Coffee and Bakery, Derby Bakery, Quik Cats convenience stores and Cliffside Rec Center convenience store, and Jardine Apartment laundry facilities. Students will have limited Grab and Go meals with all residential meal plans.

⁹ Dining Dollars may be purchased as an optional supplemental plan. Dining Dollars may be used at all Housing and Dining retail operations, including JP’s Sports Grill, Union Station by JP’s, Cornerstone Coffee and Bakery shops, Derby Bakery, Quik Cats convenience stores, Cliffside Rec Center convenience store and other participating restaurants in the K-State Student Union and throughout campus.

¹⁰ Upper-class 100 limited to juniors and seniors who have lived in K-State Housing for four or more semesters.

¹¹ Purchase of a full year plan not required.

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT

Rate increases on the Manhattan campus are requested in order to ensure residents receive the level of facilities and services required to support the institutional focus on academic and career success. Inflation has slowed as the core rate has dropped to 2.9% since August. The August 2024 updated Higher Education Price Index forecast still projects a 3.4% inflation rate for US colleges and universities. Thus, the rate increase for our most common or ‘typical’ room (double occupancy) has been reduced accordingly and actually stands at 1.9%, far below both indices. Suites are generally in the 4-5% range and reflect market increases. Dining rates remain below indices as well at 2.6% for the two most prolific plans by sales and 3.3% for the smaller Upper-class student plan reserved for a limited customer base.

Key expenditures for the coming year will be in delivering a market competitive wage for our lowest paid staff. Labor shortages within the dining centers, retail operations and custodial areas resulted in Housing and Dining Services implementing a rate floor of \$15/hour in order to stem attrition and stabilize the workforce.

There continues to be a maintenance overhang from the pandemic that includes numerous mechanical replacements for items that can no longer be repaired. These operating infrastructure costs continue unabated and will require a portion of the increase in order to keep the building systems operating. A significant portion of the funds will also be used for the student room and bathroom enhancements in Moore Hall and for interest and supplementary payments on the Strong Complex bonds.

The Salina campus is requesting modest increases ranging from 0.4 to 2% to cover the inflation of food costs.

III. STUDENT REVIEW OF FEE ADJUSTMENT

The Associate Vice President and Executive Director of Housing for the Manhattan campus conferred with the leadership council of the Association of Residential Housing members on September 24 regarding the rate proposal. He noted the continuing sector-specific inflation challenges but that our request remained lower than the overall pace of inflation and reminded them that we used a portion of the rate increase to significantly raise starting pay rates for student employees who work for the department and to perform several upgrades as requested by the residents in satisfaction surveys.

Salina’s Student Governing Association met with the Executive Director of Administration and Finance to discuss the proposed increases. The students expressed no concerns.

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSAL

Housing and Dining Services is a self-supporting auxiliary unit. Its operations are managed effectively and efficiently to keep rate increases low. As a self-supporting unit, we are responsible for funding all costs, including maintaining and renovating the residence halls, dining centers and apartment buildings. It is necessary to build adequate reserves to fund debt service and finance future capital improvements during times of enrollment fluctuations. No other alternatives were identified.

V. PROJECTION OF REVENUE FROM AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY RATE ADJUSTMENT

The proposed rate increases could generate an additional potential increase of \$1,976,089.70 in revenue from the Manhattan campus for 3,400 plus residence hall students. This assumes a slight upward trend in occupancy filling most of the available capacity in FY26 until the last renovated wing of Moore Hall and the Strong Community projects are completed.

For the Salina campus, the cost increases will affect 272 students and generate an additional \$54,000.

VI. PROJECTED IMPACT OF RATE ADJUSTMENT ON STUDENT OCCUPANCY

Holding rate increases to 1.9% on the most widespread typical double room type and 2.6% on the prevalent board rate is behind the pace of the current trending core inflation rate and keeps rates low in comparison to the majority of our peers in the conference. By focusing on efficiency and good stewardship of the increased funds, we can continue to provide a superior living and dining experience for our residents as validated by the high review scores in the national publication of the Princeton Review. In that context, it should not have an adverse effect on occupancy and in fact, occupancy is projected to continue its upward trend at perhaps a more modest rate than the previous year.

The modest increase in rates is not anticipated to impact occupancy at the Salina campus.

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Projected FY 2026	Projected FY 2025	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Gross Operating Revenue	\$54,396,000	\$52,353,000	\$50,038,000	\$42,959,000
Gross Operating Expense	\$42,451,000	\$40,843,000	\$34,043,000	\$31,844,000
Gross Operating Revenue Gain/(Loss)	\$11,945,000	\$11,510,000	\$15,995,000	\$11,115,000
Capital Improvements Expenditures*	\$2,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$649,000	\$96,000
Annual Debt Service	\$9,329,000	\$9,331,000	\$9,377,000	\$8,917,000
Other Capital Expenditures	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$44,000</u>	<u>\$140,000</u>
Net Operating Revenue/(Loss)	\$66,000	\$50,000	\$5,925,000	\$1,962,000
Housing System Earned Fund Balance	\$17,493,000	\$17,426,000	\$17,298,000	\$11,373,000
L/T Debt Outstanding	\$104,305,000	\$109,395,000	\$114,245,000	\$118,860,000
Occupancy Rates	91.7%	88.5%	83.1%	79.5%
Occupancy Rates including offline beds	79.4%	77.0%	73.2%	67.3%

*Capital Improvement Expenditures Notes

- FY 2024: Demolish Jardine wash house and Moore Hall Fire alarm replacement.
- FY 2025: Life and Safety renovations to Boyd Hall.

**PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
NOVEMBER 2024**

REQUEST AMENDMENT TO HOUSING RATES - Pittsburg State University

In accordance with Board Policy, Pittsburg State University requests the Board of Regents consider the following adjustments in housing rates to be effective 2025-2026.

I. DESCRIPTION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT

	Academic Year		Increase for Annual	
	<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>%</u>
Residence Halls (annual)				
Single Room/7 Day Unlimited Meal Plan	\$10,234	\$10,634	\$400	3.91
Single Room/14 Meals & \$150 Dining Dollars	9,980	10,370	390	3.91
Single Room/10 Meals & \$300 Dining Dollars	9,980	10,370	390	3.91
Single Room/\$1,000 Dining Dollars Meal Plan	8,710	8,970	260	2.99
Double room discount	1,000	1,050	50	5.0
Double Room/7 Day Unlimited Meal Plan	9,234	9,584	350	3.79
Double Room/14 Meals & \$150 Dining Dollars	8,980	9,320	340	3.79
Double Room/10 Meals & \$300 Dining Dollars	8,980	9,320	340	3.79
Double Room/\$1,000 Dining Dollars Meal Plan	7,710	7,920	210	2.72
Apartments (monthly)				
<u>The Orchards</u>				
Two Bedroom (full unit)	\$800	\$825	\$25	3.13
Three Bedroom (full unit)	900	925	25	2.78
<u>Block 22</u>				
Studio II	625	650	\$25	4.0
Studio I	650	675	25	3.85
Loft	680	705	25	3.68
Flat	680	705	25	3.68
Suite II	705	730	25	3.55
Suite I	730	755	25	3.42
2 Bedroom/2 Bath Units (rate per bed)	625	650	25	4.0
Suite Unit additional occupant charge	215	240	25	11.63
General Administration Fees				
Application Fee	45	45	--	--
Payment Plan Fee (optional per semester)	25	25	--	--
Late payment fee	30	30	--	--

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT

The University proposes an average increase of 3.8% for residence hall room/dining plans (range of 2.7% to 3.9%). The increases are driven by a combination of dining costs, maintenance needs, increased staffing needs, and utilities.

CPI was at 5.1% in January 2024 and is expected to be at 2.5-3.0% for January 2025. Our food service contract allows cost increases of 2-5% based on CPI. For this fiscal year, the increase was 5% in accordance with CPI and we expect an increase of 2.5-3.0% next year.

Additional cost increases include additional staffing needs, required upgrades, and growing needs for maintenance projects. As our residential population continues to rise closer to our pre-covid numbers, we are in need of additional staff to provide accommodations and services at the level students expect and deserve. Our residence hall wi-fi is in need of critical upgrades as the access points will soon no longer be supported, posing a security risk if we do not invest in this upgrade. This is expected to be a cost of \$300,000. Spending on major maintenance projects was lower in previous years as Housing focused on managing the financial and operational challenges resulting from COVID. Maintenance spending has increased and needs to be maintained at higher levels to meet growing maintenance needs critical to maintaining Housing's capital assets over time. The proposed rate increase is not enough to address all needs, but will continue to allow us to serve students and address top priorities.

Pitt State has historically had the lowest Housing rates in the system. The proposed increase, combined with on-going expense and occupancy management, will maintain a low-cost position while providing funds needed to maintain quality services and continue increasing maintenance spending.

The proposed apartment rental rates (Block22 and The Orchards) would increase by \$25 and is based on a market review of rental rates and the impact of cost increases, particularly utilities. All rental rates include full utilities.

III. STUDENT REVIEW OF FEE ADJUSTMENT

The changes in this proposal were discussed with members of the Residence Hall Association in an October 2024 executive meeting. The association strongly supports the proposal. The group also endorsed the University's continuing efforts to operate a quality on-campus living experience and to improve services and facilities for students.

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSAL

Operating without an increase to address the previously described cost increases would result in significant challenges in meeting Housing's financial obligations. The need for the increase is derived from the costs necessary to operate the housing system and delivery of services to students.

V. PROJECTION OF REVENUE FROM AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY FEE ADJUSTMENT

The proposed fee increase is projected to generate approximately \$287,920 and would impact approximately 1000 students.

VI. PROJECTED IMPACT OF RATE ADJUSTMENT ON STUDENT OCCUPANCY

The proposed fee increase is not expected to have a material impact on occupancy.

**Pittsburg State University Housing
KBOR Rate Increase Request
Supplemental Financial Information
November 2024**

	Projected <u>FY 2026</u>	Projected <u>FY 2025</u>	Actual <u>FY 2024</u>	Actual <u>FY 2023</u>
Gross Operating Revenue	\$9,125,000	\$8,975,000	\$8,943,285	\$8,012,741
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,975,000	\$1,845,609	\$1,670,617	\$1,532,751
Other Operating Expenses	\$4,500,000	\$4,197,223	\$3,983,251	\$3,686,291
Gross Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$2,650,000	\$2,932,168	\$3,289,417	\$2,793,699
Capital Improvements Expense	\$1,222,500	\$1,500,000	\$1,772,582	\$342,057
Annual Debt Service	\$1,350,387	\$1,385,277	\$1,391,241	\$1,661,790
Other Capital Expenditures				
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$77,113	\$46,891	\$125,594	\$789,852
Operating Fund Balance (EOY)	\$3,303,636	\$3,226,523	\$3,179,632	\$3,054,038
L/T Debt Outstanding	\$10,479,000	\$11,626,000	\$12,579,000	\$13,789,000
Occupancy Rate	72%	70%	67%	67%
Modified Occupancy Rate	92%	91%	87%	75%
(adjusts occupancy for double rooms occupied as single)				
<u>Capital Improvements Planned</u>				
Residence Hall Wi-fi Upgrades	\$300,000			
Tanner Hot Water	\$150,000			
Roof Projects - Residence Halls	\$2,000,000			
The Orchards Upgrades	\$1,000,000			

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Housing and Food Service Rate Requests
FY 2026**

Submitted to Kansas Board of Regents, November 2024

The University of Kansas requests authorization in Fiscal Year 2026 for the following adjustments to housing and dining plan rates.

I. DESCRIPTION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT

Housing

For FY 2026, an increase averaging 3.1% across all housing room rates is proposed 1) to maintain minimum required operating cash balances, and 2) to meet forecast operating expenses, including increases from rising inflation rates and to continue funding on-going deferred maintenance and capital improvement items that have been identified as critical.

KU Housing & Residence Life offers a wide variety of room options for students who choose to live on campus. The traditional double/two-person shared room in a residence hall is the most common option for students who choose to live on campus, representing 22% of residence hall students, and is reported as the standard comparison rate. The proposed rate for a traditional double occupancy residence hall will be \$6,898, a 3% increase. Rate increases are requested from 2% to 5% for other student room types based on the number of spaces available at each rate, in consideration of demand for each type of room in the housing system, and to increase revenue in buildings with greater deferred maintenance needs. Rates proposed for on campus housing, to be effective August 1, 2025 are:

Residence Halls

Traditional Style Room	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
Double/Shared (<i>Ellsworth, GSP, Hashinger</i>)	\$6,696	\$6,898	\$202	3%
Triple Economy/Shared (<i>Hashinger</i>)	\$5,134	\$5,288	\$154	3%
Double/Shared, and 3-, 4-person (<i>Corbin</i>)	\$7,792	\$8,026	\$234	3%
Single/Private, small (<i>GSP</i>)	\$7,908	\$8,146	\$237	3%
Single/Private (<i>Corbin, Ellsworth, GSP, Hashinger</i>)	\$9,134	\$9,408	\$274	3%
Semi-Private, In-Room Bath	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
Double/Shared (<i>Ellsworth, GSP, Hashinger, Lewis, Templin</i>)	\$7,460	\$7,840	\$380	5.1%
Triple Economy/Shared (<i>Ellsworth</i>)	\$5,718	\$5,890	\$172	3%
Double/Shared (<i>Downs, Oswald, Self, Naismith</i>)	\$8,932	\$9,200	\$268	3%
Single/Private (<i>Downs, Ellsworth, Oswald, Self, Templin, Naismith</i>)	\$10,814	11,084	\$270	2.5%
Suite, Living Room + In-Suite Bath	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
Double/Shared (<i>Ellsworth, Lewis, Templin</i>)	\$7,746	\$8,056	\$310	4%
Double/Shared (<i>Oswald, Self</i>)	\$9,990	\$10,290	\$300	3%
Double/Shared (<i>Downs</i>)	\$10,446	\$10,748	\$302	2.9%
Single/Private (<i>Downs</i>)	\$11,140	\$11,464	\$323	2.9%

Rates listed for residence halls are for the academic year (fall and spring semesters) and include continuous occupancy from August move-in and through May (including all break periods); fully furnished bedrooms and suite living rooms; all utilities plus data/internet; and unlimited, free laundry.

Apartment

Academic Year Student Units	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
Traditional Buildings (<i>Jayhawker Towers, Sunflower</i>)				
Double/Shared Bedroom, 4-p unit	\$5,738	\$5,912	\$174	3%
Single/Private Bedroom 1-p, 2-p unit	\$9,896	\$10,192	\$296	3%
Updated Buildings (<i>Hawker, Here, Stouffer, McCarthy</i>)				
Double/Shared Bedroom, 6-p unit	\$9,696	\$9,890	\$194	2%
Single/Private Bedroom 6-p unit	\$10,768	\$10,983	\$215	2%
Single/Private Bedroom 4-p unit	\$11,840	\$12,136	\$296	2.5%
Single/Private Bedroom 3-p unit	\$11,840	\$12,136	\$296	2.5%
Single/Private Bedroom 2-p unit	\$12,912	\$13,170	\$258	2%
Single/Private Bedroom 1-p unit	\$14,000	\$14,280	\$280	2%
Staff or Faculty Transition & Guest Units				
Per unit, <i>Sunflower Duplex, monthly rent for unit</i>	\$940	\$996	\$56	6%

Rates for apartments are per person in the unit and for the entire academic year (fall and spring semesters), including continuous occupancy from August move-in and through May (including all break periods); fully furnished bedrooms; all utilities plus data/internet; and unlimited, free laundry. Buildings listed are FY 2025 buildings operated or master leased by KU.

Transition and guest units are typically unfurnished, and offer short-term, transitional housing for new faculty and staff relocating to Lawrence and have a 6% proposed increase reflecting maintenance needs for those facilities. Utilities are separately billed.

Scholarship Halls

Traditional Halls	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
Shared Bedroom (<i>Miller, Watkins</i>)	\$3,236	\$3,398	\$162	5%
Shared Bedrooms (<i>Battenfeld, Douthart, Grace Pearson, Pearson, Sellards, Stephenson</i>)	\$4,880	\$5,074	\$194	4%
Semi-Suite & Suite Halls				
Shared Bedroom (<i>K.K. Amini, Margaret Amini, Krehbiel, Rieger</i>)	\$5,398	\$5,614	\$216	4%
Meal Plan				
All Halls, except Miller & Watkins	\$2,730	\$2,838	\$108	4%

The Elizabeth Miller Watkins Trust provides a rate subsidy for Miller and Watkins residents. Because Miller and Watkins residents cooperatively purchase and prepare their own food, there is no centrally billed meal charge in these two scholarship halls.

Rates listed for scholarship halls are for the entire academic year (fall and spring semesters) and include continuous housing occupancy from August move-in and through May (including all break periods); fully furnished bedrooms; all utilities plus data/internet; and unlimited, free laundry. Meals during break periods are not included.

Dining

Dining services for on campus students at KU are managed by KU Dining, which is operated as part of the KU Memorial Union Corporation. Revenues generated by KU Dining are separate from Housing & Residence Life revenues. KU Dining plans allow students access to food and beverages in both retail food courts and All You Care to Eat locations open 7 days a week during the semester terms. As residence hall students complete the on-line housing sign-up process, they select dining plans based on their personal preferences and needs.

KU Dining proposes a 5% increase across dining plan rates for FY 2026. For comparable dining plans, KU currently has the lowest plan among its Big XII peers. With the proposed 5% increase, KU will continue to be 23% or \$564 below the Big XII average. KU Memorial Union Corporation faces significant deferred maintenance expenses over the next several years related to HVAC, plumbing, dining room modernization, and end of life kitchen equipment. Additionally, the proposed increase will help offset increased operating costs led by a competitive labor market and food costs, while maintaining minimum required operating cash balances.

Dining plan options for FY 2026 are being restructured to move away from all declining balance plans and to weekly meal swipe plans. The FY 2025 declining balance plans (Crimson Flex and Blue Flex) will be replaced with the 14 Meal Plan and the 10 Meal Plan. The All-Access Plan is retained. The meal swipes per week plan structure guarantees students will receive a set number of weekly meals compared to a declining balance plan that does not guarantee students will have enough funds available throughout the entirety of the semester to eat without properly budgeting their funds or needing to add more money to their plan. KU Dining’s FY 2026 dining plan structure offers better value to students while continuing to keep rates below other Big XII and Board of Regents universities.

Dining plans and rates proposed are:

	2024-25	2025-26	\$ Incr.	% Incr.
All-Access Plan (During 16 weeks in each semester)	\$4,662	\$4,900	\$238	5.1%
Unlimited meal swipes per week access to 3 residential dining halls + \$300 in dining dollars per semester				
14 Meal Plan (Prior Crimson Flex)	\$4,540	\$4,764	\$224	4.9%
14 meal swipes per week access to 3 residential dining halls + \$600 in dining dollars per semester				
10 Meal Plan (prior Blue Flex)	\$4,226	\$4,440	\$214	5.0%
10 meal swipes per week access to 3 residential dining halls + \$1,000 in dining dollars per semester				
\$440 Plan	\$440	\$440	\$0	0%
Basic declining dollars useable at any KU dining venue				

II. JUSTIFICATION FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT

Rates are established to cover operating costs required to maintain a highly qualified staff and manage facilities. For FY 2026, rate increases have been proposed by both Housing & Residence Life and KU Dining to meet all expense projections, including increases due to higher labor and food costs, and to continue funding deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that address aging facilities and systems. The focus of deferred maintenance projects in FY 2026 includes elevator modernization, plumbing and HVAC systems, life safety system updates, dining room modernization, and needed kitchen equipment replacements.

III. STUDENT REVIEW OF FEE ADJUSTMENT

Rates for FY 2026 have been proposed following study and review by staff in Housing & Residence Life and in KU Dining. The proposals were reviewed with student leaders in two separately held meetings, including students in All Scholarship Hall Council and in KU Student Senate. Students were presented with information around

budgets and forecast projections for the upcoming fiscal year, along with updated plans for capital improvement and maintenance projects.

IV. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSAL

Only required services are being provided and these charges are established to cover expenses associated with cost recovery including the cost of maintaining and remodeling the facilities. There are no state-appropriated funds in these auxiliary operations; therefore, user fees must cover total costs. If the rate increase is not approved, KU housing would consider cuts in staffing, funding reduction of student engagement activities, and reduction in services will be required to move forward with deferred maintenance projects that cannot be delayed. If the rate increase is not approved, KU dining would operate in a reactive maintenance posture (potentially more expensive) rather than a proactive maintenance posture. Additionally, it would be difficult to maintain the required minimum cash balances to continue operations.

V. PROJECTION OF REVENUE FROM & NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY FEE ADJUSTMENT

The proposed housing rate increase will generate an estimated \$2 million in revenue for Housing & Residence Life, impacting all students who enter into a housing contract: \$1.25 million in residence halls, \$500,000 in apartments, and \$250,000 in scholarship halls. This increase allows critical reserve levels to be maintained and address critical deferred maintenance. In FY 2026, the largest maintenance project will be in Lewis Hall for renovation of bathrooms and to update life safety systems, along with modernization of elevators.

The proposed dining rate increase will generate an additional \$850,000 in revenue for KU Dining, impacting all students who enter into a dining contract. These funds will be used to maintain minimum cash balances while addressing competitive wages with the local dining employment market. They will also be used to pay for the increased cost of goods and to provide for needed equipment replacements.

VI. PROJECTED IMPACT OF RATE ADJUSTMENT ON STUDENT OCCUPANCY

The current demand for the varying room types and housing buildings has been considered as part of the proposed rates. The proposed increase is not expected to impact housing occupancy based on historical yields. Dining rates will continue to be below Big XII and other peer institutions.

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
FY 2026 Rate Increase Request
Housing & Residence Life
Supplemental Financial Information**

	Projected FY 2026	Estimated FY 2025	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Gross Operating Revenue ¹	\$53,393,901	\$53,346,538	\$47,095,900	\$37,719,336
Gross Operating Expense	(\$37,767,513)	(\$36,020,778)	(\$27,357,321)	(\$19,230,597)
Gross Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$15,626,388	\$17,325,760	\$19,738,579	\$18,488,739
Capital Improvement Expenditures	(\$1,250,000)	(\$4,500,000)	(\$1,620,532)	(\$2,344,091)
Annual Debt Service	(\$15,261,779)	(\$15,102,887)	(\$14,950,645)	(\$14,760,556)
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	(\$885,391)	(\$2,277,127)	\$3,167,402	\$1,384,092
Ending Cash Balance²	\$10,133,347	\$11,018,739	\$13,295,866	\$10,128,464
Occupancy Rate - Fall 20th Day	98.0%	98.0%	96.6%	94.9%
Long-Term Debt Outstanding (as of 6-30)	\$53,220,000	\$58,065,000	\$62,670,000	\$67,050,000
L-Term Capital Lease Principal Outstanding (as of 6-30)	\$103,389,700	\$106,349,867	\$109,027,033	\$111,438,717
Operating Days Cash	86	92	126	105

¹ Revenue projection for FY 2026 reduced by \$2.1 million due to Lewis Hall being off-line

² Includes both operating and dedicated capital improvement funds

Major Capital Improvements Planned

FY 2025: Ellsworth elevator modernization, Rieger & Krehbiel fluid coolers, M. Amini elevator, Hashinger boilers

FY 2026: Lewis Hall bathroom renovations (private funding), Lewis fire alarm, Battenfeld roof, Hashinger elevator modernization

**Wichita State University
Proposed Housing and Board Rates for Fiscal Year 2026
Fiscal Impact Statement and Business Case
Submitted to the Kansas Board of Regents**

Proposed Housing and Board Rates for Fiscal Year 2026

Wichita State University requests authorization to amend the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026, for the following adjustments to housing and board rates in the residence halls.

**Proposed Housing and Board Rates for Fiscal Year 2026
Academic Year 2025-2026**

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Residential Board Options
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Meal Plan by Type	FY 2025 Rate	Proposed FY 2026 Rate	Percent Increase
<u>Academic Year 2024-2025</u>			
Unlimited Plan	\$4,540	\$4,680	3.08%
<u>The Flats Dining Plans</u>			
\$1,000 Dining Dollars	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
\$1,500 Dining Dollars	\$1,500	\$1,500	0%
\$2,000 Dining Dollars	\$2,000	\$2,000	0%
<u>Summer Term Meal Plan Prices 2025</u>			
\$500 Dining Dollars	\$500	\$500	0%
\$750 Dining Dollars	\$750	\$750	0%
\$1,000 Dining Dollars	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%

Notes to Meal Plans

Note 1- WSU’s dining provider requires all mandatory unlimited meal plan holders to have dining dollars in addition to the base rate as listed above. They can choose from \$75, \$250, and \$400 per semester. The calculated standard plan rates include two semesters of the \$75 per semester dining dollars and the unlimited meal plan.

Note 2 – The Flats residents can purchase the unlimited meal plan (with choice of dining dollars) as well as those meal plans designated just for them.

Note 3 – Residents may purchase additional Shocker Dollars at face value at any time directly from the dining provider.

The Flats Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Room Options

Unit Type Style	FY 2025 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Proposed FY 2026 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Percent Increase
Standard Plan for The Flats			
3 or 4 Bedroom Double with Unlimited Access Meal Plan and \$150 dining dollars	\$11,840	\$11,980	1.17%
<u>Academic Year 2024-2025</u>			
1 Bedroom Apartment	\$10,030	\$10,030	0.0%
2 Bedroom Apartment-Single Room	\$9,270	\$9,270	0.0%
2 Bedroom Apartment- Double Room	\$7,150	\$7,150	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment- Single Room	\$8,610	\$8,610	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment- Expandable Single Room	\$7,850	\$7,850	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment- Double Room	\$7,150	\$7,150	0.0%

Summer Session: Weekly Rate 2025			
1 Bedroom Apartment	\$292.55	\$292.55	0.0%
2 Bedroom Apartment- Single Room	\$270.38	\$270.38	0.0%
2 Bedroom Apartment- Double Room	\$208.55	\$208.38	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment-Single Room	\$251.12	\$251.12	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment-Expandable Single Room	\$228.96	\$228.96	0.0%
3 or 4 Bedroom Apartment-Double Room	\$208.55	\$208.55	0.0%
Rates per Room Type vary by session (which are 2, 4 and 8 weeks), and are thus listed at a weekly rate.			

**The Suites
Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Room Options**

Unit Type Style	FY 2025 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Proposed FY 2026 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Percent Increase
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Standard Plan for The Suites			
2 Bedroom Suite with Unlimited Access Meal Plan and \$150 dining dollars	\$13,580	\$13,720	1.02%
Academic Year 2024-2025			
1 Bedroom Suite	\$9,930	\$9,930	0.0%
2 Bedroom Suite	\$8,890	\$8,890	0.0%
4 Bedroom Suite	\$8,430	\$8,430	0.0%
2 Bedroom Hybrid Suite- Single Room	\$8,320	\$8,320	0.0%
2 Bedroom Hybrid Suite- Double Room	\$7,080	\$7,080	0.0%

Summer Session: Weekly Rate 2025			
1 Bedroom Suite	\$289.63	\$289.63	0.0%
2 Bedroom Suite	\$259.29	\$259.29	0.0%
4 Bedroom Suite	\$245.88	\$245.88	0.0%
2 Bedroom Hybrid Suite- Single Room	\$242.67	\$242.67	0.0%
2 Bedroom Hybrid Suite- Double Room	\$206.51	\$206.51	0.0%
Rates per Room Type vary by session (which are 2, 4 and 8 weeks), and are thus listed at a weekly rate.			

**Shocker Hall
Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Room Options**

Unit Type Style	FY 2025 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Proposed FY 2026 Per Person Occupancy Rate	Percent Increase
Standard Plan for Shocker Hall			
Double 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath with Unlimited Access Meal Plan and \$150 dining dollars	\$11,770	\$11,910	1.17%
Academic Year 2024-2025			
Single 1 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$9,930	\$9,930	0.0%
Single 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$8,890	\$8,890	0.0%
Single 4 Bedroom Suite/2 bath	\$8,430	\$8,430	0.0%
Single 4 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$8,320	\$8,320	0.0%
Hybrid Suite/1 bath (single bedroom)	\$8,320	\$8,320	0.0%
Single 3 Bedroom Suite/1 bath (room B)	\$8,320	\$8,320	0.0%
Single 3 Bedroom Suite/1 bath (rooms A & C)	\$8,080	\$8,080	0.0%
Double 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$7,080	\$7,080	0.0%
Hybrid Suite/1 bath (double bedroom)	\$7,080	\$7,080	0.0%

Double 1 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$7,080	\$7,080	0.0%
Triple 2 Bedroom Suite/ 1 bath	\$5,540	\$5,540	0.0%
Summer Session: Weekly Rate 2025			
Single 1 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$289.58	\$289.58	0.0%
Single 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$259.21	\$259.21	0.0%
Single 4 Bedroom Suite/2 bath	\$246.09	\$246.09	0.0%
Single 4 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$242.58	\$242.58	0.0%
Hybrid Suite/1 bath (single bedroom)	\$242.58	\$242.58	0.0%
Single 3 Bedroom Suite/1 bath (room B)	\$242.58	\$242.58	0.0%
Single 3 Bedroom Suite/1bath (rooms A & C)	\$235.87	\$235.87	0.0%
Double 2 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$206.51	\$206.51	0.0%
Hybrid Suite/1 bath (double bedroom)	\$206.51	\$206.51	0.0%
Double 1 Bedroom Suite/1 bath	\$206.51	\$206.51	0.0%
Triple 2 Bedroom Suite/ 1 bath	\$161.58	\$161.58	0.0%
Rates per Room Type vary by session (which are 2, 4 and 8 weeks) and are thus listed at a weekly rate.			

Other Housing Fees Proposed Fiscal Year 2025			
Fee Description	FY 2025 Rate	Proposed FY 2026 Rate	Percent Increase
Non-refundable Application Fee	\$75.00	\$75.00	0.00%
Late Payment Fee *	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
Contract Prepayment – Shocker Hall, The Suites, & The Flats	\$200.00	\$200.00	0.00%
Late Application Fee	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%
Living Learning Community Activity Fee	\$30.00	\$30.00	0.00%
Additional Dates Outside Contract Term (Daily Rate)	\$35.00	\$35.00	0.00%
* Two \$100 late fees are applied each semester: on the first business day after last day to pay, and ninety days into the semester.			

Description of Rate Adjustment

WSU intends to leave all of the room rates flat for FY 26. WSU plans to increase meal plan rates by 3% to match the increase from the dining provider.

Justification of Rate Adjustment

A priority of the university is to keep the cost of a WSU education as affordable and accessible as possible. This includes the cost of on-campus housing. WSU will not increase housing rates this year. Thanks to our current revenue model, Housing & Residence Life can absorb this year’s expense increases (utilities, parts, etc.) without passing those costs on to the students.

Student Review of Fee Adjustment

Student feedback on rates and increases on meal costs was gathered by meeting with WSU Student Government Association and with Housing student staff members. These meetings were held to allow students to provide feedback on the current housing fee structure, future rates, and room assignments.

Wednesday, November 6	7:00 – 7:45 PM	Student Focus Group #1 –Student Government Association	RSC Harvest Room
Wednesday, November 13	8:00 - 8:40 PM	Student Focus Group #2 – Resident Assistant Inservice	RSC 262

Alternatives to the Proposal

Alternatives to the proposed rates have not been identified. As an auxiliary operation, housing must cover all expenses through fees charged to students living in the residence hall facilities. If the proposed housing and board rates are not implemented, the current financial stability of the housing and residence life operations would be compromised. Financial stability is also important to maintaining quality ratings on our outstanding revenue bonds.

Implementation Date

If approved, the rates will become effective on July 1, 2025. Rates for the summer session housing will become effective with the beginning of the summer contract of 2025.

Projected Impact of Rate Adjustment on Student Occupancy

By keeping housing rates flat, WSU will maintain the strong occupancy rates we experienced in the current academic year.

Projection of Revenue From & Number of Students Affected by Rate Adjustment

If approved, all unlimited meal plan holders will be impacted by the rate increase to the current board portion of the plan.

Utilizing these proposed rates, with a suggested occupancy for fall and spring semesters at 98% and 94%, respectively, projected annual room revenue is anticipated at \$9,930,096 if all room rates are left flat with no increase. In addition, projected annual meal plan revenue (less expenses) assuming the same occupancy percentage listed above is anticipated at \$1,303,755.82; an increase of \$79,105.59 from FY 2025 projected annual net meal plan revenue, where rates were left flat with no increase.

2. Act on Distribution of FY 2025 Appropriation for IT Infrastructure and Cybersecurity – System

Summary

The 2024 Legislature appropriated \$7.5 million to the Board of Regents for information technology and cybersecurity upgrades in FY 2025. The Board has previously approved up to \$1.5 million for a systemwide third-party assessment to serve as a baseline by which each university can evaluate its current cybersecurity practices and create a roadmap for future improvement, \$500,000 for a systemwide third-party penetration testing exercise, and \$1.83 million to address known cybersecurity and operating risks. The Regents Information Technology Council (RITC) and Council of Business Officers (COBO) have developed a proposal for distribution of the remaining \$3,666,700 to continue progress on prioritized projects.

Background

2024 House Substitute for Senate Bill 291 concerns the administration and organization of information technology and cybersecurity services within state government. The bill requires the use of the Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) 2.0 established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for much of state government, including the Board of Regents, but not the state universities. The Board adopted new policy for the state universities’ oversight of cybersecurity and risk management in September 2024. The new policy includes formation of an IT Security Council, which has voted to also use the NIST framework.

Proposed Distribution of State Funds

RITC and COBO have consulted and jointly identified the top projects for utilization of the remaining infrastructure/cyber funds. Project identification was done in a manner that maximizes risk reduction and implements these projects in a collaborative fashion to the greatest degree possible. The universities request that the remaining funds be distributed to support the risk reduction projects outlined below. As the distributions are not sufficient to fully fund all identified projects, other revenues will be used to complete as many identified projects as possible.

Address Top Cybersecurity and Operational Risks *(relevant CSF standard noted):*

Top priority:

- **24/7 Cyber Monitoring:** Universities without this capability will implement it.
NIST CSF 2.0 Standards: Detect (DE): Continuous Monitoring, Detect (DE): Adverse Event Analysis, and Respond (RS): Incident Management

Second priority:

- **Further Risk Mitigation:** Universities will collaboratively address gaps in the following areas (RITC assessment of top risks):
 - **Governance and Visibility** (improve tools and processes for IT activity monitoring and asset inventories)
NIST CSF 2.0 Standards: Govern (GV): Organizational Context, Govern (GV): Oversight, Identify (ID): Asset Management
 - **Cybersecurity Tools** (expand capabilities)
NIST CSF 2.0 Standards: Protect (PR): Platform Security Detect (DE): Continuous Monitoring
 - **Cloud Migration** (reduce on-premises risk by moving to the cloud)
NIST CSF 2.0 Standards: Identify (ID): Asset Management, Protect (PR): Technology Infrastructure Resilience, Govern (GV): Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management
 - **Asset Life-Cycle Management** (replace outdated technology)
NIST CSF 2.0 Standards: Identify (ID): Asset Management, Protect (PR): Platform Security, Govern (GV): Risk Management Strategy

These recommendations will make progress against the currently identified top risks. The results of the cybersecurity/maturity audit will identify additional focus areas and refine this risk assessment. While the current system environment varies by institution, there are common needs across multiple institutions. As a result, projects will be targeted that can be implemented across multiple universities where feasible. COBO will work closely with RITC to review implementation plans and ensure collaborative sourcing and implementation is occurring where possible. This will drive scale benefit and greater consistency. Focusing initially on these key risk areas, combined with the results of the audit, will set the stage for further standardization and risk-reduction in the future. The table below describes the prioritized strategies.

Project Costs by Priority for Risk Mitigation	
Governance and Visibility	
Emporia State University	\$435,000
Fort Hays State University	\$55,000
Pittsburg State University	\$435,000
University of Kansas	\$650,000
Washburn University	\$576,195
Cybersecurity Tools	
Emporia State University	\$75,000
Fort Hays State University	\$175,000
Kansas State University	\$500,000
University of Kansas	\$650,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	\$1,918,000
Washburn University	\$295,000
Cloud Migration	
Wichita State University	\$200,000
Kansas State University	\$200,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	\$680,000
Washburn University	\$200,000
Asset Life-Cycle Management	
Fort Hays State University	\$350,000
Pittsburg State University	\$305,000
Wichita State University	\$175,000
Kansas Board of Regents	\$70,000

All project costs are estimates. In addition to the distribution below, COBO and RITC also request authorization to distribute any possible remaining funds from the cybersecurity/maturity audit and penetration testing to address the identified projects. Amounts proposed to be distributed to each organization are noted in the following table.

FY 2025	
University of Kansas	\$679,863
KU Medical Center	\$429,682
Kansas State University	\$681,837
Wichita State University	\$501,958
Emporia State University	\$288,422
Pittsburg State University	\$305,584
Fort Hays State University	\$421,553
Washburn University	\$297,800
Board of Regents	\$60,001
Total	\$3,666,700

3. Receive Report on Universities’ Facilities Condition and Space Utilization, and Projected Maintenance Assessment Expenditures – System **Chad Bristow,
Director, Facilities**

With the adoption of a new policy framework in 2021 to support the state university facilities renewal initiative, the Board now requires each state university to report annually on space utilization efficiency, facilities condition, and annual expenditures from Educational Building Fund and maintenance assessment funds in October of each year. This exceeds the requirement in K.S.A. 76-7,103 that information be provided to the Legislature biennially. Comprehensive inventory and condition assessment data of all facilities (including those that are not mission critical), infrastructure/utilities, and spaces on state property has been developed and enhanced since adoption of the policy, and the universities are on track to complete this effort by October 2027 in accordance with Board policy. This effort will continue to serve as a foundational resource to support best practices for campus facilities management long into the future.

4. Act on Allocation of FY 2026 Educational Building Fund Appropriation – System

Summary

The Board has responsibility for allocating the legislative appropriation from the Educational Building Fund (EBF) in accordance with Board policy. As conditions change and circumstances warrant changes to projects, the universities have the flexibility to re-allocate their allocation from the EBF to the highest priority or most urgent projects. The share for each university has not been changed from prior years. Staff recommends the Board approve the allocation for FY 2026 as identified below.

The Educational Building Fund (EBF) was first established by the 1941 Legislature and is a primary source of state funds for building projects at the state universities. Income to the fund is derived from a one mill, statewide levy on property subject to ad valorem taxation. According to language in the statute, the tax levy shall be for the use and benefit of the state institutions of higher education. K.S.A. 76-6b02 provides that the EBF shall be appropriated by the Legislature as needed for the construction, reconstruction, equipment, and repair of buildings and grounds at the state educational institutions under the control and supervision of the Board of Regents and for payment of debt service on revenue bonds issued to finance such projects, all subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

The Board and Legislature have most recently prioritized the EBF to rehabilitation and repair type projects for mission critical facilities, which are state-owned buildings predominantly used for academic and/or research missions of the state universities and the infrastructure that directly supports these buildings. Some mission critical buildings constructed since 2007 are ineligible to utilize state funds for facility maintenance due to provisions of the bond appropriation language. The EBF is appropriated to the Board for distribution among the campuses. Through the budget process, the universities continue to submit their five-year capital plans to the Board for approval and to the Joint Committee on State Building Construction, as required by state law. The state universities provide reports to the Board on how the funds were used for rehabilitation and repair projects on an annual basis. Board policy for facilities currently determines how the state universities shall use their EBF allocations (II, E, 3, c, ii).

**Allocation of Educational Building Fund for Rehabilitation and Repair Projects
For EBF-Eligible Buildings Only
FY 2026 - \$58,500,000**

	% of Total	Allocation
University of Kansas	26.87	\$15,719,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	11.25	6,581,000
Kansas State University	29.90	17,492,000
Wichita State University	10.98	6,423,000
Emporia State University	6.04	3,533,000
Pittsburg State University	7.38	4,318,000
Fort Hays State University	7.58	4,434,000
Total	100.00	\$58,500,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the EBF allocation for FY 2026 as noted above.

5. Act on Allocation of FY 2026 Campus Restoration Act Fund – System

Summary

The 2024 Legislature enacted the Kansas Campus Restoration Act in support of the Board of Regents’ facilities renewal initiative at the state universities, and for improvements at the campuses of the public coordinated institutions of higher education. Staff recommends the Board approve the allocations as displayed below, contingent upon the Board’s assessment of each university’s multi-year project plan (FY 2026 through FY 2031) by September 2025 that will identify additional mission critical buildings for demolition and renewal plans for other facilities and campus infrastructure.

Background

The Board of Regents’ strategic plan features three main priorities: helping Kansas families, supporting Kansas businesses, and advancing the state’s economic prosperity. The Board’s facilities renewal initiative began as a bedrock goal in 2021 to advance all these important priorities. In combination with Educational Building Fund revenue and the annual maintenance expenditures of the universities required by Board policy beginning in FY 2023, an additional state funding source is a critical component in the long-term success of this initiative to maintain and revitalize the campuses of the state universities.

With the establishment of the Kansas Campus Restoration Act beginning in FY 2026, \$32.7 million will be transferred from the State General Fund to the Kansas Campus Restoration Fund to the Board of Regents. In Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031, the Board is to distribute an aggregate amount of \$30 million to the state universities and shall credit \$100,000 to each public community college, technical college, institute of technology and municipal university. All expenditures from the fund by the state universities shall require a match of nonstate money on a \$1-for-\$1 basis from the institution or private money. Expenditures for demolition or razing of an obsolete state university buildings or facilities on campus shall not require a match. Expenditures from the fund by the coordinated institutions do not require a match.

It is recommended that the Board allocate these funds to the state universities pursuant to the same formula as has been utilized previously to allocate similar capital renewal appropriations and the Educational Building Fund.

**Allocation of Kansas Campus Restoration Act Fund
For Mission Critical Buildings and Infrastructure Only
FY 2026 - \$30,000,000**

	% of Total	Allocation
University of Kansas	26.87	\$8,061,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	11.25	3,375,000
Kansas State University	29.90	8,970,000
Wichita State University	10.98	3,294,000
Emporia State University	6.04	1,812,000
Pittsburg State University	7.38	2,214,000
Fort Hays State University	7.58	2,274,000
Total	100.00	\$30,000,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the Campus Restoration Act allocation for FY 2026 as noted above.

C. Other Matters

1. Receive Legislative Update

Fred Patton,
Government Affairs

2. Act on the Non-Budgetary Legislative Proposals

Kelly Oliver,
Chief of Staff

Summary

At the November 2024 meeting, the Board received a first read on the below non-budgetary legislative items. These items are ready for final action.

1) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Unify Service Scholarship Statutes to Adjust Non-Compliance Penalties (KBOR)

Request

Board staff requests authorization to seek legislation that amends current statutes to:

- establish a standard 5 percent interest rate for the purposes of calculating repayment of a service scholarship when the recipient did not fulfill the required service requirement (the 2024 Legislature has already adopted this rate for the Nursing Service Scholarship);
- standardize the statutory language that provides at what point in time the repayment is calculated so that it is consistently done when a student is found to be out of compliance with the service agreement; and
- place in statute authorization for the Board of Regents to recover costs directly associated with administering the service scholarship programs and collecting student payments.

Background

The Board of Regents administers 11 scholarship programs for the State of Kansas that carry a service requirement. In return for receiving the scholarship, the student must carry out service for a specific length of time. The programs have varying interest rates designated in statute and the point time at which the interest begins to accrue varies by program as well.

To recover the additional expenses for administering these programs, KBOR has relied on appropriation language that allows the agency to assess fees to recover costs. This authority would be best placed in statute, which would address the expenses KBOR incurs with a third-party to track students’ repayment accounts or when a recipient is taken to court who is in repayment but who is not paying their amounts due in a timely fashion.

Impact on Other State Agencies

None.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

Less revenue would be recovered from students who are in repayment status as the interest rate would be lower and the repayment would be applied to a shorter period of time in some cases. The lower expense to repay the scholarship could result in fewer defaults, as it would be more affordable to repay the amount due.

Draft Language

Section 1. (a)(1) On and after the effective date of this statute, the applicable interest rate shall be 5% per annum for any repayment obligation owed by an individual that: (i) arises under any scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid program established by Article 32 of Chapter 74 of the Kansas Statute Annotated, or under any agreement pursuant thereto; and (ii) requires the payment of interest pursuant to the terms of the statute or agreement under which the individual received the scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid.

(b) On and after the effective date of this statute, the interest described in subsection (a) shall not begin to accrue earlier than the date, determined by the state board of regents, that the individual becomes required to repay scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid to the state board of regents.

(c) On and after the effective date of this statute, the interest rate set out in subsection (a) and the accrual date set out in subsection (b) shall apply to repayment obligations arising in relation to any scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid distributed before such effective date under the acts specified in paragraph (a), provided that:

(1) nothing in this statute shall impose an interest rate in excess of the rate specified in an applicable statute at the time an individual received the scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid to which the repayment obligation relates, or in an agreement between the individual and an educational institution, a sponsor, or the state board of regents; and

(2) no individual shall be entitled on account of this statute to a refund for amounts already paid to the state board of regents.

(d) This statute shall not be construed to impose an interest rate upon amounts to be paid to the state board of regents by educational institutions or sponsors, or upon amounts to be paid to educational institutions or sponsors by the state board of regents.

Sec. 2. The state board of regents may recover reasonable costs of collection, including, but not limited to, court costs, attorney fees and collection agency fees, from any individual who is subject to a repayment obligation arising under any scholarship, grant, or other student financial aid program established by Article 32 of Chapter 74 of the Kansas Statute Annotated, or agreements pursuant thereto.

Sec. 3. The chief executive officer of the state board of regents may fix, charge and collect fees for the processing of applications and other activities related to student financial assistance programs administered by the state board of regents. Such fees shall be fixed in order to recover all or a part of the direct and indirect operating expenses incurred for administering such programs. All moneys received for such fees shall be deposited in the state treasury in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto, and shall be credited to the financial aid services fee fund.

2) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Amend Adult Learner Grant Act (KBOR)

Request

Board staff requests an amendment to the Adult Learner Grant Act to clarify that student service agreements shall be between the student and the Board of Regents, not between the student and institution.

Background

2023 Senate Bill 123 established the Kansas Adult Learner Grant Act (K.S.A. 74-32,281 et seq.).

Impact on Other State Agencies

None.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

The proposed amendment would eliminate the paperwork currently needed to establish agreements with each eligible institution and KBOR that delegates authority to KBOR to administer the service agreements with students.

Draft Language

Section 1. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 74-32,286 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74,32-32,286. (a) As a condition to receiving a grant under this act, an eligible student shall enter into an agreement with the *state board of regents*. *The* eligible postsecondary educational institution that awarded such grant. ~~Such eligible postsecondary educational institution~~ shall counsel each eligible student on the requirements and conditions of the agreement. Such agreement shall require any student who receives a grant award to:

- (1) Enroll as a full-time or part-time student at the eligible postsecondary educational institution that made the grant award and engage in and complete the adult learner grant eligible program;
- (2) within six months after graduation from the adult learner grant eligible program:
 - (A) Reside and commence work in the state of Kansas for at least two consecutive years following completion of such program. A scholarship recipient may use a *form* W-2 wage and tax statement showing Kansas withholding or estimated income tax to the state of Kansas as proof of work in Kansas; or
 - (B) enroll as a full-time or part-time student in any public or private postsecondary educational institution with its primary location in Kansas and upon graduation or failure to re-enroll, reside in and commence work in Kansas for at least two consecutive years following the completion of such program;
- (3) maintain records and make reports to the state board of regents on such forms and in such manner as required by the state board of regents to document the satisfaction of the requirements of this act; and
- (4) upon failure to satisfy the requirements of an agreement entered into pursuant to this section, repay the amount of the grant award the student received under the program as provided in subsection (b) to the state board of regents.

...

3) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Request bonding authority for student housing (University of Kansas Lawrence Campus)

Request

The University of Kansas requests legislative approval to issue bonds to fund future student housing needs including the possible construction of a new student residence hall and purchase of an existing leased apartment complex on the Lawrence campus.

Background

The University of Kansas has experienced historical enrollment growth and expects to maintain and or increase that growth in future years. The existing student housing stock is at capacity with the city experiencing similar challenges. Additional on-campus housing is required to accommodate the growth and to further provide a more diverse variety of housing options. The University of Kansas is exploring options such as the possible construction of a new student residence hall as well as the purchase of an existing leased apartment complex at a cost not to exceed \$100 million plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of interest on the bonds issued for the project during the construction and for a period of not more than one year following completion, and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds. Student housing revenues will fund the annual debt service.

Impact on Other State Agencies

No fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

No fiscal impact to SGF is anticipated. Debt service related to the bond issue will be funded by housing revenues.

Draft Language

In addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by the University of Kansas from the moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027 as authorized by this or other appropriation act of the 2025 regular session or by any appropriation act of the 2026 regular session of the legislature, expenditures may be made by the University of Kansas from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027, to provide for the issuance of bonds by Kansas Development Finance Authority in accordance with K.S.A. 74- 8905, and amendments thereto, to fund future student housing needs, including a possible new student residence hall and purchase of an existing leased apartment complex on the campus of the University of Kansas: *Provided*, That such capital improvement project is hereby approved for University of Kansas for the purposes of subsection (b) of K.S.A. 74-8905 and amendments thereto, and the authorization of the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with that statute: *Provided further*, That University of Kansas may make expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement project: *Provided, however*, That expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for such capital improvement projects shall not exceed \$100,000,000 plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of interest on the bonds issued for such capital improvement project during the construction of such project and for a period of not more than one year following completion of such project, and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds: *And provided further*, That debt service for any such bonds for such capital improvement project shall be financed by appropriations from any appropriate special revenue fund or funds: *And provided further*, That the University of Kansas shall make provisions for the maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure resulting from the capital improvement project.

4) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Request bonding authority to advance the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC) through the construction of a new Cancer Research Building on the Kansas City campus (University of Kansas Medical Center)**Request**

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) requests legislative approval to issue bonds to fund the construction of the Cancer Research Building. This project aims to provide advanced research space and foster an environment that supports cancer research, education, and clinical trials, which are vital for continued growth in KUMC's cancer research initiatives. This new facility will enhance KUMC's ability to conduct cutting-edge cancer research, attract renowned faculty and researchers, and expand its impact on cancer treatment and prevention.

Background

KUCC earned the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) prestigious designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center in July 2022, placing it among the nation's top cancer research institutions. To support the goals associated with this designation, KUCC is constructing a Cancer Research Building with an estimated cost of approximately \$250 million. Completion is targeted for fiscal year 2027. The new Cancer Center Research Building is expected to provide the necessary infrastructure to attract top-tier faculty, secure additional research funding, and drive advancements in cancer treatment and prevention. Funding sources will include a combination of state support, philanthropic donations, federal research grants, and bond funding, ensuring that the Center has the resources necessary to maintain and grow its research capabilities.

The Cancer Research Building will also foster greater collaboration with state health agencies and community health providers, strengthening public health initiatives and contributing to improved cancer outcomes for Kansas residents. The center's growth is expected to support the healthcare workforce pipeline by training future cancer researchers and healthcare professionals.

Impact on Other State Agencies

No fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

No fiscal impact to SGF is anticipated. Debt service related to the bonds issued will not require additional SGF funding.

Draft Language

In addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) from the moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027, as authorized by this or any other appropriation act of the 2025 regular session or by any appropriation act of the 2026 regular session of the legislature, expenditures may be made by KUMC from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027, to provide for the issuance of bonds by the Kansas Development Finance Authority in accordance with K.S.A. 74-8905, and amendments thereto, for a capital improvement project to construct a new Cancer Research Building on the Kansas City campus of KUMC. This facility will support advanced cancer research, education, and clinical trials: *Provided*, That such capital improvement project is hereby approved for KUMC for the purposes of subsection (b) of K.S.A. 74-8905 and amendments thereto, and the authorization of the issuance of bonds by the Kansas Development Finance Authority in accordance with that statute: *Provided further*, That KUMC may make expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for this capital improvement project: *Provided, however*, That expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any such bonds for this capital improvement project shall not exceed \$100,000,000 plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of interest on the bonds issued during the construction period, and for a period of not more than one year following the completion of the project, as well as any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds: *And provided further*, That debt service for any such bonds for this capital improvement project shall be financed by appropriations from any appropriate special revenue fund or funds: *And provided further*, That KUMC shall make provisions for the maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure resulting from the construction of the Cancer Research Building.

5) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Request to sell property in Omaha, Nebraska (Kansas State University)**Request**

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) seeks approval to sell the K-State CVM building in Omaha, Nebraska.

Background

The property was originally purchased through the KSU Foundation and used to operate a satellite veterinary referral clinic where DVM students participated in clinical rotations. The referral clinic was initially established, owned and operated by the KSU CVM. KSU CVM no longer operates the referral clinic. The building is currently leased to KSUVCO, Inc. and subleased to VCA, a private veterinary clinic. The sublease is a 3-year renewal term with the length of each renewal term being 5 years. The sublease is currently in the last year of renewal term two. Renewal term three (length 5 years) begins May 27, 2025. Interest has been expressed from outside entities in purchasing the building. Funds from such a sale will be used to renovate teaching space in Mosier and Trotter Hall to address critical deferred maintenance and upgrade equipment used for teaching in the DVM program.

Impact on Other State Agencies

No fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

KSU CVM will use the funds from the sale to renovate teaching space in Mosier and Trotter Hall to address deferred maintenance and upgrade equipment used for teaching in the DVM program.

Draft Language

KSU CVM, following approval by the state board of regents, is hereby authorized and empowered to convey all of the rights, title and interest in the following described real estate located at 9706 Mockingbird Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68127, and further described as:

A part of Lot 555, in Mockingbird Hills West, an addition to the City of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded in Douglas County, Nebraska, (sometimes referred to as Parcel 15A), being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast property corner of Lot 555; thence South 89°17'33" West (assumed bearing), on the South line of said Lot 555, (said line also being the Northerly right-of-way line of Mockingbird Drive), a distance of 706.00 feet, to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing along said South line of Lot 555, a distance of 4.64 feet, to a point of curvature, thence Northwesterly along a 932.78 foot radius curve to the right, an arc distance of 206.80 feet; thence North 00°42'27" West, a distance of 216.72 feet; thence North 89°17'33" East, a distance of 209.75 feet; thence South 00°42'27" East, a distance of 239.56 feet, to the point of beginning; Together with non-exclusive easement rights reserved in instrument dated October 29, 1981 and recorded October 30, 1981 in Book 1678 at Page 35 of the Deed Records of Douglas County, Nebraska.

When the sale is made, the proceeds there of shall be deposited in a restricted use account of KSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

6) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Request to sell property in Riley County (Kansas State University)

Request

Kansas State University seeks approval to sell Unger Complex and 6.54 acres in Riley County, Kansas.

Background

Kansas State University is moving operations currently performed off campus in Unger Complex onto the campus proper. Funds from such a sale could be applied to address critical deferred maintenance issues in multiple buildings on main campus to improve working spaces.

Impact on Other State Agencies

No fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

K-State will no longer have to maintain the property and the sale will reduce the deferred maintenance burden.

Draft Language

Kansas State University, following approval by the state board of regents, is hereby authorized and empowered to convey all of the rights, title and interest in the following described real estate located at

A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE 6TH P.M., IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN, RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY BRIAN J. WESTBERG, PS 1708, ON OCTOBER 31, 2024, AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 13; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 13

N. 88°29'54" E. 1752.92 FEET TO A NORTHEAST CORNER OF BELLEHAVEN ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN, BEING 25' NORTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF

LOT 20 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION; THENCE ALONG AN EASTERLY LINE OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION

S. 00°05'53" E. 25.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 20 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION; THENCE CONTINUING

S. 00°05'53" E. 420.64 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 30 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION; THENCE ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LOTS 30-34 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION

N. 88°25'22" E. 450.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 34 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION; THENCE ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOT 34 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION

S. 01°40'47" E. 120.28 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 34 OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ADDITION, BEING ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BELLEHAVEN ROAD, A PUBLIC STREET IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID BELLEHAVEN ROAD

N. 88°31'10" E. 374.04 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF ANDERSON AVENUE (PREVIOUSLY U.S. HIGHWAY 24) A PUBLIC STREET IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN; THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID ANDERSON AVENUE

N. 37°06'19" W. 664.57 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TIMBERLANE DRIVE, A PUBLIC STREET IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN DEDICATED BY THE HARLINGS OWNER CERTIFICATE ON THE FINAL PLAT OF TIMBERLANE ADDITION TO MANHATTAN; THENCE ALONG SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID TIMBERLANE DRIVE

S. 88°29'54" W. 427.21 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 6.54 ACRES

When the sale is made, the proceeds thereof shall be deposited in restricted use account of Kansas state university of agriculture and applied science.

7) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Request bonding authority to support the Agriculture Innovation Initiative (Kansas State University)

Request

Kansas State University seeks bonding authority of up to \$23.5 million to support the Agriculture Innovation Initiative.

Background

The Agriculture Innovation Initiative is a \$210 million investment in facilities to leverage our core areas of strength in new and exciting ways for food, agriculture and beyond. Investment in the initiative will drive new discovery, knowledge, interdisciplinary connection, and deployment of innovation. Facility upgrades and expansions will enhance grain, food, animal, and agronomy research. State-of-the-art facilities will include engaging research and workspaces to promote creativity and innovation by encouraging students, faculty, and partners to explore novel ways of approaching problems.

To date, approximately \$186.4 million has been raised through fundraising and state and university commitments. The university is seeking bonding authority to cover the unfunded gap of \$23.5 million for authorized construction

costs related to the Agronomy Research and Innovation Center, the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, the livestock arena and Call Hall and Weber Hall renovations.

The university will continue to actively fundraise for the initiative. The university intends to only request bonding for the actual amount required to fulfill the \$210 million target.

Impact on Other State Agencies

No fiscal impact on other state agencies.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

Bonding authority will be issued with a general pledge. College of Agriculture funds will be used for the repayment of the bond.

3. Receive Blueprint for Literacy Plan on the Establishment of Centers of Excellence in Reading **Cynthia Lane, Director, Literacy**

Summary

As required by 2024 Senate Bill 438, the Literacy Advisory Committee was directed to develop and submit a plan to the Board of Regents on the establishment of Centers for Excellence in Reading. The Committee engaged in a deliberative process, solicited proposals from universities with accredited educator preparation programs, evaluated input, and developed a budget model. The Plan is based on a continuous improvement process and will be strengthened as additional data is gathered from a comprehensive needs assessment and feedback from stakeholders.

The Plan establishes seven Centers of Excellence in Reading, led by Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University (with incorporation of the Center of READing), University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and Washburn University.

Background

Kansas is experiencing unprecedented economic growth. By the year 2030, Kansas will add 54,000 new jobs, 80% of which will require a bachelor’s degree or higher (Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research, Sept. 2023). At the same time, thirty-three percent of Kansas students show limited ability in reading and are reading below grade level (KSDE Fall 2024). The reality is Kansas has more and more jobs requiring high-skilled workers, while experiencing a significant shortage of qualified teachers (1,900 teacher vacancies reported by KSDE in October 2024), and performance on state and national assessments reveal one-third of students are not meeting basic levels in literacy.

Governor Laura Kelly signed Senate SB 438 into law on April 25, 2024, establishing the Blueprint for Literacy and elevating literacy as an economic imperative for Kansas.

The Blueprint is a postsecondary initiative, focusing expertise and resources to equip the educator workforce with the knowledge, skills, and practices in the Science of Reading, specifically Structured Literacy. The requirements set forth in SB 438 necessitate strategic collaboration across all education entities, state and local officials, and community-based organizations to achieve the following goals:

- 100% of the elementary teacher workforce have a micro-credential in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030, leading to
- 50% or more of 3rd through 8th graders achieving a level 3 or above and 90% of 3rd through 8th graders achieving level 2 or above on the Kansas English language arts assessment.

SB 438 requires the Board of Regents to establish an Office of Literacy and appoint a Director. The bill also creates a Literacy Advisory Committee to monitor progress and make recommendations to the Board of Regents, State Board of Education, and legislative committees pertaining to instructional methodology, curriculum and assessments in literacy; create and implement two three-credit hour applied application courses; monitor progress of literacy training for in-service and pre-service educators; designate best practices for literacy training; recommend reading instruction methods; and submit a plan to the Board of Regents on the establishment of Centers of Excellence in Reading.

The plan for the establishment of Centers of Excellence in Reading is to be submitted to the Board of Regents on or before January 1, 2025. The law requires that such plan require centers to:

- provide evaluation and identification of reading difficulties and reading disabilities;
- collaborate with school districts to develop strategic literacy plans for individual students;

- collaborate with the Kansas State Department of Education, State Board of Regents, and postsecondary educational institutions to support pre-service and in-service teacher training;
- support the professional development and training of school-based instructional coaches;
- pilot structured reading applied learning simulation laboratories for pre-service and in-service teachers;
- pilot a literacy education simulation training laboratory for pre-service elementary teachers as a controlled environment for the application of the science of reading;
- identify projected costs, staffing, and budget impacts to develop, expand, and sustain the Centers and reading simulations laboratories; and
- make recommendation and provide progress reports to the Advisory Committee.

Centers of Excellence in Reading Plan Development Process

Beginning in August 2024, and working throughout the fall, the Literacy Advisory Committee established the vision, mission, and goals for the centers; set forth a framing document identifying the standards and conditions required; and established catchment areas for each center. The framing document was used to solicit proposals from accredited Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs).

Information gleaned from the proposal process served to augment the framing document, resulting in a plan with three structural constructs.

1. *Required Components* are outlined in the Implementation Timeline.
2. *Shared Expertise* between the universities is vital to ensure equity and efficiency of resources and will be coordinated among the Centers by the Office of Literacy.
3. *Unique Needs to Ensure Equity* for each catchment area will be defined further through a comprehensive needs assessment to be conducted in 2025.

The Plan recommends the establishment of seven Centers of Excellence in Reading, one at each of the seven public universities, which all have accredited Educator Preparation Programs. The Plan includes a funding model with projected cost, staffing, and budget impacts to establish the Centers through FY 2026. Each university will align its proposal with the Plan and provide a detailed budget for FY 2025 start-up and FY 2026 year one of operations. The Office of Literacy will coordinate a needs analysis to assist in the identification of any additional budget impacts to further develop, expand, and sustain the Centers, including simulation laboratories while planning for FY 2027. The establishment of the specific centers is contingent upon a recommendation following the review of the university revised aligned plan and budget by the Literacy Advisory Committee and authorization by the Office of Literacy.

The Office of Literacy will oversee the process of aligning each university's proposal with the required elements, identifying shared expertise and processes, and developing the needs assessment to identify the unique needs of the specific catchment area and network of centers. The Literacy Advisory Committee will review the revised plans and detailed budgets for each Center over the next two months and recommend the centers ready to move forward to implementation. Each university authorized to begin operations will identify the Center director and work with the Office of Literacy to prepare for implementation.

VII. Adjournment

AGENDA

Academic Affairs Standing Committee
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
10:30 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 December 4, 2024 Meeting

- II. Board Consent Items** Crystal Puderbaugh
 - Rocky Vista University Degree-Granting Authority

- III. Board Discussion Agenda Items**
 - No items

- IV. Other Matters**
 - A. First 15 Initiative Rusty Monhollon
 - B. Math Pathways and English Initiatives Jenn Bonds-Raacke
 - C. AY 2025 Performance Report Updates Sam Christy-Dangermond
 - D. Complete College America (CCA) Launch Rusty Monhollon

- V. Announcements**
 - Next BAASC Meeting – January 2, 2025

- VI. Adjournment**

MINUTES

Academic Affairs Standing Committee Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Chair Diana Mendoza called the December 4, 2024, Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regent Diana Mendoza, Chair
 Regent Alysia Johnston
 Regent Neelima Parasker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Mendoza noted that an edit was needed on page two of the minutes, changing ‘p.m.’ to ‘a.m.’. Regent Parasker moved that the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Johnston, the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITY

Director of Academic Affairs Crystal Puderbaugh presented the request from Rocky Vista University for degree-granting authority in Kansas. Rocky Vista University is seeking approval to offer clinical placements in Kansas for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program and the online Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. Regent Johnston requested more information on the need for programs in Kansas, clinical placement availability, and if this approval would negatively impact current Kansas universities offering similar programs. Regent Mendoza suggested revisiting this at the December 18th meeting. Director Puderbaugh stated that she would contact Kansas universities offering similar programs to collect data on the requested issues. Regent Johnston moved to table this request until the next BAASC meeting. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO CHANGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR – KU

Director of Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond presented the request from the University of Kansas to modify their 2025 academic calendar. The modification would adjust the Fall 2025 start date from August 25 to August 18. These changes would not affect the number of instructional days, as the request also moves the last class date up one week, from December 11 to December 4. Stop Day and Finals Week were also moved up one week. University Registrar for the University of Kansas, Casey Wallace, provided further details about the requested changes and answered questions. Regent Johnston moved to approve the request. Following the second of Regent Mendoza, the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVE NEW SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER COURSES

Director of Academic Affairs Karla Wiscombe presented the request to approve six additional courses to be recognized for transfer across the Kansas Board of Regents System. The Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) reviewed reports from the October 11, 2024, Kansas Core Outcomes Groups (KCOG) Conference and approved the new courses at their November 13, 2024, meeting. Regent Johnston moved to approve the recommended six courses. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried unanimously. Director Wiscombe also encouraged institutions to have their faculty review the transfer portal and available information.

OTHER MATTERS**TAAC QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORT**

Transfer and Articulation Council Co-chair Casey Fraites-Chapes presented the 2024 Quality Assurance Report. She provided background information about the roles of the Quality Assurance Subcommittee, the Transfer and Articulation Council, and the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups. Five full associate degree programs have been approved, streamlining the transfer experience for students and allowing them to complete the first 60 credit hours of corresponding bachelor's degree programs at Kansas institutions. The transfer data included in this report was generated from the KHEDS portal. The report is available on the Kansas Board of Regents website under the Transfer and Articulation subtab in the Academic Affairs section.

PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY REPORT

Director of Academic Affairs Crystal Puderbaugh presented the FY2023 Private/Out-of-State Postsecondary Education Report. She provided history on the regulatory authority oversight for Private/Out-of-state Postsecondary institutions in Kansas and the application for such institutions. Due to modifying the definition of physical presence and adding an exemption for review courses, the number of approved institutions decreased in FY 2023. There were 114 approved institutions in FY2023, with 1,986 approved programs. There were 23,805 Kansas students enrolled at approved institutions during the fiscal year. Sixty-two percent of completions were in healthcare-related programs.

RECEIVE QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS REPORT

Sam Christy-Dangermond presented the Qualified Admissions Report. This is an annual report submitted to the Legislature with information on students admitted by exception. No state university exceeded the ten percent threshold for the total number of undergraduate freshmen and transfer students who did not meet the minimum admission standards for 2023-2024.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon shared that a working group has been established for the "First 15," and meetings are beginning to be scheduled, with the first meeting next week. More updates will be provided at the December 18th meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BAASC meeting will be held in Topeka at the KBOR office on December 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

Regent Johnston moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Regent Parasker, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

AGENDA

**Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
10:15am – 12:00pm**

I. Old Business

- A. Approve minutes of November 20, 2024 Committee meeting
- B. Follow up on issues raised during the agenda call regarding FAA items

II. New Business

- A. Receive Updates from Community and Technical Colleges on FY 2023 Audit Findings
Invited College Representatives
- B. **FAA 25-03** Discuss Board Policy for Internal Audit and Review Internal Audit Plans *Presentation of Internal Audit Plans: Cate Neeley, KU and Jaime Dalton, PSU*
- C. **FAA 24-07** Review State Support for State Universities' Operations
- D. Board Agenda Items under Fiscal Affairs
- E. **FAA 25-09** Monitor Progress on State University Capital Renewal Initiative and Campus Restoration Act (standing item)
- F. **FAA 25-10** Review Audit Findings (standing item)
- G. Other Committee Business

III. Other Committee Items of Consideration

MINUTES

Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The November 20th, 2024, meeting of the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee was called to order by Chair Blake Benson at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was held at the Kansas State University Student Union, Room 227. Located at 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506.

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

Regent Rolph moved that the minutes of the September 18th, 2024 meeting be approved with a correction that the rate for the Capital Renewal Initiative for Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, and Washburn was \$100,000 per institution. Following the second of Regent Dicus, the motion carried.

Chris Cavanaugh began his presentation by emphasizing the role that all university employees have in risk management. He explained that WSU had developed a badge course to help university employees better understand their role in risk management. He shared that his role of Internal Auditor is part of a comprehensive risk strategy at WSU. He gave a examples of the institution's high-risk areas, as well as their internal audit plan for 2025. These include monthly meetings with the University President and continuing work with the Athletic Association, KMUW Radio, and College of Health Professions clinics.

Regent Dicus asked for clarification that WSU had a one-person internal audit department. Chris Cavanaugh confirmed that has been the case and added that they were working to add resource for the campus audit function.

Director Pottebaum outlined the office budget for FY 2025, noting that the system total for FY 2025 is \$1.37 billion from State General Fund (SGF) appropriations, of which 67.8% goes directly to the universities. The remaining 32.2% passes through the Board Office, of which 1.4% (\$6.2 million) is used for Board office operations. This is an increase from FY 2024 and is primarily due to the Board office receiving funds to implement the Blueprint for Literacy. Director Pottebaum shared that the Board office continues to hold a \$500,000 contingency for outstanding audit findings related to the decommissioned KanEd network. She then outlined the agency's funding sources, which include SGF, Private Post-Secondary fees, other fees & private grants, and Carl Perkins and Adult Education federal grants. She shared that the Board is working to reduce their reliance on SGF. Lastly, Director Pottebaum shared that the Board office currently has 63 FTE, which includes three staff for the Blueprint for Literacy.

Regent Dicus asked about the increase for professional services. Vice President Elaine Frisbie responded that the additional costs are for the Blueprint for Literacy initiative and Director Pottebaum shared that they were one-time costs associated with the launch of the program.

Regent Winter asked about the increase for staff compensation. Becky Pottebaum responded that the increase included the appropriated 2.5% salary increase pool, as well as four new FTE positions.

Regent Winter moved to approve the FY 2025 Office Budget. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Pottebaum shared that the Alumni Account is housed at KU Endowment, funded from the six state universities, and used for items such as Board hospitality and Board events. She shared that an internal audit is conducted annually by Kitty DeMars, Associate Director for Accounting, who is not involved with the finances of the account. She shared that the Regents had a memo from Associate Director DeMars sharing that she found no discrepancies or deviations with this account.

Vice President Frisbie reviewed the consent agenda items discussed on the agenda call. Regent Dicus asked if there were any funds left for building demolition. Vice President Frisbie responded that there was a small amount of residual, which is expected to be consumed next month. Regent Rolph moved to recommend the consent agenda items for approval to the full Board. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Benson then transitioned to the Discussion Agenda, beginning with the first read of the housing and food service rate adjustment proposals. Vice President Frisbie noted that context on where students might be seeking housing at the state universities can be found on pg. 70 of the agenda. Chair Benson then called on each University to share their plans.

Angela Wolgram, Chief Financial Officer, from Emporia State University shared that ESU is proposing an overall increase of 1.84%, which includes a 0% housing rate increase and a 4.1% food plan increase. She noted that housing rates are not increasing due to increasing occupancy rates. She added that ESU offers a discounted housing rate for second-year students which has been successful in retaining students in on-campus housing.

Wesley Wintch, Chief Financial Officer, from Fort Hays State University Shared that FHSU is proposing to increase housing rates by 1.5% and dining by 3.5% for an overall net increase of 2.5%. He noted that the residence hall association, made up of students who live in the residence halls, approves of this proposal. He added that the application fee is increasing from \$40 to \$50 to accommodate extending the early drop period for housing.

Ethan Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, from Kansas State University shared that KSU is proposing a 1.9% increase to the traditional double room, alternating price increases on suites, and a 2.6% increase on dining. He noted that the variable suite increase was due to high demand for those rooms. He added that KSU runs their own dining program and that the need for salary increases for dining staff was a driving factor in the increase.

Jon Bartlow, Interim Dean of Students, from Pittsburg State University shared that PSU is proposing an average of 3.8% increase for residence halls and dining plans. He shared that the increase was due to increased operating costs, maintenance, and staffing needs. He added that this proposal is supported by the residence hall association.

Regent Winter asked if PSU or any of the other universities had seen an increase of homelessness within the student population. Interim Dean Bartlow responded that he had not seen any notable increase. Derek Jackson, Director of Housing and Dining at KSU, and Angela Wolgram responded that many students resort to couch-surfing as a solution.

Jeff DeWitt, Chief Financial Officer, from the University of Kansas shared that KU is proposing a 3% increase for two-occupancy apartments and a 5% increase in dining. He noted that the increase was due to capacity increases and maintenance needs. He noted that the high maintenance needs will accommodate the record enrollment the university is experiencing. He added that these increases are supported by student groups.

David Miller, Interim Chief Financial Officer, from Wichita State University shared that WSU is proposing no increase to housing rates and a 3% increase to the dining plan. He noted that this increase is an exact match to the university's dining contract and that this increase is supported by student representatives. He added that WSU was able to refinance debt on residence halls in 2020-21, which has shown positive long-term effects.

Chair Benson transitioned to the next item on the Board's agenda related to Board policy amendments. Facilities Director Chad Bristow noted that at the June Board meeting, there were recommended updates to the facilities policy to support the Board's facilities initiative. He shared these changes include both minor and more substantive edits and that a section on procurement and statutory authorization for delivery methods was added for clarity.

Regent Winter moved to approve the facilities policy amendments. Following a second by Regent Rolph, the amendments were unanimously approved.

Chair Benson then transitioned to "Act on Request to Amend FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project Plan, Approve Program Statement for Construction of Addition to and Renovation of Marvin and Chalmers Halls, and Act on Request to Seek Legislative Bonding Authority for School of Architecture and Design – KU," Jeff DeWitt shared that the project has three phases, one for building a new School of Architecture building and the other two for the renovations of Marvin and Chalmers Hall. He shared that the estimated project total is \$120 million. He added that the project is contingent upon gaining authority from the state for a \$60 million bond, private fundraising, and approval of the \$10 million SGF match in the budget request.

Regent Winter moved to recommend approval. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the amendments were unanimously approved.

The Committee next took up KU's to the request to purchase Rock Chalk Park. Jeff DeWitt explained how the University's athletic programs have benefitted from the facilities at Rock Chalk Park, noting that they have been essential to Title IX compliance.

Regent Winter moved to approve the request and Regent Rolph seconded. Regent Dicus abstained from the vote due to his role with the KU Endowment. All other Regents voted to approve.

Chair Benson next called upon Vice President Frisbie to discuss changes to appropriation language. Vice President Frisbie noted that the proposed changes include recognizing the funds needed to implement the Campus Restoration Act, allowing unspent SGF appropriations to carry over from one year to the next, and rerouting funds from the State Finance Council back into the state university budgets. She noted that the Legislature has adopted the Board's recommendation to appropriate the line items for student financial aid into FY 2027 to accommodate the financial aid awards cycle. She noted that the Board is asking the Legislature to end the federal E-Rate funds transfer from KBOR to the State Department of Education due to the depletion of those funds. Lastly, she shared that the Board is also requesting to move remaining repayment funds from a program that is no longer active to another.

Regent Rolph moved to recommend approval of the changes. Following a second by Regent Dicus, the motion was unanimously approved.

Next, Director Chad Bristow shared that the Board staff and state universities are working to review and finalize the 2024 University Facilities Report. It will be presented to the Board in December and submitted to the Legislature to satisfy the statutory requirements of biennial submissions.

Other Committee Business

Regent Winter emphasized that it is critical for all the universities' housing directors to be involved with the question of housing for homeless students. Jeff DeWitt added that food insecurity is also a challenge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Benson at 11:32 a.m.

AGENDA

**Governance Standing Committee
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
9:00 - 10:00**

- I. Approve Minutes from November 20, 2024**
- II. Update on Enterprise Risk Management Reports**
- III. Annual Campus Safety and Security Report**
 - a. Emporia State University

MINUTES

Governance Standing Committee Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The Kansas Board of Regents Governance Committee met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Regent 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

Member Absent: Diana Mendoza

MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Regent Benson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND CEO TO EXECUTE BOARD CONTRACT

Gage Rohlf, Associate General Counsel, presented a contract with the University of Kansas for design-based implementation research related to the Blueprint for Literacy. Under the contract, the Board would reimburse KU up to \$616,000 in budgeted expenses through September 30, 2027. President Flanders added that Chief of Staff Kelly Oliver would provide further details. President Flanders noted that the KU Center for Research has significant expertise in this area. Kelly Oliver confirmed that the KUCR specializes in working directly with schools and analyzing relevant data, which makes them a strong fit for the project.

Chair Ice inquired about the selection process for the research center, asking if a bidding process had been conducted. Chief of Staff Oliver explained that while a formal bidding process was not used, the Advisory Committee chose KU based on its expertise. Chair Ice raised concerns about ensuring that other institutions had a chance to participate. Chief of Staff Oliver clarified that while all public universities were involved in the Blueprint for Literacy in some capacity, the Advisory Committee had consulted with various universities, including KU.

Regent Benson asked how other universities are involved in the program. Chief of Staff Oliver explained that the Advisory Committee includes members from research and regional universities, as well as other literacy experts. Additionally, each university has submitted proposals to become a designated "Center of Excellence" in literacy, with Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, expected to present the final recommended plan for establishment of the regional centers for excellence in reading at the next Board meeting. At this point, it is anticipated that each public university will be designated as a center.

Regent Rolph moved to grant President Flanders authority to execute the contract. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ANNUAL CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORT (KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY)

Ronnie Grice, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Public Safety at Kansas State University, provided an update on campus security initiatives. He highlighted the university's progress in implementing a comprehensive campus-wide camera system, consolidating 25 to 30 separate systems. Through a competitive RFP process, 111 cameras have been installed across the Manhattan and Salina campuses. Additionally, a new card access system is being integrated into all major renovations and new buildings. The College of Education served as the beta site and is fully operational, with the College of Business and eight other buildings next in line.

Grice reported that KSU has had no weapons violations or automated security measure (ASM) incidents, though future ASM protocols may be needed for women's basketball games. A new position will manage the card and camera systems, streamlining oversight. ASM is required when attendance exceeds 5,000 for events, aligning with protocols at other institutions like KU. Efforts are ongoing to unify and modernize access control systems campus-wide, improving efficiency and safety.

Justin Frederick, Title IX Coordinator, discussed recent Title IX initiatives. K-State hosted a KBOR Title IX training, updating participants on pending legislation and reviewing policies to comply with 2020 regulations. Increased outreach and training have led to a rise in Title IX reports, particularly related to stalking on social media and sexual assault. Four live hearings were conducted by KSU during the reporting period, with outcomes of responsibility and non-responsibility determined by the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings. More affected individuals were connected to support resources than in previous years, with expanded educational efforts targeting student groups like ROTC, the marching band, and Greek organizations.

President Flanders praised these efforts and offered support for future changes. Grice also noted a successful active violence tabletop exercise at Dole Hall, involving key stakeholders and identifying areas for improvement.

DISCUSS BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND ACT ON ANY ACTUAL OR APPARENT CONFLICT

John Yeary, General Counsel, presented an update regarding a potential conflict of interest disclosed by Regent Johnston. Regent Johnston reported that she serves on the Board of Directors for the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, a federally qualified health center and nonprofit healthcare organization that receives federal funding under the Public Health Services Act. She has held this position since December 2023.

The Community Health Center provides student health services for Pittsburg State University, which is governed by the Board. After reviewing the situation, staff recommended that Regent Johnston recuse herself from participating in any Board discussions or decisions involving contracts or transactions between the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas and Pittsburg State University. Additionally, appropriate measures should be taken to manage any related issues that may arise.

Regent Benson moved to approve the staff recommendation. Regent Rolph seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

UPDATE ON LEADERSHIP COMPENSATION DISCUSSIONS AND TIMELINE PLANNING

Chair Ice provided an update on ongoing discussions about compensation for university leaders. He said an RFP to select an advisor has been published, and anticipated that conversations about selecting an advisor would begin shortly.

Regent Benson asked President Flanders about the timeline for these efforts. President Flanders confirmed that a timetable had been established and offered to share it. Chair Ice emphasized the importance of clear deadlines, suggesting that responsible parties might need firm guidance on when their plans must be finalized. President Flanders agreed, adding that it might be necessary to set a definitive timeline rather than asking how much time is needed. He noted that sometimes it's most effective to establish firm deadlines to drive action and ensure accountability.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:23 a.m., Chair Ice adjourned the meeting.

AGENDA

**System Council of Presidents
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
10:30 a.m.**

- I. Approve minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting
- II. Report from System Council of Chief Academic Officers: Dr. Mickey McCloud
- III. Receive First 15 and Developmental Education Update: Rusty Monhollon, Vice President, Academic Affairs
- IV. Receive System Legislative Update: Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff
- V. Reverse Transfer Procedures Revision: Misty Knox, Associate Director, Academic Affairs
- VI. Other matters

MINUTES

System Council of Presidents Wednesday, November 20, 2024

At 10:30 a.m., the System Council of Presidents convened their meeting at the Flint Hills Room on the Kansas State University Campus, Student Union 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Members in attendance:

Blake Flanders	KBOR President and CEO
Doug Girod	University of Kansas Chancellor
James Genandt	Manhattan Area Technical College President
Ken Hush	Emporia State University President
Rich Linton	Kansas State University President
Rick Muma	Wichita State University President
Seth Carter	Colby Community College President
Tisa Mason	Fort Hays State University President

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING

Doug Ball from Pittsburg State filled in for President Shipp. President Linton moved to approve the September 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Chancellor Girod seconded the motion, which passed.

REPORT FROM SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS: DR. MICKEY MCCLOUD

Doug Ball from Pittsburg State introduced the report from the Chief Academic Officers. He noted that Dr. McCloud could not attend, so Luke Dowell from Seward Community College would fill in.

Luke Dowell provided an update from the System Council of Chief Academic Officers, mentioning that they had reviewed and approved revised guidelines for credit for prior learning. Some of the changes included adding Cambridge International exam providers and adjusting the tiers related to the seal of literacy. This policy change was passed unanimously.

Mr. Dowell also shared updates from the technical colleges, recommending six new courses for Board approval in December. Additionally, there was an update on math and English initiatives, with professional development sessions receiving positive feedback and strong attendance. He emphasized the importance of faculty watching session recordings if they miss them as the content builds progressively.

The group also provided an update on the "First 15" initiative. They are working to establish a group of representatives from K-12, universities, community colleges, and technical colleges to discuss course offerings and funding mechanisms. They aim to present a recommendation to the Board by May 2025.

Mr. Dowell also mentioned the increased participation in Apply Kansas and Apply Free Days, noting that more data is being collected for a full report in the future. A reminder was given about the Complete College America Kickoff on February 11, which will recognize Kansas's involvement and highlight the resources available through the initiative.

Finally, Mr. Dowell shared a report from Ad Astra Information Systems. Stacey White discussed how their system helps align course schedules with student needs and degree pathways to ensure student success and provide more opportunities.

RECEIVE SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: KELLY OLIVER, CHIEF OF STAFF

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, updated on the budget process. She began by discussing the formation of a new Legislative Budget Committee, which started its work earlier this month. Although higher education has not yet been scheduled for review, the team monitors the situation and will engage with the committee when necessary.

In the meantime, they continue with their regular budget process. This week, they met with the Division of Budget staff, the Governor’s office, and Senator Billinger. During the meeting, they presented a budget appeal to the Governor, emphasizing enhancement requests not included in the Division’s initial recommendations.

For two-year colleges, they have now integrated the latest calculations from the cost model for tiered, non-tiered, and Excel in CTE programs, adding \$7 million to the overall budget request. Because additional funding may be limited, KBOR staff were advised by the Division of Budget that the Board may be asked to prioritize our system’s requests to the Governor.

Ms. Oliver also mentioned that with the recent elections, both the House and Senate retained their supermajorities. In early December, they will elect leadership for the upcoming legislative session.

OTHER MATTERS

No additional topics or issues were discussed, and the attendees presented no further reports, updates, or comments. The meeting concluded without addressing any other matters or raising any new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

AGENDA

**Council of Presidents
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
adjournment of SCOPS**

- I. Approve minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting
- II. Report from Council of Chief Academic Officers: Dr. Susan Bon, J.D., Ph.D.
 - a. Pending items for approval from Council of Chief Academic Officers (Attachment 1)
- III. Report from Council of Student Affairs Officers: Dr. Karl Stumo, Ed.D.
- IV. Report from Council of Inclusion, Belonging, & Community Engagement Officers: Deatrea Rose
- V. Report from Council of Government Relations Officers: Dr. Shawn Naccarato, M.P.A, J.D., PhD.
- VI. 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
- VIII. Other matters

Program Approval

Attachment 1

BA & BGS in Health & Society – KU

I. General Information

A. Institution University of Kansas

B. Program Identification

Degree Level:	Bachelor’s
Program Title:	Health and Society
Degree to be Offered:	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of General Studies
Responsible Department or Unit:	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/Department of Sociology
CIP Code:	51.2212
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

Health and Society is an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree focused on the social context of health. The curriculum provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the role of social factors in health, such as housing, economics, and local environments (i.e., social determinants of health), while facilitating the development of transferable professional skills emphasized in a liberal arts education including critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, adaptability, ethics, and social responsibility. The central goal of the Health and Society program is to train students for careers that emphasize the socio-demographic, cultural, political, historical, and ethical contexts that underlie health behaviors, healthcare practices, and health policies, by providing the knowledge and skills necessary to critically evaluate and inform strategies that address health at local, state, and national levels.

Health-related careers frequently require a team effort, incorporating multiple viewpoints and approaches. To prepare students for this, the Health and Society program engages students with a wide range of perspectives on health including those from anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. By intentionally integrating the conceptual frameworks, analytical tools, and data approaches from each discipline, the Health and Society curriculum provides graduates with a rich toolkit to tackle real-world challenges. With this interdisciplinary training, graduates can effectively communicate and collaborate with multiple stakeholders, approach problems creatively, facilitate collaborations across sectors, and foster innovation by blending ideas from different fields.

Clinical care only accounts for an estimated 10-20% of non-genetic contributors to health, with the other 80-90% attributed to social and economic factors, health behaviors, and the physical environment (Hood et al., 2016). A BA/BGS in Health and Society prepares students to identify and tackle the social conditions shaping health outcomes for communities, an approach that will have the greatest impact on population health and reduce health disparities (Castrucci & Auerbach, 2019; Hood et al., 2016).

Health disparities are differences in the quality of health, healthcare, and health outcomes across socio-demographic groups. For example, in Kansas rural communities often face disproportionate burdens of poor health, lower levels of positive health behaviors, and a limited health infrastructure. Eliminating these disparities requires a multifaceted approach and partnerships both within and outside of medicine. The Health and Society

curriculum prepares students to critically engage with the social and environmental factors at the root of these disparities.

Health and Society offers an academic home for students who want to work in healthcare or health related industries but may not be planning for clinical practice or laboratory research, and for whom requiring extensive coursework in the natural sciences may serve as a barrier to program and degree completion. The major is also designed in a way that facilitates the dual pursuit of Health and Society and other majors that offer complimentary or specialized training, including pre-medical education. By understanding the structural factors that contribute to health differences, students will be able to work with and within healthcare organizations to manage the organization, delivery, and consumption of medical services more effectively, and design policies and interventions that address health disparities at the societal level.

IV. Program Demand:

A. Survey of Student Interest

The University of Kansas (2021) Hopes & Dreams survey was included in post-orientation emails from the Center for Orientation & Transition Programs, as a component of UNIV 101, and direct emails to freshmen (response rate 24%). While not specific to the Health and Society program, the [Hopes & Dreams survey](#) administered to KU freshmen in summer and fall of 2021 reported that the top industry of interest was Healthcare, and Social/Human Services was third. What mattered most to the Class of 2025, was being able to apply knowledge to solve real world problems (72.38%) and assisting people who were struggling (63.22%), and the desire to make a positive impact on society was given as one of the top motivators for attending college (73.67%). The Health and Society program prepares students for careers that include each of these.

These KU responses are consistent with national surveys, such as the National Society of High School Scholars 2021 Career Interest Survey of more than 14,000 high achieving high school and college students, and a 2021 survey fielded by Lucid LLC. of 750 currently enrolled undergraduate students ages 18-25, that find Generation Z (encompassing individuals born between 1997 and 2012) is increasingly aware of social justice issues and their involvement with these issues impacts their coursework and career choices (Bryant, 2022; NSHSS, 2020). The 2022 National Society of High School Scholars 2022 Career Interest Survey of 11,495 high achieving high school or college-age individuals found approximately 1 in 3 were most interested in impacting the world in the area of healthcare and health-related issues (NSHSS, 2022).

B. Market Analysis

KU commissioned a market study from EAB Global, Inc. The report was limited by the fact that the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) does not contain an instructional program code (CIP code) that aligns directly to a Health and Society program. Labor market and competitive landscape analyses in the report suggest unmet student demand for a bachelor's-level Health and Society program and higher than average 10-year growth in regional employment for relevant occupations such as Social and Human Service Assistants, Medical and Health Services Managers, and Social and Community Service Managers at a range of 17% to 19%, indicating a moderate to potentially favorable environment for program launch.

Demand in comparable programs

A more tailored picture of demand in comparable programs comes from direct correspondence with program directors.

- 1) University of Utah has a [Health, Society, and Policy](#) program that has been in existence as an interdisciplinary major for over 40 years and has approximately 400 majors.
- 2) UT Austin has a [Health & Society](#) program that is housed in Sociology. This interdisciplinary program has approximately 450 majors.

- 3) The University of Pennsylvania has a [Health and Societies](#) major housed in the Department of History and Sociology of Science with about 200 majors.
- 4) Vanderbilt offers an interdisciplinary major in [Medicine, Health, and Society](#) that has approximately 750 majors and 50 minors.

Comparative/Locational Advantage

There are no programs in Kansas with the same CIP Code. The only comparable program with a social scientific grounding in a neighboring state is the BA in [Health, Medicine and Society](#) at the University of Oklahoma.

The Department of Sociology at KU provides the optimal environment for a Health and Society BA/BGS program. The established medical sociology, statistics, and research methods curriculum and presence of multiple tenure-track and teaching faculty with expertise in social determinants of health, allow for program launch with minimal start-up costs and capitalizes on existing infrastructure. Faculty also have direct connections with KUMC and graduate programs in the department of Population Health. In addition, the social science health-related courses already available across different disciplines provide a rich set of electives for students to choose from.

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	12	0	360	0
Year 2	25	0	750	0
Year 3	35	0	1050	0

VI. Employment

Students with a BA/BGS in Health and Society will be ready for employment or further training in health services research, healthcare management and administration, public health, or health policy, and often pursue careers in the healthcare and health insurance fields, in both non-clinical and (with additional education and training) clinical positions.

Healthcare is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of the economy and will require a workforce in both health and health adjacent fields. Approximately 18% of the U.S. economy is health care, with expectations of further growth as the population continues to age. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023, pg. 2), “the health care and social assistance sector is projected to not only grow most rapidly of any sector, but it is also projected to create about 45 percent of all the projected job gains from 2022 to 2032”. Locally, in the Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area, the most common industry is health care and social assistance, representing 14.1% of total employment in 2021 and demonstrating workforce growth of 3.36% over the previous year (Data USA, 2024). Nationwide, employment of medical and health services managers is projected to grow 28% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than for all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024a). During that same timeframe, the demand for social and community services managers – who coordinate and supervise programs and organizations that support public well-being – is forecasted to increase 9% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024b).

This interdisciplinary program provides students with knowledge and transferable skills that can be applied in a variety of contexts and professions and offers the flexibility to explore different fields and career paths within and beyond the healthcare industry. Additional areas of employment include non-profit organizations, government, public and social services, and international development.

VII. Admission and Curriculum**A. Admission Criteria**

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

B. Curriculum

Curricula for the BA and BGS are listed below. Appendix A includes a list of elective courses for the major.

Health and Society BA**Year 1: Fall****SCH = Semester Credit Hours**

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 224	Intro to Health and Society (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra (KBOR Core Math and Statistics (SGE))	3
	1st Semester Language (BA Second Language)	5
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	1

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Communications (SGE)	3
	2nd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	5
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	1

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE)	5
	BA Laboratory/Field Experience (LFE)	1
	3rd Semester Language (BA Second Language)	3

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 280	Intro to Research Methods (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated US Culture (SGE)	3
	4th Semester Language, or 1st semester of Another Language (BA Second Language)	3

Year 3: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 424	Sociology of Health and Medicine (Major Requirement)	3
SOC 380, or PSYC/ECON/ POLS 399, or MATH 365	Statistics and Data Analysis (BA Quantitative Reasoning Requirement; Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)*	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture (SGE)*	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

*or Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours if KBOR Core already fulfilled by a Health and Society Elective

Year 3: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
SOC 699, or SOC 499, or LA&S 490, or LA&S 494	Integrative Capstone Experience (Major Requirement)	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

Year 4: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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

Health and Society BGS

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 224	Intro to Health & Society (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Science (SGE)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra (KBOR Core Math and Statistics (SGE))	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core English (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Communications (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 100+ (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE)	4
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Institutionally Designated US Culture (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	2

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 280	Intro to Research Methods (Major Requirement)	3
	KBOR Core Social and Behavioral Sciences (SGE)	3
	KBOR Core Arts and Humanities (SGE)	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree Hours	3

Year 3: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 380, or PSYC/ECON /POLs 399, or MATH 365	Statistics and Data Analysis (Major Requirement)	3
SOC 424	Sociology of Health and Medicine (Major Requirement)	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 3: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
	Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours	3

Year 4: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
LA&S 172	Exploring Health Professions (BGS career prep course)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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

Year 4: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
SOC 699, or SOC 499, or LA&S 490, or LA&S 494	Integrative Capstone Experience (Major Requirement)	3
	Health and Society Elective 300+ (Major Requirement)	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
*Tracey LaPierre	Associate Professor	PhD	Y	Medical Sociology	.5
Elizabeth Felix	Assistant Professor	PhD	Y	Medical Sociology	.2
Jarron Saint Onge	Professor	PhD	Y	Sociology and Population Health	.2
Gerald (Kevin) McCannon	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Medical Sociology	.5
Lisa-Marie Wright	Associate Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Sociology	.25
Kelly Sharron	Assistant Teaching Professor	PhD	N	Sociology and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies	.125

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program 2

IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources [List amounts in dollars. Provide explanations as necessary. Please double-check the math.]

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions			
Faculty	\$119,556	\$123,143	\$126,837
Administrators (<i>other than instruction time</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Graduate Assistants	\$38,233	\$39,379	\$40,561
Support Staff for Administration (<i>e.g., secretarial</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits (<i>total for all groups</i>)	\$49,971	\$51,470	\$53,014
Other Personnel Costs			
Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing	\$207,760	\$213,992	\$220,412
Personnel – New Positions			
Faculty	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$0
Other Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses			
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
Other: New Course Development	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Total Start-up Costs	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$0
Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses			
Supplies/Expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Library/learning resources	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment/Technology	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Costs	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
GRAND TOTAL COSTS	\$218,760	\$221,992	\$223,412

B. FUNDING SOURCES <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		\$216,302	\$450,630	\$630,882
Student Fees		\$3,600	\$7500	\$10,500
Other Sources		\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		\$219,902	\$458,130	\$641,382
C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-) (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)		\$1,142	\$236,138	\$417,970

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions

Six existing Sociology faculty (LaPierre, Felix, Saint Onge, McCannon, Wright, and Sharron) will teach the required core curriculum (SOC 224, SOC 424, SOC 280, SOC 380, SOC 699) and a rotation of SOC electives that can count towards the Health and Society Major electives (SOC 326, SOC 410, SOC 425). These courses will be taught as part of their regular course load in sociology, with half of the seats designated for students in the Health and Society program. Part of the FTE for LaPierre and McCannon includes service to the Health and Society program around course scheduling, degree level assessment, etc.

Two GTAs will be drawn from the currently funded SOC GTA pool with preference given to graduate students specializing in Medical Sociology. GTAs will offer flexibility in offering larger class sizes with smaller discussion sections and/or grading support.

Fringe was estimated at 37% for faculty and 15% for graduate students. A 3% annual salary increase was factored into the salary projections for current faculty and graduate teaching assistants beginning in year 2.

Personnel – New Positions

We have the capacity to accommodate the projected enrollments for the Health and Society program during the first three years with current staffing levels.

Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses

Since the degree will be housed within the Department of Sociology and primarily draws on existing courses there will be limited start-up costs associated with the degree. We have budgeted for marketing expenses in year 1 and course development costs in years 1 and 2. All required courses for the Health and Society major are currently being taught as part of the Sociology curriculum except for SOC 224 and SOC 699, which need to be developed.

Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses

We have budgeted \$3,000 per year for additional supplies and expenses that may be incurred specifically for the Health and Society program.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

The BA/BGS in Health and Society will be fully funded through standard tuition and fee revenue. 2024-2025 standard tuition for Lawrence Campus students is \$365.60 per credit hour for resident students and \$976.60 per credit hour for non-resident students. Consistent with the overall undergraduate student credit hour distribution

on the Lawrence campus, it is estimated that 61.5% of Health and Society student credit hours will be from resident students and 38.5% from non-resident students, and revenue projections from base tuition were calculated using a weighted average of \$600.84 per credit hour. Student fees were calculated based on the \$10 per credit hour course fee for CLAS effective Fall 2024.

C. Projected Surplus

Program revenues are expected to exceed expenditures in the first year. The annual projected surplus is detailed below.

Year 1 \$1,142

Year 2 \$236,138

Year 3 \$417,970

XI. References

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Appendix A: Elective Courses

Electives: 15 credits from electives (at least 12 elective credits at the jr/sr level).

Students may choose from the following currently offered electives:

ABSC 310	Building Healthy Communities (or Honors Equivalent)* ^a
ABSC 529	Pediatric Health Promotion
EVRN/HSCI 445	Introduction to Environmental Health
GEOG 201/GIST 210/AAAS 203	Culture and Health (or Honors Equivalent)* ^b
HSES 308	Drugs and Diseases in Society
HSES 403	Health Behavior Theory
HSES 489	Health and Human Sexuality
HMG T 305	Health Policy and Healthcare Systems
HMG T 320	Applied Healthcare Law and Ethics
HSCI 340	Introduction to Public Health
HSCI 440	Introduction to Epidemiology
HSCI 441	Population Health
LA&S 172	Exploring Health Professions
PHIL 370	Moral Issues in Medicine
POLS/EVRN 628/PUAD 494/LWS 494	The Politics of Public Health
PSYC 350	Psychological Disorders
PSYC/ABSC 535	Developmental Pathology
PSYC 605	Health Psychology
SOC 326	Health, Gender, and Society
SOC 410	Sociology of Death and Dying
SOC 425	Sociology of Global Health
WGSS/PSYC 521	Women and Violence

*^a This class is approved as a KBOR CORE Social and Behavioral Sciences class

*^b This class is approved as a KBOR Core Institutionally Designated Global Culture class

PSM in Environmental Geology – KU**I. General Information**

A. Institution University of Kansas

B. Program Identification

Degree Level:	Masters
Program Title:	Professional Science Masters in Environmental Geology
Degree to be Offered:	Professional Science Masters
Responsible Department or Unit:	Geology
CIP Code:	40.0601
Modality:	Hybrid: (33 hours online; 3 hours face-to-face)
Proposed Implementation Date:	Spring 2025

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 36

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

III. Justification

KU offers a Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree in Applied Science. The PSM degree offers concentrations in environmental geology and environmental assessment. Since its inception in 2019, the environmental geology concentration has been very successful, with more than 80 enrolled students and more than 2500 inquiries. To-date, twenty students have graduated from the environmental geology concentration. To better align with workforce and professional licensure expectations of a titled degree in geology, and to more accurately reflect the program curriculum, this proposal seeks to elevate the existing environmental geology concentration to a major. This change would allow for more focused program marketing and enable greater career advancement of its graduates.

Environmental geology is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to address and study anthropogenically-derived and naturally occurring environmental hazards on Earth. The field is grounded in basic geological sub-disciplines such as mineralogy, sedimentology and stratigraphy but has primary focus on hydrogeology, geochemistry, geophysics and components of engineering geology. These sub-disciplines and the associated field and laboratory techniques in the form of a PSM program lead to an applied understanding of how to utilize geophysical, geochemical and hydrogeological techniques to evaluate, remediate, and monitor the impact or potential impact of contamination (Schulmeister, 2024a). This applied program separates itself from traditional thesis-based research MS degrees in Geology and/or Hydrogeology through its direct integration of management, communication and case-study-based coursework with a focus of developing future government and industry professional leaders in Environmental Geology with a broad toolbox to address environmental problems.

IV. Program Demand:**A. Market Analysis**

The demand for geoscience graduates with credentials beyond the traditional B.S. degree is high and is projected to grow. The American Geoscience Institute projects an increase in the number of Geoscience jobs to grow nationally by 4.9% between 2019 and 2029 (AGI, 2020). Within the geoscience field, environmental geoscience is listed as one of the top three subdisciplines with an even higher projected growth of 9.2 % (AGI, 2020).

During the last decade, the number of undergraduate geology majors at the University of Kansas who have chosen the Environmental Geology concentration for the PSM degree has increased to 19% in the most recent three years, from 7.5 % in previous years (KU Analytics and Institutional Research, 2024). GEOL 552 Introduction to Hydrogeology is an upper-level, KU undergraduate, elective course that is perceived by most students, faculty,

and employers as essential for a successful career in Environmental Geology. It is commonly taken by students who plan to seek employment in the field of environmental geology. Historic records of KU student enrollment demonstrate an upward trend in the number of students in GEOL 552 since reporting began in 1994. A sustained increase in the number of students enrolled in GEOL 552 since the 1990s suggests a sustained and growing interest in environmental careers by KU students.

The number of PSM degree programs has increased from 200 to more than 360 over the past 20 years (Tobias and Strausbaugh, 2018). KU’s Environmental Geology PSM program is the only such program in the state of Kansas and one of only a few geology PSM programs in the U.S. It is also the only Environmental Geology program that can be completed primarily online (NSPMA, 2020; Schulmeister, 2024b,c) in the U.S. There are no PSM programs in environmental geology offered in surrounding states. Although peer PSM environmental geology programs are not available for comparison, the national number of geology majors choosing employment in the environmental sector continues to follow an upward trend established in the 1980s (AGI, 2019).

KBOR’s Program Inventory indicates K-State and FHSU offer a master’s degree with the same CIP Code at the master’s level; however, none are offered through distance learning and KU’s program is the only one that offers the CIP content as part of a Professional Science Masters degree:

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	2	28	36	392
Year 2	2	38	36	532
Year 3	2	48	36	672

VI. Employment

Based on workforce summaries compiled by the American Geological Institute, geologists are currently securing employment in three broad sectors: Environmental remediation and management, natural resource discovery and utilization, engineering and construction (AGI, 2019). Forty-eight percent of employed geoscientists work in the fields of environmental geology and hydrogeology (AGI, 2019).

KU cross-walked the CIP Code to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code and then reviewed employment projections from the Kansas Department of Labor. Kansas Department of Labor data show strong long-term occupational projections for the region. The PSM in environmental geology program’s advisory board includes environmental managers and directors at State of Kansas agencies who have witnessed a shortage of qualified environmental geologists. State environmental agencies routinely solicit KU PSM program graduates for employment, and have sought KU’s contribution to building a stronger workforce as part of its annual Environmental Conference (e.g. Schulmeister, 2021).

All students who have graduated from KU with a PSM degree with concentration in Environmental Geology have found employment in the environmental sector or have advanced in their existing environmental careers. Most are working in State and Federal environmental agencies, environment consulting firms, and oil and gas companies. One graduate has developed an environmental science curriculum at the adult alternative high school where she is employed.

The greater Kansas City metropolitan area is home to several regional federal environmental agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers (Kansas City District) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 7), numerous large and small private environmental/ engineering companies (e.g., Black and Veatch, Bartlett and West, Wilson and Company, URS Engineering, AquaTerra Environmental Services, Terracon Engineering, Burns

and McDonnell, Ecology and Environment Inc., and Marshall Miller & Associates), state and local environmental agencies (Johnson County Environmental Department, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism), and nongovernmental organizations (e.g., MidAmerica Regional Council). This concentration of environmental agencies/companies offers several strong advantages for students completing the environmental geology program: first, a large latent pool of students for the program; second, numerous opportunities in these companies and agencies for internships for students; and third, a pool of environmental professionals to draw upon for lecturers/professors-of-practice for our courses and for our External Advisory Board.

VII. Admission and Curriculum

A. Admission Criteria

1. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution as evidenced by an official undergraduate transcript is required. Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in geology. Those with a related degree and 20 semester hours of geoscience coursework in geology, physical geography, engineering, or hydrology may be eligible. In some instances, relevant work experience in environmental geology may substitute for missing courses.

2. A grade-point average of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) for all previous university work is required. Under extenuating circumstances an average below 3.0 can be considered for provisional admission.

B. Curriculum

Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 755	Site Assessment	3
GEOL 751	Physical Hydrogeology	3
PFS 801	Interpersonal & Persuasive Communication	3

Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 753	Chemical Hydrogeology	3
PFS 802	Managing Teams & Leading People	3
	Elective	3

Year 2: Summer

Course #	Course Name	SCH
GEOL 556	Field Methods in Hydrology *	3

Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
EVRN 721	Env Regulation & Policy	3
PFS 803	Financial Management	3
GEOL 814	Capstone Experience 1	1

Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
PFS 804	Project Management for Professionals	3
GEOL 815	Capstone Experience II	2
	Elective	3

* GEOL 556 may be replaced by 3, 1-cr-hr workshop courses during spring and fall semesters.

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours **36**

VIII. Core Faculty

Faculty Name	Rank	Highest Degree	Tenure Track Y/N	Academic Area of Specialization	FTE to Proposed Program
*Marcia Schulmeister	Director and Teaching Professor	Ph.D.	N	Hydrogeology and geochemistry	1.0
TBD	Asst. Director and Asst. Teaching Professor	M.S. or higher	N	Environmental geology	1.0
Rick Devlin	Professor	Ph.D.	Y	Contaminant Hydrogeology	.25
Mary Hill	Professor	Ph.D.	Y	Groundwater modeling	.25
Rick Leines	Adjunct Instructor	B.S.	N	Haz Waste Operations	0.125
Clark Rein	Adjunct Instructor	M.S.	N	Site Assessment	0.125
Sarah Webb	Lecturer	M.A.	N	Strategic Communication	0.125
Jordan Atkinson	Professor of Practice	Ph.D.	N	Communication Studies	0.125
Jacque Eidson	Lecturer	Ph.D.	N	Organizational Psychology	0.125
Karina Addari	Lecturer	Ph.D.	N	Supply Chain Management	0.125

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program **0**

IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources

A. EXPENDITURES	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions			
Faculty	164,140	168,245	172,450
Administrators <i>(other than instruction time)</i>	120,000	123,000	126,075
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration <i>(e.g., secretarial)</i>	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits <i>(total for all groups).. costrate</i>	75,970	76,970	77,970
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing	360,110	368,215	376,495
Personnel – New Positions			
Faculty	0	0	0
Administrators	25,500	26,138	26,791
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>	5,100	5,228	5,358
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions	30,600	31,366	32,149
Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses			
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	0	0	0
Physical Facilities:Construction or Renovation	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total Start-up Costs	0	0	0
Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses			
Supplies/Expenses	0	0	0
Library/learning resources, marketing	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	5,205	5,205	5,205
Travel	2,400	2,400	2,400
Other	1,400	1,400	1,400
Total Operating Costs	9,005	9,005	9,005
GRAND TOTAL COSTS	399,715	408,586	417,649

B. FUNDING SOURCE <i>(projected as appropriate)</i>	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		233,260	309,560	385,860
Student Fees		0	0	0
Other Sources (JCERT tax revenue)		341,171	348,905	356,807
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		574,431	658,465	742,667
C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-) (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)		174,716	249,879	325,018

X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations

A. Expenditures

Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions

Two core Geology faculty members are currently teaching required Geology courses in the program. Additional faculty members in the Department of Geology contribute elective courses that may be counted toward the degree. Faculty in the School of Professional Studies teach the PFS courses and the PFS courses fulfill requirements for multiple graduate degrees.

Personnel – New Positions

A half-time Graduate Program Coordinator will be hired to support student advising.

Start-up Costs – One-Time Expenses

No new physical space or library resources are required for the successful implementation and administration of the new program. The teaching and office space will be accommodated in the Business, Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) building on the Edwards Campus.

The program will share lab space at the Edwards Campus with the Environmental Soils Laboratory.

Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses

Laboratory and field equipment will be purchased to support student exercises and demonstrations annually. Operating costs will include sample analysis and expendable supplies.

B. Revenue: Funding Sources

Tuition rate is all inclusive = \$545/cr. Hr

Year	Total Headcount Per Year		Total Sem Credit Hrs Per Year		Income
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Full- Time	Part- Time	
Implementation	2	28	36	392	233,260
Year 2	2	38	36	532	309,560
Year 3	2	48	36	672	385,860

C. Projected Surplus/Deficit

Program revenues are expected to exceed expenditures the first year of operation.

XI. References

- American Geological Institute (2019) Geoscience Workforce Changes 2018-2028- Geoscience Workforce Projected to Grow by 6.2%, *Geoscience Currents*, Data Brief 2019-010.
- Schulmeister, M.K. (2021) Building Interest in Environmental Careers, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Environmental Conference, Manhattan, KS, Aug., 2021 **(INVITED)**
- Schulmeister, M.K. (2024a) Advancing the Science and Management of Contaminated Groundwater Investigations through the University of Kansas Professional Science Master's Programs, *International Groundwater Congress*, Davos, Switzerland, Sept 13, 2024. **(INVITED)**
- Schulmeister, M.K. (2024b) In my experience: Online Geoscience has a Role to Play: *Groundwater Monitoring and Remediation*, 44 (1) 133-135, <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwmr.12631> **(INVITED)**
- Schulmeister, M.K., (2024c) Exploring Online Learning in Geoscience Education: Challenges, Opportunities and Future Directions, *Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs*, Vol. 56, No. 6, Anaheim, CA, October, 12, 2024 **(INVITED)**
- Tobias, S. and Strausbaugh, L. (2018) The Professional Science Master's Degree at Twenty. *Journal of College Science Teaching* Vol. 47, No. 42.

MINUTES

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The November 20, 2024, meeting of Council of Presidents was called to order by Chair (proxy) Doug Ball at 10:38 a.m. The meeting was held at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. *Proper notice was given according to law.*

MEMBERS PRESENT: CFO Doug Ball, Pittsburg State University, Chair
Chancellor Doug Girod, University of Kansas
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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chancellor Girod moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of President Linton, 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.

Three items were discussed at the meeting this morning:

There were two readings, first, new programs from KU and second, degree name changes also from KU.

Some other matters were discussed related to AI. A couple of campuses have task forces formally, and Pitt State University is working on a symposium for the spring.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF INCLUSION & BELONGING OFFICERS (CIBO)

Deatrea Rose, Pittsburg State University Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging, provided an update to the Council.

The Inclusion and Belonging Officers met on Thursday, November 7th and discussed the following:

- Emporia State opened a new Intercultural Center. The center includes office space, a conference center and the Schramm/Wright Interfaith Chapel.
- Wichita State University hosted the Michael Tilford Conference. The conference had 448 attendees from both regent institutions and community colleges.
- November is Native American Heritage month. All the regent institutions are hosting various events to bring awareness.
- Tomorrow, we will be hosting a virtual community college roundtable event. This is an opportunity for our community college partners to share about their inclusion activities and for us as regent institutions to share resources.

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.

- Review of campus of enrollment numbers – Overall numbers very similar to last year – some clear growth at select institutions while other flat to down marginally. Some challenges internationally – some good increases in both retention and application rate for the fall.
- The Council also reviewed campus dynamics and events related to November’s election and coming inauguration. There were several campus watch parties at various institutions with feedback to media coverage a discussion about implications of new leadership. Overall, council members remarked that the campus was quite quiet throughout the election season.
- The Council also engaged in a discussion regarding the changing landscapes at various KBOR campuses in terms of engagement with United Health Insurance. Some institutions are managing changing relationships with area healthcare providers and coverage policies. A topic to monitor going forward.
- Members of the Council also reviewed the feedback from students attending the leadership training provided by the Kansas Leadership Center. Students reports valuable experiences working with student from other campus working through the leadership curriculum.
- Also, brief discussion regarding implications what would have been implications in the Fair Labor Standards Act but given that legislative was vacated – implications are no longer relevant.
- Extensive review of proposed housing and dining rates. Discussions focused on the natural tension between balancing students housing and dining expectations with increases in cost.
- The Council was honored to have a guest from the KBOR’s Student Advisory Council. Molly McGary from KU sophomore – econ and art history joined to share an update regarding the work of SAC and the process of considering a student Regent position on the board.

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.

- One emphasis this year is a potential switch in budget process and how we anticipate that moving forward. Most the 4-year schools have sat down with the Governor, and we have gathered a sense of what will and will not be considered. There are no commitments to anything yet. Once consensus revenue estimates come in, we will march toward some final recommendations.
- COGRO is finalizing agenda for the convening on December 10th and 11th. The new council for research and economic development, is trying hard to make sure that we're seeing and showing the linkage on higher education and the community. This gathering will be different than in years past, as we are having the Bergmans and Midwest Trust to host us one evening and talk about how private foundations might be used to leverage assets and work in advocacy as well as research funding. Adam Proffitt at the convening to speak to everyone about the state is approaching the budget. Kent Glasscock will be joining the group to set the stage and contextualize the connectivity between government relations, research, economic development. Final guest is the new chief strategy officer from the Department of Commerce, Romaine Redmond. Conversations with Deputy Secretary Jefferson have occurred to help create strong alignment with commerce on our translational research applications, which will be extended into the convening with other legislators in attendance.
- Finally, several of us joined NSF Director Panchanathan at KU a couple of weeks ago, at Senator Moran's request. There was a feel of substantial synergy in the room, and I think Director Panchanathan saw that with us, and the work that we'll do into the future and aligning is sure to make more impact.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICERS (COBO)

Doug Ball, Pittsburg State University Vice President for Administration & Finance, provided the following report to the Council of Presidents.

- **Campus Restoration Act Funding**-Each campus will develop a 6-year spending plan.
- **Review proposal from RITC for spending of remaining infrastructure/cyber funds**-COBO encouraged the CIO's to identify the projects with the greatest risk reduction while also encouraging collaborative projects across universities.
- **Cyber maturity RFP award**-Reuben Brown was selected to conduct cyber assessment--Statement of work and schedule of work are underway.
- **Updated facilities policy language**-will be on the Board Agenda for approval in November.
- **Housing and Dining rates**-first reading.

OTHER MATTERS

Docking Survey – review and approval from council of presidents for all 4-year institutions to proceed with the tri-annual cycle.

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Ball called for the meeting of the Council of Presidents to be adjourned at 11:01am. There was not call for a second to adjourn.

AGENDA

System Council of Chief Academic Officers
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
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 November 20, 2024

- II. Systemwide Updates**
 - A. Revise Reverse Transfer Procedures Mistie Knox
 - B. Systemwide Math Course Placement Scores Rusty Monhollon
 - C. Systemwide Transfer Associate Degrees Karla Wiscombe

- III. Other Matters**
 - A. First 15 Initiative Rusty Monhollon
 - B. Complete College America Launch Rusty Monhollon

- IV. Announcements**
 - Shirley Lefever is retiring, and Dr. Monica Lounsbery will replace her starting in January. Rusty Monhollon

- V. Adjournment**

MINUTES

System Council of Chief Academic Officers Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The November 20, 2024, 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 in the Flint Hills Room on the Kansas State University Campus, Student Union 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506, with a virtual option available.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brandon Galm, Cloud County CC	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Jason Sharp, Labette CC	Shirley Lefever, WSU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Susan Bon, PSU	Jennifer Seymour, WSU Tech
Jesse Mendez, KSU	Luke Dowell, Seward CC	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Arensdorf moved that the minutes of the June 18th, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Brandon Galm, the motion carried unanimously.

SYSTEMWIDE UPDATES

REVISE CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING GUIDELINES

Associate Director for Academic Affairs Mistie Knox presented an overview of the revisions of the Credit for Prior Learning Guidelines. The updates include the addition of Cambridge International and the alignment of terminology with the Kansas Seal of Biliteracy to ensure consistency with Board policy. Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer moved to approve the revised guidelines, and following a second by Jason Sharp, the motion passed unanimously.

TAAC UPDATES

Provost Jennifer Seymour, a TAAC member from Wichita State University Technical College, provided updates on the Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC). The council approved six new courses for Systemwide Transfer, which will be presented to the Board of Academic Affairs Committee in December.

MATH PATHWAYS & ENGLISH INITIATIVE UPDATES

Director for Academic Affairs Sam Christy-Dangermond provided updates on math pathways and English initiatives. Four professional development sessions for math faculty have been conducted, the most recent of which was held on Friday, November 15. Approximately 70 participants attended the session, and a recording will be available on the KBOR website early next week for those unable to attend. The next session is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 6, and it will also be recorded and posted on the KBOR website. The first English professional development session took place on Friday, November 8, with 89 participants. The recording of this session is also available on the KBOR website. The next English session is scheduled for January 31, and registration is currently open.

FIRST 15

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon provided an update on the 'First 15' initiative, discussed at the November 6 Board of Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC) meeting. Monhollon has identified several representatives for a workgroup for the initiative, including members from the K-12 sector and three representatives from universities. He plans to include three representatives from community colleges and one from technical colleges to complete the group and begin work soon.

The group will be tasked with recommending the five courses comprising the 'First 15,' developing a funding plan for the initiative, and standardizing the framework to ensure consistency in dual and concurrent enrollment. Additionally, KBOR policies must be reviewed to ensure alignment with these recommendations. The deadline for presenting these recommendations to the Board is May 1.

OTHER MATTERS

APPLY FREE DAYS

Associate Director of Academic Affairs Mistie Knox provided updates on Apply Kansas and Apply Free Days. Completion data for Apply Kansas is due to the KBOR office by December 1 and is planned to be included in the February update. Since KBOR launched this campaign, participation has grown significantly, with 303 high schools from 253 out of 286 districts registered this year, a 30% increase from the previous year. Data collection for Apply Free Days will occur in two phases: an aggregate collection and a unit record collection through KHEDS. The deadline for submitting the aggregate data collection is December 20.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Director of Academic Affairs Karla Wiscombe reminded community college Chief Academic Officers that forms for the systemwide associate degrees are due by December 2. Associate Director of Academic Affairs, Mistie Knox, noted that Barry Bailey from Johnson County Community College presented the Open Education Resources (OER) Annual Report at the November 6 Board of Academic Affairs Committee meeting. The report is now available on the KBOR website.

AD ASTRA PRESENTATION

Stacey White shared background information and provided updates on Ad Astra.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-chair Luke Dowell reminded attendees that the next SCOCOA meeting is scheduled for December 18 at the KBOR office, with a virtual option available. He also noted that the Complete College America (CCA) launch will occur on February 11, 2025. Vice President of Academic Affairs, Rusty Monhollon, provided background information on Complete College America and shared an overview of the planned activities for the launch day. Additional details will be sent to institutions soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Jesse Mendez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Jason Sharp, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

AGENDA

**Council of Chief Academic Officers
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
Adjournment of SCOCAO**

The Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) 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 | Susan Bon, Chair |
| A. Roll Call & Introductions | |
| B. Approve Minutes from November 20, 2024 | |
| II. Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update | Norman Philipp, PSU |
| III. First Reading | |
| PhD in Education and Behavioral Studies – WSU | Shirley Lefever, WSU |
| IV. Second Reading | |
| A. BA & BGS in Health & Society – KU | Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU |
| B. PSM in Environmental Geology – KU | Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU |
| V. Other Matters | |
| A. Request approval to change the name of MA in Slavic Languages and Literatures to Slavic and Eurasian Studies – KU | Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU |
| B. Request approval to change the name of PhD in Health Policy and Management to Population Health – KUMC | Robert Klein, KUMC |
| C. Request approval to change the name of MS in Health Data Science to Health Data Science and Informatics – KUMC | Robert Klein, KUMC |
| D. Request approval to change the name of the School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies to the College of Applied and Professional Studies – KSU (Olathe Campus) | Jesse Mendez, KSU |
| E. 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 – January 15, 2025 | |
| VII. Adjournment | |

MINUTES

Council of Chief Academic Officers Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The November 20, 2024, meeting of Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Chair Susan Bon at 9:14 a.m. The meeting was held in the Flint Hills Room on the Kansas State University Campus, Student Union 918 N. MLK Jr. Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506 with a virtual option available.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesse Mendez, KSU	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	John Fritch, Washburn
Brent Thomas, ESU	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Shirley Lefever, WSU
Robert Klein, KUMC	Susan Bon, PSU	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Provost Brent Thomas moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting be approved. Following the second of Provost Jesse Mendez, the motion carried.

COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Chair Norman Philipp provided an update, announcing that their discussions will shift to focus on AI in Kansas higher education. This topic was introduced at the last COCAO meeting.

FIRST READING

BA & BGS IN HEALTH & SOCIETY – KU

Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the BA & BGS in Health & Society at the University of Kansas. Professor Joane Nagel, Associate Professor Tracey LaPierre, and Professor Saint Onge from the University of Kansas shared information about the presented program.

PSM IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY – KU

Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the first reading for the PSM in Environmental Geology at the University of Kansas. Program Director Marcia Shulmeister from the University of Kansas shared information about the presented program.

OTHER MATTERS

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL – KU

Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer presented a request for approval to merge the BAS Biotechnology with the BS Applied Biological Sciences resulting in the BS Biotechnology. Several degree name change requests were presented. The name change requests included changing the PhD Applied Behavioral Science to PhD Behavioral Psychology, changing the MA Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion to the MA Leadership Studies, and changing the MSE Educational Technology to the MSE Learning Design. Provost Jill Arensdorf moved to approve these requests as presented. Following the second from Provost Jesse Mendez, the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FROM UNIVERSITIES

Provost Shirley Lefever shared that Wichita State University is working on program proposals to be presented in December for approval. These proposals will enhance the university's partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) on its campus.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Rusty Monhollon revisited the discussion on AI, noting that he will explore resources to share with institutions and identify ways for KBOR to facilitate roundtable discussions among all institutions. He also informed the group that he has been in discussions about KBOR possibly joining the Civic Learning and Democracy Coalition.

Provost Robert Klein shared that the University of Kansas Medical Center will have name changes to present for the December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Susan Bon provided a reminder that the next COCAO meeting will be held on December 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

Provost Jesse Mendez moved that the meeting be adjourned. Following the second of Provost Jill Arensdorf, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 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

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
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