

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
September 18-19, 2024

The September 18, 2024, meeting of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:15 p.m. The meeting was held at the Curtis State Office Building 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520 Topeka, KS 66612. Proper notice was given according to law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Carl Ice, Chair
- Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
- Alysia Johnston
- Blake Benson
- Diana Mendoza
- John Dicus
- Neelima Parasker
- Wint Winter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes, and Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ice began the meeting by noting that there would be several introductions, as this was the first meeting of the academic year.

President Mason introduced key faculty, staff, and student government leaders for the year. She welcomed Dr. Shane Schartz, the Fort Hays State University Faculty Staff Senate President, who is an associate professor of informatics with a background from Ellis, Kansas, and degrees from Fort Hays State University and K-State. Dr. Schartz's research focuses on AI and data analytics. Next, President Mason acknowledged Bob Duffy, the FHSU Staff Senate President, who joined the meeting online. Mr. Duffy is a drug and alcohol counselor known for his photography, particularly for capturing campus events.

Online FHSU student government President Heather Flick joined via Zoom. She is a senior majoring in psychology, set to graduate in May, and plans to pursue clinical psychology at Fort Hays. She lives in Ellinwood, Kansas, with her family. Ella Burroughs was introduced as the on-campus Student Body President for her second term. A political science major and a fourth-generation Tiger, Ella holds several leadership roles across campus.

President Muma introduced Dr. Aaron Mitchell, who recently joined Wichita State University as the Senior Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Operations, replacing Werner Golling.

Dr. Mitchell brings extensive experience in financial leadership within government and higher education. From 2019 to 2024, he served as the Associate Vice President for Financial Services at Montana State University. Prior to that role, he was the Controller for the North Dakota State University System's Office of Core Technology Services and worked as a Municipal Finance Director for both Watford City and West Fargo, North Dakota.

Dr. Mitchell holds a Ph.D. in Education, Health, and Behavior Studies, a master's in public administration from the University of North Dakota, and a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from North Dakota State University. He is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant. President Muma concluded by inviting everyone to welcome Dr. Mitchell to the university community.

President Shipp introduced Dr. Susan Bon, the new Executive Vice President, and Provost at Pittsburg State University. Dr. Bon is a distinguished professor and national leader with expertise in law and policy, particularly in areas such as disability law, civic engagement, workplace civility, and ethical leadership. Over her 25-year academic career, she has co-led two significant grants from the U.S. Department of Education, totaling nearly \$4 million. Dr. Bon previously held leadership positions at the University of South Carolina, including her most recent role as Interim Associate Dean in the College of Education. She earned both her law degree and her doctorate in education policy and leadership from Ohio State University.

Next, President Shipp introduced Emily McElwain, the new Executive Director of University Affairs at Pittsburg State. Emily comes from Colorado State University Pueblo, where she was the Assistant Dean of Student Life, overseeing residence life, student conduct, and campus recreation. Before her six years in Colorado, she worked for ten years at the University of Missouri in various student affairs roles, concluding as Associate Director of Student Development. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's in education from the University of Missouri.

President Shipp also introduced two student leaders: Hannah Eckstein and Kristine (Kris) Rubesch. Hannah is a senior majoring in Biology with a pre-med emphasis and Spanish. As the PSU Student Body President, she is focused on increasing campus engagement and creating opportunities for all students. She also chairs the Student Advisory Committee and plans to attend the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Kris serves as the Student Body Vice President.

With such strong leadership, President Shipp expressed excitement for the upcoming academic year at Pittsburg State University.

President Linton shared two introductions and one announcement. He introduced Teresa Douthit, the Kansas State Faculty Senate President, who is a professor in Animal Sciences. He also welcomed Paige Vulgamore, the Kansas State Student Body President, who is majoring in Agricultural Economics.

Additionally, President Linton announced that Carl and Mary Ice have been inducted into the Kansas State Athletics Hall of Fame in recognition of their significant support for the university and K-State athletics.

Chancellor Girod introduced two key figures at the meeting, starting with Danae, the new Student Body President. Danae, who served as vice president last year, is pursuing a dual degree in law and psychology, with aspirations to reform the criminal justice system. She has already gained valuable experience through internships, including one with Senator Moran and another in the Kansas Attorney General's office.

Next, Dr. Girod introduced Dr. Mark Shiflett, the distinguished professor and director of the Institute for Sustainable Engineering. Dr. Shiflett shared exciting news about a significant grant of \$26 million from the National Science Foundation to support the new Engineering Research Center focused on developing next-generation refrigerants. He highlighted the environmental impact of current refrigerants, which leak into the atmosphere and contribute significantly to global warming.

Dr. Shiflett outlined the center's goals, including creating more efficient HVAC systems and addressing the urgent need for sustainable refrigerants. He emphasized the project's collaborative nature, involving multiple universities and over 25 companies, and projected the potential for significant job creation and economic growth in Kansas and beyond. The center aims to train thousands of students and professionals in the HVAC industry and develop innovative technologies for a more sustainable future.

[Presentation on file with official minutes]

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressing gratitude for the introductions and excitement for the year ahead. He set the context for the meeting, emphasizing its importance in approving the unified budget request and annual goals, which are aligned with the strategic plan aimed at supporting Kansas families and businesses.

He reflected on the groundwork laid during the offsite meeting in July, where comprehensive discussions helped shape the agenda for today. Chair Ice then highlighted three current events: he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Advanced Technology Center at Manhattan Tech, where he spoke about the alignment of his roles as Regent, donor, and community member in fostering growth and opportunity. He also shared his experience at Skip Foster Appreciation Day in Coffeyville, where the long-time coach was honored alongside his father, celebrating their combined 25 years of coaching.

Finally, Chair Ice mentioned the upcoming inaugural recognition of the Board's Faculty of the Year Award recipients, which he looked forward to as a significant step in acknowledging the contributions of faculty members.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

President Flanders reported on several collaborative efforts aimed at advancing higher education in the state. He mentioned participating in a panel with Jim Genandt, highlighting the involvement of chambers of commerce from Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence in supporting strategic priorities for higher education. The chamber executives recognize the vital role that educational institutions play in their communities.

President Flanders also updated the Board on the ongoing work related to the Blueprint for Literacy. An Advisory Committee meeting was held recently to establish a framework for identifying the regional literacy centers. Regent Mendoza serves on the Committee.

Additionally, Kansas has been selected by the Education Commission of the States to participate in a policy academy on creating student-centered pathways. President Flanders thanked President Knoettgen from Cloud County Community College for serving on this team, which aims to enhance support for students entering the higher education system, potentially even while they are still in high school.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Norman Philipp, a professor in the School of Construction at Pittsburg State University, introduced himself to the Board. He serves as the chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents and represents faculty from public universities across Kansas. Professor Philipp emphasized the commitment of faculty to fostering academic excellence and shared governance to advance the missions of their institutions.

A native Kansan and a proud graduate of both the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University, he has been with Pittsburg State for 12 years. He has also taught at KU and worked with nontraditional and at-risk students at institutions in the Kansas City area, which has enriched his understanding of the diverse needs of students and faculty.

Prior to the meeting, Chair Philipp and the other members of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents aligned

their priorities and goals for the year. He recognized the contributions of faculty representatives from K-State, Wichita State University, and Fort Hays State, although some members were unable to attend due to personal commitments.

Chair Philipp highlighted the Council's ongoing initiative to include all faculty Senate vice presidents and presidents-elect in its processes, aiming to foster continuity in leadership and ensure broad representation of faculty voices. He expressed a strong commitment to enhancing collaboration between faculty and the Board of Regents, believing that integrating faculty input into institutional decisions will lead to better outcomes for students and strengthen higher education in Kansas.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hannah Eckstein thanked the Board for the opportunity to introduce herself and her fellow student leaders. She shared highlights from the recent Student Advisory Committee retreat, which Chair Ice attended virtually and inspired the group with insights on the SAC goals for the year. Hannah encouraged all the students present to stand, emphasizing their enthusiasm and importance in engaging with the Board throughout the year.

During the committee meeting that morning, members engaged in a spirited discussion that included reports from various institutions. A key focus was voter registration, particularly the importance of mobilizing young voters in the upcoming presidential election—a cause that resonated deeply with many student body presidents.

Hannah also mentioned that they began outlining their goals for the year, which she looks forward to presenting in detail at the November meeting, followed by a more comprehensive discussion in December during a breakfast with the Board.

Overall, she described the meeting as productive and highlighted the dedication of her peers, expressing her inspiration in working alongside such passionate individuals who genuinely care about their institutions and the State of Kansas. She concluded by reaffirming their eagerness to collaborate with the Board throughout the year.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Mendoza provided an update on the morning's BAASC meeting. The meeting began by recognizing and welcoming new student government members and faculty senate representatives. The main discussion centered on this year's academic program review, focusing on KU and K-State. This review builds on last year's data, with potential modifications, such as including students continuing to graduate school in the talent pipeline metric.

Additionally, updates were shared on math pathways, highlighting a professional development series aimed at supporting faculty and staff in their implementation. The Committee also discussed the development of a "First 15" dual concurrent enrollment pathway for high school students, modeled after the successful Excel in CTE program. A work plan for the initiative will be presented at the next BAASC meeting.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson provided an update from the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. The Committee had its first agenda call of the year on September 3rd and met in person that morning with several campus and student representatives. The Committee approved its work plan for the year, which will include reviewing the internal audit policy, state support for universities, and receiving periodic updates on the Board's Capital Renewal Initiative and the launch of the Campus Restoration Act.

The Committee heard from David Vranicar about his new leadership role bridging both the KU Medical Center

and KU Lawrence. and Aaron Mitchell, the new CFO of Wichita State, was introduced. The Committee reviewed fiscal items on the Board's agenda, including Wichita State's property tax revenues and capital projects, approving all consent agenda items.

Additionally, the Committee discussed state distributions for the Excel in CTE program and other state programs, focusing much of the meeting on the Board's unified appropriation request and the state budget process. Regent Benson presented a new budget table that emphasized student affordability and economic prosperity, thanking campus colleagues for their advocacy over the past three years of improved state support.

Regent Benson shared that Director Bristow provided a status update on space inventory data collection, and the Committee looks forward to the next annual facilities report in December.

Regent Benson moved to table Board Agenda Item VI.A.5, proposed changes to the Board's facilities policy, for further discussion with plans to revisit the item in November. Regent Rolph seconded. The motion passed.

GOVERNANCE

Chair Ice provided an update on the Governance Committee's meeting. Continuing the Board's practice from last year, the Committee this year, consists of the chair, vice-chair, and chairs of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee and the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. This practice ensures that Board leadership engages on key topics effectively.

During the meeting, the Committee approved the execution of three contracts by the Board's President and CEO, fulfilling one of the Committee's duties. The Committee also reviewed a cyber and enterprise risk management policy, which would be discussed later in the session. Additionally, potential Board member conflicts of interest were addressed, and a recommendation was prepared for the Board.

Lastly, the Committee entered an executive session to discuss CEO compensation.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Fiscal Affairs and Audit

ACT ON ANNUAL BUDGET FOR WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY MILL LEVY – WSU

Since Wichita State University (WSU) became a state institution in 1964, a 1.5 mill levy has been imposed on all taxable property in Wichita. In 1988, the levy extended to Sedgwick County. The funds, managed by the WSU Board of Trustees, can be spent only with approval from the Kansas Board of Regents.

For Fiscal Year 2025, the Trustees submitted the following budget, which the Board approved:

- Capital Improvements: \$3.86 million, including debt service on bonds for the John Bardo Center and the University Stadium.
- Student Support: \$5.45 million, primarily for scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from Sedgwick County.
- Economic and Community Development: \$515,747 to support local economic growth and development programs, including internships and research.
- Research and Support Services: \$879,378 for administrative costs, strategic initiatives, and a

\$500,000 contingency for unanticipated needs.

The staff recommended approval of the budget, noting that it complied with statutory requirements and would benefit students and the regional economy.

AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN AND APPROVE PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY – KSU

Kansas State University (KSU) received approval to amend the FY 2025 capital improvement plan and the program statement for constructing a new building for the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL) was accepted. KSVDL, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), currently operates from multiple locations on KSU's Manhattan campus, including Mosier Hall, CVM East, Trotter Hall, and the KSU Biosecurity Research Institute. This separation of operations hindered efficiency, workflow, and safety.

The proposed 85,000-square-foot facility, located within the Veterinary Medicine complex, aims to centralize operations, improve workflow, and support the growing demand for testing. The project, with an estimated cost of \$130-\$135 million, would be funded through a combination of recurring operating funds, one-time capital funds, and State of Kansas appropriations. The Board of Regents' approval was sought to proceed with design work, with construction contingent on state funding approval.

ACT ON REQUEST TO EXECUTE MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT – KSU

Kansas State University (KSU) received approval to execute a master lease agreement with 1960 Kimball, LLC, for office space usage. The KSU Foundation owns the newly constructed building at 1960 Kimball Ave, Manhattan, Kansas, in the Edge District. The KSU Foundation owned the newly constructed building at 1960 Kimball Ave, Manhattan, Kansas, in the Edge District. The master lease would be for ten years, from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2034. Two specific lease agreements would be governed by the master lease, and occupants would move in following Kansas Board of Regents' approval.

- Addendum 1: Leased units 135, 140, and 145, totaling approximately 4,647 rentable square feet, for K-State 105 and Corporate Engagement staff. The lease term is five years with an option to renew annually for another five years, with a six-month notice required for renewal. The annual rent is \$111,115.
- Addendum 2: Leased unit 170, approximately 757 rentable square feet, for the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs. The lease term is three years with an option to renew annually for another seven years, with a six-month notice required for renewal. The annual rent is \$27,252.

ACT ON REQUEST TO RAZE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER AND FOR ALLOCATION OF FY 2025 BUILDING DEMOLITION FUND – KSU

Kansas State University (KSU) received approval to raze the International Student Center (building #36700-155) and an allocation from the State of Kansas' building demolition funds appropriated to the Board of Regents was approved. The International Student Center, which provided a space for international students to socialize and host events, is in an isolated campus location and in poor condition. It had a Facility Condition Index (FCI) of .56, or a D grade, with \$1.6 million in deferred maintenance.

After demolition, the site will be converted into green space in line with the campus master plan. International student services will be relocated to Jardine Apartments. The estimated cost for asbestos abatement and demolition is \$800,000, which KSU requested from the Building Demolition Fund.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ACCEPT PROGRAM STATEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SHOCKER FLY LAB – WSU

Wichita State University (WSU) received approval to modify its FY 2025 capital improvement plan to include the construction of the Shocker Fly Lab, a new academic and research facility focused on unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The lab aims to enhance WSU's leadership in aerospace engineering and drone technology through education, research, and development. It will feature an enclosed space for aerial robots, supporting student activities, industry-sponsored competitions, and faculty research in areas such as aerodynamics, control systems, and sensor integration.

The project is planned in two phases: Phase I, an open-air facility with a steel structure and netted enclosure, and Phase II, which will enclose the structure with a curtain glass wall and roof to create a year-round temperature-controlled environment. The total project cost is estimated at \$12.75 million, funded entirely by private gifts, with \$4.3 million for Phase I and \$8.45 million for Phase II.

The project, to be constructed by the Wichita State Foundation and Alumni Engagement, will take 19 months for Phase I and 18 months for Phase II. The annual maintenance and operating costs, estimated at \$145,000 for Phase I and \$462,000 for Phase II, will be covered by university funds.

ACT ON REQUEST TO ACCEPT PROPERTY FROM UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION – PSU

Pittsburg State University (PSU) received approval to accept a gift of approximately seven acres of real property from the PSU Foundation. The property, located in the southeast block of 3rd and Broadway, is designated as the site for the new College of Business building, part of Project Gorilla Rising. The land, appraised at \$1,472,000, is being donated to the PSU Foundation by its current owner and will then be gifted to the university. A phase I environmental assessment identified areas requiring further testing, and the acceptance of the property will depend on satisfactory test results or an acceptable management plan.

ACT ON REQUEST TO ACCEPT PROPERTY FROM UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION – PSU

Pittsburg State University (PSU) received approval to accept a gift of approximately 7 acres of real property from the PSU Foundation. This property, consisting of two parcels adjacent to the campus and east of the Tyler Research Center, will host the new Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) Pittsburg Regional Crime Center, which will be planned and constructed by the KBI. The site is being transferred to the PSU Foundation by the City of Pittsburg to facilitate the project. The Foundation will then gift the property to the university, which plans to lease the eastern portion to the KBI through a future lease agreement. The remaining area will allow for potential future expansion of the Tyler Research Center.

ACT ON PROPOSED AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS – WSU

Wichita State University (WSU) received approval of amendments to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the university and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), which

represents approximately 127 maintenance and service employees in the Facilities and Housing departments. The original MOA, approved in 2019, underwent revisions after meet and confer sessions held from December 2023 to June 2024. The AFT membership approved the amendments in July 2024.

The updated MOA included both substantive and non-substantive changes. Key substantive changes included:

1. Covered Employees: Expansion of covered positions and removal of first shift custodial supervisors from the list of covered positions.
2. Workweek, Overtime, and Compensatory Pay: Clarification of definitions and processes to align with current practices.
3. Leave: Updates to sick leave, military leave, and other types of leave to align with WSU policies and state/federal laws.
4. Workplace Dignity and Respect: Incorporation of "Shocker Proud" expectations and training guidelines.
5. Policies: Alignment of WSU policies with the MOA, including updates on leave and workforce reductions.
6. Classifications: Transition of covered employees to the unclassified professional (UP) classification, with benefits including participation in the KBOR Mandatory Retirement Plan.
7. Probationary Period: Removal of probationary periods.
8. Bumping Rights: Elimination of "bumping rights" for reductions in force and furloughs.
9. Pay Increase: A one-time 2% pay increase for FY 25, with retroactive wage payments, and a minimum wage increase for covered employees to \$15.25 per hour.
10. Duration and Termination: The MOA would be in effect for three years and automatically renew unless either party gave notice to terminate or modify it.

Technical Education Authority

ACT ON NEW CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM(S): FLINT HILLS
TECHNICAL COLLEGE: PRECISION AGRICULTURE (01.1102)

Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC) received approval for a new program in Precision Agriculture Technology, consisting of a 30-credit hour Technical Certificate B and a 61-credit hour Associate of Applied Science degree. This program, aligned with CIP Code 01.1102 (Agronomy and Crop Science), focuses on the relationships between crops and soils and prepares students for careers as Precision Agriculture Technicians.

FHTC indicated that program development has been ongoing for seven years, hindered by resource constraints. The curriculum will include certifications for pesticide application and drone piloting. FHTC anticipates initial enrollment of 15-25 students, growing to 50-75 per cohort.

Supporting data includes a projected 0.6% annual job growth for Agriculture Technicians, a median wage of \$42,670, and significant industry support from local businesses and schools. The program is set to start in Fall 2025, with an estimated cost of \$2,171,100, funded through the college's foundation and local resources.

The proposed program underwent a 10-day comment period with no objections, and the Technical Education Authority recommended its approval.

ACT ON EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FEE(S): FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE: PRECISION AGRICULTURE (01.1102)

K.S.A. 72-3810 outlines that all tuition and fees for career technical education must be approved by the Board of Regents and established according to adopted guidelines. Tuition covers general instructional expenses, while fees are charged for student services, materials, and specific course-related costs. On December 19, 2019, representatives from community and technical colleges met to set guidelines for fees related to the Excel in CTE courses, identifying allowable fees for industry-specific items or course materials that students take with them, and industry-specific fees required for program entry.

The Technical Education Authority recommended approval of the following Excel in CTE fees:

- Flint Hills Technical College: Precision Agriculture Technology, totaling \$175, which includes a \$25 fee for private pesticide applicator certification and a \$150 fee for a remote pilot license (drone).

ACT ON PROGRAM ALIGNMENT(S): WELDING TECHNOLOGY ARTICULATED CREDIT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) aims to enhance technical education in Kansas through the alignment of specific programs, responding to the needs of local business and industry. The Program Alignment process consists of five phases:

1. Research and industry engagement
2. Faculty engagement and curriculum alignment with certifications
3. Approval of program structure and curriculum
4. Implementation
5. Standards revision

According to K.S.A. 74-32,402(a)(10), the TEA coordinates the development of a seamless technical education delivery system between secondary and postsecondary levels. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act allows funding for establishing statewide articulation agreements.

Phase V: Standards Revision - Welding Technology (48.0508)

The Welding Technology programs were last realigned in 2021. A Perkins Reserve Grant established in fall 2023 aims to create a crosswalk of articulated credit options from Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) courses to Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) common courses. Two faculty representatives received a \$2,500 stipend for this work.

Jeremiah Harmon and Scott Hammer were selected as grant recipients. Both have extensive experience in welding education and program alignment. They collaborated with faculty and administrators from 21 institutions on a proposed articulation map comparing KSDE pathway course competencies to KBOR common course competencies.

The proposal underwent review and modifications, followed by a ten-day faculty comment period. The final articulation map was issued for presidential comment from May 31, 2024, to June 14, 2024, with no requests for modifications received.

The Technical Education Authority recommended Board approval of the proposed Welding Technology articulated credit map.

ACT ON EXTRAORDINARY COSTS: HEALTHCARE

The KBOR Instructional Cost Model was developed in response to a 2007 legislative directive for creation of a credit hour funding distribution formula for postsecondary technical education. This formula aims to recognize cost differences in high-demand training, support critical Kansas industries, adapt to program growth, and consider other important factors.

TEA recommended specific factors for deviating from calculated rates, including:

- Support for critical community institutions (schools, libraries, healthcare).
- Training for high-demand, licensed occupations that are part of stackable education pathways.
- Targeted training with substantial state funding support.

These additional factors for the Instructional Cost Model were recommended for approval.

A total course rate for each program is calculated using three years of actual expenditures divided by tiered credit hours delivered.

Timeline:

- September: Programs sent to institutions.
- October - May: Institutions submit expenditure data.
- June - July: Data compiled by Board Staff.
- August: Review by Budget & Finance and TEA.

Concerns regarding data consistency across institutions were noted, leading to a recommendation for enhanced training instead of special considerations.

Staff recommends approval of Extraordinary Cost Rates for healthcare programs. Although the calculated rate for Emergency Care Attendant, Registered Nursing, and Practical Nursing is \$68 per credit hour, a proposal to set this rate at \$135 per credit hour without inflationary increases is suggested until further data justifies a different calculation.

The Extraordinary Cost Rates for healthcare programs have been reviewed and recommended for approval.

Other Matters

ACT ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE VARIOUS BOARD COMMITTEES AND THE WASHBURN BOARD OF REGENTS

The standing committees of the Board are organized with designated chairs and members. The Academic Affairs Committee is chaired by Diana Mendoza. The other members of the Committee are Neelima Parasker and Alysia Johnston. The Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee is Chaired by Blake Benson. The other members of the Committee are Jon Rolph, Wint Winter and John Dicus. Carl Ice chairs the Governance Committee. The other members of the Committee are Jon Rolph, Blake Benson and Diana Mendoza.

In addition to the standing committees, several representatives and liaisons have been appointed to various organizations. Diana Mendoza serves on the Education Commission of the States, as well as

the Governor's Education Council and the Literacy Advisory Committee. Mark Hess, Keith Humphrey, David Reist, and Cindy Hoover are the Board's appointees to the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. Wint Winter and Blake Flanders serve on the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). John Dicus serves on the Washburn University Board of Regents. Alysia Johnston is the liaison for the Transfer and Articulation Advisory Council.

ACT ON UPDATED RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING BOARD'S AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE MANAGEMENT CONTROL OVER SECURITY OF CERTAIN KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RELATED CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO A SECURITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – KSU

Each year as necessary, the Kansas Board of Regents updates a Resolution regarding Kansas State University (KSU) to formally recognize that current Regents do not have access to certain classified information protected by federal law. This update is necessary due to changes in the membership of the KSU Security Executive Committee.

Originally adopted in March 2009 to support KSU's Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) project, the Resolution allows the University to obtain Facility Security Clearance under federal regulations. For KSU to continue its BRI projects and avoid additional Personnel Clearance requirements, the Board must transfer its management control over classified information to a designated Security Executive Committee.

The updated Resolution proposes that this committee consist of the University President, Provost, Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs, Vice President for Research, Facility Security Officer, and the Board President and CEO. The Board President was added to comply with a new Department of Defense requirement for personnel security clearance.

In summary, the Resolution aimed to ensure that KSU maintains the necessary security protocols for handling classified information while facilitating the continuation of vital research projects.

ACT ON UPDATED RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING BOARD'S AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE MANAGEMENT CONTROL OVER SECURITY OF CERTAIN UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS RELATED CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO A SECURITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – KU

The University of Kansas requested the Board adopt an updated Resolution that names new members to its Security Executive Committee. This Resolution, originally established in January 2013, allows the Kansas Applied Research Lab to obtain Facility Security Clearance under federal regulations.

The updated Resolution will transfer management control over classified information to a committee that includes the University Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellor for Research, Facility Security Officer, Insider Threat Program Senior Official, and the Board President and CEO. This change ensures compliance with security requirements and maintains the University's ability to continue its projects without personnel clearance hurdles. The six-member committee all hold the necessary security clearances for accessing classified information.

The Board members will also agree to refrain from accessing any classified information related to the University's operations.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Fiscal Affairs & Audit****ACT ON BOARD'S UNIFIED STATE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST**

Regent Benson introduced Vice President Frisbie to provide updates on the unified budget request, setting the stage for the conversation by emphasizing the thorough and collaborative process behind the budget's creation. The process began six months ago, with institutions asked to submit only their top priority items and included an in-depth review during the Board's off-site retreat in July.

Regent Benson expressed gratitude to the institutions' presidents, staff, and the Board for their hard work, noting that although some budget requests were altered or omitted, all feedback was heard and appreciated. He highlighted the importance of balancing institutional needs with the Board's priorities, such as student affordability, student success, and ensuring that institutions remain competitive in attracting students, faculty, and researchers.

Vice President Frisbie then presented a revised budget table, highlighting new developments since the Board agenda was sent out. She explained that four statutory programs for the two-year colleges were underfunded, totaling \$467,000 in FY 2025. The Postsecondary Technical Education Authority requested these be included in the Board's unified appropriations request. Vice President Frisbie also noted that one-third of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request focused on student affordability, aiming to provide public university students with better access to education. Additionally, several previously supported items needed to be reinstated after being removed from the base budget.

Regent Benson moved to approve the unified appropriations request as presented by Vice President Frisbie. Regent Rolph seconded. The motion passed.

ACT ON REQUEST TO AMEND OUT-OF-STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – KU

Vice President Frisbie introduced the next agenda item related to Fiscal Affairs, discussing a request from the University of Kansas (KU). The request seeks authority to adjust the out-of-state scholarship program for transfer students, aligning it with the existing scholarships for incoming freshmen and the Midwest Student Exchange program. This adjustment is intended to make KU more competitive in attracting transfer students from other states. The university aims to implement this change in time to update their marketing materials for the recruitment of students for the Fall of 2025.

Regent Benson moved to approve the request. Regent Johnston seconded. The motion passed.

ACT ON UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER MASTER PLAN

AJ Woodworth, Director of Facilities Management Projects at KU Medical Center, presented an overview of the campus' master plan. He began by emphasizing his role in overseeing design, construction, and master planning for the Medical Center. Woodworth noted that the campus consists of 42 buildings and multiple parking structures, with distinct areas owned by the University and the University of Kansas Health System, each managed separately.

Director Woodworth highlighted the importance of addressing deferred maintenance, particularly on buildings in poor condition. He shared details of recent projects, including the replacement of boilers in the central power plant and the demolition of the Taylor Building, which saved \$4.1 million in rehabilitation costs. The removal of the Taylor Building also allowed for the creation of a new green space on campus.

The future master plan includes several significant updates for 2024-2040. Notably, the campus is preparing to demolish older buildings, including the Hogland Building, to make way for new structures like a state-of-the-art cancer center. This new facility will centralize both research and clinical care, fostering collaboration between physicians and researchers. The cancer center project is set to break ground in October 2024 and is expected to be completed by 2027.

Other planned developments include a brain health facility, a biorepository, and a parking garage to accommodate the increased patient load. The KU Medical Center is also collaborating with Wichita State and WSU Tech on a shared simulation facility in Wichita, with construction underway and completion anticipated in 2026.

The presentation concluded with a vision for future growth, including the potential for a new cancer treatment center and additional expansions, ensuring the Medical Center remains at the forefront of healthcare and research.

Regent Parasker praised the presentation on the cancer research initiative and expressed excitement about its potential. She then inquired about the asset management tools being used to assess building deferred maintenance and measure progress.

In response, Director Woodworth acknowledged the importance of the question and shared that they are currently implementing new software for this purpose. They had conducted an asset inventory with Accruent, which provided ratings for their facilities. However, he emphasized that understanding how to maintain these assets is crucial. They are in the process of switching to a new facility management software system. This transition aims to improve space management by ensuring that asset conditions inform space allocation decisions. The new software will help them track the locations of all assets across the campus, manage warranties, and schedule preventative maintenance to ensure proper care of the facilities.

Regent Rolph confirmed that groundbreaking for the new cancer center is set for next month and asked for clarification on the timeline. Director Woodworth explained that they will first focus on reworking the fire lane behind the Hemenway building. Following that, in February, they will begin extensive excavation for deep utilities, including storm and sanitary lines, which will reach depths of 40 feet.

Regent Rolph then inquired about the expected ribbon-cutting date. Director Woodworth indicated that he hopes to have the ribbon-cutting ceremony around March, following the demolition of the Hogland building. He clarified that the overall completion of the cancer center project is anticipated for the end of 2027.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the KU Medical Center campus master plan. Regent Winter seconded. The motion passed.

BREAK

Chair Ice called for a 15-minute break that was taken at 2:23 p.m.

ACT ON UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MASTER PLAN

Provost Bichelmeyer discussed the unique 2024 campus master plan aimed at reducing the campus footprint while enhancing student engagement and success. The plan has received recognition for excellence in campus master planning and is informed by data, focusing on sustainability for future generations.

1. Historical Context: The university has transitioned from a growth era to a more strategic approach, aiming to address past sprawl and align facilities with current educational needs.

2. Enrollment Trends: Recent years have seen a significant increase in first-time freshman classes, complicating future enrollment predictions due to demographic changes.
3. Focus Areas: The plan prioritizes an exceptional learning community, engagement, safety, and modernization of facilities. It emphasizes the need for flexible learning environments over traditional lecture halls.
4. Sustainability and Connectivity: The master plan aims to enhance the campus landscape and improve mobility for all, particularly given the campus' topography and accessibility challenges.
5. Data-Driven Decisions: The university has developed a dashboard to assess building conditions and usage, which informs investment decisions and prioritizes facility upgrades.
6. Collaborative Spaces: Emphasis is placed on creating collaborative research spaces and revitalizing campus areas to foster community interaction.
7. Implementation Strategies: The plan includes a toolkit for decision-making that integrates various data sources, ensuring effective management of classroom and research spaces while addressing deferred maintenance.

Overall, the master plan aims to create a more cohesive, engaging, and sustainable campus that supports both academic success and community well-being.

President Flanders and Provost Bichelmeyer discussed the need for the university to identify and manage space reductions effectively. Dr. Bichelmeyer highlighted the complexity of moving people from underutilized buildings while ensuring they have suitable interim spaces. KU has already started assessing spaces with poor Facility Condition Index (FCI) scores to determine which can be taken offline soon, aiming to avoid jeopardizing ongoing research.

Provost Bichelmeyer emphasized a collaborative approach, including community engagement in discussions about space utilization. Current plans include renovating and repurposing existing buildings rather than constructing new ones, except for specific projects like the proposal for the School of Architecture and Design, which needs more adequate space due to longstanding accreditation concerns.

The ten-year master plan focuses on improving the campus environment and infrastructure, with projects aimed at enhancing student success and retention. These include potential renovations for the law school and Watson Library, as well as a new health and wellness center. Provost Bichelmeyer also acknowledged challenges in attracting top research talent due to inadequate lab facilities and outlined plans for an interdisciplinary science building to address this issue. Overall, the goal is to create a sustainable infrastructure that fosters a vibrant and engaging campus for future generations.

Regent Winter inquired about the assumptions regarding enrollment growth in the university's ten-year plan. Provost Bichelmeyer explained that the university aims to maintain a freshman class size of approximately 5,300 students, which is crucial for managing residence hall capacity and infrastructure. They have implemented strategic, data-informed enrollment management practices to reach this target.

However, there are concerns about the potential impact of an "enrollment cliff," prompting the university to consider increasing out-of-state student enrollment as a hedge against fluctuations. Chancellor Girod added that recent housing expansions, like the acquisition of an apartment complex, are designed with flexibility in mind, allowing them to adapt to changing enrollment needs by potentially repurposing these investments. The discussion

emphasized the importance of strategic planning and dual-purpose investments to ensure sustainability.

Regent Winter moved to approve the University of Kansas campus master plan. Regent Dicus seconded. The motion passed.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON BOARD POLICY AMENDMENTS – SYSTEM

A motion was made and passed earlier in the meeting to revisit the proposed amendments in November, so the changes were not discussed.

ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 APPROPRIATION FOR IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYBERSECURITY

Vice President Frisbie introduced a proposal for the approval of the distribution of state funding designated for IT infrastructure and cybersecurity within the public university system. This funding, granted by the Legislature, marks the third consecutive year of support, although it is a reduced amount compared to the \$20 million received in the first year. Despite the decrease, Frisbie emphasized the funding's importance for the institutions, especially considering recent comments on the urgent need to enhance technology infrastructure.

Vice President Frisbie clarified that the figures in the agenda materials differ from the original proposal so that a portion of the state monies is being held back to allow the CIOs to return later, in November or December, with a collaborative approach for utilizing the remaining state funding on common system projects. The items outlined in the Board materials also include critical initiatives such as third-party penetration testing, prioritized cybersecurity governance, cloud migration, and asset lifecycle management aimed at replacing outdated technology.

Regent Benson moved to approve the funding distribution presented. Regent Rolph seconded. The motion passed.

ADOPT BOARD POLICY ON GOVERNANCE OF CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Vice President Frisbie presented a new Board policy aimed at enhancing the governance of cybersecurity, information technology, and risk management across the public university system. This policy introduces a standardized framework that requires universities to submit annual security reports to the Governance Committee, formalizing the roles of the Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and security personnel. Each state university will be mandated to designate both an IT officer and an information security officer, ensuring that internal processes are documented.

Additionally, the policy establishes an enterprise risk management process for each university. Vice President Frisbie acknowledged the collaboration among campus colleagues in developing this policy, particularly highlighting John Curran, the Chief Risk Officer from the University of Kansas, who contributed to the discussions. The policy has been refined from its initial proposal to strengthen the authority of those overseeing campus networks.

Chair Ice noted that the Governance Committee had reviewed the policy and recommended its approval. He emphasized the importance of a risk management approach while recognizing the variability in implementation across different organizations.

Regent Parasker expressed support for the initiative and inquired about the collaboration among the CIOs. Angela Neria, representing the CIO group, confirmed that there were no significant discrepancies among the universities

in their approaches. She highlighted a collective enthusiasm for the policy, believing it would significantly enhance the system's cybersecurity posture and improve risk management practices. Ken Harmon of Wichita State University added that regular meetings of the CIO's had facilitated alignment on priorities among the group.

Regent Rolph moved to approve adoption of the new policy. Regent Parasker seconded. The motion passed.

ACT ON REQUEST TO REVISE TUITION ASSISTANCE POLICIES FOR EMPLOYEES, THEIR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN – WSU

Vice President Frisbie next addressed the Board regarding a proposal from Wichita State University to revise its tuition assistance policies for employees, their spouses, and dependent children. The requested changes include seeking a limited exception to the Board's existing tuition assistance policy. This exception would expand eligibility for tuition benefits to employees of one of Wichita State's affiliated corporations, specifically the athletic corporation. The details of these proposed changes were outlined in the request submitted to the Board.

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

Academic Affairs

RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF THE FAFSA CHALLENGE AWARDS

Vice President Rusty Monhollon emphasized the importance of FAFSA completion as a critical factor in achieving educational goals and improving college enrollment rates. He noted that only 51% of Kansas high school seniors in 2024 completed the FAFSA, ranking the state 39th nationally. To address this, the Kansas FAFSA Challenge was established, and today, schools with exceptional FAFSA completion rates were recognized.

Mistie Knox, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, detailed the awards based on high school classifications, recognizing both the highest FAFSA completion rates and those schools achieving a completion rate of 70% or higher. Schools were awarded trophies, with Mill Valley High School, Sumner Academy of Arts and Science, and Wheatland High School, among others, receiving accolades for their outstanding performances.

Associate Director Knox highlighted the effort to track and calculate completion rates using data from the U.S. Department of Education and Kansas-specific resources. She invited attendees to visit the FAFSA Challenge website for more information on the top schools and upcoming challenges, with the next FAFSA application period scheduled to open on December 1st. Associate Director Knox concluded by celebrating the winners and expressing gratitude for the participation of schools streaming the event.

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

Governance

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

General Counsel John Yeary provided an overview of the Board's conflict of interest policies, which require members to disclose any transactional interests, memberships, and affiliations. He summarized the disclosures collected from Board members, highlighting the need for the Board to evaluate these interests and make decisions about participation in matters before the Board accordingly.

Regent Dicus was noted to serve on multiple boards, including the Washburn University Board of Regents and the Washburn University Foundation Board, while Regent Benson serves on the Executive Board of the Pittsburg

State University Foundation. Additionally, Regent Parasker and others hold positions on advisory boards or affiliated organizations. Counsel Yeary recommended approval for these members to continue their service, emphasizing that their primary duty remains to the Board of Regents when taking action as a member of the Board.

On the matter of contracts and transactions, several Regents reported interests that necessitated recusal from specific decisions. For example, Regent Benson must abstain from votes concerning the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and its business with Pittsburg State University, while Regent Ice must excuse himself from matters related to his ownership in a radio station and other business interests. Staff recommended similar actions for other Regents based on their reported interests, ensuring that Board members remain compliant with conflict-of-interest policies.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the awards. Regent Johnston seconded. The motion passed.

Other Matters

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE GRANTING HONORARY DEGREES – WSU

President Muma presented a request to award an honorary doctorate to Judge David Dahl, a notable alumnus of Wichita State University. Judge Dahl played as a guard on the men's basketball team from 1968 to 1971, earning the title of most inspirational player twice. He has been involved with the university's broadcast team since 1980 and was inducted into the Wichita Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. With over three decades of legal experience, including his role as a District Court Judge, President Muma emphasized Judge Dahl's contributions and qualifications, seeking the Board's approval for this honor.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the request. Regent Winter seconded. The motion passed.

RECESS

Chair Ice recessed the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

RECONVENE

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

CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA

Academic Affairs

ACT ON KBOR FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR FHSU, KU, KUMC, & PSU

Chair Ice opened the second day of the meeting by emphasizing the importance of recognizing faculty achievements through the Faculty of the Year Awards. He noted that this celebration was intentionally scheduled to start the day on a positive note. The awards were established to honor the essential contributions of faculty members, highlighting their roles in student development, research, and community growth.

Vice President Monhollon introduced the nominees for the Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of the Year Award, detailing the selection criteria based on excellence in teaching, research, and service. The nominations came from faculty senates across the various institutions, with each nominee's achievements outlined before their recognition.

The nominees included:

1. Dr. Kristen Livingston (Pittsburg State University) - An assistant professor known for her impactful teaching and mentorship, she has significantly shaped her students' experiences and contributed to research.
2. Dr. Christine Brodsky (Pittsburg State University) - An associate professor with a strong record in teaching and research, she has published extensively and mentored numerous students in independent research projects.
3. Dr. Catherine Siengsukon (University of Kansas Medical Center) - A distinguished professor whose research on sleep health has advanced understanding in the field, alongside her commitment to teaching and mentoring.
4. Dr. Linda D'Silva (University of Kansas Medical Center) - An assistant professor focusing on vestibular rehabilitation, she actively contributes to both clinical practice and education.
5. Dr. Tera L. Fazzino (University of Kansas) - An assistant professor in psychology, recognized for her research on the impacts of hyperpalatable foods on health, and her commitment to mentorship and public health issues.
6. Dr. Philip Allen Olt (Fort Hays State University) - An associate professor engaged in higher education research, who actively supports student success and innovative educational practices.

7. Dr. Samuel Robert Byer (Fort Hays State University) - An assistant professor in philosophy, known for his teaching, leadership, and community engagement efforts.
8. Dr. Taejoon Kim (University of Kansas) - A former professor recognized for his groundbreaking research in wireless communications, who has now accepted a position at Arizona State University.

Chair Ice concluded the introduction of nominees with congratulations and a reminder of the importance of their contributions to the educational community.

Regent Benson moved to approve the nominations. Regent Parasker seconded. The motion passed.

Technical Education Authority

POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY INFORMATION AND GOALS FOR AY 2025

Vice President Frisbie presented information on the Technical Education Authority (TEA) and its goals for the year. She highlighted the diverse representation on the Authority, which includes members from various industries and regions, as well as appointees from legislative leaders and the Governor.

Ms. Frisbie outlined key goals adopted at a recent TEA meeting. One major goal is to diversify funding for adult education services, with a proposed \$1 million request to the Legislature aimed at expanding services to adult education centers. She emphasized the importance of performance reviews for short-term programs, including the KTIP report that assesses wage outcomes for graduates of certificate programs. This review will evaluate whether sufficient students are graduating and what their wage outcomes are.

Additionally, Ms. Frisbie noted efforts to collaborate with partner agencies like the Department of Commerce to enhance awareness and reporting of educational initiatives in business and industry. There are also ongoing improvements in military articulation efforts to provide academic credit for prior military training.

ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE AND AO-K PROVISIO)

Vice President Frisbie presented a request for the Board to approve distributions for two-year colleges. She noted that an issue paper outlining these distributions was included in the materials, although it had not been part of the initial agenda due to a lack of available data when the agenda was published. The request involves calculations for funding related to the Excel in Career Technical Education (CTE) initiative and the Accelerating Opportunity Kansas (AO-K) program, as well as the GED accelerator and course material expenses for students in the AO-K program.

Ms. Frisbie emphasized the importance of timely approvals to ensure these distributions align with the legislative proviso attached to the funding. She also highlighted two tables included in the materials that provide historical data on student headcount participation and credit hour production in the Excel in CTE program for high school students. Academic Year, 2024 saw record peaks in student participation, and she expressed optimism for continued growth in enrollments this year. The Board's approval of the proposed amounts is sought to move forward with the distributions.

Regent Johnston moved to approve the request. Regent Benson seconded. The motion passed.

Other MattersDISCUSS AND ADOPT BOARD GOALS FOR 2024-2025

Chair Ice initiated the discussion on the Board goals, noting that they had previously touched on this topic during their offsite meeting at the end of July. He emphasized that these goals build on existing objectives and incorporate input from institutional leaders. The proposed goals, which had been shared with the Board in advance, reflect a culmination of prior discussions and efforts.

Chair Ice encouraged an open dialogue for any comments or suggestions regarding the goals. After inviting feedback, he noted that he appreciated how the goals were organized and felt they effectively represented the collective work done so far.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the Board goals. Regent Mendoza seconded. The motion passed.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Amber Knoettgen, President of Cloud Community College, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the 19 community colleges in Kansas. She acknowledged the vital work the Board does for higher education in the state and the value of community college contributions, which represent 37% of full-time enrollment and 51% of overall headcount in Kansas higher education.

Ms. Knoettgen filled in for President Carter, who was attending a Rural Community College Alliance event. Instead of highlighting individual colleges, she provided a broad overview of the sector's achievements and challenges. She began by emphasizing the importance of community and technical colleges in their communities and recognized the hard work of the KBOR staff in certifying the institutions' AY 2024 data, which involved a rigorous vetting process.

She also noted several upcoming deadlines for grant applications, including the Perkins Reserve special population grant and the Kansas Innovative Technology RFP. President Knoettgen highlighted a common trend of increasing enrollment across most community colleges, which is promising, especially in high-demand programs such as nursing, welding, and cybersecurity. She emphasized the strengthened relationships with business and industry that have enhanced workforce responsiveness and helped improve facilities and training.

President Knoettgen expressed hope that the increase in enrollment would translate to a higher college-going rate and an increase in credentials earned, contributing to the talent pipeline in Kansas. She concluded her report with optimism about the future of community colleges and their role in workforce development.

During a discussion on enrollment trends, Regent Winter asked about the general state of growth in Kansas community colleges. Amber Knoettgen, President of Cloud Community College, explained that most community colleges are experiencing growth, with dual credit and concurrent enrollment programs contributing significantly. These programs provide high school students, particularly those at risk or unsure about higher education, an opportunity to take college courses and gain confidence in their abilities. In addition to dual enrollment, Cloud has seen an increase in on-campus headcount, which Knoettgen attributes to state-wide efforts to promote the value of higher education and a focus on responding to in-demand jobs in Kansas. She noted that much of the current growth reflects a return to pre-COVID enrollment levels.

Regent Parasker added that community colleges offer a unique flexibility that four-year universities often cannot. She emphasized the importance of preparing students for high-demand, high-paying careers, particularly in areas like cybersecurity. Parasker pointed out that while Kansas has low unemployment, the average income remains

low, suggesting the need for higher-paying jobs driven by skilled labor.

President Knoettgen agreed and acknowledged the challenge of offering programs like cybersecurity due to resource constraints. She suggested that stronger partnerships between community colleges and universities could bridge the gap, allowing community colleges to introduce students to high-demand fields at the associate's degree level. She highlighted existing partnerships between colleges for programs such as nursing and medical lab technology and expressed hope that similar collaborations could help meet the state's workforce needs in areas like cybersecurity.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

President Jim Genandt of Manhattan Area Technical College reflected on the groundbreaking event at his campus and highlighted his ongoing role in the Kansas Technical College Presidents' Council. He emphasized the vital role of Kansas technical colleges in supporting the workforce and underscored their ability to adapt quickly to local employer needs. He expressed deep gratitude for the support from the TEA (Technical Education Authority) and their team, emphasizing how they help streamline processes to meet employer demands effectively.

President Genandt highlighted that technical college students are often less prepared than before due to societal and educational changes, including the impact of the pandemic. He emphasized that technical colleges are essential for these students, offering them confidence, skills, and job opportunities. President Genandt also spoke on the increasing importance of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into education, comparing it to past innovations like calculators and the internet, which were initially resisted. He advocated for AI as a tool that must be used to enhance learning in technical education.

He reminded the Board about the accreditation of technical colleges, emphasizing that they meet the same standards as other institutions, but with a stronger focus on hands-on, workforce-oriented education. He discussed the importance of eliminating the stigma surrounding technical colleges and ensuring their vital role in preparing students for high-demand jobs, especially in industries like healthcare, welding, and industrial engineering. President Genandt detailed the importance of flexibility and responsiveness in technical colleges, citing how Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) can quickly acquire the necessary tools and programs to keep up with industry changes. He shared the institution's success, including high job placement rates and competitive salaries for graduates, making it a leader in workforce development.

Regarding governance of the sector, he argued against forcing affiliations, preferring collaboration. He mentioned that MATC and other unaffiliated technical colleges are exploring collaborative efforts, including resource sharing and piloting innovative programs. He encouraged policymakers to recognize the unique strengths of the technical colleges and allowing them the flexibility to continue serving their workforce-focused missions.

He closed by addressing the rising need for technical education to replace retiring workers in blue-collar occupations, emphasizing that technical colleges are well-positioned to fill this gap. In particular, Genandt mentioned new partnerships with Fort Riley to offer training to exiting soldiers, aiming to provide them with valuable skills in fields like cybersecurity, construction, and welding that will help them transition into civilian careers.

Chair Ice acknowledged President Genandt's remarks, thanking him, and expressing that the information shared would be considered. He mentioned that further discussions on the matter would take place at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Carl Ice, Chair